Team Practicum Overview for Prospective Sponsors

Tufts Gordon Institute’s Team Practicum offers organizations a high caliber team of graduate students to execute projects over the summer at no cost to the organization.

Tufts Gordon Institute
The Tufts Gordon Institute (TGI) is an integral part of the School of Engineering at Tufts University. It is uniquely designed to transform technical professionals into technical leaders by offering innovative programs focused on engineering management and leadership. TGI’s core academic offering is the Masters of Science in Engineering Management (MSEM). This program is designed to provide practicing engineers and applied scientists with the knowledge and skills they need to be leaders in technology-driven companies. TGI is also home to the Entrepreneurial Leadership Program, which provides courses and hands-on educational opportunities for Tufts students interested in founding their own companies, or working in entrepreneurial environments. Our students are talented and experienced technical professionals who have been in the workplace with established organizations spanning a broad sector of industries including defense, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, electronics, and information technology. For more information on TGI please visit gordon.tufts.edu.

Team Practicum
As part of the MSEM course curriculum, students must complete a Team Practicum project during the summer between their first and second year of studies. These projects bring together MSEM students and sponsor companies, who work with faculty advisors to address business opportunities and challenges for large corporations, start-up ventures, non-profits and government agencies. Examples of recent project sponsors include Raytheon, EMC, Shire, iRobot, Boston Engineering, Good Measures and the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center. Additional information on Team Practicum and examples of past projects are available http://gordon.tufts.edu/programs/m-s-in-engineering-management/consulting-project.

Team Practicum provides students with opportunities to address real-world business challenges in new work environments. The work performed spans a wide-range of topics including: studies to determine marketing and technical direction, business process reengineering, defining and reporting on key corporate metrics, analyzing websites, and assisting startups with the business planning process.

The projects typically have the following general characteristics:

- Projects are well defined in scope with clear end deliverables;
- A company sponsor is available to define the scope of work, provide guidance, and to review the project results;
- The teams are reasonably self-sufficient, and the time requirement to sponsor a project is not onerous. Sponsors typically assist with the preparation of a one-page scope of work, participate in a 90-minute live kickoff meeting at the company’s premises to review the scope of work and deliverables, participate in a one hour weekly conference call to review progress and address questions, and review the final results in a 2 hour meeting;
- The project start and end dates must reasonably align with the Practicum timetable to execute the work starting in the May/June timeframe, and ending in the August/September timeframe, and
- There are no major travel requirements to execute the work.

**To Submit a Team Practicum Proposal**
Team Practicum is a great opportunity for organizations to obtain unique perspectives from a talented group of graduate students. When you are ready to submit a project proposal, please complete the *Team Practicum 2014 Project Information Form* available at [http://gordon.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014-Practicum-Information-Form-PIF.docx](http://gordon.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014-Practicum-Information-Form-PIF.docx) and email it to Charlie Rabie (contact information below).

**Contact**
For questions or additional information regarding TGI’s Practicum program please contact:

Charlie Rabie  
Professor of the Practice  
781-856-7717 (Mobile)  
617-627-3180 (Fax)  
charlie.rabie@tufts.edu