

MIT Facts 2026

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

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An online version of MIT Facts, with links to additional information about the topics covered here, is available at facts.mit.edu.

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MIT at a Glance

History



Incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on April 10, 1861

Motto



Mens et manus—
"mind and hand"

Campus



168 acres (0.68 km²) in Cambridge, Massachusetts
20 student residences on campus
26 acres (0.11 km²) of playing fields
40+ gardens and green spaces
60+ public works of art

Employees



17,033, including
Lincoln
Laboratory

Faculty



Professors (all ranks): 1,087
Other teaching staff: 1,031
Student-faculty ratio: 3:1

Selected Honors



106 Nobel Laureates
64 National Medal of Science winners
35 National Medal of Technology and Innovation winners
85 MacArthur Fellows



First-year Admission, Class of 2029

Applicants: 29,281

Admits: 1,334
(4.6%)



Undergraduate Cost of Attendance, 2025-2026

\$89,340 (before aid)

Undergraduate Financial Aid 2024-2025

Students attending tuition-free: 39%

Students awarded an

MIT scholarship: 57%

Median MIT scholarship: \$69,777

Class of 2025 graduates with no student loan debt: 88%



Students, 2025-2026

Total: 11,816

Undergraduates:
4,561

Graduate students:
7,255



Undergraduate Majors and Minors

Majors programs: 56

Minor programs: 62

Pirate certificate: 1

Wellness certificate: 1



International Students, 2025-2026

Undergraduate students: 529

Graduate students: 2,908

Exchange, visiting, special students: 593

Mission

The mission of MIT is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century.

The Institute is committed to generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge and to working with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges. MIT is dedicated to providing its students with an education that combines rigorous academic study and the excitement of discovery with the support and intellectual stimulation of a diverse campus community. We seek to develop in each member of the MIT community the ability and passion to work wisely, creatively, and effectively for the betterment of humankind.

MIT Values

Excellence and Curiosity

We strive for the highest standards of integrity and intellectual and creative excellence. We seek new knowledge and practical impact, in service to the nation and the world.

We prize originality, ingenuity, honesty, and boldness. We love discovery and exploration, invention and making. We delight in the full spectrum of human wisdom.

Drawing strength from MIT's distinctive roots, we believe in learning by doing, and we blur the boundaries between disciplines as we seek to solve hard problems. Embracing the unconventional, we welcome quirkiness, nerdiness, creative irreverence, and play.

We accept the risk of failing as a rung on the ladder of growth. With fearless curiosity, we question our assumptions, look outward, and learn from others.

Openness and Respect

We champion the open sharing of information and ideas.

Because learning is nourished by a diversity of views, we cherish free expression, debate, and dialogue in pursuit of truth—and we commit to using these tools with respect for each other and our community.

We strive to be transparent and worthy of each other's trust—and we challenge ourselves to face difficult facts, speak plainly about failings in our systems, and work to overcome them.

We take special care not to overlook bad behavior or disrespect on the grounds of great accomplishment, talent, or power.

Belonging and Community

We strive to make our community a humane and welcoming place where people from a diverse range of backgrounds can grow and thrive—and where we all feel that we belong.

We know that attending to our own and each other's wellbeing in mind, body, and spirit is essential. We believe that decency, kindness, respect, and compassion for each other as human beings are signs of strength.

Valuing potential over pedigree, we know that talent and good ideas can come from anywhere—and we value one another's contributions in every role.

Together we possess uncommon strengths, and we shoulder the responsibility to use them with wisdom and care for humanity and the natural world.

Origins

MIT is independent, coeducational, and privately endowed. The Institute admitted its first students in 1865, four years after the approval of its founding charter, and admitted its first woman student shortly thereafter, in 1871. MIT's opening marked the culmination of an extended effort by William Barton Rogers, a distinguished natural scientist, to establish a new kind of independent educational institution relevant to an increasingly industrialized America. Rogers stressed the pragmatic and practicable. He believed that professional competence is best fostered by coupling teaching and research and by focusing attention on real-world problems. Toward this end, he pioneered the development of the teaching laboratory.

Today, MIT is a world-class educational institution. Teaching and research—with relevance to the practical world and transforming society for the better as guiding principles—continue to be its primary purpose.

Leadership

Administrative Organization

The Institute's chief executive officer is the [president](#). Senior [academic and administrative officers](#) include the provost, chancellor, executive vice president and treasurer, vice provosts, deans of the schools and college, vice chancellors, vice presidents, chancellor for academic advancement, and director of libraries.

MIT's academic departments and institutes—each under the leadership of a head or director—are organized within [five schools and one college](#) that encompass numerous degree-granting programs and interdisciplinary [centers, laboratories, institutes](#), and [programs](#) whose work cuts across traditional departmental boundaries.

The [MIT faculty](#) determines the Institute's educational policy. The faculty meets monthly and conducts much of its business through elected standing committees.

The Institute's board of trustees, known as the [MIT Corporation](#), includes 79 voting members who are distinguished leaders in engineering, science, industry, education, and other professions. Eight members serve ex officio: the chair of the Corporation, president, executive vice president and treasurer, secretary of the Corporation, president of the MIT Alumni Association, and three representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Corporation also includes 31 emeritus members. Approximately 73% of Corporation members are MIT alumni.

Presidents of the Institute

2023–present	Sally Kornbluth
2012–2022	L. Rafael Reif
2004–2012	Susan Hockfield
1990–2004	Charles Marsteller Vest
1980–1990	Paul Edward Gray
1971–1980	Jerome Bert Wiesner
1966–1971	Howard Wesley Johnson
1959–1966	Julius Adams Stratton
1948–1958	James Rhyne Killian, Jr.
1930–1948	Karl Taylor Compton
1923–1930	Samuel Wesley Stratton
1921–1922	Ernest Fox Nichols
1909–1920	Richard Cockburn Maclaurin
1900–1907	Henry Smith Pritchett
1897–1900	James Mason Crafts
1881–1897	Francis Amasa Walker
1879–1881	William Barton Rogers
1870–1878	John Daniel Runkle
1862–1870	William Barton Rogers

Employees

17,033

Employees (including Lincoln Laboratory)

7,066

Women employees

Employees by Category, October 2025		
Category	Number	%
Administrative staff	5,076	30%
Research staff	4,315	25%
Other academic staff	2,065	12%
Support staff	1,517	9%
Service staff	1,437	8%
Postdoctoral scholars	1,414	8%
Faculty	1,087	6%
Clinical/Medical staff	122	1%
Total	17,033	100%

Note: Figures are rounded.

In 2025, 4,122 staff members had worked at MIT from between 10 and 25 years; another 1,455 had worked from between 25 and 50 years, and 52 employees had been at MIT for over 50 years.

International Scholars

[International scholars](#) come to MIT from around the world to teach, conduct research, collaborate, and for other purposes. This diverse group of professionals includes visiting scientists, professors, artists, and scholars, as well as postdoctoral fellows and associates, research associates and scientists, faculty, and other instructional staff. During academic year 2024-2025, MIT hosted 2,359 international scholars from 98 countries in 70 departments, laboratories, centers, and institutes. Seventy-one percent were men and 29% were women.

International Scholars by Region, October 2025		
Region	Number	%
Asia	1,142	48%
Europe	745	32%
Middle East	143	6%
Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean	125	5%
North America	119	5%
Africa	49	2%
Oceania	36	2%
Total	2,359	100%

Faculty and Instructional Staff

The MIT faculty instructs undergraduate and graduate students and engages in research.

1,087

Faculty (professors of all ranks)

320

Women faculty

Two hundred sixty-two faculty (24%) identify as a member of a US minority group.

US Minority Group Representation among Faculty, October 2025

Group	Women	Men	Total
Asian	56	118	174
Hispanic or Latino	11	47	58
Black or African American	16	35	51
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	2	4
Native American or other Pacific Islander	1	0	1

Note: Minority group representation is self-identified, and faculty may identify with more than one group.

Distribution of Faculty by School/College, October 2025

School/College	Number
School of Engineering	391*
School of Science	288
School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	191
Schwarzman College of Computing	159*
Sloan School of Management	117
School of Architecture and Planning	87
Other	13

*Schwarzman College of Computing faculty are shared between schools and counted in both areas. The shared faculty are in the college and the School of Engineering, 146; School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, 7; School of Science, 3; School of Architecture and Planning, 2; and Sloan School of Management, 1.

