Tufts AS&E graduate student work/life resources


Work/life contacts and resources

For official guidance and information, important resource people are:

- Marisel Perez, Associate Dean of Students, Student Affairs, Marisel.perez@tufts.edu
- Nandi Bynoe, Sexual Misconduct Resource Specialist, Nandi.bynoe@tufts.edu

For academic grievances, contact Sinaia Nathanson, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Sinaia.nathanson@tufts.edu

For peer-to-peer advice or information, contact the Graduate Student Council president: Jeremy Wachter, PhD student in Physics, gsc-president@tufts.edu

For unofficial advice about childcare, contact June Goldstein, june.goldstein@tufts.edu.

Leaves of absence

As for all policies, see graduate student handbook for details: http://asegrad.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/GraduateStudentHandbook.pdf

There are three types of leaves available to graduate students which are detailed below. Students who are on leave are not charged tuition and fees and are not eligible for stipends. Funding upon return cannot be guaranteed; please speak with your program graduate director if you have questions. Student loan borrowers will receive exit interview and repayment information and may be required to begin making loan payments while on leave. Students must be in good academic standing when taking a leave of absence.

International students may not take a personal leave of absence and remain in the United States. In all cases, the International Center must be contacted before any leave is authorized as there may be impact on visa status.

Personal leave of absence

Graduate students may apply for a personal leave of absence through SIS. Students who have not successfully completed one semester of graduate study are typically not eligible to take a leave of absence. Personal leaves of absence will not be granted for periods of time of more than one year. If the student’s request for a leave of absence is not approved, the student will be held to the original timetable for degree completion and, if time to degree completion has expired, the student’s candidacy for the degree is terminated.

Parental leave for primary caregivers

Graduate students may apply, through SIS, for a parental leave for one semester (fall or spring) for the birth or adoption of a child. The parent must be the primary caregiver of the child during the time of the leave. If granted, parental leave will not be counted toward the student’s time to degree.

Medical leave

A Medical Leave of Absence is available for students who find it difficult to productively or safely manage demands of their academics, research, and campus life due to a health concern. The Dean of Student Affairs Office facilitates the medical leave process and approves medical leaves with input from the student’s treatment provider, who is either a University clinician or an outside clinician engaged in the care of the student. International Students who wish to request a medical leave should consult with both the Dean of Student Affairs Office and the International Center. Students are encouraged to discuss leave plans with their faculty advisor, academic department or dean. For more information on medical leaves, please contact Marisel Perez, Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Marisel.perez@tufts.edu or refer to the graduate student handbook at http://asegrad.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/GraduateStudentHandbook.pdf.

Policies related to parental, family illness, and medical leaves

- See Leave policies listed above.
- Time-to-degree for all graduate students enrolled in a degree program. The time-to-degree clock stops for all graduate students who take an approved leave of absence.
Dependent care and self-care resources

Child care

- Eliot-Pearson Children's School, preschool (age 2.9 years and up) through second grade. Part-time preschool, flexible days, modified school calendar. Apply in September the year before you wish to enroll your child. [http://gse.tufts.edu/epcs/]
- For toddler and infant care, Tufts families have 10 priority access slots at four Bright Horizons centers. Contact Bright Horizons for availability and cost. [http://www.brighthorizons.com/]
- Bright Horizons at Teele Square, preschool (age 2.9 years and up) through Kindergarten. Full-time, 5-day-per-week coverage, limited holidays. Tufts part-time and full-time employees and students receive priority admission. Apply in September the year before you wish to enroll your child. [http://child-care-preschool.brighthorizons.com/MA/Somerville/teeleesquare]

Self-care

Lactation rooms

On the Medford Campus, there are five lactation rooms open to all members of the Tufts community. To see a flyer with a map of the spaces, visit [http://hr.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/BEN_NursingMothers.pdf]. It is recommended that you book a space in advance.

