



TIE Environmental Research Fellowship Program, Request for Proposals

About the Fellowship

The Environmental Research Fellowship aims to:

- Financially support Tufts University graduate students in conducting environmental research,
- Recognize and provide greater visibility for exceptional graduate students and their environmental work,
- Develop cross-university relationships between researchers, including five meetings of the fellows throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, and
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaborations that lead to better solutions to problems.

The TIE Environmental Research Fellowship funds projects up to \$6000 and has an annual budget of \$30,000 for all fellowships granted. TIE reserves the right to adjust the requested budgets of successful applicants when offering Fellowship awards. Upon acceptance of the TIE Fellowship funds awarded, the recipient agrees to fulfill the objectives of the proposed project.

About Tufts Institute of the Environment

The Tufts Institute of the Environment (TIE) is an interdisciplinary university-wide institute that initiates, facilitates, and promotes environmental education, research, and outreach toward a sustainable future.

TIE is devoted to advancing and disseminating knowledge about the many ways human activity affects the environment. Recognizing the interdependence of human welfare, animal health, and ecological integrity, TIE focuses on environmental research, technology, policy development, and education.

Eligibility for Application

To be eligible for the fellowship program, applicants must:

- Be currently matriculated in a Tufts University graduate school,
- Be continuing their studies throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, and
- Be committed to implementing the proposed research.



Research Project Criteria

The research proposed should:

- Directly relate to TIE's mission;
 - Environmental in nature, in areas such as conservation, One Health, public policy, biology, public and environmental health, or others;
 - Interdisciplinary in nature;
 - Timely and important for the sustainability of humankind;
- Be achievable within the timeline and budget of the proposal;
- Include faculty mentors from at least two different departments in order to strengthen the interdisciplinarity of the research project;
- Be independent of a faculty member's current project—the project should be initiated, conducted, and completed by the applicant; and
- Have in place all IRB approval and permits (if applicable) by March 1, 2016 (for Ph.D. student applicants) or by time of application (for master's degree student applicants).

Special priority is given to projects that:

- Include the mentorship of undergraduate research assistants,
- (Special topic of this funding cycle) Involve issues related to the Alewife Brooke Reservation in Cambridge, Arlington, and Belmont,
- (Special topic of this funding cycle) Involve collaborations with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the development of their E-Enterprise Local Government Portal development (inquire with Nolan.nicaise@tufts.edu for more information on this suggested proposal).

Fellowship Completion Requirements

- 1) Attendance at five specific events: an orientation lunch in May 2016, a fellows retreat in September 2016, a formal recognition dinner in Nov/Dec 2016, attendance at one or more presentations given by other TIE fellows during the academic year, and a follow-up meeting with the new class of incoming fellows in May 2017.
- 2) Electronic submission of a poster describing the project and preliminary results by November 20, 2016.
- 3) Electronic submission of a final project report, poster (if available), and description of budget expenditures by May 31st, 2017. A publication, thesis, or dissertation based on the fellowship-funded research may be accepted in lieu of the project report.



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- 4) A presentation of the results to the greater Tufts community during the 2016-2017 academic year. The Program Coordinator must be notified at least 2 weeks in advance of the presentation.
- 5) Participation in ongoing evaluation of TIE Fellowship program and collaboration with TIE's communications team to develop a communication piece of your research for public view.
- 6) 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.

Proposal Components

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. Please note that all application materials should be collated into a single PDF document (named "*LastName_Fellowship2016-2017_Proposal*") prior to submission.

- 1) Cover Page (not to exceed one page)
 - a. Project title
 - b. Departmental and school affiliations of student(s) and faculty advisor(s)
 - c. Degree seeking and expected graduation date
 - d. Student contact information (student ID #, telephone number, mail, and email addresses)
 - e. Faculty advisor contact information (telephone, email, and campus address)
 - f. Total amount of funding requested from TIE
 - g. List of previously awarded TIE grants (including travel grants)
 - h. Executive summary (not to exceed 300 words) on the proposed research, expected accomplishments, and how the project aligns with TIE's mission
- 2) Proposal Narrative and Methodology (not to exceed three pages)
 - a. Brief summary of previous research on this topic (including list of peer-reviewed publications)
 - b. Objectives and rationale
 - c. Problem or hypothesis to be studied and why it is timely and significant
 - d. How the project relates to TIE's mission of interdisciplinary environmental research
 - e. Specific approaches, well-developed methodology, and types of data analysis to be used to meet the stated objectives
 - f. Clear, concise statement of expected outcomes
 - g. 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



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- 3) Proposal Appendices (**must** be included in the grant proposal)
 - a. A list of references used in the proposal narrative
 - b. The applicant's résumé or CV (not to exceed two pages)
 - c. A current Tufts transcript (an unofficial copy is acceptable); if the student has been at Tufts less than one year, an unofficial transcript from their undergraduate or previous graduate study must accompany the proposal in addition to the current Tufts transcript
 - d. A detailed budget itemizing all expenses for the proposed project, and including all sources of funding.
 - i. Personal stipends cannot exceed \$3000 on any proposal
 - ii. Please download budget template from:
<http://environment.tufts.edu/research/fellowships/>
 - e. A statement of other teaching or research stipends or other fellowships that applicant has received, or for which s/he has applied, to fund graduate research at Tufts
 - f. Two letters of recommendation, including at least one letter of support from a faculty mentor. Letters of recommendation can either be sent directly to nolan.nicaise@tufts.edu or included in submission from the applicant.

Deadline for Application

For Ph.D. student applicants, the deadline for application is noon on December 18, 2015.

For master's degree student applicants, the deadline for application is noon on February 19, 2016.

Application can be sent electronically to Nolan.nicaise@tufts.edu or mailed to Nolan Nicaise, Tufts Institute of the Environment, 210 Packard Avenue, Medford, MA 02155. Emailed messages should include "TIE Fellowship: ..." as the subject line and should include a compiled file attachment, labeled "*LastName_Fellowship2016-2017_Proposal*".

Questions

Questions can be addressed to Nolan Nicaise, Program Administrator, Tufts Institute of the Environment. Email: Nolan.nicaise@tufts.edu. Phone: 617-627-3254.