

## **Call for applications going out for Post-doc Research Contracts:**

Post-Doc Research Contracts are intended to support WU's outstanding post-doc level researchers in their research efforts. The goal of these contracts, in the form of a sabbatical or semester-long leave of absence, is to strengthen the grant recipient's academic career by giving them more time for their actual research work and to help researchers create and strengthen international networks. Research Contracts include funding for replacement teaching personnel and (if necessary) the replacement of the grant recipient's position at his/her organizational unit, as well as travel and living expenses. In most cases, the Research Contract is used to facilitate a research stay at an international research organization.

### **Funding**

- If granted, Research Contracts provide the recipient with a period of paid leave. The maximum duration of Post-Doc Research Contracts is six months.
- Research Contracts include an implied performance agreement with the Vice-Rector for Research. The focus of a Research Contract lies on successful international networking in the respective academic community. An additional focus can be placed on publishing one or more successful papers during the contract period. After expiration of the contract period, the researcher is subject to reporting obligations under WU's internal performance agreements.
- Through the Post-Doc Research Contracts, funding is provided to hire replacement teaching personnel and (if required and justified) a replacement for the grant recipient's position at his/her academic unit. Contracts may also include travel and living costs.
- Maximum funding: one non-tenured assistant professor position (incl. 4 weekly credit hours of teaching, funding provided in aliquot parts for part-time staff) or equivalent. The need for a replacement position at the organizational unit apart from only a teaching replacement has to be described and justified in detail.  
Contracts also provide up to €10,000 for travel and living expenses abroad. Travel expenses (round trip) for family members (spouse or partner, minor children) accompanying the WU researcher abroad can be reimbursed as well.

With regard to travel and lodging expenses, the upper limits specified in §§ 12 and 13 of the "Operational Agreement on the requirements, conditions, and amounts for business travel compensation pursuant to §4 item 19" (*Betriebsvereinbarung über die Voraussetzungen und Modalitäten sowie Höhe der Abgeltungen für Dienstreisen, Dienstreisen-BV*; currently available only in German) in conjunction with § 62 (3) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for University Staff apply.

### **Top university bonus:**

#### **Visiting scholar fees**

For stays at universities that require the payment of visiting scholar fees, the maximum funding amount for travel and living expenses may be increased by €2,000 to a total of €12,000 to cover these fees. The prerequisite for the increase is that the university is an internationally renowned top university. Whether or not the university qualifies will be decided by the Vice-Rector for Research. Please note that you will need to provide proof of the amount of the fees charged by the university when submitting your application, and that the additional €2,000 may be used only to pay these fees.

## Target group

- Assistant professors, habilitation (*venia docendi*) candidates with assistant professor status, and WU researchers who have recently completed their habilitation.
- In certain cases, third-party-funded staff members are also eligible. Travel and living expenses can be funded by a Research Contract for the duration of a project, provided that the project head agrees. A Post-Doc Research Contract including personnel costs can also follow a long-term involvement in a project at WU. In these cases, we strongly recommend contacting the WU Research Service Center in advance before applying.
- WU does not fund more than two Research Contracts per person.

## Grant management

- After the Research Contract enters into force, the head of the recipient's organizational unit will receive funding for replacement personnel while the recipient receives funding for travel and living expenses. Both budgets are available up to three months before the start and up to six months after the finalization of the Research Contract. A Research Contract implies a leave of absence.

## Budget 2022

- Proposals calculated in an efficient and economic manner are more likely to be approved.

## Application

- Applications must be submitted electronically and in **English** only! Please use the template provided (<https://bach.wu.ac.at/d/grants/1025/>) for your proposal.
- Please attach the following documents to your proposal:
  - CV (max. 2 pages)
  - List of publications including up to 20 relevant publications (including 5 high impact publications)
  - Letter of approval by your supervisor
  - A meaningful invitation letter by the host institution (will be forwarded to reviewers and taken into consideration during assessment)
- Electronic application portal: <https://www.wu.ac.at/index.php?id=43404>

## Deadline

- Applications for Research Contracts are being accepted until **June 13, 2022**. The earliest starting date for the Research Contracts is February 1, 2023.
- Under the terms of a research contract, the contract holder is released from teaching obligations for the semester during which the research contract is in effect. If the research contract spans 2 semesters (the winter semester is defined from October to February, the summer semester from March to September), the contract holder can select one of the 2 semesters to be released from teaching obligations. The full required teaching load then still applies during the other semester.
- In agreement with the relevant units, it is possible to postpone the travel date if this is necessary due to travel restrictions.

## Decision

- The proposal for the replacement of the applicant's teaching activities will be reviewed by the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs. Whether a replacement for the recipient's teaching activities at his/her unit is reasonable will be decided based on this review and on the letter of approval. Furthermore, the Vice-Rector for Research will review the cost calculation of the proposal.
- After these reviews the submitted proposals will go through a peer-reviewing procedure managed by the WWTF, who will provide funding recommendations. The main criteria for the evaluation are the applicant's scientific potential and his/her possibility to increase this potential through the Research Contract. The Rector's Council makes the final decision on the awarding of Research Contracts based on the WWTF's recommendations **by the end of 2022 at the latest**.

[More Information](#) (in German)

**Target group:**

- Post docs
- Habilitation candidates

**Eligible for funding:**

- Stays abroad
- Personnel expenses
- Travel expenses
- WU in-house funding