Instructional Staff, October 2025

Category	Number
Professors	702
Associate professors	233
Assistant professors	152
Senior lecturers, lecturers, and professors emeriti	839
Instructors (including technical instructors)	142
Professors of the practice and adjunct faculty	50
Total	2,118

Postdoctoral Scholars

[Postdoctoral scholars](#) pursue a program of research and training under the direction of an MIT faculty member. As of October 2025, there were 1,414 postdoctoral scholars at MIT: 972 men and 442 women.

Distribution of Postdoctoral Scholars by School/Area, October 2025

School/Area	Number	%
School of Engineering	467	33%
School of Science	440	31%
Vice President for Research	245	17%
Schwarzman College of Computing	85	6%
Provost and other areas	80	6%
School of Architecture and Planning	46	3%
Sloan School of Management	29	2%
School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	22	2%
Total	1,414	100%

Awards and Honors

MIT community members have received numerous accolades. The [MIT Excellence Awards](#) celebrate the extraordinary efforts made by members of our community toward fulfilling the goals, values, and mission of the Institute. The [Collier Medal](#) honors the memory of Officer Sean Collier, who gave his life protecting the MIT community. As of October 2025, there have been 468 MIT Excellence Award and 12 Collier Medal recipients. The [MIT Staff Award for Distinction in Service](#) was introduced in 2022, with four recipients to date.

The [MIT Student Awards](#) honor students who have made outstanding contributions to the shared life of the Institute. The awards recognize excellence in academics, public service, community building, diversity and inclusion, achievements in the arts and athletics, leadership, and entrepreneurship.

The title of [Institute Professor](#) is an honor bestowed by the faculty and administration on a faculty colleague who has demonstrated exceptional distinction through leadership, accomplishment, and service in the scholarly, educational, and general intellectual life of the Institute or wider academic community.

Several of the most notable [honors and awards](#) won by MIT community members over the years are highlighted below, with winners currently on faculty and staff listed.

63

Institute Professors

Daron Acemoglu (2019), **Suzanne Berger** (2019), **Arup K. Chakraborty** (2021), **Sallie W. Chisholm** (2015), **Ann M. Graybiel** (2008), **Paula T. Hammond** (2021), **Robert S. Langer** (2005), **Thomas L. Magnanti** (1997), and **Marcus A. Thompson** (2015)

106

Nobel Prizes

Faculty members **Daron Acemoglu**, economics (2024), **Joshua Angrist**, economics (2021), **Abhijit Banerjee**, economics (2019), **Moungi G. Bawendi**, chemistry (2023), **Esther Duflo**, economics (2019), **H. Robert Horvitz**, medicine/physiology (2002), **Simon Johnson**, economics (2024), **Wolfgang Ketterle**, physics (2001), **Robert C. Merton**, economics (1997), **Susan Solomon**, peace (co-chair of IPCC Working Group One recognized under Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007), **Samuel C. C. Ting**, physics (1976), **Susumu Tonegawa**, medicine/physiology (1987), and staff member **Jean Marcel Tirole**, economics (2014)

64

National Medals of Science

Faculty members **Angela M. Belcher** (2025),
Emery N. Brown (2025), **Sallie W. Chisholm** (2012),
Ann M. Graybiel (2001), **Rudolf Jaenisch** (2011),
Robert S. Langer (2006), **Susan Solomon** (1999),
and **Robert A. Weinberg** (1997)

35

National Medals of Technology and Innovation

Faculty members **James G. Fujimoto** (2023),
Paula T. Hammond (2025), **Robert S. Langer** (2012),
and **Feng Zhang** (2025)

85

MacArthur Fellows

Faculty members **Isaiah Andrews** (2020),
Regina Barzilay (2017), **Angela M. Belcher** (2004),
James J. Collins (2003), **Erik D. Demaine** (2003),
Junot Díaz (2012), **Esther Duflo** (2009), **Amy Finkelstein** (2018), **Danna Freedman** (2022), **Linda G. Griffith** (2006), **Dina Katabi** (2013), **Laura Kiessling** (1999), **Eric Lander** (1987), **Nergis Mavalvala** (2010), **Sendhil Mullainathan** (2002), **John A. Ochsendorf** (2008), **David C. Page** (1986), **J. Taylor Perron** (2021), **Daniela L. Rus** (2002), **Sara Seager** (2013),
Peter W. Shor (1999), **Marin Soljačić** (2008),
Joshua B. Tenenbaum (2019), **Yukiko Yamashita** (2011), **Miguel Zenón** (2008), and staff members
Amy B. Smith (2004), and **George Zweig** (1981)

21

John Bates Clark Medals

Faculty members **Daron Acemoglu** (2005),
Isaiah Andrews (2021), **Esther Duflo** (2010),
Amy Finkelstein (2012), **Parag Pathak** (2018), and
staff member **Melissa Dell** (2020)

18

A. M. Turing Awards

Staff members **Butler W. Lampson** (1992)
and **Michael Stonebraker** (2014)

7

Pulitzer Prizes

Faculty member **Junot Díaz** (2008) and staff
member **Usha Lee McFarling** (2007)

2

Millennium Technology Prizes

Faculty member **Robert S. Langer** (2008)

735

**National Academy
of Engineering
Members**

321

**National Academy
of Sciences
Members**

89

National Academy
of Medicine
Members

220

Guggenheim Fellows

161

Fulbright Scholars

Schools and College

School of Architecture and Planning

[Architecture](#) (Course 4)

[Media Arts and Sciences](#) (MAS)

[Urban Studies and Planning](#) (Course 11)

School of Engineering

[Aeronautics and Astronautics](#) (Course 16)

[Biological Engineering](#) (Course 20)

[Chemical Engineering](#) (Course 10)

[Civil and Environmental Engineering](#) (Course 1)

[Electrical Engineering and Computer Science](#)
(Course 6)*

[Institute for Data, Systems, and Society](#)*

[Institute for Medical Engineering and Science](#)

[Materials Science and Engineering](#) (Course 3)

[Mechanical Engineering](#) (Course 2)

[Nuclear Science and Engineering](#) (Course 22)

*Reports jointly to the dean of engineering and the dean of computing.

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

[Anthropology](#) (Course 21A)

[Comparative Media Studies/Writing](#)

(CMS/Course 21W)

[Economics](#) (Course 14)

[Global Languages](#) (Course 21G)

[History](#) (Course 21H)

[Humanities](#) (Course 21)

[Linguistics](#) and [Philosophy](#) (Course 24)

[Literature](#) (Course 21L)

[Music](#) and [Theater Arts](#) (Course 21M, Course 21T)

[Political Science](#) (Course 17)

[Science, Technology, and Society](#) (STS)

MIT Sloan School of Management

[Management](#) (Course 15)

School of Science

[Biology](#) (Course 7)

[Brain and Cognitive Sciences](#) (Course 9)

[Chemistry](#) (Course 5)

[Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences](#)

(Course 12)

[Mathematics](#) (Course 18)

[Physics](#) (Course 8)

MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing

[Electrical Engineering and Computer Science](#)

(Course 6)*

[Institute for Data, Systems, and Society](#)*

* Reports jointly to the dean of engineering and the dean of computing.

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Science (SB)

Master of Applied Science (MASc)

Master of Architecture (MArch)

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Master of Business Analytics (MBAn)

Master in City Planning (MCP)

Master of Engineering (MEng)

Master of Finance (MFin)

Master of Science (SM)

Engineer (each degree designates the field in which it is awarded)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Doctor of Science (ScD)

Admission

The [selection process](#) at MIT is student centered: each application is evaluated within its unique context. No school, state, or regional quotas are applied, and we do not consider legacy/alumni relations in our process. Selection is based on outstanding academic achievement as well as a strong match between the applicant and the Institute, including:

- Alignment with MIT's mission
- Collaborative and cooperative spirit
- Initiative
- Risk taking
- Hands-on creativity
- Intensity, curiosity, and excitement
- Balancing hard work with downtime

***Selected Class of 2029 Undergraduate
Admissions Statistics***

29,281

Applications for first-year admission

1,334 (4.6%)

Offers of admission

1,155

First-year students enrolled

68%

**Attended public
high schools**

49

**US states
represented**

11%

**International
citizens from 56
countries**

20%

**Among the first
generation in their
family to attend
college**

Fifty-two percent of students who enrolled are male and 48% are female.

For more information, visit mitadmissions.org.

Graduate Admission

[Applicants for graduate degree programs](#) are evaluated for previous performance and professional promise by the department in which they wish to enroll.

