

Research Contracts

Objective:

Research contracts are intended to support outstanding WU researchers in their research efforts and release them from their teaching obligations. They are a type of sabbatical or research leave. The main objective is to release senior WU faculty members from their teaching responsibilities to allow them more time for their research work. As an added incentive for the academic units, research contracts include funding for replacement personnel for the leave period.

Ideally, the Research Contract should be used to facilitate a research stay at an international and outstanding research organisation.

Research contracts include an implied performance agreement. The focus of a research contract should be on publishing one or more successful papers and on the submission of third-party funded project applications. The publications should include original research work (i.e. not the editorship of anthologies, textbooks, etc.), which significantly contribute to WU's international scientific reputation.

The maximum duration of research contracts is one year, and the maximum funding is € 72.000,-. If granted, research contracts provide the applicant with a period of paid leave.

After expiration of the contract period, the researcher is subject to reporting obligations under WU's internal performance agreements.

Funding:

Funding is provided to hire replacement personnel for the academic unit. Project expenses are not covered, however compensation for the loss of teaching remuneration (based on the average amount earned over the last three semesters) and travel- und subsistence expenses are included in the research contract. Maximum funding: EUR 72,000.00

Target group:

Senior researchers having a running employment contract with WU. If a researcher was already granted with a research contract, he/she can start another contract only three years after the end of the last one. When proposals are of equal quality, researchers, who have not been awarded a research contract in the past, will be given precedence.

Application

Applications must be submitted [electronically](#) in English language only! Please use our [template](#) for your proposal.

Apart from the proposal, please send the following documents:

- [CV \(Template\)](#)
- Letter of approval by your supervisor
- Invitation letter(s) of the host institution(s)

Deadline

Applications for Research Contracts are being accepted **until 13th of June, 2022**.

Earliest beginning dates for the research contracts: February 2023

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. Based on her/his review and on the letter of approval it will be decided, whether the replacement of the teaching activities at the applicant's unit is reasonable. 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 of the evaluation are: Scientific track record (.25); relevance of the research question(s) (.25); methodological approach (.25); possibility of further third-party funded research projects (.125); Host institution (.125). The final decision is made on the awarding of Research Contracts based on the WWTF's recommendations by the end of 2022.

Information:

Contact: Ruth Heuberger, ext. 5108, email: ruth.heuberger@wu.ac.at

Target group:

- Professors

Eligible for funding:

- Personnel expenses
- travel- und subsistence expenses
- WU in-house funding