



JESUITS®

Jesuit Conference
The Society of Jesus
in Canada and the United States

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Boarding school research contract

The Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States is offering a one-year full-time contract for a researcher to begin an examination of the history of Jesuit boarding schools for Native students in the United States. The position is in St. Louis to enable access to the Jesuit Archives and Research Center (JARC). The researcher will report to the Jesuit Conference Secretary of Justice and Ecology, based in Washington, DC.

Background:

From the 1830s through the 1970s the Society of Jesus ran many boarding schools in the United States, principally in the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains and Alaska. Expanding on existing research we would like to develop a complete list of these schools.

In August 2021 the Jesuit provincials issued [a public statement](#) committing “to examining our own history and our archival records related to the history of Indigenous boarding schools in the United States and to assisting others who also wish to examine this history.” This initial research will begin to implement this commitment.

Responsibilities:

Over the course of the year, using secondary sources and archival materials at JARC, the researcher will prepare a list and brief historical summary of every boarding school for Native students operated by Jesuits in the US, including information on:

- the location,
- the Tribal Nations the school served,
- where available, the number of students each year,
- alternative names used by the school,
- other religious congregations who partnered with the Jesuits at that school,
- the years the school was open,
- the years the school was a residential facility,
- the entity to which, if any, the Society passed the school (e.g., diocese, another religious congregation),
- whether the archival record suggests the existence of any associated cemetery,
- a bibliography of available secondary sources, and

- an executive summary directing future researchers towards source documents related to the school, including lists of people (Jesuits and non-Jesuits) who worked or lived at the school.

The primary research will be with physical records and will be conducted at JARC in St. Louis.

This is a non-academic research position. The report will be for the use of the Society of Jesus, not for the scholar's own research.

Requirements:

- Master's or Ph.D. in 19th or 20th century history, religious studies, Native American studies, or a related discipline
- Experience working with archival materials, and the ability to read cursive
- Reading knowledge of Latin
- Reading knowledge of French preferred
- Some familiarity with the Society of Jesus and Jesuit terminology
- Authorized to work in the United States

Salary: \$50K

Start date depending on availability

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, names and phone numbers of three references, and writing sample to jcemployment@jesuits.org, with subject line 'Boarding school research contract'.