Selected Fall 2025 Graduate Admissions Statistics

39,985

Applications for graduate study

3,754 (9%)

Offers of admission

2,275 (61%)

First-year students registered in advanced degree programs

41%

Women

45%

**International
citizens from 91
countries**

For more information, visit gradadmissions.mit.edu.

Enrollments, 2025-2026

11,816

All students

4,561

Undergraduates (39%)

2,192

Females (48%)

7,255

Graduate students (61%)

3,031

Females (42%)

In 2025-2026, [MIT students](#) come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and 137 foreign countries.

Undergraduates by School/College, 2025-2026

School/College	Majors	2nd majors
Architecture and Planning	53	11
Engineering*	2,451 (1,483)	146 (132)
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	65	29
Management	136	36
Science	691	178
Computing*	(1,483)	(132)

Note: Excludes 1,155 first-year students and 10 undesignated sophomores. MIT students do not enroll in an academic department until the start of their sophomore year and may defer decision on a course of study until the end of that year.

*Students in interdisciplinary programs are included in the totals of the school or college that administers the program. Students in joint programs with the College of Computing are included in the totals for Engineering, with the number of shared students in parentheses. See the Registrar's [enrollment reports](#) for details.

Graduate Students by School/College, 2025-2026

School/College	Master's	Doctoral	Special
Architecture and Planning	360	172	0
Engineering*	961 (376)	2,234 [†] (776)	114
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	23	280	0
Management*	1,578 (13)	180 (82)	13
Science*	9	1,215	0
Computing*	51 (389)	65 (858)	0
Total	2,982	4,146	127

*Students in interdisciplinary programs are included in the totals of the school or college that administers the program. Students in joint programs with the College of Computing are included in the totals for Engineering and Management (with the number of shared students in parentheses) but not in the Computing totals. See the Registrar's [enrollment reports](#) for details.

[†]Includes 181 students working on Harvard degrees only through the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Program.

Student Demographics, 2025-2026

US citizen/ permanent resident	Undergraduate	Graduate
American Indian or Alaska Native	11	4
Asian American	1,638	830
Black or African American	307	163
Hispanic or Latino	632	353
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1	0
White/Caucasian	983	1,331
Two or more races	298	239
Unknown race	162	1,389
Total	4,032	4,309

International Students

There are 3,437 [international students](#) enrolled in degree programs at MIT in 2025-2026: 529 undergraduates (12%) and 2,908 graduate students (41%). Additionally, 593 exchange, visiting, and special students participated in MIT programs.

International Students by Region, 2025-2026

Region	%
Asia	52%
Europe	21%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9%
Middle East	7%
North America	6%
Africa	3.5%
Oceania	1.5%
Total	100%

Tuition and Financial Aid

[Tuition rates](#) are set by the [Academic Council](#) each spring for the following academic year. The [annual cost of attendance](#) is the total amount we estimate it will cost a student to attend MIT for one year. We use this budget to determine [financial aid](#) for every student.

Undergraduate Cost of Attendance

Cost of Attendance (Before Aid), 2025-2026	
Expense category	Amount
Tuition	\$64,310
Student life fee	\$420
Housing	\$13,614
Food	\$7,650
Books, course materials, supplies, and equipment	\$910
Personal expenses	\$2,436
Total	\$89,340

Note: This budget does not include travel allowances, which are assessed based on personal address.

Undergraduate Financial Aid

The Institute’s generous [financial aid program](#) ensures that an MIT education is affordable for the most talented students in the world regardless of their family’s financial circumstances. MIT provides every undergraduate with sufficient financial aid to meet the difference (full need) between the MIT “sticker price” (the [cost of attendance](#)) and what their family can afford to pay (their demonstrated financial need). This is the only kind of aid awarded at MIT (there is no merit aid because all of our students would qualify), and there is no expectation of loans (though a small number of students choose to take them).

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Institute allocated \$167.3 million from the endowment toward [MIT Scholarships](#), which are grants distributed on the basis of financial need that do not need to be repaid. Since fall 2025, students with family income under \$200,000 typically attend MIT tuition-free, and families whose total income is less than \$100,000 are typically not expected to contribute anything toward the cost of attending MIT.

Selected Undergraduate Financial Aid Statistics, 2024-2025	
Cost of attendance (sticker price)	\$89,340
Median MIT Scholarship	\$69,777
Median net price paid after MIT Scholarship	\$10,268
Undergraduates awarded an MIT Scholarship	57%
Undergraduates attending MIT tuition free	39%
Class of 2025 graduates with no student loan debt	88%
Median student loan debt for Class of 2025 graduates who borrowed	\$20,288

For detailed information, visit the [Student Financial Services website](#).

Graduate Tuition and Living Expenses

Graduate student costs to attend MIT can vary widely depending on program, housing, food, books, medical insurance, and incidentals. Most graduate students attend the Institute for a full calendar year rather than an academic year, increasing the cost of attendance.

\$64,310

2025-2026 tuition (9 months)

**Specific programs and departments
may have different tuition amounts**

\$22,220

**2025 summer tuition for students
enrolled in courses**

MIT's [graduate housing](#) can accommodate approximately 48% of the graduate student population; graduate students also find housing in the Boston/Cambridge area. [Graduate students' costs](#) for housing, food, books, medical insurance, and incidentals vary widely depending on marital status, quality-of-life expectations, and housing arrangements. For example, monthly charges for on-campus housing range from \$1,075 to \$3,701, depending on housing type and location.

Graduate Financial Aid

[Financial aid for graduate students](#) is in large part provided by individual departments, and the amount of aid varies significantly. Financial support includes fellowships, teaching and research assistantships, and loans. Most forms of support are granted for merit, while others are granted for financial need or a combination of merit and need.

Approximately 2,483 graduate students are primarily supported as research assistants and 687 are appointed as teaching assistants; 2,376 are supported on fellowships.

Doctoral Student Support by Type and School, 2024-2025

School/College	RA	FE	TA	Other or self-supported
Architecture and Planning	52%	27%	17%	3%
Engineering	48%	38%	4%	10%
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	9%	71%	16%	3%
Management	31%	49%	18%	2%
Science	47%	47%	6%	0%
Computing	40%	40%	18%	2%
Total	44%	43%	7%	6%

Note: RA=research assistantship, FE=fellowship, TA=teaching assistantship

For more detailed information regarding the [cost of attendance](#) for the 2025-2026 academic year, including specific costs for tuition and fees, books and supplies, housing, food, and transportation, visit the [Student Financial Services website](#).

Academics

MIT's strength—as represented by its official seal and motto, *mens et manus*, mind and hand—is the fusion of academic knowledge with practical purpose.

Undergraduate Education

MIT believes the best education occurs when students are self-motivated and engaged participants in a dynamic community of learners. Moreover, learning must take place in an environment where students cannot only find support for their academic success but can also attend to their well-being and cultivate their personal and intellectual growth. To that end, MIT's [Undergraduate Advising Center](#) strives to help every undergraduate student reach their full potential with individualized, holistic advising, from matriculation to graduation.

One of the hallmarks of an MIT undergraduate education is the combination of rigorous academics with a “learning-by-doing” approach. MIT's rich [experiential learning](#) ecosystem enables students to pursue a wide variety of educational opportunities in such areas as [research](#), [public service and social impact](#), and [entrepreneurship](#), to name a few.

One avenue for student engagement is the [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program \(UROP\)](#), pioneered at MIT in 1969 and now emulated in academic institutions around the world. UROP offers students the opportunity to join a faculty-led research team or to initiate their own research project.

Another unique feature of an MIT education is the [Independent Activities Period](#), a special four-week term in January that enables students to set their own agenda within a creative and flexible environment.

Undergraduates are encouraged to add an international dimension to their education as well. Students may choose from Institute-wide or departmental study-abroad programs. They may also conduct research abroad, assist with building sustainable communities overseas, or venture out on fieldwork or internships arranged through [MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives](#).

Leadership training opportunities include the [Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program](#), the [Bernard M. Gordon-MIT Engineering Leadership Program](#), and ROTC programs in the [United States Army](#), [Navy/Marine Corps](#), and [Air Force](#). In addition, [Career Advising & Professional Development](#) guides all students as they explore and prepare for careers, graduate study, and life after MIT.

