

Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame

Search for Director, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and Associate/Full Professor

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Search Summary

The University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame) and the Keough School of Global Affairs are accepting applications for a full-time, tenured position at the associate or full



KROC INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE STUDIES

professor level. The ideal candidate will be an accomplished scholar, strategic leader, and culture builder to serve as the next Director of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. The Director will lead a globally recognized institute composed of a committed group of research scholars and practitioners in charting a compelling vision for the future. This is an important leadership role that is central to the mission of a premier global Catholic research university. The Director role offers an opportunity to make an outsized impact in realizing Kroc's mission to study the causes of violent conflict and strategies for a just and sustainable peace.

The ideal candidate will be a distinguished scholar whose research and policy engagement focus on issues relevant to the study or implementation of peace. Candidates should have a Ph.D. and rigorous training in law, history, peace studies, political science, sociology, theology, or a related field, with a record of significant intellectual contributions and academic achievement to receive tenure at Notre Dame.

This is a full-time, tenured appointment, with administrative responsibilities and teaching duties at the undergraduate and graduate levels, ideally expected to begin in August 2027.

The Kroc Institute was founded in 1986 through the shared vision of long-time Notre Dame President Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., and philanthropist Joan B. Kroc. Inspired by a commitment to peace, human rights, and the reduction of conflict, the Institute has grown into one of the world's leading centers for peace studies research, education, and practice. The Institute brings together scholars from multiple fields to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. Research areas span peace processes, international mediation, conflict resolution, transitional justice, environmental justice, nuclear disarmament, human rights, migration, religion and peacebuilding, genocide prevention, and emerging issues such as technology and polarization. In 2014, the Institute became a founding unit of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs.

A defining characteristic of the Kroc Institute is its commitment to bridging scholarship and practice; producing interdisciplinary research that not only advances knowledge but also informs policy and action. Faculty and programs engage directly with governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and local communities around the world. Initiatives such as the Peace Accords Matrix and the Catholic Peacebuilding Network are significant and renowned initiatives to translate scholarship into practical impact. Its academic portfolio includes programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Supported by a substantial endowment, and a global alumni network of more than 2,000, the Institute occupies a uniquely influential position within the field.

The Director of the Kroc Institute reports directly to the Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs. The next Director will be charged with developing an innovative intellectual agenda; continue to integrate with the Keough School; enhance Kroc's leadership in peace studies; and foster a collaborative and inclusive community. The Director will have an opportunity to build upon the Institute's remarkable 40 year legacy while shaping a new future as the leading center for peace studies grounded in Notre Dame's identity as a Catholic research institution and its enduring commitment to human dignity, justice, and the common good.

The University of Notre Dame has retained the search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist with this important recruitment. Instructions for applying, nominating, and inquiring about the position can be found at the end of this document.

University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame was founded in November 1842 by Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., who sought to establish a great Catholic university in America that would be an enlightening force in the world. From its humble yet hopeful beginnings, Notre Dame would develop into one of the most iconic institutions in the country's higher education landscape.

In the last generation the University has undergone significant transformations. Towards the end of the 20th century, Notre Dame was a highly regarded religious institution with pockets of scholarly strength in theology and the humanities; a superb undergraduate program; and a deep commitment to its Catholic mission. In this century, the University has emerged as a rising R1 research university with ambitions to join the ranks of more well-established institutions. Even without a medical school it has done admirably in terms of research expenditures and faculty productivity. In recognition of this Notre Dame was made a member of the Association of American Universities in 2023. While it continues to invest in the undergraduate experience and its traditional areas of strength, Notre Dame has made significant investments in the sciences and emphasized greater rigor and excellence in the research of its faculty. Financially, the University has seen strong performance from its endowment that it now surpasses those of some larger private research universities. Its committed and loyal alumni continue to contribute generously to the University's recent fundraising successes.

The University's current [strategic framework](#) aims to tackle a number of critical and achievable goals. Enhancing undergraduate and graduate education along with increasing research prominence will be crucial. The University will continue to bolster its global visibility as well as deepen interdisciplinary collaborations. Strengthening diversity and inclusion will be paramount for an increasingly changing world. Above all, the University will further position itself as an institution that contributes to both the Church and society through scholarship, service, and leadership.

Notre Dame today has [eight academic colleges and schools](#). The University enrolls 8,854 undergraduates, 4,162 graduate students, and employs approximately 1,500 instructional faculty. Notre Dame's operating budget is approximately \$2 billion with an endowment valued at about \$20 billion in FY2025.

Catholic Mission

Notre Dame is a Catholic institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and educating students in mind, body, and spirit. The University seeks to cultivate in its students a sense of human solidarity and a concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice in the world. Notre Dame welcomes the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students who along with Catholic intellectuals enrich its mission.

