

### **KOLT Teaching Innovation Grants (TIG)**

Koç Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT) is pleased to announce that KOLT Teaching Innovation Grants Program (TIG) has been renewed and expanded in line with the strategic priorities of Koç University. Starting Summer 2013 semester, the program will award up to 6 grants in Summer and Fall 2013 to the members of the faculty to develop their teaching practices in undergraduate and graduate classes. All faculty are invited to apply. We especially encourage applications from the new members of the faculty and from the faculty members who have not been awarded with a KOLT TIG before.

**The priorities of KOLT TIG** for Summer and Fall 2013 include

1. curriculum enhancements related to active learning;
2. promoting critical thinking;
3. use of learning groups in class;
4. use of educational technology;
5. leadership skills development;
6. joint projects within the Koç University or with external partners;
7. research-led practices;
8. quantitative reasoning;
9. feedback and assessment;
10. alignment of tutoring;
11. increasing attendance and engagement.

Based on these priorities, **funding may be requested for the following initiatives:**

1. Course design that promotes active learning (the proposal that aims to develop original activities or to adapt well-known activities to students' level of readiness and needs will be given high priority);
2. Course design that incorporates technology (the proposals including the development of online resources, online assessment methods as well as the proposals that integrate MOODLE or other Learning Management System (LMS) will be given high priority);
3. Joint projects with TAs and KOLT tutors to improve PS and LABs of large classes;
4. Course design that promotes collaborative activities engaging all students by allowing them to create wikis, blogs, podcasts and to use social media;
5. Any innovative solution to one of the problems raised in the mid-semester course evaluation of the applicant;
6. External partnerships to enhance student learning and to start interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary faculty collaboration;
7. Any innovative proposal that addresses to the priorities above;
8. Professional development activities (attending teaching workshops, seminars or trainings including those given over the Internet is included). 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. Applications from individual faculty members as well as groups of faculty who would like to attend a workshop or meeting as a group are welcome).

**Funding:** Applications may request funding up to 3,500 TL.

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

**Deadlines:** Faculty members who wish to apply for a Teaching Innovation Grant should submit their proposals to [kolt@ku.edu.tr](mailto:kolt@ku.edu.tr) no later than

- Summer 2013 grants: June 7, Friday;
- Fall 2013 grants: August 23, Friday.

**Proposal Format:**

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

1. Which of the KOLT TIG priority/initiative 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?

Applicants are expected to **attach** the following items:

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

**Eligible Costs:** The following items are eligible for funding (applicants are expected to present a timetable of activities with breakdown of proposed costs):

- costs for course design (to develop a new course or improve existing courses);
- costs for educational software or educational technological equipment;
- costs for joint projects (inviting experts; visiting to other universities and institutions to form partnerships; hiring an undergraduate research team on a short term contract, etc.);
- costs of attending a conference (registration, flight, accommodation, and meals).

**Non-eligible Costs:** The following items are not eligible for funding:

- purchasing lab materials, computer programs or equipment that can be normally purchased via department or CIT budgets;
- expenditures without a receipt.

**Evaluation:** All proposals except the ones related to professional development activities will be evaluated based on the following main criteria: innovation\*, collaboration\*\*, applicability,

sustainability, and transferability to other courses. Proposals that meet innovation and collaboration criteria will be given priority for this call.

**(\*) 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. Innovative changes or improvement initiatives in curriculum, course design, delivery and assessment are encouraged.
- “Innovation” is defined as “the act of introducing something new”<sup>1</sup>. 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)<sup>2</sup>.

**(\*\*) 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 education<sup>3</sup>, the necessity of establishing collaborations within and across the campuses are presented as a way of strengthening universities as “learning organizations”.
- Please send us an e-mail ([kolt@ku.edu.tr](mailto:kolt@ku.edu.tr)) or call (x1582) if you are planning to submit a proposal that target building “learning organizations”.

**Requirements for Grants Awarded:** All recipients of TIG are expected to write a final report that can be disseminated via 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.

---

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

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

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