

# MUSLIM CHAPLAINCY

## 2023-2024 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 or are seeking a conversation partner about your life, I am here to be with you on your path towards greater clarity and connection. I will always hold space for you and help you grow at your own pace.

I am trained in the fields of Islamic chaplaincy, counseling, life coaching, and community organizing—and I bring all 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, and together we craft programming that is welcoming, diverse in viewpoints, creative, and spiritually uplifting. I invite you to work with me to create and participate in the community that you envision. I believe we can do a lot more together than we can apart!

To stay up to date on community programming, I recommend signing up for my biweekly newsletter as well as the MSA weekly e-news (you can find both on our website, listed below). If you are new to Tufts, please reach out to me to set up an introductory half hour meeting so we can get to know each other better. I look forward to meeting you and being part of your journey here at Tufts!

Warmly,

**Najiba Akbar, MSW**

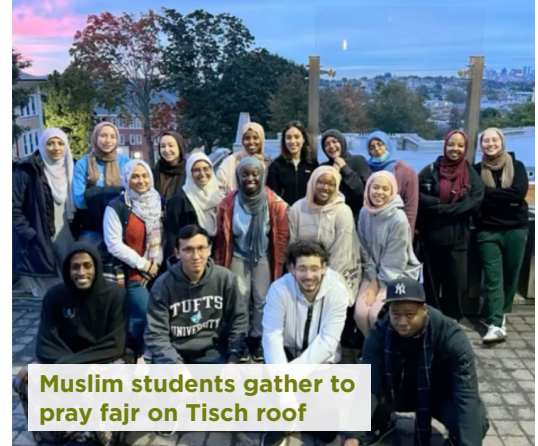
Muslim Chaplain



**Muslim Chaplain  
Najiba Akbar, MSW**

### Regular Programming

- 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



**Muslim students gather to pray fajr on Tisch roof**

**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.**

## Program Spotlight: Weekend Retreat in New Hampshire

*As for the earth, We have stretched it out and have cast on it firm mountains, and have caused to grow in it everything well-measured.*

(Quran 15:19)

A trip to the mountains of New Hampshire in the fall of 2022 provided a unique opportunity for community members to build closer bonds and find space to relax and take a break from the usual pace of life. On a brisk October morning, we piled into cars and vans and made the drive to the Tufts Mountain Club Loj in New Hampshire. The day was spent hiking, playing sports and indoor games, cooking a meal together, and finally gathering around a campfire for halal s'mores at night. The theme for the hike was Spirituality in Nature, which we explored through reflecting on various verses from the Quran.



“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 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](mailto:Lorraine.Sparrow@tufts.edu)**

**Thank you for your generosity and support.**