The University is committed to academic freedom and welcomes all areas of scholarly activity as consonant with its mission. The University aims to provide a forum for free inquiry and open discussion so that various lines of Catholic thought intersect with the full panoply of the human experience.

Donald R. Keough School of Global Affairs

The first new school at Notre Dame in nearly a century, the Donald R. Keough School of Global Affairs was created in 2014. The School was established to leverage existing areas of strength in global affairs, promote interdisciplinary collaborations, and amplify impact and reach. The Keough School was formed by bringing together [nine institutes and centers](#). The inaugural Dean of the Keough School was Dr. Scott Appleby, who previously led the Kroc Institute before leading Keough through its first decade. Dr. Mary Gallagher became Dean in 2024.

Under its current [strategic plan](#), the Keough School seeks to strengthen its position as a mission-driven policy school grounded in the concept of [Integral Human Development \(IHD\)](#). The current plan organizes the School's work around four interdisciplinary areas of excellence: 1) Sustainability and Environmental Justice; 2) Poverty, Inequality, and Marginalization; 3) Democracy, Governance, Institutions, and Rights; and 4) Systems and Structures of Violence and Peace. These themes are intended to guide research, policy impact, and global partnerships while addressing the world's most pressing challenges. In addition, these thematic areas, alongside the Institutes and Center, delineate the governance structure of the School, with important functions for decisions related to academic programs, faculty, and curriculum.

A major priority under the plan is to enhance educational offerings at all levels to develop leaders capable of addressing complex global challenges. The School also aims to deepen its reach by strengthening external partnerships, particularly in the Global South, while increasing its capacity to translate research into solutions that advance human flourishing.

With the evolution of the Keough School, many of the direct faculty review and oversight activities that previously resided in its institutes and centers migrated to the School level. The Kroc Institute Director will focus on the broader intellectual and research leadership of the Institute while ensuring its community of scholars and practitioners, both Keough School and Notre Dame faculty broadly, are well represented in the vision for the Institute and aligned to the Keough School.

Leadership

Mary E. Gallagher is the Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs. She is an expert in Chinese domestic politics, political economy, and industrial relations and has published in leading academic journals as well as in prominent media outlets. Previously she served as the Amy and Alan Lowenstein Chair in Democracy, Democratization, and Human Rights and Director of the International Institute at the University of Michigan. Dean Gallagher holds a bachelor's degree in Government and East Asian studies from Smith College and a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton University. She is a board member

of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She has consulted for the World Bank, the U.S. State Department, Department of Labor, and many other NGOs and international organizations.

Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

The [Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies](#) was inspired by the vision of Notre Dame's former President Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. and philanthropist Joan B. Kroc. Rev. Hesburgh was a leading voice for civil and human rights and the abolition of nuclear weapons while Mrs. Kroc was deeply concerned about the nuclear arms race and committed to world peace. Together they founded the Kroc Institute in 1986 and until her passing in 2003, Mrs. Kroc contributed a total of \$69.1 million to support the Institute.

Today the Kroc Institute is the preeminent organization dedicated to research, teaching, and the applied practice of peace studies. The Institute is truly multidisciplinary in its approach to peace studies. Its core faculty consist of scholars in peace and conflict studies, political science, psychology, history, sociology, anthropology and theology to name a few, and all have been significant contributors in defining and advancing the field of peace studies.

The Institute has historically covered broad areas of research including nuclear disarmament; peace processes; transitional justice; trauma; genocide and mass atrocities; political reconciliation; environmental justice; peace and technology; religion and peacebuilding; human rights; migration; mediation; intersectionality; structural violence; and preventative diplomacy. In the future, the Institute looks to do work in new themes and issues drawing on Notre Dame and the Keough School's research strengths.

While original research and knowledge discovery have been key elements of Kroc's mission, it has also sought to inform and influence the actions of actors in the world. Historically, the Kroc Institute has supported the model of the scholar-practitioner, whose research and practical work in peacebuilding reinforce one another. The Kroc Institute partners with national and international policymaking bodies like the United Nations, the U.S. government, governments in conflict zones, and regional organizations to undertake research, training, and other activities that meet their needs.

The Kroc Institute currently runs a few key initiatives to shape the practice of peacebuilding:

- [Catholic Peacebuilding Network](#): Engages global Catholic institutions in peace efforts.

- [Peace Accords Matrix \(PAM\)](#): A world-leading initiative monitoring peace agreement implementations, including in Colombia and the Philippines.
- [Mediation Program](#): Specializes in conflict resolution and diplomacy, including efforts in Afghanistan.
- [PeaceTech and Polarization Lab](#): Investigates how technology can support peace and reduce polarization.

