Olli Scholars Initiative

Purpose: The Olli Scholars Initiative (OSI) was designed to help Olli members audit Tufts courses, while ensuring that those “scholars” bring their new knowledge and experience back to benefit the general Olli membership. OSI participants will receive scholarships covering the full cost of auditing a course of their choice. These scholarships will be funded by past and future Olli member donations.

Timeline: Prior to each Fall/Spring semester, the Olli Office will open the application process for that semester’s courses. Interested Olli members will have the chance to identify a course that they would like to audit, and submit a request for a corresponding scholarship. A limited number of scholarships will be given out each semester, dictated by the available scholarship funds and level of applicant interest.

Selection Process: OSI applications will be evaluated based on how an applicant proposes to “give back” to the broader Olli community, with the goal being to choose the applicants whose participation in the program will help to best enrich our programs and membership. Applicants will be asked to give back in one of the following ways:

1. Lead a study group on a subject related to their course
2. Conduct a lunch-time lecture on a subject related to their course
3. Write a paper about their experience taking the course (for instance, to be published to the members via our Spotlight publication)

An applicant who commits to leading a study group after taking their course will receive priority in the application process. Similarly, an applicant who commits to leading a lunch-time lecture will have priority over an applicant who proposes to write a paper (but would be ranked lower than someone proposing to lead a study group). Again, the goal is to support applications that have the highest potential to benefit future Olli programming and members.

Medford/Somerville Community Auditors: Residents of Medford and Somerville are eligible to audit courses at Tufts at a 70% discounted rate (this is a benefit independent of the OSI, is available for Olli members and non-Olli members). Olli members from these two locations are welcome to apply for OSI scholarships to cover the remaining course cost, though we do ask that eligible members first enroll in the community audit program, so that OSI funds can support as many members per semester as possible.