

Community/University Collaborators

Frequently Asked Questions

What is For Youth, By Youth?

For Youth, By Youth is a nascent, global, youth-led movement committed to fostering conscious leadership and global solidarity as pathways to meaningful and lasting impact. Developed by 36 university students across 18 countries, this movement has built a network of engaged young leaders who are shaping a more just and equitable world. The movement offers mentorship, financial support, wellness resources, and training in youth-led participatory action research, ethical AI, and storytelling.

What is Youth-led Participatory Action Research?

Youth-led Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a core component of *For Youth, By Youth*'s growing global movement. YPAR redefines traditional academic research by including community members as co-creators, not just subjects. YPAR is hands-on, justice-driven, and rooted in real-world impact. It values local knowledge, cross-cultural understanding, and advances inclusive knowledge production. *For Youth, By Youth* YPAR Working Group members have developed a YPAR handbook outlining its foundational principles and applications. They will be hosting [global YPAR webinar series](#) in October, inviting collaborators to join the youth-led conversations in crafting a vision for YPARs radical expansion throughout higher education internationally.

Who is a Community/University Collaborator?

The Community/University Collaborators (C/U Collaborators) are community youth (non-university), or students enrolled at Tufts University. Community/University Collaborators are invited by members of the *For Youth, By Youth* movement to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the movement. Community/University Collaborators meaningfully contribute to Youth-led Participatory Action Research (YPAR) projects in Canada, Ghana, Lebanon, Rwanda, Scotland, South Africa, and Uganda.

What are the benefits of joining the *For Youth, By Youth* movement as a C/U Collaborator?

Purpose-Driven Engagement

- Take action on community issues you care about.
- Participate in knowledge exchange across diverse community contexts.

Learning & Growth

- Gain access to resources and structured training.
- Develop professional and academic skills through hands-on project experience.

Recognition & Advancement

- Receive an International Certificate of Achievement for your contribution to community transformation.
- Gain global recognition on a variety of platforms including newsletters, newspaper articles, and social media platforms.
- Benefit from coaching and mentoring resources including support with professional development and career advancement.

Networking & Movement-building

- Expand your personal and professional networks across institutions and regions of the world.
- Become part of a global, youth-led movement that practices inclusion and solidarity.
- Cultivate a sense of belonging, purpose, and hope for a brighter future.

What role(s) do Tufts University students have as C/U Collaborators?

- Receive training on participatory action research methodologies, relevant thematic areas, and community engagement strategies.
- Compile local or regional research that strengthens the knowledge base of the project.
- Co-develop accessible guides, toolkits, or educational videos to support ethical, inclusive, and culturally grounded research practices.
- Collaborate to structure research timelines, engagement plans, and data collection strategies.
- Capture and archive project progress through visuals, written narratives or digital platforms.
- Offer regular check-ins to reflect on challenges and provide feedback and support.
- Partner with Tufts University faculty and staff to raise the visibility of community projects.
- Communicate personal and professional experience to peers to raise awareness and invite participation in the global movement.

What role(s) do Community Youth have as C/U Collaborators?

- Collaborate with youth participants to co-design and co-lead the project.
- Contribute their own knowledge, lived experiences, and expertise.
- Serve as trusted intermediaries between the community and youth participants.
- Foster mutual understanding and ensure community integrity is respected.
- Facilitate the sharing of project knowledge and outcomes with the community.
- Ensure respectful access to and use of the community's cultural knowledge and assets.
- Support project execution with a strong duty of care, ensuring ethical and responsible engagement.

What are the selection criteria for C/U Collaborators?

- *Diversity* – Embody and present diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to ensure representation of multiple viewpoints.
- *Commitment* – Express motivation and ability to participate in *For Youth, By Youth* activities; Demonstrate commitment to social issues through active involvement or leadership in initiatives within youth-led or community-based organizations.
- *Communication* – Ability to listen attentively to others and express themselves clearly.

Who is responsible for recruiting, on boarding, and engaging with C/U Collaborators?

- *For Youth, By Youth* participants are responsible for recruiting and selecting C/U collaborators.
- The Talloires Network of Engaged Universities as well as paNhari and Partner Universities liaisons will provide support (administrative, making introductions, etc.).

What can a C/U Collaborator expect in terms of time commitment? How does this align with the International Certificate of Achievement?

- *Harvest Level* – Honored for achieving measurable impact within the research or community context (and more than 100 hours of active participation).
- *Rooted Level* – Acknowledged for sustained engagement, applying analytical skills, and contributing meaningfully to the development of community-based solutions (and 20 to 100 hours of active participation).
- *Seed Level* – Recognized for demonstrating curiosity and contributing foundational insights to collaborative research (and at least 20 hours of active participation).

What is the International Certificate of Achievement?

- Official documentation issued by Tufts University, specifically the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities.
- Clearly states the type and level of achievement earned, the recipient's full name, and the sponsoring initiative.
- Includes relevant logos and the Executive Director's full name and signature, & the date of completion.

To learn more, share suggestions, or offer connections to potential Tufts University student contributors, please contact: Lorlene Hoyt at Lorlene.Hoyt@tufts.edu and Velina Batchvarov at Velina.Batchvarov@tufts.edu.