Selected Undergraduate Facts

- MIT has a 3-to-1 ratio of [undergraduate students](#) to [faculty and instructional staff](#).
- MIT offers [56 undergraduate major and 62 minor programs](#).
- The [first semester at MIT is graded on a pass/no record basis](#), giving first-year students time to adjust to the rigor of MIT before receiving letter grades.
- MIT's [General Institute Requirements](#) are designed to give every student a broad and strong foundation in core fields of human knowledge, including mathematics; physical, natural, and social sciences; and the humanities and arts.
- First-year students can choose to participate in a first-year learning community, such as the [Concourse Program](#), [DesignPlus](#), [Experimental Study Group](#), or [Terrascope](#).
- In 2025, 49% of [graduating seniors](#) reported they had had an [international experience](#) while at MIT.

- Nearly 65% of MIT undergraduates participate each year in the [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program](#). In 2025, 93% of graduating seniors reported they had completed a UROP during their time at the Institute.

Majors

[Aerospace Engineering](#)

[African and African Diaspora Studies](#)

[American Studies](#)

[Ancient and Medieval Studies](#)

[Anthropology](#)

[Archaeology and Materials](#)

[Architecture](#)

[Art and Design](#)

[Artificial Intelligence and Decision Making](#)

[Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies](#)

[Biological Engineering](#)

[Biology](#)

[Brain and Cognitive Sciences](#)

[Business Analytics](#)

[Chemical Engineering](#)

[Chemical-Biological Engineering](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[Chemistry and Biology](#)

[Civil and Environmental Engineering](#)

[Climate System Science and Engineering](#)

[Comparative Media Studies](#)

[Computation and Cognition](#)

[Computer Science and Engineering](#)

[Computer Science and Molecular Biology](#)

[Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science](#)

[Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences](#)

[Economics](#)

[Electrical Engineering with Computing](#)

[Finance](#)

[Global Studies and Languages](#)

[\(French, German, or Spanish\)](#)

[History](#)

[Humanities and Engineering](#)
[Humanities and Science](#)
[Latin American and Latino/a Studies](#)
[Linguistics and Philosophy](#)
[Literature](#)
[Management](#)
[Materials Science and Engineering](#)
[Mathematical Economics](#)
[Mathematics \(General, Applied, or Pure\)](#)
[Mathematics with Computer Science](#)
[Mechanical and Ocean Engineering](#)
[Mechanical Engineering](#)
[Music](#)
[Nuclear Science and Engineering](#)
[Philosophy](#)
[Physics](#)
[Planning](#)
[Political Science](#)
[Russian and Eurasian Studies](#)
[Science, Technology, and Society](#)
[Theater Arts](#)
[Urban Science and Planning with
Computer Science](#)
[Women's and Gender Studies](#)
[Writing](#)

Graduate Education

MIT's graduate students and postdocs represent one of the most talented and diverse cohorts of scholars in the world. The Institute not only invests in student academic success but fosters community, well-being, and personal growth.

The Institute's graduate programs provide collaborative environments and leading-edge facilities, such as [MIT.nano](#), for advanced study. Students work together with faculty to extend the boundaries of knowledge in fields ranging from quantum computing to medicine to political science to the

arts. MIT boasts globally prominent master's and doctoral programs in engineering, mathematics, architecture, management, the social sciences, and the humanities.

The [Institute for Medical Engineering and Science](#); the [Institute for Data, Systems, and Society](#); the [Center for Real Estate](#); and other research units offer [interdisciplinary graduate degrees](#). The [Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology Program](#) and the [MIT-Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering](#) provide opportunities for graduate students to engage with other local institutions.

MIT graduate students embark on many diverse career pathways, including academia, industry, government, nonprofits, and more. To provide students with support throughout their graduate years, MIT offers programming on a number of scales, ranging from advising through [Career Advising and Professional Development](#) to programming suites like the [Faculty Job Search Series](#). Programs such as the [Path of Professorship](#) conference feature alumni mentors sharing their advice for graduate students, while [Mentoring Circles](#) offer opportunities for group mentoring in a smaller setting. [Graduate Career Exploration Grants](#) provide funding for internships with nonprofits or other underfunded initiatives. MIT's graduate student professional development programming allows graduate students to deepen skills in seven competency areas: career advancement, communication, interpersonal skills, personal development, social responsibility, and teaching.

MIT Libraries

The [MIT Libraries](#) are an engine for creating, sharing, and safeguarding knowledge at the Institute and beyond. The Libraries work to improve access to the world's collective knowledge and support the MIT community in many ways.

The Libraries provide access to tens of millions of items, both physical and digital, and to collections from libraries worldwide. Library specialists help people navigate resources, manage data, and think critically as consumers and creators of information, and play a vital role in supporting data-intensive and computational research across MIT.

Through thought-provoking programs, free workshops, and the MIT Reads shared reading and discussion program, the Libraries foster connections across the MIT community. Welcoming [spaces](#) invite users to recharge, find inspiration, and create new knowledge.

The Libraries work to ensure that research is openly and equitably available to the broadest possible audience. The [Center for Research on Equitable and Open Scholarship](#) investigates how disparate communities can participate in scholarship with minimal bias or barriers and hosts a postdoctoral fellowship program. Since 2009, articles by Institute authors made freely available have been downloaded more than 31 million times, and 58% of MIT-authored papers were shared openly last year.

Distinctive Collections preserves and fosters the use of unique and rare items, both tangible and digital, including MIT-produced materials, archival collections, rare books, visual materials, and the [Aga Khan Documentation Center collections](#).

Information Technology and Computing on Campus

[Information Systems and Technology \(IS&T\)](#) provides services in support of MIT's mission to advance knowledge and educate students.

IS&T manages the digital infrastructure, technology architecture, software development, cybersecurity, and overall IT ecosystem of core Institute platforms, including the computing and communications infrastructure and applications. Together, these systems provide the digital foundation for faculty, students, and staff engaged in MIT's research, academic, and administrative activities.

Connected campus. IS&T supports and maintains MITnet, the network that powers the Institute's communication and collaboration capabilities.

- MIT's network infrastructure in the Cambridge/Boston area is made up of more than 7,500 miles (12,070 km) of fiber, over 11,000 wireless access points, and 4,000 switches that provide on-campus connectivity.
- MIT maintains high-speed dedicated connections to a number of global research and education networks, collaborators, and enterprise cloud platforms, including Amazon Web Services and Google Cloud Platform.
- The MIT Kendall WiFi network covers approximately 1,000,000 ft² (92,903 m²) of outdoor space, providing high-speed internet service at no cost to residents and visitors to the Kendall Square area and surrounding neighborhoods as a community service.

Research computing. [The Office of Research Computing and Data](#), the [Office of the Vice President for Research](#), and IS&T collaborate closely to

provide efficient and sustainable research computing resources. These include:

- A broad range of research collaborations and the digital infrastructure supporting the Institute's core research computing facilities, including [Bates Research and Engineering Center](#) and the [Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center](#).
- MIT's 100-gigabit backbone that supports high-speed connectivity across its research enterprise, providing seamless access to the computational resource facilities located throughout campus and beyond, such as Internet2 and the Energy Sciences Network, which in turn provides access to the CERN Large Hadron Collider.

Applications and support. IS&T develops and supports an extensive catalog of software and services.

- IS&T licenses widely used productivity tools (e.g., Office 365, Adobe, Zoom, Slack, CrowdStrike, and Dropbox) for the community as well as discipline-specific technical software (e.g., MATLAB, SolidWorks) to support education and research activities.
- IS&T facilitates access to multiple enterprise cloud platforms and provides managed servers in a hybrid cloud environment for developers.
- Support teams provide 24/7 IT help to the MIT community by live chat, phone, or email, as well as in-person walk-in support during business hours in the Atlas Service Center and the Hardware Service Center. IS&T also provides direct support, including end-to-end lifecycle management services, to more than 90 departments, labs, and centers.

- The teams field nearly 100,000 questions annually, ranging from routine support requests to queries about more complex technical issues and needs. The [Knowledge Base](#) draws on the cumulative IT expertise at MIT to deliver thousands of self-help articles.

Makerspaces

“Learning by doing” is a cornerstone of MIT’s educational philosophy, and “making” is an important part of the MIT experience. Makerspaces located throughout the campus offer access to tools and space for members of the MIT community to invent, prototype, and bring their ideas to physical life. The Institute has over 40 design/build/project spaces that add up to over 130,000 ft² (12,077 m²). Tools and facilities for CNC routing, 3D printing, glassblowing, wood and metal working, mold making and casting, robotics, circuitry, textiles, ceramics, biomaking, and more are available for class, research, entrepreneurial, and personal projects.

The MIT community can find maker resources at make.mit.edu, including [MIT](#), a first-year maker training program, and [The Deep and Metropolis](#), open-access makerspaces optimizing peer-to-peer hands-on trainings.

