



## Calls for Spring 2024 KOLT Teaching Improvement Grants

KOLT grant program is now open for applications for the Spring semester of 2024. Five different calls with different emphases are open for this year. Please find the details of these calls below:

1. [Call for KOLT Faculty Learning Communities \(FLCs\)](#)
2. [Call for Virtual Exchange Projects](#)
3. [Call for Teach, Research and Publish](#)
4. [Call for Gender Inclusive Teaching](#)
5. [Call for Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Applications in Courses](#)

**Eligibility:** Koç University faculty members or instructors are eligible to apply for this grant program.

**Funding:** 25.000 TRY

**Deadline:** Please submit your Spring 2024 proposals until **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024** via e-mail at [kolt@ku.edu.tr](mailto:kolt@ku.edu.tr).

**Application Form & Documents:** Please use [this template](#) for your application. And *please remember* to include your CV, proposed syllabus, and other relevant documents.

**Videos:** Please visit *KOLT Blackboard Faculty Page* for TIG info session videos, grant recipients' dissemination videos and remarks.

### Call 1: KOLT Call for Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs)

Faculty Learning Community (FLC) is a peer-led group of faculty members (varying number of 4-10 participants) who engage in an active, collaborative, year or semester long program, structured to provide encouragement, support, and reflection. FLC enables participants to investigate, question, explore, apply new or different classroom techniques, and provide solutions for just about any significant problem or opportunity in higher education through regular meetings. FLCs help improve teaching and learning across campus, both in the group members' individual classes and as the groups' insights spread to colleagues inside and outside the department.

The long-term goals of FLCs are to

- build university-wide community through teaching and learning and eventually create a learning organization
- increase faculty interest in undergraduate teaching and learning
- investigate and incorporate ways that enhance teaching and learning
- increase faculty collaboration across disciplines
- create an awareness of the complexity of teaching and learning

KOLT invites faculty members to become members of various KOLT Faculty Learning Communities (KOLT FLCs) or to form your own interest of FLCs. Topics can be centered around the areas of teaching and learning, digitally enhanced learning as provided below or another area of common interest. We encourage faculty at any rank to propose an FLC.

- *Writing-Across-the-Campus FLCs:* For this FLC faculty members from the departments of Academic Writing, ELC, humanities and social sciences are invited so there is enough commonality with academic writing styles, but enough disciplinary variety that all participants learn to better tailor their scholarship for increased reader accessibility and greater clarity of argument.



- *Digitally Enhanced Learning FLCs:* Within this theme, faculty members from various departments and disciplines are invited to form a FLC who wishes to include various digital tools and procedures to enrich learning environments and experiences.
- *Active Learning FLCs:* Within this theme, faculty members from various departments and disciplines are invited to use a main theme from the various active learning approaches such as inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, problem-based learning and team-based learning and to conduct the activities of FLCs.
- *Virtual Exchange FLCs:* Within this theme, faculty members from various departments and disciplines are invited to form a FLC based on the virtual exchange concept and work on the ideas for fostering the collaboration with UNIC partner institutions and other institutions who will be involved in virtual exchange activities.
- *Other FLCs:* There is no restriction on this theme. Faculty from various departments and disciplines can form their own FLC on topic of their interest with a focus on such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR) and/or Augmented Reality (AR).

**Products and Dissemination:** At the end of the FLC, members should plan to share the work of the FLC with the larger community in the campus. Options for presenting include, but are not limited to:

- A manuscript that is submitted to a peer-reviewed journal
- A proposal for a presentation or poster that is submitted to a major teaching and learning conference
- A grant proposal that is submitted to a funding agency
- New or revised curricula or syllabus
- A seminar or panel proposal
- Digital resources
- Blackboard module(s)
- Blogs (multiple posts to an existing blog or a new blog for a professional audience)
- Podcast

**Applications should include the following information in their application form:**

- FLC Title
- Purpose
- Description
- Information about the members and their courses
- Timetable
- Expected Product(s) and Dissemination Plan

**Funding:** Each FLC will be granted up to **25.000 TRY** depending on the proposed budget plan. Eligible expenses for the grant are listed as follows:

- Structuring regular FLC meetings
- Purchasing educational materials, digital tools or service subscription fees that can be used by FLC participants
- Inviting a guest speaker specialized in teaching in related disciplines (honorarium, etc.)
- Conference, seminar or panel participation fee in a *national* conference
- Organizing activities such as panel discussion, seminar-webinar, summer school, retreats

**NOTE:** Purchases must be made according to the new purchasing regulations, and expense receipts should be submitted no later than *March 15, 2024* (for Spring 2024 FLCs). Please consult with KOLT about eligible purchases for this grant program.

**NOTE:** The FLCs are expected to start in February 2024 and work through the entire semester.



## Call 2: Virtual Exchange Projects

You can apply to our grant program to develop a joint course or a project that will enable KU students to collaborate with students from different universities abroad, especially [UNIC partners](#). You can search the database (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qRrpsrKF0oodW5IFyFpYarl-oFIKTabJ>) provided by the Office of International Programs (OIP) to find a partner. You can co-create a course or a short-term project depending on your mutual interest with your partner. KOLT will support you in:

- designing your virtual exchange course or project in line with the curricular requirements and inclusive teaching pedagogy and practices
- designing activities/tasks that build collaboration and cross-cultural skills (ice-breaking activities, collaborative tasks that require higher-order thinking skills about disciplinary or global issues, and practice of cultural knowledge and sensitivity, etc.)
- evaluating student performance in virtual exchange courses and projects via different assessment methods and tools (developing sound and secure online assessment methods, creating a rubric, etc.)
- managing pedagogical issues that may arise in virtual exchange courses and projects (how to address logistical problems such different class sizes, how to deal with a problem that could happen when discussing culturally sensitive issues, etc.)
- improving students' teamwork skills (This training will be open to students participating in virtual exchange courses and projects. The aim is to help students practice working in culturally and academically diverse teams before engaging with collaborative activities and tasks in virtual exchange courses and projects.).

