

MUSLIM CHAPLAINCY

2022-2023 newsletter

Salaam Alaykum,

Welcome to the Muslim community at Tufts!

As your chaplain, I am committed to serving and supporting you on your journey of spiritual growth and exploration. Whether you want to learn more about Islam as a faith tradition, are seeking a conversation partner about something happening in your life, or you feel inspired to engage more deeply in communal life and want to share your ideas—I am here to walk with you on your path and connect you to the broader community at Tufts.

I am trained in the fields of Islamic chaplaincy, counseling, life coaching, and community organizing—and I bring all of these parts of me into the work that I do. I work closely with the Muslim Students Association (MSA) at Tufts as well as with my colleagues on the University Chaplaincy team. Together we strive to create programming that is welcoming, diverse in viewpoints, creative, and spiritually uplifting. I invite you to work with us to create and participate in the community that you envision: I believe we can do a lot more together than we can on our own.

To find out more about weekly events, please contact me or the MSA student leadership to be added to our communication channels. If you are new to Tufts, please reach out to me to set up an introductory thirty minute meeting so we can get to know each other. I look forward to meeting you and being part of your journey here at Tufts!

Warmly,

Najiba Akbar, MSW

Muslim Chaplain



**Muslim Chaplain
Najiba Akbar, MSW**

Regular Programming

- Weekly Jummah Prayers on Fridays at 1:15pm at the Interfaith Center
- Weekly text study with the Muslim Chaplain on Fridays after Jummah
- Ramadan spiritual programming and iftars
- Discussions and social events at Muslim House
- Eid Celebration
- Community dinners and study breaks



**Muslim students gather at the
Interfaith Center at 58 Winthrop Street**

We pray the Muslim Chaplaincy can serve as a 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.

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University Chaplaincy
Muslim Chaplaincy
chaplaincy.tufts.edu

Program Spotlight: Interfaith Iftar

In April of 2022, the Muslim Community at Tufts observed the month of Ramadan together on campus. We gathered excitedly twice a week for iftar, the break-fast meal, at the Interfaith Center, sharing halal food and offering the evening prayer together. One of our most memorable gatherings was the Interfaith Iftar, in which students of many different faiths were invited to break fast with us, followed by dinner and an open mic where attendees shared their reflections on faith, fasting, and community. It was a heartwarming experience of connection and community.



“As a Muslim international student coming from Jerusalem, I was worried that I would feel homesick and long for a sense of community when I arrived at Tufts. At first

that was the case, but over time I became part of the incredible Muslim community at Tufts, and that changed everything. The month of Ramadan, which took place in the Spring semester, turned out to be my favorite time of the year. During that month, the stress of classes was broken up by a sense of spirituality and light-hearted fun as we gathered each week to break fast, pray and celebrate together. Being part of the Tufts Muslim community allowed me to create new beautiful memories that I will never forget, memories that gave me a new sense of home away from home.”

Yousef Abdo, A24

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 books and resources for our community library for 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

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 Lorraine Sparrow:

(617) 627-2052 | Lorraine.Sparrow@tufts.edu

Thank you for your generosity and support.