Ahlan (welcome) from the Muslim Chaplain

My name is Abdul-Malik Merchant and I’m honored to serve as the Muslim Chaplain here at Tufts. In my role, I bring years of experience from my time as a student in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, as the assistant Iman at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, and as a student again at Boston University School of Theology. But most importantly, I bring a heartfelt yearning to spend quality time with people. This year, it was truly a blessing to get to know the Tufts community. Now, I know it to be the kind of community where everyone is welcome. I am so glad to welcome you, too.

I pray that, together, we are able to foster a community of spiritual groundedness and emotional connectedness. I pray that we grow collectively, exceeding our expectations and enjoying the process. I am here to be a part of your journey at Tufts, and glad to be so.

Ameen!
Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain

Welcome from the Muslim Community

Faizah Wulandana, E23

During my first year on campus, I found a home away from home in the Tufts Muslim community. I’m forever grateful for the warmth that the Muslim community embraced me with. I found a teacher and mentor in our chaplain, Imam Abdul-Malik, and I found friends, sisters, and inspiration in the genuine, talented, and diverse group of community members. I look forward to taking on these challenging times with my community, excited for the memories that we will make and the many ways that we will grow.
We pray the Muslim Chaplaincy can serve as space where you can come as you are, grow spiritually and emotionally, and build a healthy new community that you will remain connected to after your time at Tufts.

History of the Muslim Chaplaincy

The Muslim Chaplaincy at Tufts was first served by Shareda Hossein, from 2007-2009. She was followed by Naila Baloch who served as the Muslim chaplain until 2014. From 2014-2019, Dr. Celene served in the role. Under the leadership of these committed, talented women, the community gained three prayer spaces on the Medford campus, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) grew, and the Tufts University Muslim Alumni Association (TUMAA) was founded. In 2019, Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant began his service as the fourth Muslim chaplain, and the first imam to serve the community.

Regular Programming

Please note: We continue to adjust our programming in creative ways to retain the spirit of past events and programs while following Tufts guidelines for the health and safety of the community in the 2020-2021 academic year.

• The community holds a weekly Jummah service (sermon and prayer) at the Interfaith Center. During this time students, faculty, and alumni gather to pray together.
• “Spring Into Islam” is a month long series that brings scholars to campus to speak on relevant topics.
• Online offerings this year included a weekly study session with Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant.
• Every fall opens with a welcome back barbeque.
• Muslim Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant is always available for a conversation and an excellent cup of coffee.

“No other group of friends and peers that I’ve been a part of has simultaneously been what I needed at the right moments and also what I didn’t know I needed at the harder moments. College sometimes takes a lot out of me, especially during my first year away from home. But for all the moments rife with doubt and worry, my friends at Muslim House, the friends I see after Jummah, Muslim friends I share classes with - they get it. They get it in a way no one else does. So I feel like I get to be part of the most caring, diverse, and downright hilarious group of friends at this university, and it feels like family, like really belonging somewhere. Without it, I would truly be lost.”

Hasan Khan, A22
Spotlight Event: Fall Dinner

It is a tradition for the Muslim Student Association to host a fall dinner with special guest speakers. In the fall of 2019, we had Ustadha Faduma Warsame, an incredible young woman who, after completing the memorization of the Quran, continued on her studies at the renowned Qalam Seminary (Arlington, TX). She spoke about resilience and her experience as a Somalian refugee. It was very inspirational for the community to hear from a knowledgeable, budding scholar, not much older than many Tufts undergraduate students.

“The Tufts Muslim community has been my home over the past four years. We’ve put on some amazing events and have made some wonderful memories along the way. I’m incredibly grateful to have made so many amazing friends and mentors who have helped me grow as a person while at Tufts.”

Elina Garone, A23

Interfaith Collaboration: Paint Night

The Muslim Chaplaincy is committed to interfaith collaboration, as a component of how we engage ourselves and our communities fully. This past academic year we participated in an interfaith paint night in December before final exams. The evening brought together people from many faith communities and from different life experiences—all to relax, paint, and enjoy time together.

Sana Ahmed, A20

Jiamin Li, A22
Alumni Feature: Saja Alani, A18

Saja Alani served as the Muslim Student Association president from 2017-2018 before graduating in 2018 with a degree in public health. After leaving Tufts she married her husband, Monther, and they happily reside in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Saja is now pursuing her Masters of Public Health at Boston University’s School of Public Health and works as a Behavioral Outreach Coordinator for Pediatrics and Med-Peds at MGH Revere Healthcare Center.

Saja says, “I hope that anyone involved with Muslim life at Tufts finds community and true personal growth. I hope their souls find enrichment within this space and experience a true home away from home. This community was that and more to me. MSA helped ground my relationship with Allah throughout college while providing my soul with the nourishment it needed through the toil of academics. I hope students continue to find comfort and growth through this community.”

Support Muslim Life at Tufts University

A portion of our annual programs are made possible by community donations. With your support, we can continue to grow our offerings and be of service to our Muslim community at Tufts. We invite you to make a financial contribution to help us continue to provide these kinds of offerings:

- **$50** Provides community with books and other resources for deeper study of Islam
- **$100** Supports chaplaincy’s programming, including care packages, virtual speakers, and virtual gatherings
- **$200** Ensures our chaplaincy is ready to support any emergent needs of our community this year

To give to the Tufts Muslim Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit: [http://go.tufts.edu/giveMuslim](http://go.tufts.edu/giveMuslim). To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact Muslim Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant or our Advancement liaison Rob Ayles:

617-627-2675  |  Robert.Ayles@tufts.edu

Thank you for your generosity and support.