Currently the Kroc Institute provides academic programs at both the graduate and undergraduate level. The Institute currently has six joint Ph.D. degrees combining peace studies with anthropology, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and theology. In 2025, it launched a standalone Ph.D. in international peace studies. The Master in Global Affairs, International Peace Studies Major is a professional program integrating classroom learning with a six-month field placement. Students in the Ph.D. and master's program are fully funded. For undergraduates, the Kroc Institute also offers a supplementary major and minor in peace studies. Kroc's academic programs are administered by the Institute's faculty and staff but are overseen by the Keough School as part of an effort to integrate the School's degree-granting academic programs.

The Kroc Institute has produced an international network of more than 2,000 alumni working at all levels of society to build a more just and peaceful world. Kroc alumni are placed at institutions of higher learning and various NGOs, government agencies, and the private sector. Many are leading practitioners and scholars in the field, serving as testament to the strengths of the Kroc Institute's programs.

Today the Kroc Institute has 24 core faculty members and 61 faculty fellows drawn from other schools and colleges at Notre Dame. The Kroc Institute's finances, operations, and programs are overseen by a professional staff of seven. Currently 30 students are enrolled in the Ph.D. programs, 30 students in the peace studies major for the master's of global affairs, and 49 students in the undergraduate programs. The generous contributions of Joan Kroc, along with expert management of Notre Dame's assets over the years, has resulted in a \$300 million endowment for the Kroc Institute. The current endowment serves as a strong resource base for the Institute from which to support its operations, faculty, research, academic programs, and students.

The Kroc Institute's [Advisory Board](#) provides advice and guidance to the Institute's director and executive staff and supports the Institute's resources. An important dimension of the Kroc Institute Director's leadership is to build, engage, and strategically utilize a dynamic Advisory Board of

distinguished thought leaders, practitioners, alumni, and philanthropic partners who can advance the Institute's mission. The Advisory Board serves as an active resource to Kroc bringing expertise and fresh perspectives, creating connections and opportunities for students and alumni, strengthening Kroc's visibility and influence within Notre Dame and the broader peacebuilding community.

Role of the Director

The Director of the Kroc Institute reports to the Dean of the Keough School of Global Affairs. Reporting to them is an Executive Director, Communications Director, Director of the Peace Accords Matrix, Director of Doctoral Studies, Director of International Peace Studies, Director of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network, and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The Director is responsible for the operations of the Kroc Institute and administers its programs and policies in close collaboration with the Keough School of Global Affairs. The Director of the Kroc Institute is expected to have a full-time, tenured position at the rank of associate or full professor.

With the evolution of the Keough School, many of the direct faculty review and oversight activities that previously existed within the Institute have transitioned to the Keough School. The Kroc Institute Director plays a critical role in serving as an intellectual community builder and helps set the research focus with the Kroc faculty. The Director also plays an important cultural role, setting the tone for a culture that welcomes rigorous intellectual discourse and respectful work environment for faculty and staff. Particularly in the last few years, increasing geopolitical and cultural tensions have been felt deeply within the community. The Director will serve as a values-driven intellectual leader able to speak to the Kroc Institute's important value and role within Notre Dame and the broader world.

Key Opportunities and Challenges for the Director

The Director will join a leading Institute in the field of peace studies and look to drive an innovative intellectual and research mission commensurate with a global Catholic research university. The success of the next Director will be determined by how well they address the following leadership opportunities and challenges:

Develop an innovative intellectual and research agenda

The Kroc Institute stands at an important juncture in its intellectual evolution. The field of peace studies has transformed considerably in the last generation. There has been a proliferation of new paradigms and approaches that have enriched but also made the field much more multifaceted. Moreover, the

external environment that peace studies seeks to understand and influence has evolved considerably and become more complex since the late Cold War period when the Kroc Institute was established.

It is within this context that the next Director will be asked to foster a shared sense of scholarly purpose across a community that draws from a diverse array of empirical research and practitioner expertise. Success will require identifying themes capable of connecting faculty research, applied peacebuilding programs, and student learning. The Director will be expected to strengthen the Kroc Institute's research profile in line with the expectations of the University and honor its historic commitment to peacebuilding practice while fostering new intellectual connections and engaging broader scholarly debates. The Director should also find ways to actively engage Kroc's core affiliated faculty, faculty within the Keough School, and also the Kroc Institute's faculty fellows outside of the Keough School to participate in building a new research agenda.

Shape Kroc's future within the Keough School

The next Kroc Institute Director will lead as its home institution, the Keough School, continues to evolve and consolidate itself as a renowned global affairs school. Having been formed by bringing together already existing units, the Keough School continues to develop greater alignment and cohesion. The Director will build strong relationships with Keough School leadership as a contributor to its continued development. They will need to navigate new governance structures while serving as an advocate for both the needs of the Kroc Institute and the mission of the School at large. The Director will be a skilled bridge builder who can help Kroc thrive within a more integrated environment, ensuring that its work remains an important part of the Keough School's broader vision.

