

ELECTORAL PROGRAM WU 2023

Free access to higher education

Education is a fundamental right and should be open to everyone. We demand free access to higher education for all and more flexible studies at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), which is compatible with work and family.

Library access for all, without restrictions and an expansion of learning spaces

- A few months ago, WU decided to close the library to non-WU students during the study weeks before the exam weeks, as there are not enough places available, but at the same time it has caused the closure of the Social Science Library. These two points stand opposite to free access to higher education. We demand the repeal of this discriminatory restriction and the preservation of the Social Science Library in order to secure needed learning spaces and to offer students a quiet space for their studies!
- In order not to discriminate against other students and still have enough learning places, it is necessary to expand exactly these. Additionally, outdoor learning places should also be facilitated.

24h Library

- In order to enable a more flexible study, we demand that the library is open 24 hours a day. Many students only find the time to study in the evening after a long day of study or work, but unfortunately the library has already closed by then. With a 24h library they could be offered a quiet place to study after work.

More courses in the evenings and on weekends

- The times courses are offered at WU are often very limited, and it is difficult for students who have to work to find courses suitable to their stressful schedules. We require more courses in the evenings and on weekends to enable these students to finish their studies in time!

Online participation and recordings of courses

- Covid-19 has demonstrated that it is possible to record courses and participate in them online, yet there are hardly any opportunities to follow courses online at WU. Therefore, it is necessary to expand digital studies in order to be able to make them more flexible!

Less compulsory attendance

- Some of the courses at WU Vienna have very strict attendance requirements, which makes it almost impossible not to have to focus 100 percent on your studies. We call for a reduction of these strict attendances to make it easier for students to complete their courses and coordinate work life with their studies!

More support during your studies

- Most students are afraid of the plagiarism check for submissions and as a separate, self funded plagiarism check before submission relies on fee-based programs, we call on the Vienna University of Economics and Business to support its students and provide them free plagiarism checks!
- Furthermore, as a postponement of submission deadlines is not possible with many lecturers, we demand the opportunity to postpone deadlines once per semester for at least 48 hours and without giving reasons in order to compensate for possible emergencies!

A guaranteed master program place for WU students

- Master program places, especially in english-language master programs, are kept artificially scarce in order to promote the program's prestige. Because of this many WU students who completed their bachelor's degree at WU are worried about whether they will get a place at all. This cannot be reconciled with free access to higher education, which is why we demand a guaranteed spot in WU's master programs for every WU student!

Better control of third-party funding

- It is the state's duty to promote the education of its society and not the task of corporations. Accordingly, we demand third-party funding at WU to be strictly controlled and made more transparent in order to prevent companies from influencing the curriculum!

Improving the climate at WU

Climate protection does not stop at the gates of WU. It is impossible to separate the ecological from the economic sphere and its challenges and problems.

Climate protection as an integral part of every curriculum

- Climate protection is one of the biggest crises of our time and the Vienna University of Economics and Business bears great responsibility towards its students. It is vital that WU's students are well-informed and that students are engaged in this topic. It is insufficient that only individual courses of study deal with the topic of climate protection and sustainability, all students, regardless of the chosen program, should find more climate protection and sustainability within their curriculum!

Funding for academic work (bachelor's, master's, doctoral thesis) dealing with the topic of climate protection

- In order to advance research in the field of climate protection and the economy, additional funding for academic work is necessary from WU! This will provide a framework for high-quality research in climate change and sustainability related fields.

more promotion for internships on the topic of climate protection

- In order to support students in their careers and to give them important insights into the work on climate protection and sustainability, the Vienna University of Economics and Business needs to do a better job of promoting internships on these topics so that WU students can become aware of them and take advantage of this offer!

Campus greening and more promotion for sustainability initiatives

- The WU requires a greener campus, which means fewer concrete surfaces, more meadows, trees and plants! This would offset emissions in the environment and further create a beautiful and relaxing campus where students feel comfortable and studying can be fun.

Free public transport ticket for WU students

- Environmental protection begins on the way to WU's campus. In order to assist its students in commuting in a climate-friendly way, we call for free public transportation tickets for all WU students!

affordable and regional canteen

- In order to survive the strenuous everyday life of studying, students deserve a good and, above all, affordable canteen (mensa). To take another step towards a more sustainable WU, regional food must be offered and promoted in the canteen! Additionally, studying is not free, and many students are struggling with financial difficulties, so the prices in the canteen must be affordable for everyone.

For a WU where everyone feels comfortable

Expanding mental health services & providing contact points

- It is not only since the Covid pandemic that the mental health of many students has suffered. WU's current offerings leave a lot to be desired, and an expansion of contact points and support services for all is absolutely necessary. Uncomplicated and low-threshold access and widespread dissemination and promotion are important!

free choice of name and pronouns

- All students should be able to easily adapt pronouns and names for MyLearn (or its successor portal), courses and correspondence! Because every student has the right to be addressed and represented as the person they really are.

More diversity management in the curriculum

- It is necessary that diversity (management) plays a more prominent role in the curricula of all fields of study! Everyone can benefit from forming awareness and recognizing the beauty of diversity and a plurality of differing points of view. Thus, we deem it appropriate and necessary to empower the responsible institute. Moreover, we find that all WU-personnel could benefit from awareness raising programs/ training.

free menstrual products

- It is wrong that menstruating people have to bear the costs alone. We have long been calling for free menstrual products to be made available across the board at WU!