



## **Tufts Institute of the Environment Environmental Graduate Student Fellowships Request for Proposals 2012**

The Tufts Institute of the Environment (TIE) is an interdisciplinary, university-wide education and research institute which facilitates and coordinates environmental programs at the University. TIE is devoted to advancing and disseminating knowledge about the many ways human interactions affect the environment. TIE focuses on environmental research, technology, policy development and education, recognizing the interdependence of human welfare, animal health, and ecological integrity.

### **Submission Deadline**

Proposals are due at the TIE office by 11:59am on **Thursday, March 1, 2012**. Incomplete and late submissions will not be considered. Electronic submissions via email to [emily.geosling@tufts.edu](mailto:emily.geosling@tufts.edu) are strongly preferred. Mailed materials may be sent to the address listed below.

### **Grant Objectives**

- To financially support graduate students conducting environmental research,
- To recognize and provide greater visibility for stellar graduate students and their work in environmental fields, and
- To encourage interdisciplinary graduate-level environmental research at Tufts.

### **Grant Description**

Matriculated graduate students at any of Tufts University's graduate programs and professional schools are eligible to apply for TIE fellowships to conduct interdisciplinary environmental research projects. The work completed as a TIE fellow must be part of an independent research project and not otherwise possible without TIE funding. Preference will be given to proposals likely to result in a publication or presentation at the professional level.

Applicants must identify a faculty member who will serve as a mentor to the student for the duration of the project. This faculty member must provide a letter of support for the student's project, to be included in the student's proposal. However, this fellowship is NOT intended to support work on a faculty member's ongoing research project. The proposed project should be initiated, conducted, and completed by the student, although it may link to faculty research. In addition, completion of the project should not be contingent on receipt of other funds by a faculty member or the student.

If the proposed project requires or would benefit from a Tufts undergraduate research assistant, the application should outline the assistant's role. Moreover, applicants are encouraged to outline areas for which an undergraduate may propose a complementary project. In both cases, the undergraduate's role may be eligible for funding through the TIE Fellowship. Applications for research projects involving more than one graduate student will also be considered.

Requirements for the successful completion of this Environmental Graduate Student Fellowship include:

1. Attendance at 5 specified events: an orientation lunch in May 2012, a fellows retreat in September 2012, a formal recognition dinner in Nov/Dec 2012, attendance at one or more presentations of other TIE fellows during the academic year, and a follow-up meeting with the new class of incoming fellows in May 2013.
2. Electronic submission of a poster describing the project and any available results by April 2, 2013.



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3. Electronic submission of a final project report and description of budget expenditures by May 31st, 2013. (A publication, thesis or dissertation based on the fellowship-funded research may be accepted in lieu of the project report.)
4. A presentation of the results to the greater Tufts community during the 2012-2013 academic year, such as at an ENVIS/TIE Lunch and Learn, conference on campus, or departmental colloquium). The Program Coordinator must be notified at least 2 weeks in advance of the presentation.

Acknowledgment of TIE's support for research completed during the fellowship must be provided for any form of dissemination, including, but not limited to, publication, poster or oral presentation, and website posting.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

- The research project is *interdisciplinary*.
- The problem or issue addressed is significant and timely.
- The approach that the student plans to explore or develop is appropriate to the problem.
- Applicants are *highly* encouraged to identify more than one faculty mentor from different departments to highlight the interdisciplinarity of the research project.
- The project relates directly to TIE's mission.
- The student has relevant and exemplary qualifications.
- The budget meets TIE guidelines on expenditures (see "Funding Restrictions," below).
- The proposal is well-written and referenced, and conforms to the format requested.
- Priority will be given to continuing students; outstanding proposals from terminal masters students will be considered.
- Team proposals will be considered with appropriate materials for all applicants.

The TIE committee will select the best proposals, with attention to equitable distribution of funds across schools. Those who have not received previous TIE funding are especially encouraged to apply.

#### **Funding Restrictions**

TIE Environmental Graduate Student Fellowship funds will be available **June 1, 2012**, with the fellowship term ending **May 31, 2013**. TIE will provide up to \$6000 per student based upon the submitted budget for each proposal.

Funds may be used for stipends, travel to conduct research, data collection and analysis, and non-capital supplies needed to collect and analyze data. *Stipends may not exceed \$3000*. Funds may not be used for travel to conferences or for capital equipment purchases, such as computers or other durable equipment. Loans of computers or other equipment may sometimes be arranged through TIE.

TIE expects that the work completed with the fellowship will be part of the student's course of study (e.g., an applied learning experience, directed study, thesis or dissertation research) and that the fellowship funds will not overlap with or replace other funding available to the student.



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### Contact Information

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Web: <http://environment.tufts.edu>

### Content and Form of Proposal Submission

Application items (excluding résumés and transcripts) are to be written in Times New Roman 12pt font. Pages should be numbered and single-spaced, with 1-inch margins.

#### 1) Cover Page (not to exceed one page)

The Cover Page contains basic information on the project and the member(s) of the research team.

Items to be included are:

- Project title
- Departmental and school affiliations of student and faculty advisor
- Student and faculty advisor contact information (telephone numbers, mail and email addresses)
- Total amount of funding requested from TIE
- List of previously awarded TIE grants (including travel grants)
- Executive summary (not to exceed 300 words) on the proposed research, expected accomplishments, and how the project contributes to the student's current program of study

#### 2) Proposal Narrative and Methodology (not to exceed three pages)

The Proposal Narrative must include and accurately describe in detail:

- Brief summary of previous research on this topic (including list of peer-reviewed publications)
- Objectives and rationale
- Problem or hypothesis to be studied and its timely significance
- How the project relates to TIE's mission of interdisciplinary environmental research
- Specific approaches, well-developed methodology, and types of data analysis to be used to meet the stated objectives
- Clear, concise statement of expected outcomes
- A statement of the student's long-term educational and career goals, and how this project contributes to these goals as well as to the student's current program of study

#### 3) Proposal Appendices

These appendices must be included in the grant proposal. Additional appendices are not permitted.

- References from the proposal narrative
- A résumé or CV for the student (not to exceed one page)
- A current Tufts transcript (an unofficial copy is acceptable); if the student has been at Tufts less than one year, an official transcript from their undergraduate or previous graduate study must accompany the proposal
- A detailed budget itemizing all expenses for the proposed project, and including all sources of funding (download budget template from <http://environment.tufts.edu/?pid=23>)
- A statement of other teaching or research stipends or other fellowships the student has received, or for which s/he has applied, to fund graduate studies at Tufts
- Two letters of recommendation, including at least one letter of support from a faculty mentor.