

Kolvenbach Fellows Program Guidelines

Introduction and Program Goals

The Kolvenbach Fellows program is intended to foster research that explicitly supports the Catholic, Jesuit mission of Loyola University Maryland. The Fellows program is in keeping with Loyola's goal to provide competitive research grants and academic recognition for scholarship, including research in Jesuit values, such as social justice. The program is named in honor of Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., the 29th General Superior of the Society of Jesus, and inspired by his October 2000 address, "The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in Jesuit Higher Education."¹

In that address, Father Kolvenbach calls for faculty research at Jesuit colleges and universities to "engage with human society, human life, and the environment." Research that engages the world in this way recognizes that "university knowledge is valuable for its own sake and at the same time is knowledge that must ask itself, 'For whom? For what?'"

He calls faculty to pursue "socially-engaged research," thereby "exemplifying and modeling knowledge which is service." This research, Father Kolvenbach suggests, must be "rationally rigorous, firmly rooted in faith and open to dialogue with all people of good will." The research aims Father Kolvenbach articulates are both specific and inclusive. They derive from a particular Catholic, Jesuit tradition, and are open to all people, of differing faith and ethics traditions, who support those values. Along these same lines, applications are invited from scholars in all academic fields. While interdisciplinary submissions are encouraged, all applicants will receive equal consideration, according to the criteria outlined below.

A maximum of two Kolvenbach Fellows will be selected from eligible faculty applicants (tenure-track or tenured faculty). Each Fellow will receive a course reduction to enable the Fellow to pursue the research outlined in the applicant's proposal. Fellows are required to submit a comprehensive final report on their project by the second Friday in September following completion of their fellowship. Additionally, fellows are expected to share their research with the University and Baltimore communities during the fall semester in a format recommended by the Kolvenbach Committee. These annual presentations will celebrate the work achieved under the Kolvenbach Fellows Program, allow members of the University to benefit from that research, foster a sense of scholarly community, and honor the humane scholarship that is a hallmark of Jesuit higher education.

For the purposes of this program, research is defined as any scholarly or creative endeavor that is intended to expand knowledge. The nature of research varies considerably from field to field. The Committee will rank the proposals utilizing the criteria described in the Evaluation Criteria below. The Committee will forward final recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In formulating a research proposal, applicants should pursue rigorous scholarship that honors the highest standards of scholarship and engages in pursuit of one or more of the following aims, **with particular emphasis on the first two aims:**

Knowledge that is attentive to the needs of the world, to the implications of how this research derives from, or potentially transforms, a situation in the real world. For disciplines whose connections to "our

¹ Please see Father Kolvenbach's entire talk at <http://www.loyola.edu/Justice/commitment/kolvenbach.html>

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time and place” may seem less obvious, Father Kolvenbach notes, “every field or branch of knowledge has values to defend, with repercussions on the ethical level.”

Socially-engaged research. A Fellow might work with people in the social apostolates or those who work actively for justice, to fashion, pursue, and present or apply the research. Father Kolvenbach suggests, “To make sure that the real concerns of the poor find their place in research, faculty members need an organic collaboration with those in the Church and in society who work among and for the poor and actively seek justice.”

Interdisciplinary dialogue. Two Fellows might apply to pursue a project together by submitting a joint application. Or a Fellow might pursue research in two disciplines whose methods or content has the potential to significantly strengthen her or his project. In either case, the interdisciplinary work should help the project achieve more directly one of the first two program aims. This aim derives from Father Kolvenbach’s call for Jesuit university faculty to achieve “a sustained interdisciplinary dialogue of research and reflection, a continuous pooling of expertise.”

Each of these research aims derives directly from Father Kolvenbach’s talk. Father Kolvenbach notes that these aims “do not turn Jesuit universities into branch plants of social ministries or agents of change.” Instead, research that honors these aims “not only obeys the canons of each discipline, but ultimately embraces human reality.”