Open Learning

[MIT Open Learning](#) is on a mission to transform teaching and learning at MIT and around the globe through the innovative use of digital technologies. Open Learning carries MIT’s teaching beyond campus into the hands of learners across the world through [MIT Learn](#), a hub for the Institute’s growing collection of non-degree learning experiences.

Open Learning is centered around four interconnected strategic areas:

- **Open Education** builds on MIT's legacy of sharing educational resources online by continuing to extend MIT knowledge around the globe through free and open courses, programs, and resources.
- **Workforce Learning** leverages the latest educational research and science to develop custom learning solutions that help large organizations train their workforce and meet today's corporate learning challenges.
- The [Residential Education](#) team equips MIT faculty, instructors, and staff with tools and expertise to enhance on-campus teaching through digital technologies such as the Canvas ecosystem, lecture capture, lightboard, and Residential MITx.
- **Universal Learning's** collection of online, self-paced curricula is centered on cross-disciplinary topic areas. Its [Universal AI](#) offering consists of modules that teach the underlying theories, concepts, and technologies of artificial intelligence.

Campus Life

The Campus

168

**Acres
(0.68 km²)**

20

**Residence halls
on campus**

40+

**Gardens and
green spaces**

60+

**Public works
of art**

Originally founded in Boston, MIT relocated to Cambridge in 1916. The Institute is an integral part of the city, a diverse and vibrant community of approximately 118,200 residents noted for its history, intellectual life, and thriving innovation climate. The city hosts more than 35,300 college and university students, many of whom live within its 6.26 mi² (16.21 km²).

[MIT's campus](#) extends more than a mile along the Charles River. At its heart is a group of interconnecting buildings, designed by architect W. Welles Bosworth (Class of 1889), that facilitate interaction and communication among MIT's schools and departments.

The campus architecture showcases a range of styles, from neoclassical through modernist, brutalist, and deconstructivist. Among the timeless landmarks on campus are buildings designed by leading architects such as Alvar Aalto, Frank Gehry, Fumihiko Maki, I. M. Pei '40, and Eero Saarinen. Inside, state-of-the-art facilities support MIT's research efforts in multiple disciplines. These facilities range from wet labs, clean rooms, and makerspaces to wind tunnels, robot and drone test labs, and a nanotechnology and advanced imaging center.

Recently completed major capital projects include the MIT Steven A. Schwarzman College of Computing and the Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building. Ongoing projects include a substantial renovation of the historic Metropolitan Storage Warehouse as a hub for design and the new home for the School of Architecture and Planning. For all new construction and renovations, MIT requires an integrated design process with the goal of developing resilient, high-performance buildings while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and emphasizing human and ecological health.

For students, the campus has 20 residence halls ([11 for undergraduates](#) and [nine for graduate students and families](#)), each with its own distinctive personality and community. Newer additions to this lineup include Graduate Junction for graduate students and the New Vassar Residence Hall for undergraduates.

Urban and walkable, the campus encourages sustainable practices in many ways, offering gardens and green spaces, bike-share stations, and free shuttles. At its edges, the campus merges with various Cambridge neighborhoods, including Kendall Square, where the close association of industry and research expertise has made this area the most innovative square mile on the planet.

Pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly, Cambridge has six subway stations, a commuter rail line, 27 bus routes, more than 80 bike-share stations, dedicated bicycle lanes, and numerous shuttles and bikeways, all of which enable visitors and residents to get around without a car.

Housing

Undergraduate Students

Most undergraduates live in one of MIT's [11 on-campus houses](#) or in one of [35 MIT-affiliated fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups \(FSILGs\)](#). All unmarried first-year students must live in one of the Institute's residence halls. Each on-campus residence hall has a live-in house team comprising a head of house (usually a senior faculty member) as well as a house operations manager and other professional staff, including an area director and graduate resident advisors, who support residents. On-campus housing is guaranteed for four consecutive years, and many students elect to remain on campus following their first year or move

to an FSILG. Currently, more than 3,500 undergraduates live on campus.

In 2025-2026, approximately 1,700 students were affiliated with an FSILG; approximately 900 of them chose to live in an FSILG community as an alternative to a traditional residence hall.

Graduate Students

More than 3,000 graduate student residents live in MIT's [eight graduate houses](#) and one MIT-affiliated residence conveniently located on campus. Six of these living options are able to accommodate graduate students and their partners; three can accommodate about 450 students with families. Approximately 130 graduate students also live in residential communities to support undergraduate students as graduate resident advisors.

Sustainability

MIT's [comprehensive commitment to sustainability](#) aims to transform the Institute into a powerful model that generates solutions to the challenges of a changing planet. In these efforts, MIT mobilizes its community to tackle climate change at the level of the campus and beyond.

Guided by [Fast Forward: MIT's Climate Action Plan for the Decade](#), MIT is committed to eliminating direct campus emissions by 2050, with a near-term milestone of net-zero by 2026. To reach its climate goals, the Institute is focused on making buildings more energy efficient, transitioning to electric vehicles, enabling both campus-level and large-scale renewable energy projects, and transforming how energy is generated, distributed, and used on campus.

- MIT has outlined 18 climate and sustainability goals which engage staff, faculty, and students across campus.
- Since 2014, MIT has reduced its net emissions by approximately 13%.
- The [Access MIT](#) program provides generous subsidies for staff, faculty, and postdocs for low-carbon commuting, including subway, bus, bicycling, and commuter rail.
- MIT sponsors six Bluebike stations on campus, with a total of 192 docks.
- New campus construction and major renovation projects aim to meet the national Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standard for energy-efficient, sustainable design. Thirty-one MIT projects have received LEED certifications, including five achieving LEED Platinum certification.
- MIT has a total installed solar capacity on campus rooftops of 652 kilowatt-hours.

Bolstered by student- and staff-led efforts, many offices, programs, and initiatives across MIT work to address sustainability and climate change issues, including the MIT Office of Sustainability, the Center for Sustainability Science and Strategy, the MIT Energy Initiative, the MIT Climate and Sustainability Consortium, and the Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab. Additionally, the [MIT Climate Project](#), launched in 2024, seeks to marshal the full breadth of MIT's talent and resources around rapidly developing, deploying, and scaling effective climate solutions for global impact.

MIT offers academic and curricular paths that reflect these priorities, including a [Climate System Science and Engineering degree](#) and an [Environment and Sustainability minor](#), which give undergraduates opportunities to delve into interdisciplinary course-

work and research real-world challenges affecting people, the planet, and the campus itself.

MIT works in partnership with the City of Cambridge, Harvard University, and local businesses and organizations to achieve a more healthy, livable, and sustainable future. The Institute is also an active member of the [Boston Green Ribbon Commission](#).

The Arts

60+

**Music, theater,
visual arts, writing,
and dance groups**

>50%

**Incoming first-
year students with
training in the arts**

12

**Museums and
galleries on campus**

>50%

**Undergraduates
enrolled in arts
courses each year**

[The arts at MIT](#) are rooted in experimentation, risk taking, and imaginative problem solving. The Institute offers highly regarded degree programs in architectural design; art, culture, and technology; comparative media studies; history, theory, and criticism of architecture and art; music; theater arts; and writing. Undergraduate minors are also offered in several of these fields. Many MIT faculty have received awards in recognition of their work in the arts, including the Pulitzer Prize, Grammy Award, Guggenheim Fellowship, and MacArthur Fellowship. MIT students are also strong contributors to the vibrant arts culture that permeates campus life.

The [MIT Museum](#), located at MIT's Kendall Square gateway, brings together science, art, design, and technology through exhibitions, learning labs, and programs that connect curious minds with MIT's unique culture of problem solving and playful creativity. Visitors are invited to take part in ongoing research that demonstrates how science and innovation will show the future of society. The MIT Museum and its satellite locations (Hart Nautical Gallery and the MIT Museum Studio and Compton Gallery) all draw from a prodigious collection of 1.5 million objects documenting MIT's history of innovation, in addition to presenting dynamic exhibitions and programs bridging science and art.

The [MIT List Visual Arts Center](#) is the Institute's contemporary art museum. Its core mission is to exhibit, collect, and commission visual arts for MIT. The List presents six to nine exhibitions annually in conjunction with a broad range of education programs free to both the MIT community and the general public. It also maintains and adds to MIT's permanent collection of more than 4,000 artworks, which includes over 60 public sculptures and hundreds of paintings, prints, photographs, and drawings located throughout campus. The List Center commissions new works for the MIT Public Art Collection through the MIT Percent-for-Art Program and oversees the Student Lending Art Program that allows MIT students to annually borrow original works of art from the collection to hang in their living spaces.

