

KOLT Teaching Innovation Grants (TIG)

Koç Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT) is pleased to announce that the call for KOLT Teaching Innovation Grants (TIG) is open till January 20, 2014. The program will award 5 grants in Spring 2014 to the members of the faculty to develop their teaching practices in undergraduate and graduate classes. All faculty are invited to apply.

Eligibility: All full time faculty including ELC and ALIS instructors are eligible to apply for these grants.

Deadline: Please submit your proposals to kolt@ku.edu.tr no later than **January 20, 2014**.

The priorities of KOLT TIG for Spring 2014 include the following items:

1. **Curriculum enhancements** by faculty from different departments: Qualitative and quantitative evaluation (survey, focus groups, interviews and observations) of courses in terms of learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment to strengthen the link among sequence of courses;
2. **Course design** that promotes **active learning** and **critical thinking**;
3. **Course design** that promotes **collaborative activities** engaging all students by allowing them to create wikis, blogs, podcasts, e-portfolios and to use social media;
4. Use of **educational technology** to develop online supplementary course resources, online assessment methods and integrate Koç University Learning Management System (**KULMS**);
5. **Joint teaching projects** within the Koç University or with external partners to start interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary faculty collaboration;
6. Any innovative solution to the problems raised in the **mid-semester course evaluation** of the applicant;
7. **Course design** that **promotes research-based** learning;
8. Alignment of tutoring to produce joint projects with **TAs** and **KOLT** tutors to **improve PS, LABs, DS** of large classes;
9. Professional development activities (**attending teaching workshops**, seminars or trainings including those given over the internet). KOLT has compiled a list of professional development activities for you. Please see the list in our website <http://kolt.ku.edu.tr/faculty/devel/conf>. You can choose from this list or propose one that is appropriate for your discipline.

Proposal Format:

Applications should contain a two-three page long narrative that **clearly addresses the following questions:**

1. Which of the KOLT TIG priority list will be applied or developed in your proposal?
2. What is the **innovation** to be implemented?
3. What drives you make this proposal? Does it intend to solve a problem?
4. What are the expected outcomes of this proposal? Please clearly state this in terms of your teaching practices before and after the proposal. How will you assess them?
5. What is the impact of it on teaching and students' learning?
6. Does it contribute to collaboration of different departments or faculty members?
7. How do you plan to sustain the proposal after the grant is over?
8. What is the transferability of your proposal to other courses or disciplines at KU?

Required attachments:

- the current syllabus of the course that is to be developed through this proposal;
- the resources and support needed with an itemized budget.

Evaluation: All proposals will be evaluated based on the following main criteria: innovation, collaboration, applicability, sustainability and transferability to other courses.

Innovation: Proposals for KOLT TIG are expected to include justifications for the proposed innovation(s). The innovation could be one of the following:

- The introduction of creative ideas for changing or improving instructional activities to maximize student learning at Koç University.
- “Innovation” is defined as “the act of introducing something new”¹. However, it is argued that “...innovation has become a by-word for “better”, i.e. to innovate is to find a better way of doing something” (Dobbins, 2009)².

Collaboration: Applications from a group of instructors at KU or from instructors building international collaborations are highly encouraged.

- In a recent OECD report on quality education³, the necessity of establishing collaborations within and across the campuses are presented as a way of strengthening universities as “learning organizations”.

Funding: Each grant holder will receive 5000 TL for their **unrestricted teaching/research** related usage.

Post Award Requirements: All recipients of TIG are expected to write a final report that can be disseminated through KOLT website. KOLT will conduct mid-semester evaluation or end-semester evaluation of the course. Also, all grantees are invited to give a workshop or present their projects at a panel organized by KOLT. Awardees will be provided with more details about these requirements.

List of previous grant holders: <http://kolt.ku.edu.tr/faculty/teach/grant>

¹ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/innovation>

² Dobbins, K. (2009): Feeding Innovation with Learning Lunches: contextualising academic innovation in higher education, Journal of Further and Higher Education, 33:44, 411-422

³ <http://www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/QT%20policies%20and%20practices.pdf>