Who is Eligible for a WRDS Account?

Detailed below are the account descriptions for your reference. These descriptions also appear in our Getting Started User Guide which is provided upon subscription commencement, on the WRDS website under the Basic Help section under the Support tab (accessible after subscription commencement), and also on the initial screen where the account request form is located.

All current faculty, staff, and students at a WRDS institution are eligible for web access to WRDS. Individual accounts (Faculty, Ph.D., Research Assistant, Staff and Visitor), which allow SSH access, may be provided at the discretion of the university’s WRDS Representative.

Our WRDS policy prohibits undergraduate/Masters students from accessing WRDS during the extended break between semesters. Once the new semester begins, these students will again be able to access their WRDS accounts. Please contact WRDS Support with any questions.

Types of Accounts

Class: Class accounts may be requested by standing faculty of member institutions and are used to access the WRDS web interface. These accounts are primarily for student usage that is associated with a specific class and all students in the class share the same password. This password is not to be shared with any other individual outside of the class. Class accounts can accommodate up to 15 simultaneous users and there should be only one Class account per unique class name. These accounts do NOT include disk storage, and they expire at the end of the semester. Class accounts need to be set up by the Professor, approved by the WRDS Representative, and should not be carried over for the next semester’s class. TAQ data use is not permitted within the actual class time.

Faculty: Faculty accounts are available to all standing permanent faculty of member institutions. These accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of permanent disk storage. Faculty accounts do not have expiration dates. Faculty will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

Masters: Masters accounts are available to all full-time masters students of member institutions. These accounts allow unlimited access via the WRDS website. Masters students will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual. These accounts do NOT include disk storage and they expire at the end of the semester. Our WRDS policy prohibits undergraduate/Masters students from accessing WRDS during the extended break between semesters. Once the new semester begins, students will again be able to access their WRDS accounts. As we know that some faculty may need access for their students outside of these periods, we have created a tool for you to modify the expiration dates. This tool can be found under MyWRDS > Rep Tools > View Edit Users.
**Ph.D. Student:** Ph.D. accounts are available to all current Ph.D. candidates of member institutions. These accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of permanent disk storage. Ph.D. accounts are required to have an expiration date. Doctoral students will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

**Research Assistant:** Research accounts are available to graduate and undergraduate students performing research for a faculty member. These accounts allow access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of permanent disk storage. RA accounts are required to have an expiration date. A standing faculty member may have one Research Assistant account. Research assistants will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

**Staff:** Staff accounts can only be requested by support personnel such as librarians, IT support staff or other staff of member institutions. (Please note that this type of account does not automatically carry WRDS Rep privileges, though many WRDS reps have this kind of account. WRDS Rep administrative capabilities are assigned separately from the account designation.) Staff accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of home/projects storage. Staff will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

**Visitor:** Visitor accounts are available to visiting visitor faculty (non-permanent or part-time position, or those on a limited appointment). These accounts are subject to additional review and may not be used after the visiting appointment ends. Visitor accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of permanent disk storage. Visitor accounts are required to have an expiration date. Visitor accounts will have their own password access, and this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

*Please note: Lecturers are not eligible for faculty accounts but may apply for a visitor account.*

*If at any time an account type is approved incorrectly please contact us at WRDS for WRDS to make the appropriate changes on our end.*

**Unusual Qualifiers for WRDS Accounts**

1. Ph.D. students working at another university. If a Ph.D. candidate from a WRDS institution accepts an ABD (all but dissertation) position as an assistant professor at a non-WRDS institution they are still eligible to use their account at the discretion of the WRDS institution if the Ph.D. student has yet to defend. Careful watch on these accounts must be maintained, and it is recommended that shorter expiration dates are given to ensure that the account is disabled when the student has defended.

**Non-Qualifiers for WRDS Accounts:**

1. Alumni members of the community.
2. Research colleagues outside the university and co-authors.
3. Other persons not actively employed or registered with the university.