Please visit KOLT Faculty Page on Blackboard (under the folder titled "UNIC Project Resources on Inclusion and Virtual Mobility and Exchange") to read relevant materials and experiences of our instructors on virtual exchange projects. <https://tinyurl.com/mry5p3we>

**Products:** You can produce one of the following products:

- A co-designed and co-taught course
- An assignment or project that can be implemented jointly by KU and other partner university students

**Applications should include the following information in their application form:**

- Title of the course, project, assignment, etc.
- Purpose and Learning Outcomes
- Description
- Information about the course instructors
- Timetable
- Products and expected results

**Funding:** Each VE will be granted up to **25.000 TRY** depending on the proposed budget plan. Eligible expenses for the grant are listed as follows:

- Purchasing educational materials, digital tools or service subscription fees
- Stipend for tutors or assistant students
- Other relevant expenses

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## Call 3: Teach, Research, and Publish

You can receive a grant to research the effects of your innovative, active, interdisciplinary or digitally-enhanced learning and teaching practices that you have successfully used on your students' learning and document your results in the form of a publishable article, conference presentation, etc. The grant recipients can receive guidance and support from KOLT for research design and publication.

**Products:** You can produce one of the following products:

- A conference paper,
- A journal article,
- A book chapter

**Applications should include the following information in their application form:**

- Title of the course and project
- Purpose
- Description
- Timetable
- Products and expected results

**Funding:** Each project will be granted up to **25.000 TRY** depending on the proposed budget plan. Eligible expenses for the grant are listed as follows:

- Stipend for assistant students
- Conference participation
- Any other relevant expenses related to research and publication

**NOTE:** Purchases must be made according to the new purchasing regulations, and expense receipts should be submitted no later than *March 15, 2024* (for Spring 2024 applications). Please consult with KOLT about eligible purchases for this grant program.



## Call 4: Gender Inclusive Teaching

You can receive a grant for developing gender-responsive pedagogical practices in your teaching. Grant recipients are expected to integrate gender-equal educational design principles into their teaching materials and practices in a meaningful and transformative way. Addressing implicit bias and gendered discriminations in the hidden curriculum; transforming the syllabus for a more intersectional and inclusive content; creating a safe and inclusive classroom culture; developing awareness, skills, and knowledge of the learners about gender equality and women's empowerment; designing gender-fair and inclusive assessment methods are among the eligible teaching improvements for this grant. You can also develop projects that offer ways to link this call with the priorities of other three calls of this grant program. The applicants can receive guidance and support from KOLT and Gender Equality Office for their proposed improvements.

**Products:** You can produce one of the following products:

- A new or re-designed course
- New or revised curricula or syllabus
- Educational materials

**Applications should include the following information in their application form:**

- Title of the course
- Syllabus
- Purpose and Learning Outcomes
- Description
- Statement on Inclusive Teaching
- Timetable
- Products and expected results

**Funding:** Each project will be granted up to **25.000 TRY** depending on the proposed budget plan. Eligible expenses for the grant are listed as follows:

- Purchasing educational materials, digital tools or service subscription fees
- Stipend for assistant students
- Any other relevant expenses

**NOTE:** Purchases must be made according to the new purchasing regulations, and expense receipts should be submitted no later than *March 15, 2024* (for Spring 2024 applications). Please consult with KOLT about eligible purchases for this grant program.



## Call 5: Call for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications in Courses

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, AI has emerged as a powerful tool with the potential to reshape teaching, learning, and research. By integrating AI into educational practices, new possibilities can be unlocked for personalized learning, adaptive assessments, and intelligent data analysis. This call for projects aims to explore and harness the immense potential of AI in higher education, with the ultimate goal of enhancing student engagement, improving academic outcomes, and fostering a culture of innovation. We encourage faculty members from all disciplines to submit project proposals that demonstrate how AI can be effectively utilized in courses, classrooms, and labs.

**Products:** You can produce one of the following products:

- A new or re-designed course with AI integration
- New or revised curricula or syllabus by integrating various AI tools
- Educational materials enriched with AI tools

**Applications should include the following information in their application form:**

- Title of the course
- Syllabus
- Purpose and Learning Outcomes
- Description
- Timetable
- Products and expected results

**Funding:** Each project will be granted up to **25.000 TRY** depending on the proposed budget plan. Eligible expenses for the grant are listed as follows:

- Purchasing educational materials, digital tools or service subscription fees for AI tools and technologies
- Stipend for assistant students
- Any other relevant expenses

**NOTE:** Purchases must be made according to the new purchasing regulations, and expense receipts should be submitted no later than *March 15, 2024* (for Spring 2024 applications). Please consult with KOLT about eligible purchases for this grant program.