The [MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology](#) facilitates and creates opportunities for artists at MIT and beyond to exchange ideas and collaborate with engineers and scientists. The center fosters a culture where the arts, science, and technology thrive as interrelated, mutually informing modes of exploration, knowledge, and discovery.

The [Eugene McDermott Award](#) in the Arts at MIT celebrates innovative talents in all arts disciplines and is one of the most generous cultural honors in the United States. Recent recipients of the award include artist and designer Es Devlin (2025), multidisciplinary artist and composer Pamela Z (2022), and designer Thomas Heatherwick (2020).

Athletics and Recreation

33

**Varsity sports
(16 men's
15 women's, 2 coed)**

25+

**Different classes to
satisfy GIRs**

35

Club teams

20

Intramural sports

MIT's [Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation](#) offers opportunities for sports instruction and participation at all levels. The Institute supports one of the broadest intercollegiate athletic programs in the world, as well as an expansive [club sport program](#). MIT provides group exercise and wellness classes, personal and group training, a variety of aquatic classes, and sport skill instruction for those who wish to engage in other [recreational programs](#).

As part of the [General Institute Requirements \(GIRs\)](#), each student must earn eight points through physical education and wellness courses and complete the swim requirement. Seasonal offerings include golf, sailing, broomball, and ice-skating, while additional specialty courses include scuba, backpacking,

top-rope climbing, kayaking, downhill skiing, and snowboarding.

- Approximately 25% of undergraduates join a team while at MIT.
- MIT competes mainly against NCAA Division III New England colleges but also routinely participates in regional and national championships.
- The Institute has earned 468 Academic All-America honors, the most among all NCAA Divisions.

With 10 buildings and 26 acres (0.11 km²) of playing fields, MIT boasts one of the most expansive athletic complexes in New England. The Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center on the west side of campus features two swimming pools, a fitness center, international-scale squash courts, and a multi-activity court. Roberts Field and Jack Barry Field (lighted sports-turf venues), as well as the duPont Outdoor Tennis Courts, are adjacent to the Zesiger Center. The east side of campus is served by the Alumni Pool and Wang Fitness Center, located in the Stata Center at the edge of Kendall Square.

Fun and Culture

MIT Colors

Cardinal red and silver grey first came to represent MIT in 1876, following the recommendation of the "School Color Committee," convened in February that year expressly for the purpose of defining its official colors. According to committee chair Alfred T. Waite (Class of 1879), cardinal red was selected because it was reminiscent of the American flag and "has always stirred the heart and mind of man." Gray, on the other hand, was chosen for its "quiet virtues of modesty and persistency and gentleness." The committee's choices were affirmed by the Alumni Association and approved by the faculty that May.

Today, MIT's colors are displayed in myriad ways, one of the most prominent being through the [Cardinal and Gray Society](#), the alumni group for those who have reached the 50th anniversary of their graduation. The group plays an important role at Commencement, as newly inducted members—wearing the society's distinctive cardinal red jacket and gray slacks or skirt—head the processional and lead the graduates into Killian Court.

Tim the Beaver

[Tim the Beaver](#) has represented MIT since 1914, when he was [adopted as the mascot](#) at the suggestion of the Technology Club of New York during their annual dinner, at which President Richard Maclaurin was presented with two handsomely mounted real beavers. Other contenders included the kangaroo, who goes forward by leaps and bounds, and the elephant, who is wise, patient, strong, hardworking, and has a good, tough hide. The club chose the beaver—nature's engineer, or in Lester Gardner's (Class of 1898) words, "an industrious American animal noted for its mechanical skills who does its best work after dark."

Brass Rat

In a ritual long enjoyed by MIT undergraduates, a committee of sophomores gathers each year to design their class ring, which is ceremoniously revealed during the spring term. MIT's class ring dates back to 1929, when a student committee convened to design what is formally known as the "Standard Technology Ring." Featuring a beaver (the Institute's mascot) on top, the Boston and Cambridge skylines on the sides, and the MIT seal and dome on the shank, the ring also incorporates unique design elements related to each graduating class. Made of gold, the ring's nickname, "the [Brass Rat](#)," derives from its color and the prominence of the beaver

mascot. A concrete symbol of an MIT education, the distinctive Brass Rat is recognized worldwide and instantly identifies MIT alumni to one another.

Pi Day

In true MIT spirit, the Institute typically releases admission decisions on Pi Day (March 14), an annual celebration of the mathematical constant. Frequently, these admissions decisions are released at 6:28 p.m. ET, which is known colloquially as “Tau time” ($\pi \times 2$). An exception was made for the early release time of decisions on March 14, 2015—known as Super Pi Day—as the date reflects the full first five digits of Pi (3.1415)—when admissions decisions were released at 9:26 a.m. in order to continue with the next three digits of Pi.

Hacking

MIT culture distinguishes itself not only for its seriousness of purpose but also for its unique sense of humor, as expressed through “[hacking](#).” Hacks at the Institute are elaborate but benign practical jokes, perpetrated anonymously—on campus, around Cambridge, or even farther afield—that amaze for their creativity, cleverness, and difficulty of execution. A 1958 prank in which the Harvard Bridge was measured in increments of fraternity pledge Oliver Smoot has achieved such fame that “[smoot](#)” has been incorporated into the American Heritage Dictionary and is included as a unit of measure in Google Earth. The bridge still displays its quirky unit of measure today.

Though not officially sanctioned, hacks can be appreciated for their technical prowess and humorous digs at rival institutions. Examples include the astonishing emergence of a large black weather balloon with MIT written all over it in the middle of a [Harvard-Yale football game in 1982](#) and the 2006 cross-country theft of [Caltech’s Fleming Cannon](#).

Pirate Certificate

Not content to just produce exceptional graduates in the usual fields of study, the Institute also offers its swashbuckling students the opportunity to become certified pirates. Students who complete four physical education courses—archery, fencing, pistol (or rifle), and sailing—are eligible to receive a [Pirate Certificate](#), officially awarded by the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation. In addition to receiving a certificate printed on faux parchment, newly minted pirates are rumored to swear a secret oath.

MIThenge

The Infinite Corridor runs through the center of MIT's campus, connecting its east and west sides. Twice a year, an astronomical event lights up the length of the hallway that runs through Buildings 7, 3, 10, 4, and 8. In November and again in January, the setting sun aligns with that particular section, flooding its third-floor windows with a stream of direct sunlight that dazzles spectators observing from the west end of Building 8. The assumed azimuth is 245.75 degrees. Now an annual tradition known as "[MIThenge](#)," this phenomenon was originally discovered, calculated, and publicized in 1975-1976 by students from the Department of Architecture.

MIT Mystery Hunt

The [MIT Mystery Hunt](#) is a puzzlehunt competition that takes place in January. The hunt challenges participating teams to solve a series of puzzles that lead to "the coin" (physical or virtual) hidden somewhere on campus. Puzzles can be as creative, complex, collaborative, unusual, physical, and solvable as hunt organizers decide to make them. The winning team gets to write the subsequent year's hunt—and redefine the rules.

Launched in 1981, the MIT Mystery Hunt continues today as strong as ever. It is widely regarded as one of the oldest and most complex puzzlehunts in the world, attracting as many as 2,000 people annually and inspiring similar competitions at universities, companies, and cities around the world.

MIT and the Community

Service to the Community

Since its founding, MIT has maintained a commitment to be a [good neighbor and serve the local community](#). The Institute actively supports more than 180 local nonprofits, primarily in Cambridge, through a variety of approaches, including direct financial support, the use of Institute facilities, volunteerism, serving on boards and committees, sharing expertise, and employee donation and collection drives. In addition, members of the MIT community support the Institute's [Community Service Fund](#), which provides assistance for local nonprofits with MIT volunteers.

Seventy-five percent of departments, labs, centers, and institutes at MIT create programming to inspire K-12 student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. The Institute is working to increase awareness of these offerings to local schools and ensure equitable access to these opportunities.

The Institute's [Priscilla King Gray Center for Social Impact](#) provides programming, guidance, information, and support to students, faculty, and staff interested in public service and serves as a resource for both MIT and the community at large.

Economic Impact and Innovation Catalyst

MIT has a far-reaching impact on the economy of the region. The Institute is Cambridge’s second largest employer and largest taxpayer, representing approximately 17% of the city’s revenue stream. MIT pays taxes on its commercial property and provides an annual voluntary payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for property that is used for academic purposes and is legally tax exempt. In fiscal year 2025, the Institute made a PILOT contribution of approximately \$2.4 million to the city and paid approximately \$107 million in real estate taxes.

