

Research Contracts for Senior Researchers

Research Contracts support outstanding academics at WU in their research activities. They create research freedom and thus represent a kind of "sabbatical" or semester off. The aim is to strengthen excellent research by giving WU researchers more time for their research activities by reducing their teaching load.

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 organization.

Research contracts include an implied performance agreement. The focus of a research contract should be on publishing one or more successful papers during the contract period. These should be publications of 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 € 70,000.

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. One or more successful publications as well as a presentation on the goals achieved are possible outcomes. Details are specified in the respective research contract.

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: € 70,000. (of which max. € 40,000 for travel expenses, the rest for teaching replacement).
- **No substitute professorship.**

Target group and requirements:

- Senior faculty members and habilitated mid-level faculty members.
- Current employment at WU with research as part of the job description.
- At least 6 hours of teaching load (full-time, part-time aliquot) during the requested period.
- A new application can be submitted at the earliest 5 years after the expiry of a Research Contract

Applications:

- 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
- A meaningful invitation letter by the host institution
- [Electronic application portal](#)

Deadline:

- Applications for Research Contracts are being accepted until **June 23, 2025, 12 noon!**

Earliest beginning dates for the research contracts: February 2026.

- [Please also note the WU internal funding conditions after project approval.](#)

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 the 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 and Third Mission 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 is the contract's contribution to WU's international scientific reputation.

Contact: Ruth Heuberger, ext. 5108,

email: ruth.heuberger@wu.ac.at

Eligible for funding:

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