

Dear friends,

I am so happy to announce the appointment of Najiba Akbar as Tufts University's new Muslim Chaplain. In this role, Najiba will advise and support students active in the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and across Tufts' campuses; offer programs that celebrate and explore the cultural and spiritual diversity of the Muslim community; provide pastoral care; and work alongside the University Chaplaincy team and campus partners on various interfaith, intercultural, social justice, and anti-racism initiatives. She will begin her role on November 12, 2021.

Najiba comes to Tufts with years of leadership and programming experience in higher education and credits her own years of spiritual formation as an undergraduate for her passion for accompanying students as they explore and claim their own spiritual identities and practices. She served as Muslim Chaplain at Wellesley College from 2008 – 2012 and is currently Muslim Advisor at Northeastern University. She is a trained personal development coach and has been an Islamic Studies instructor at the Islamic Center of Boston. Najiba is also a skilled dialogue facilitator and served as a program co-facilitator for Tufts' Pathways interfaith dialogue initiative from 2007 – 2009.

Najiba is a graduate of Wellesley College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Peace and Justice Studies. At Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, Najiba earned a Master's Degree in Social Work and received the Leo P. Haley Memorial Award for Leadership and Cross-Cultural Community Building. She has also completed coursework at Boston Islamic Seminary.

I am thankful to the search committee, including MSA student leaders, Mohamed Samater, A22, and Faizah Wulandana, A22, for their wisdom and insight throughout the process as well as students, University Chaplaincy team members and campus partners who participated in this competitive search.

Once Najiba begins her role, [her contact information will be on our website](#), and I hope you get to know her as one of our community's chaplains, who is here for you. Please join me in welcoming Najiba to her new role as Muslim Chaplain at Tufts University!

Pax et lux,

Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger
University Chaplain



*New Muslim Chaplain
Najiba Akbar*

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