Enhance Kroc's leadership and influence in peace studies

For nearly four decades, the Kroc Institute has been recognized as one of the world's leading centers for peace research and practice. Through the influence of its faith traditions, commitment to policy engagement, strong student programs, and embracing of cutting-edge scholarly research, the Kroc Institute has had a distinct and influential role in the development of peace studies. The next Director will build on these achievements to shape how peace studies is understood and practiced in the coming decade and to ensure that Kroc remains at the forefront of those conversations. They should collaborate with the broader University and Keough School to promote the work of its faculty and students and seek to forge new partnerships where Kroc's research and scholarship have an opportunity to have a positive impact.

Shepherd a Kroc community based on collaboration and pluralism

While the Kroc Institute is not overly large it is nonetheless a diverse community that has within it different scholarly traditions and various programs engaging with the larger world. This diversity has been a strength and the opportunity for the next Director is to ensure that Kroc's different areas feel part of a larger scholarly and world improving community. Success will depend on the ability to listen carefully, build consensus, and create spaces where differing perspectives can coexist. The Director must appreciate the value of diversity in its broadest sense, fostering dialogue across disciplinary, cultural, political, and intellectual differences. They will ensure that Kroc remains a place where scholarly rigor and respect for diverse viewpoints reinforce one another.

The Kroc Institute's Director must also bring a deep commitment to the needs of its exceptionally diverse students, many of whom come from communities directly affected by conflict and social upheaval. The Director should foster an inclusive and supportive environment that recognizes these realities, ensures students have access to appropriate mentoring and university resources, and creates a strong sense of community and belonging.

Qualifications and Characteristics

The next Director of the Kroc Institute should bring most if not all of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- Internationally recognized scholar with a record of significant intellectual contributions and academic achievement to receive tenure at Notre Dame;
- A deep and enduring commitment to Kroc's mission to study the causes of violent conflict and strategies for sustainable peace, fostering collaboration between religious and secular traditions to build sustainable peace and its intersection with conflict transformation, justice, human dignity, and social change;
- Appreciation for and ability to advance the Institute's role within a Catholic university committed to peace, human dignity, the common good, and global engagement.
- Record of promoting scholarly achievement and enhancing institutional research reputation;
- Demonstrated commitment and skills relating to integrating rigorous research with policy engagement and real-world impact;
- Capacity to define and advance a compelling strategic vision for the future of peace studies and the evolving role of the Kroc Institute on a global stage;

- Successful leadership and administrative experience within an academic, research, nonprofit, or mission-driven organization;
- Capacity to represent the Institute effectively within a complex University community;
- Demonstrated ability to build trust, foster collaboration, and unite diverse constituencies around shared goals;
- Experience navigating organizational change and competing stakeholder interests while maintaining community cohesion;
- Appreciation for multiple disciplines, methodologies, and forms of knowledge production, including the humanities, social sciences, theology, and practitioner perspectives;
- Strong listening skills, cultural awareness, diplomacy, and the ability to work constructively across differing viewpoints and perspectives;
- Demonstrated investment in graduate and undergraduate education, mentorship, and preparing students to become leaders, scholars, and practitioners in peacebuilding and related fields;
- Ability to cultivate external partnerships, engage donors and alumni, and expand the Institute's global reach and impact;

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-notre-dame-keough-school-global-affairs/director-kroc-institute>

All correspondences can be sent to the Isaacson, Miller representatives below:

Sean Farrell, Partner
Kahn Lee, Managing Associate
Drew Chang, Senior Search Coordinator

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

The University of Notre Dame seeks to attract, develop, and retain the highest quality faculty, staff and administration. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and does not discriminate on the

basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, genetic information, or age in employment. Moreover, Notre Dame prohibits discrimination against veterans or disabled qualified individuals, and complies with 41 CFR 60-741.5(a) and 41 CFR 60-300.5(a). We strongly encourage applications from candidates attracted to a university with a Catholic identity.

Dual Career Assistance

To support relocating families, Notre Dame's Dual Career Assistance Program helps spouses and partners pursue local career opportunities.

Background Check

This appointment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Applicants will be asked to identify all felony convictions and/or pending felony charges. Felony convictions do not automatically bar an individual from employment. Each case will be examined separately to determine the appropriateness of employment in the particular position. Failure to be forthcoming or dishonesty with respect to felony disclosures can result in the disqualification of a candidate. The full procedure can be viewed at <https://facultyhandbook.nd.edu/?id=link-73597>.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of Notre Dame. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by the University of Notre Dame would supersede any conflicting information in this document.