Types of Fundable Research

By research projects, we mean small endeavors or small components of a larger endeavor that can be completed over the term of the fellowship. This may consist of:

1. a project that can be completed from beginning to end over the fellowship term;
2. preliminary work that will lead to a completed plan of research, such as a pilot survey to test and instrument and develop a sampling scheme;
3. the implementation of a research plan;
4. the analysis and/or write-up of findings of scholarly inquiry;
5. a combination of the above; or
6. a unique exception to the above that must be separately justified, such as creative works.

The Committee is interested in funding projects that enable faculty members to refine their skills and that will result in substantive accomplishments. The Committee is particularly interested in funding research that may lead to publication, presentation, or other modes of contribution.

Conditions of Eligibility

1. Eligibility is limited to tenured or tenure-track faculty members.
2. Faculty members are not eligible to receive the award more often than once in five years.
3. Faculty Fellows should not be receiving concurrent support from other Loyola sources for the same project.

How to Apply

Course releases will be awarded for the spring semester only. Applicants must apply in the spring



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semester of the previous academic year for the fellowship. Proposals must be submitted online through ORSP website² no later than 5:00 p.m., on the first Friday of the spring semester.

Format of the Kolvenbach Fellows Proposal

- I. Required Information: Complete fields for name, title, department, project title, etc.
- II. Abstract: 200 word limit
- III. Description: A detailed explanation of the project, succinct but thorough, may not exceed 1,500 words. Include a word count. The following guidelines should be specifically addressed (in the order shown) as you prepare your proposal:
 - a. Exactly what are you going to do and how does it relate to Father Kolvenbach's research aims? Objective of proposed study/research/work.
 - b. Why is this particular project important?
 - c. Review of literature and significance to the field; project's relationship to Father Kolvenbach's research aims.
 - d. How will you accomplish the goals stated above?
 - e. Methodological aspects, research design, techniques employed, timetable, etc.
 - f. Current research support and future plans for the proposed research work.
 - g. Plans for publication, additional outside funding sources, etc. List all sources of current research support, proposals submitted to other agencies.
 - h. Describe the probability of success of the current proposal. Describe the research successes of your recent summer grants, previous Kolvenbach fellowships, and most recent sabbatical.

IV. Cited References (No page limit)

V. Curriculum Vitae

Evaluation Criteria

In reviewing the proposed activity, the Kolvenbach Fellows Committee will keep in mind that the awards are to be made consonant with a philosophy of supporting the development of research and creative endeavor on the Loyola campus. The following criteria have been established to guide the committee members in order to insure accountability in the award decisions.

1. The proposal presents a clear description of the objectives associated with the proposed study/research/work. The objectives should relate clearly to the research aims Father Kolvenbach outlines and clearly contribute to the Jesuit, Catholic mission of Loyola University Maryland.

² www.loyola.edu/kolvenbach

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(Point scale of 1 to 10 points)

2. The proposal addresses the "importance" of this proposed study/research/work through a review of the literature and a discussion commenting on the significance to the field(s) and to the core values. Amongst the criteria of "importance" valued by the committee are: importance to basic research in the discipline(s), to the community at large, and to the academic reputation of Loyola. (Point scale of 1 to 10 points)
3. The proposal presents a clear description of how the objectives will be accomplished. Methodological aspects, research design, techniques employed, timetable, etc. should be clearly stated. These methodological aspects of the project are expected to be appropriate to the applicant's discipline and of the highest quality. (Point scale of 1 to 10 points)
4. The proposal discusses timeline and future plans for proposed study/research/work. If applicable, include plans for future funding and related publications. All sources of current research support, proposals submitted to other agencies, and previous grants during the last three years must also be detailed (including sabbaticals and summer research grants). (Point scale of 1 to 5 points)
5. The proposal describes the probability of success, including the results and success of research funded by previous summer grants during the past three years, Kolvenbach fellowships and summer grants, and the most recent sabbatical leave and any outside funding received. (Point scale of 1 to 10 points)
6. Adherence to general guidelines. (5 points)

Using the above criteria, the Committee will evaluate and rank all proposals and will forward final recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. It is expected that a maximum of two Fellows recommended for a course reduction will be funded, to the extent that monies are available and in the order of the Committee ranking.