

# MUSLIM CHAPLAINCY

## 2024-2025 newsletter



**Muslim Chaplain Khan  
Asfandiyar Shairani, Ph.D.**

### Peace and blessings on you and welcome to Tufts University!

The Muslim Chaplaincy at Tufts University supports the vibrant and culturally and spiritually diverse community of Muslim students, faculty, and staff. The global Muslim community stretches from here in the United States to the other side of the world in East and Southeast Asia and everywhere in between. The members of our community come to us from every corner of the world, and it is our privilege to welcome them and make them feel safe and at home here on campus.

In partnership with the Muslim Student Association and the graduate student organizations, we offer space to build community together. Through Jummah prayers in the Interfaith Center, to spiritual circles to discuss various topics, to celebrating the breaking of the fast during Ramadan, the Muslim Chaplaincy is committed to offering a multiplicity of spaces for Muslim students to find a connection to their spiritual roots and connect with others and build friendship and companionship within the community.

The Muslim Chaplaincy supports student-led efforts at advocacy, awareness, and teaching about different topics related to the Islamic world and holds sessions with the Muslim Chaplain centered around textual study and spiritual programming. As the new Muslim Chaplain to both the undergraduate and graduate community, I look forward to building solidarity and networks between our different campuses to support our students' wellbeing, both physical and spiritual, and inculcating a sense of community in students where they can feel they belong.

Salām alaykum,

**Khan Asfandiyar Shairani, Ph.D.**

Muslim Chaplain

### Regular Programming

- Jummah Prayers on Fridays at the Interfaith Center
- Chaplain-led text study and discussions
- Social and spiritual programs at Muslim House
- Ramadan iftars and group prayers
- Community dinners and study breaks
- Eid Celebration



**The Curtis Hall Musallah**



**The Muslim Chaplaincy strives to provide a safe space for all students where you can come as you are, grow spiritually, and build strong bonds that will support you on your path.**

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### Program Spotlight: Interfaith Iftar

Each year during Ramadan, the Muslim Student Association and Muslim Chaplaincy host the Interfaith Iftar. A big part of the iftar is inviting professors and peers to learn about our community and perhaps fast for a day (just an option for those interested). During the dinner, people reflect about the privilege of food, faith, and community. It was a particularly significant event this year given the suffering of the Palestinian people during this holy month. People from all different backgrounds at the Iftar come in solidarity and rejoice. This year, the event had more than 300 people come!



Students gather in spring 2024 for Interfaith Iftar in Breed Memorial Hall



"When arriving at Tufts, having moved away from home for the first time, the Tufts Muslim community offered a warm and welcoming space that helped me find a place of belonging on campus.

I experienced this particularly during my first Ramadan on campus. Community events and programming organized by the Muslim Chaplain and the MSA brought me into community with others, creating the special feeling of the holy month, even while being away from family. Not only has the community offered me a place to improve and grow spiritually, but a place to form connections with others. Being a part of the MSA leadership has also allowed me to help create more opportunities and spaces for Muslim students to connect and find a sense of home on campus."

—Yusuf Haque, A25

## SUPPORT MUSLIM LIFE AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

A vital portion of our programs are made possible by community donations. Here are some suggestions for how you can help make a difference in students' lives:

- **\$25** builds up our community library books and resources for a deeper study of Islam
- **\$75** contributes to the guest speaker fund, bringing scholars, alumni, and community members to events
- **\$150** supports student needs during Ramadan, including halal food for iftars, suhoor kits, and an Eid celebration



Give Today!

To give to the Tufts Muslim Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit <http://go.tufts.edu/giveMuslim>. To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact our Advancement liaison Tessa Buckley:

(617) 627-2991 | [tessa.buckley@tufts.edu](mailto:tessa.buckley@tufts.edu)

Thank you for your generosity and support.