Tufts University is currently recruiting the third cohort of Water Diplomacy IGERT (Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship) students for Fall 2013. The US National Science Foundation (NSF) funded traineeship awards are available for highly motivated, creative individuals with a strong interest in pursuing interdisciplinary approaches to resolve complex water problems. Each award includes a full-tuition scholarship, an annual stipend of $30,000, and a semester long paid internship opportunity with national and international partners. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to design their own doctoral program in a department and school of their choice at Tufts, explore frontier research topics before focusing on a dissertation topic, and perform collaborative research with program faculty, social and natural scientists and water professionals from around the world on complex water problems of mutual interest.

Water problems are often viewed from the perspective of applying scientific and technical expertise to the efficient management of this finite resource. The utility of purely scientific or engineering solutions to water resources management has reached its limit. When viewed as a limited resource, water has the potential to create destructive conflicts over its division. Fortunately, knowledge of water is not a limited resource. While scientific understanding and engineering solutions are necessary to address water problems, societal and political considerations are integral components of the long-term resolution of contemporary water conflicts. Only water professionals trained to synthesize scientific, societal, and political knowledge will be able to transform water into a flexible resource and help resolve these conflicts. Graduates of the Water Diplomacy program at Tufts will be uniquely prepared to take leadership positions and engage in creating new water management knowledge; to participating in interactive dialogue with producers and users of knowledge for synthesizing disciplinary, contextual, and pragmatic perspectives; and to developing actionable knowledge and negotiated solutions.

Applicants must have a masters or bachelors degree in natural sciences, social sciences, or engineering with a strong demonstrated interest in water issues. Students will apply and be admitted to a PhD granting department or school of their choice (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Science, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy or the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy) or to the interdisciplinary doctoral program. For more information and consideration for admission and financial assistance, visit http://waterdiplomacy.tufts.edu and fill out the online application and or email shafiqul.islam@tufts.edu. Funding for the IGERT Water Diplomacy traineeship is limited to U.S. Citizens and permanent residents due to NSF funding restrictions. Other funding opportunities are available for international students.