The research, startups, and talent pool that MIT generates are a magnet for investment that catalyzes and fuels the local innovation economy. [Kendall Square](#), at the eastern end of MIT’s campus, is the seat of a thriving innovation hub and serves as a gateway to MIT. To provide expanded opportunities in the local innovation economy, the [Job Connector](#) by MIT serves as a free workforce development hub for Cambridge residents to explore opportunities for job readiness, skill training, internships, and apprenticeships. Building on the success of its [Kendall Square Initiative](#), which replaced six parking lots with retail, restaurants, open space, housing, and lab and office space, MIT is embarking on the mixed-use redevelopment of the nearby 10-acre Volpe parcel, named [Kendall Common](#). MIT’s [Open Space Programming](#) office hosts over 100 diverse and vibrant events and activities in the Kendall/MIT Open Space each year.

Research at MIT

The soul of MIT is research. For more than 150 years, the Institute has married teaching with engineering and scientific studies—and produced an unending stream of advancements, many of them world changing. Examples of some of MIT's historical achievements follow:

- 1930s** Pioneering high-speed photography
- 1940s** Engineering practical microwave radar
- 1950s** Building the magnetic core memory that made digital computers possible
- 1960s** Developing the inertial guidance systems for the Apollo space program
- 1970s** Inventing the first workable public key cryptographic system
- 1980s** Discovering the smallest known, most abundant photosynthetic bacteria in the ocean
- 1990s** Using new genetic and multiple-cell monitoring technologies to demonstrate how animals form memory about new environments
- 2000s** Creating a new type of matter—a gas of atoms that shows high-temperature superfluidity
- 2010s** Making the first direct detection of gravitational waves reaching the Earth (in collaboration with Caltech and others around the world), confirming Albert Einstein's prediction from a century ago

This stream of discovery continues. Here are just a few accomplishments from this decade:

- Developing a new steelmaking process that produces no emissions other than pure oxygen
- Adapting a CRISPR protein that targets RNA, rather than DNA, for use as a rapid, inexpensive, highly sensitive diagnostic tool with the potential to transform research and global public health
- Demonstrating the first prosthetic leg that enables bionic walking under the user's complete neural control, with clinicians at Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Capturing the first direct image of a black hole as part of an international team of over 200 scientists
- Ramping up a high-temperature superconducting electromagnet to a field strength of 20 tesla, the most powerful magnetic field of its kind ever created on Earth
- Reliably producing oxygen on the surface of Mars using an instrument the size of a lunchbox that can do the work of a small tree
- Observing for the first time a star swallowing a planet—a preview of what is expected to happen to the Earth in 5 billion years. Astronomers from MIT, Caltech, Harvard, and elsewhere identified a likely Jupiter-sized planet vanishing in a 10-day hot flash, followed by a lingering cold signal.

Undergraduates can plunge directly into this world of exploration through the [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program](#), which offers students a chance to collaborate with Institute faculty on cutting-edge research.

During fall 2025, approximately 5,730 researchers—including 1,414 [postdoctoral scholars](#) and 513 [visiting faculty and scientists](#)—worked with MIT faculty and students.

As an institution, MIT encourages interdisciplinary research across department and school boundaries while focusing on tackling great societal challenges. More interdisciplinary teams are found off-campus in nearby Lexington, Massachusetts, at [MIT Lincoln Laboratory](#), a federally funded research and development center focused on national security.

Research Expenditures by Primary Sponsor, Fiscal Year 2025

Primary sponsor	Expenditures (in millions)	%
Department of Health and Human Services	\$196.19	22.0%
Industry	\$159.37	17.9%
Department of Defense	\$128.74	14.4%
Foundations and other nonprofits	\$109.69	12.3%
Department of Energy	\$93.64	10.5%
National Science Foundation	\$93.29	10.5%
NASA	\$38.65	4.3%
State, local and foreign governments	\$27.79	3.1%
MIT internal	\$23.91	2.7%
All other federal agencies	\$20.60	2.3%
Total	\$891.87	100%

Note: Figures are rounded.

Research Centers, Labs, and Programs

Today's researchers tackle complex problems that cannot be resolved within a single academic discipline—and MIT constantly creates and evolves academic organizations that foster interdisciplinary work.

Centers, Labs, and Institutes

Independent interdisciplinary centers, laboratories, and institutes:

[Abdul Latif Jameel Clinic for Machine Learning in Health](#)

[Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#)
[Center for International Studies](#)

[Center for Real Estate](#)

[Center for Sustainability Science and Strategy](#)

[Center for Transportation and Logistics](#)

[Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory](#)

[Division of Comparative Medicine](#)

[Haystack Observatory](#) (off-campus entity)

[Institute for Data, Systems, and Society](#)

[Institute for Medical Engineering and Science](#)

[Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies](#)

[Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research](#)

[Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems](#)

[Laboratory for Nuclear Science](#)

[Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism](#)

[Lincoln Laboratory](#) (off-campus entity)

[Materials Research Laboratory](#)

[McGovern Institute for Brain Research](#)

[MIT Energy Initiative](#)

[MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research](#)

[MIT Media Lab](#)

[Nuclear Reactor Laboratory](#)

[Picower Institute for Learning and Memory](#)

[Plasma Science and Fusion Center](#)

[Research Laboratory of Electronics](#)
[Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and](#)
[Technology](#)
[Sociotechnical Systems Research Center](#)

Institute Initiatives

Institute-wide research and educational activities:

[Abdul Latif Jameel World Water and](#)
[Food Systems Lab](#)
[Center for Clinical and Translational Research](#)
[Climate Project at MIT](#)
[Health and Life Sciences Collaborative](#)
[Initiative for New Manufacturing](#)
[Internet Policy Research Initiative](#)
[MIT Generative AI Impact Consortium](#)
[MIT Human Insight Collaborative](#)
[MIT Innovation Initiative](#)
[MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives](#)
[MIT Mobility Initiative](#)
[MIT Quantum Initiative](#)
[MIT.nano](#)
[Morningside Academy for Design](#)

Prominent Programs

Notable centers, laboratories, institutes, and programs that engage the efforts of multiple MIT faculty:

[Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab](#)
[Applied Cooperation Initiative](#)
[Art, Culture, and Technology Program](#)
[Behavioral Research Lab](#)
[Center for Bits and Atoms](#)
[Center for Collective Intelligence](#)
[Center for Computational Science and Engineering](#)
[Center for Constructive Communication](#)
[Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research](#)
[Center for Environmental Health Sciences](#)

[Center for Information Systems Research](#)
[Climate Policy Center](#)
[Concrete Sustainability Hub](#)
[Consumer Finance Initiative](#)
[Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan](#)
[Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation](#)
[DesignX](#)
[Edgerton Center](#)
[Food Supply Chain Analytic and Sensing Initiative](#)
[Global Languages Program](#)
[Golub Center for Finance and Policy](#)
[Health Systems Initiative](#)
[Initiative on the Digital Economy](#)
[Institute for Work and Employment Research](#)
[Knight Science Journalism Program](#)
[Laboratory for Financial Engineering](#)
[Laboratory for Manufacturing and Productivity](#)
[Leadership Center](#)
[Legatum Center for Development and](#)
[Entrepreneurship](#)
[Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship](#)
[Microsystems Technology Laboratories](#)
[MIT Center for Art, Science, and Technology](#)
[MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab](#)
[MIT Portugal Program](#)
[MIT Quest for Intelligence](#)
[MIT Sea Grant College Program](#)
[MIT-Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint](#)
[Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean](#)
[Science and Engineering](#)
[Operations Research Center](#)
[Responsible AI for Social Empowerment and](#)
[Education](#)
[Senseable City Lab](#)
[Simons Center for the Social Brain](#)
[Sustainability Initiative](#)
[Women's and Gender Studies Program](#)

Key Local Collaborators

MIT's research extends out through collaborations with leading institutes and consortia both locally and around the world. These are the notable local centers, institutes, and laboratories that have a close research affiliation with the Institute:

[Advanced Functional Fabrics of America](#)

[Broad Institute](#)

[Charles Stark Draper Laboratory](#)

[Howard Hughes Medical Institute](#)

[Massachusetts Green High Performance](#)

[Computing Center](#)

[Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT, and Harvard](#)

[Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research](#)

Lincoln Laboratory

MIT's [Lincoln Laboratory](#), in Lexington, Massachusetts, is a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) that develops advanced technology to address national security needs. Its core competencies are in sensors, information extraction (signal processing), communications, and decision support—all supported by a broad research base in computing and advanced electronics. Other areas of innovative research and development are cybersecurity, biotechnology, novel engineered materials, autonomous systems, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief systems. Field-testing prototype systems is strongly emphasized.

