

Tufts Institute of the Environment 2006 Environmental Undergraduate Student Fellowships Application

Tufts Institute of the Environment (TIE) is an interdisciplinary, university-wide institute which facilitates and coordinates environmental programs at Tufts 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.

Grant Objectives:

- 1) To financially support undergraduate students to conduct environmental research,
- 2) To recognize and provide greater visibility for stellar undergraduate students and their work in an environmental field, and
- 3) To encourage interdisciplinary undergraduate level research in the environment.

Grant Description:

All matriculated undergraduate students at Tufts University are eligible to apply for designation as TIE Undergraduate Fellow. This is an opportunity for undergraduate students to receive a stipend for environmental research related directly to TIE's mission and the "High Priority Areas for Consideration" outlined below. TIE Undergraduate Fellows will become part of the growing group of TIE Scholars: students, research associates, and visiting faculty members selected for their ongoing and potential contributions to environmental research, education, and outreach.

The work completed as a TIE Undergraduate Fellow must be part of the student's course of study (e.g., applied learning experience, directed study, or thesis) and not otherwise possible without TIE funding. Applicants are required to identify a faculty member to serve as mentor to the student and who will assist in refining the fellowship proposal. However, this fellowship is NOT intended to support work by the student on a faculty member's ongoing research project. The project should be a stand-alone project and must be initiated and conducted by the student, although it may link to faculty research.

Requirements for the successful completion of a TIE Environmental Undergraduate Student Fellowship include the submission of a final report, a presentation on the student's work to the greater Tufts community, and the acknowledgement of support provided by TIE in any publications and presentations resulting from the work completed during the fellowship.

High Priority Areas for Consideration:

The following areas have been designated as high priority topic areas in environmental research at Tufts University by TIE:

- Agriculture
- Biodiversity and Conservation
- Economics
- Energy and Climate
- Environmental Justice
- Human and Animal Health
- Policy and Planning
- Technology and Engineering
- Water Issues

Evaluation Criteria: Each application will be reviewed by the TIE Steering Committee on the following criteria:

- The problem or issue addressed is significant and timely;
- The approach is original and appropriate to the problem addressed and includes and interdisciplinary component;
- The project relates directly to TIE's mission and one or more of the "High Priority Areas for Consideration" outlined above;
- The student has relevant qualifications;
- The budget meets TIE guidelines on expenditures.

The TIE Steering Committee will select the best applicants with attention to equitable distribution of funds across Tufts' Schools. Those who have not received previous TIE funding are especially encouraged to apply.

Content and Form of Proposal Submission:

- **Cover Page:** The Cover Page contains basic information on the project and the applicant. Items to be included are:
 - The project title;
 - Names of student and faculty advisor
 - Departmental and School affiliations for student and faculty advisor;
 - Contact information (mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, email addresses) for student and faculty advisor;
 - The amount of funding requested (a maximum of \$3000 per applicant);
 - A list of previously awarded TIE grants,
 - An abstract (not to exceed 300 words) on the proposed project and how the project contributes to the student's current program of study, and;
 - A timeline and duration for the project (research may be conducted at any point between July 1, 2006 and May 31, 2007).
- **Research Proposal** (not to exceed three pages): The Research Proposal must include and accurately describe in detail:

- The problem to be studied and its significance;
 - The objectives and the rationale for the project;
 - How the project directly relates to TIE's mission and the "High Priority Areas for Consideration" outlined above;
 - Specific approaches, methodology, and data analysis to be used to meet the stated objectives;
 - Anticipated results;
 - A brief summary of previous research on this topic (include references), and;
 - A statement of the student's long term educational and career goals, how this project contributes, and how it contributes to the student's current program of study.
- **Proposal Appendices:** These appendices must be included in the application. Additional appendices are not permitted.
 - A list of references from the Research Proposal;
 - A résumé for the student (not to exceed a single 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 the previous institution must be included;
 - A budget detailing expenses for the proposed project;
 - Two letters of recommendation, with one being from the Tufts faculty member serving as an advisor, supervisor or mentor on the project.

Funding Restrictions:

TIE Environmental Undergraduate Student Fellowship funds will be available starting July 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007. TIE will provide up to \$3000 per student based upon the submitted budget of each proposal. Funds may be used for: 1) stipends for literature review, preliminary data collection, or writing; 2) travel expenses; or 3) supplies needed to collect and analyze data.

Submission Requirements:

- All completed proposals must be delivered to the TIE office no later than 5 pm on March 3rd, 2006. Incomplete and late submissions will not be considered. Electronic submissions via email to tie@tufts.edu are preferred.
- The format for the items above (excluding résumés and transcripts) is to be text written in Times New Roman 12pt. font. Pages should be numbered, single-spaced, and have 1-inch margins.

Tufts Institute of the Environment
 210 Packard Avenue / Miller Hall
 Medford, MA 02155
 Tel: 617-627-3645
 Fax: 617-627-6645

tie@tufts.edu www.tufts.edu/tie