

Graduate Student and Postdoc Technology Transfer Internship Program

Beginning in October 2017, Tufts Tech Transfer will offer an internship opportunity to two Tufts University graduate or postdoctoral researchers. We are seeking applicants for a paid technology transfer internship that will require 4 to 6 hours per week from October 2017 through May 2018. Interns will receive \$12.00 per hour over the course of the internship.

Technology transfer is the practice of transferring discoveries from research labs to the marketplace and involves various aspects of science, business, and the law. Successful candidates will focus on evaluation, protection, and commercialization of intellectual property developed at Tufts University. Interns will gain familiarity with the evaluation of invention disclosures, taking into consideration legal and commercial perspectives, pursuing patent protection, market analysis, and drafting and negotiating research and license agreements. An internship in technology transfer is an excellent opportunity to explore a career path that requires expertise in science, business, law, and the challenges of bringing basic research discoveries to the marketplace.

Requirements:

- Full-time graduate student or postdoc in any scientific discipline at Tufts University
- Must have completed all exams, rotations, and formal course requirements for the degree program and must be considered a PhD candidate at the time of application.
- Ability to commit 4 to 6 hours per week at the Tufts Office for Technology Transfer and Industry Collaboration (TTIC), 75 Kneeland Street, Boston, MA, 02111
- Must have a letter of endorsement from the program director and research supervisor/PI (for graduate students) or departmental chair and research supervisor/PI (for post-docs)

Interviews will begin in September 2017 and final candidates will be selected by October 2017

Interested graduate or postdoctoral researchers should submit the following by email to Brandon Milby (brandon.milby@tufts.edu):

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Letter of endorsement from the program director or department chair (see above) and research supervisor/PI

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

Application materials required:

1. A one-page resume
2. A cover letter that includes your reasons for applying for an internship and what you hope to achieve in relation to your career goals. Also describe your qualifications for an internship, including any of the following: evidence of leadership, creativity, responsibility, work experience, or entrepreneurial spirit
3. A letter of endorsement from your program director and research supervisor/PI (for graduate students), or departmental chair and research supervisor/PI (for post-docs).

Internship length, renewal, and pay:

The internship should not extend beyond one year. Interns should expect to work from October to May, and a summer renewal is possible but not required. Interns will be paid \$12.00 per hour in addition to their graduate stipend. The internship will require a commitment of 4 to 6 hours per week.

A seminar series will be team-taught by licensing professionals and service providers. Seminar attendance is required and will be included in the total number of hours worked per week.

Required internship components:

1. Technology transfer seminars
2. Final presentation
3. Final report

Tech transfer seminars

The seminar series will be team-taught and cover a range of technology transfer and career development topics including:

- Bayh-Dole Act and an introduction to tech transfer
- Patents, trademarks, copyrights
- The criteria for patenting an invention
 - The patent process
 - Utility patent vs. provisional
 - Timelines and cost-benefit analysis
 - Patent prosecution strategies
- The invention disclosure form, evaluating Tufts intellectual property
- The anatomy of an agreement
 - Option vs. license agreement
 - Components of an agreement
 - Confidentiality agreements
 - Sponsored research agreements
 - Material transfer agreements
- Licensing a technology or building a start-up venture

- How to create a start-up or spin-off
 - When to license or start a new venture
 - Role of angel investors and venture capitalists
- Negotiating techniques
- Understanding how public policy affects scientific patent trends (case study)
- Introduction to marketing
 - Marketing strategies used by the TTIC
 - Strategies for dealing with a hard-to-market technology
 - Tools for assessing marketability
 - Effective branding
- Career development
 - Informational interviews
 - Exposure to Boston-area technology transfer community

Final Presentation

Each intern will present an opinion and analysis of an actual Tufts invention.

Final Report

A final report should be completed by each intern and returned to the TTIC supervisor. The final report will include an overall evaluation of the internship program and suggested improvements for future interns.