- Ballou Hall, first floor. Please contact Lisa Bloom, Office Assistant in the Provost's Office (617-627-4815, lisa.bloom@tufts.edu) to reserve the room and obtain the key.
- The Fletcher School, Cabot Hall, Room 207. Please contact Lynette Badin (617-627-3329, lynnette.badin@tufts.edu) at the Hall of Flags main desk to reserve the room and obtain the key or code.
- Halligan Hall, Room 219. Please contact the Electrical and Computer Engineering administration office (617-627-3217, ece@tufts.edu) or the Computer Science administration office (617-627-2225, csadmin@cs.tufts.edu) to reserve the room and obtain the key or lock code.
- CLIC building, 574 Boston Ave., Room 125. Please contact Lorin Polidora, Manager of Administrative Services (617-627-1108, lorin.polidora@tufts.edu) to reserve the room and obtain the key.
- Tisch Library, Room 104. Please contact the Tisch Administration Office (617-627-3345, tischadmin@tufts.edu) to reserve the room and obtain the key or lock code.

Arrange for an ad-hoc space:

If none of the dedicated spaces meets your needs, you can arrange to use an ad-hoc space elsewhere on campus. Please contact Johny Lainé, ADA Specialist in the Office of Equal Opportunity: johny.laine@tufts.edu, 617-627-6363. He will identify a space for you to use and arrange for you to get access to it when you need it.

Additional Resources

Work/Life balance workshops

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences offers a number of professional workshops to GSAS and SoE graduate students. Some of these opportunities target many of the issues surrounding work/life balance in the life of a graduate student, including but not limited to the sessions “Work-Life Balance”, “Light at the End of the Tunnel”, and “Taming Your Graduate Schedule”. The full list of workshops can be viewed at [http://asegrad.tufts.edu/academics/professional-development/workshops].

Housing assistance

Off-Campus Housing Resource Center is available to students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Listings of area real estate agents, as well as other information of interest to potential renters. [http://ase.tufts.edu/och].

Health and Wellness

Tufts University Health Service provides comprehensive outpatient coverage, with services in general medicine, reproductive and sexual health, orthopedics and travel medicine. The Health Service also contains a clinical laboratory facility. Most treatment provided by the Health Service is covered by the health fee, with the following exceptions: 1) laboratory tests; 2) travel immunizations; 3) orthopedic visits; and 4) charges associated with the completion of any pre-entrance requirement.

The Health Service is located at 124 Professors Row. Students are encouraged to make appointments, but can be seen on a walk-in basis for acute illnesses or emergencies when the Health Service is open.

Please visit the website, [http://students.tufts.edu/health-wellness], for more information and for hours.
The Tufts University Counseling and Mental Health Service (CMHS) is staffed by professionally trained counselors who are available to discuss personal and academic concerns with students. Initial consultations are available without charge to graduate students who have paid the comprehensive student health fee. Initial appointments include discussion of the student’s current needs, and collaborative development of a plan for addressing these needs. This may include short-term counseling available at CMHS, or referrals to mental health providers in the nearby community for longer term counseling or specialized treatment. CMHS will work with students through the referral process to try to identify clinicians who are covered by the student’s health insurance. When appropriate, psychiatry services are also available to graduate students as part of their treatment. These services are available for a fee to students who do not have the Tufts University Student Health Insurance. However, for those on the Tufts Student Health Plan, psychiatry services on campus are a covered cost.

Athletics and Fitness

Arts, sciences and engineering graduate students have free access to the state-of-art Steve Tisch Sports and Fitness Center. For more information go to http://asegrad.tufts.edu/tufts-graduate-life/athletics-and-fitness

Spiritual Life at Tufts

The Tufts University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for the Tufts community on all of our campuses. The chaplaincy provides pastoral care, supports religious and philosophical communities, educates about spiritual and ethical issues, and promotes multi-faith engagement within Tufts' tradition of progressive thought in education.

Graduate Student Council

The student-led Graduate Student Council (GSC) provides social, cultural, and educational opportunities for arts, sciences, and engineering graduate students at Tufts University.

Some activities that the GSC coordinates include:

- The Graduate Research Symposium
- Social Events such as Apple Picking and Pub Nights
- GSC 5K Run/Walk (which benefits RESPOND, Inc. and Project HOPE)
- Annual food and clothing drives
- Softball and Kickball tournaments

The GSC also manages funding for the various Graduate Student Organizations on campus.

Graduate Student Lounges

Two on-campus locations are designated for exclusive use by graduate students. The West Hall lounge includes a conference room, a computer room with a free photocopier, as well as drinks and snacks for graduate students. The entrance is located at the garden-level door on the northeast side of the building. All current graduate students have 24-hour access with their Tufts Student ID card.

The Curtis Hall lounge includes multiple spaces designed for graduate student social interaction. It is adjacent to the Tufts’ Brown and Brew Coffee House.