As a Department of Defense FFRDC, the laboratory transitions technologies to both the military services and industry. Approximately 4,500 MIT employees and 475 subcontracted personnel worked at Lincoln Laboratory in fiscal year 2025.

Ninety percent of Lincoln Laboratory's funding comes from the US Department of Defense.

Lincoln Laboratory Program Funding by Mission Area, Fiscal Year 2025*

Mission area	% of total funding
Air, Missile, and Maritime Defense Technology	20%
Space Systems and Technology	18%
Communications Systems	18%
Advanced Technology	10%
Tactical Systems	7%
Biotechnology and Human Systems	7%
Cybersecurity and Information Sciences	6%
Homeland Protection	5%
Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Systems and Technology	4%
Advanced Research Portfolio	3%
Air Traffic Control	2%
Total	100%

*Lincoln Laboratory's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

MIT and Industry

Since its founding, MIT has fostered a culture of collaboration—bringing together researchers across disciplines and institutions to tackle complex challenges. This spirit of innovation has led to thousands of impactful [partnerships with industry](#) and other leading research organizations.

Companies collaborate with MIT faculty and students through programs such as the [Industrial Liaison Program](#), the Institute's main link to industry, and the [MIT Startup Exchange](#), which fosters partnerships between MIT connected startups and global companies. These and many other initiatives create

continuous opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

Research sponsored directly by industry totaled \$176 million from over 400 organizations in fiscal year 2025, or about 20% of total MIT research expenditures. MIT is routinely cited by the National Science Foundation as one of the top universities for industry-funded research.

The [Technology Licensing Office \(TLO\)](#) collaborates with faculty, researchers, and entrepreneurs across MIT and industry to move breakthrough ideas into the world. Its mission advances MIT's commitment to building a better world through education, research, and innovation. By protecting and commercializing transformative technologies in areas such as climate, manufacturing, healthcare, and secure communications, the TLO is integral to MIT's commitment to impactful global change.

In fiscal year 2025, the TLO advanced MIT innovation at scale. The office received 684 invention disclosures (including 116 from Lincoln Laboratory), filed 623 new US patent applications, secured 282 issued US patents, executed 137 license and option agreements, supported 38 companies formed using MIT intellectual property, and received \$60.9 million in total licensing revenue, with an additional \$539,000 generated through trademark licensing.

MIT's strong corporate connection is also reflected in its extensive business-oriented curricula, such as the [Leaders for Global Operations](#) program, [System Design and Management](#) program, [Sloan Fellows Program in Innovation and Global Leadership](#), [Supply Chain Management](#) program, and other degree programs that offer an industry internship component.

[MIT Sloan Executive Education](#) offers custom programs for organizations, executive certificates, and more than 90 online and in-person short courses for individuals. Led by MIT Sloan faculty, executive programs provide business professionals with a targeted and flexible means to advance their career goals and position their organizations for growth.

[MIT Professional Education](#) provides technology and engineering education for working professionals across the globe pursuing career advancement and for organizations seeking to meet modern-day challenges. Our courses and professional certificate programs are offered in multiple languages, a range of formats, and through blended approaches to meet the needs of today's learners.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

MIT was founded with the aim of providing students with an education that combines rigorous academic study with practical, hands-on learning. This emphasis on practice is infused into the Institute's innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E) ecosystem.

The Institute offers more than 150 courses that intersect with I&E as well as a [minor in entrepreneurship and innovation](#), an [MBA E+I Track](#), and [Independent Activities Period](#) and summer opportunities. MIT has more than 50 I&E [student clubs and initiatives](#), including the [MIT \\$100K Entrepreneurship Competition](#) and the [MIT Clean Energy Prize](#), and events such as the [MIT Arts Startup Incubator](#) and [Hacking Medicine](#).

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hubs

MIT [Innovation Headquarters \(iHQ\)](#) is a home for the Institute's thriving community of innovators and entrepreneurs. Offering 25,000 ft² (2,323 m²) of workspaces, meeting rooms, and event spaces, iHQ encourages the cross-pollination of ideas among MIT students, faculty, staff, and the global innovation community.

The [Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship](#) provides frameworks, courses, co-curricular programs, facilities, advisory services, and processes to create a rigorous, practical, customized, and integrated educational experience.

Programs

There are a variety of programs and teams dedicated to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship at MIT. Here are just a few:

[Bernard M. Gordon-MIT Engineering Leadership Program](#)

[Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation](#)

[Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship](#)

[MIT D-Lab](#)

[PKG IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge](#)

[MIT Sandbox Innovation Fund Program](#)

[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

[MITdesignX](#)

[Mission Innovation X](#)

[Technology Licensing Office](#)

[Venture Mentoring Service](#)

Alumni

MIT Students after Graduation

Upon graduation, MIT students are well prepared and successful applicants for jobs or graduate school. They use a variety of MIT resources, including networking; career fairs; employer programs; advising; and professional development services, clubs, and organizations. MIT [Career Advising and Professional Development \(CAPD\)](#) and other Institute resources, along with faculty, advisors, staff, and alumni, help guide students applying to graduate and professional schools. Students interact with employers and graduate schools through career fairs, employer information sessions, and recruiting partnerships. In the 2024-2025 academic year, employers recruited students for internships and employment through on-campus career fairs, information sessions, programs, and events, as well as through formal partnerships.

2025 Graduating Students' Post-Graduation Plans

Plan	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral
Graduate school	42%	11%	–
Work	48%	82%	97%

Sources: [Graduating Student Survey](#), [Doctoral Exit Survey](#).
Institutional Research, Office of the Provost.

Graduating bachelor's students going on to graduate school indicated pursuing one or more of the following: master's (56%), doctoral (39%), and medical (6%) degrees. In 2025, the top universities for bachelor's recipients pursuing graduate study were MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, University of California-Berkley, and University of Michigan. Master's students seeking further study were primarily pursuing doctoral (91%), medical (6%),

and master's (2%) degrees. Most master's students (75%) continued their studies at MIT.

Approximately 19% of graduating bachelor's and 17% of graduating master's students indicated they would be working at an employer considered to be a startup. More than half of doctoral students planning to work (60%) were choosing to work in academic or research institutions. Of those entering academia, 19% had tenure-track faculty appointments.

2025 Post-Graduation Employment Statistics			
Plan	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctoral
Expect to work in the US	98%	84%	89%
Had an internship/externship that led to accepted job offer	56%	34%	–

Sources: [Graduating Student Survey](#), [Doctoral Exit Survey](#).
Institutional Research, Office of the Provost.

MIT graduates who continue to employment are offered competitive salaries after graduation. Typically, they receive salary offers 30-40% above the national average for new college graduates, depending on the industry. Additional salary data is available on the [CAPD website](#).

Organizations that Hire MIT Graduates

Many companies and organizations regularly recruit at MIT. The following is a brief list of top employers who hired from the Class of 2025:

Accenture
Amazon
Apple
Bain & Company
Bloomberg
Boston Consulting Group
Citadel and Citadel Securities
Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Databricks Inc.
Deloitte Consulting
Google
Jane Street Capital
McKinsey & Company
Meta
Microsoft
OpenAI
Palantir Technologies
Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX)
US Navy
Verizon

MIT Alumni Association

The [MIT Alumni Association](#) seeks to engage and inspire the MIT global community to make a better world. It serves as a platform to strengthen the ties of MIT's 150,697 living alumni and its students and friends with the Institute and with one another, and offers opportunities for connection through various resources, programs, services, and channels.

Geographic Distribution of Alumni

Region	Number
United States and Possessions	115,654
Mid-Atlantic	28,914
New England	28,545
West	23,986
Southwest and South Central	10,119
Southeast	8,007
Great Lakes	7,903
Northwest and Great Plains	7,247
Alaska and Hawai'i	629
Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and other US territories	304
Asia	9,831
Europe	7,360
North America (other than US)	2,622
South America	1,885
Pacific Ocean Islands and Australia	695
Africa	642
Central America	98
Total	138,787

Note: Includes only alumni with known addresses. Data as of July 1, 2025.

In fiscal year 2025, 58% of living alumni engaged with MIT through events, programming, communications, volunteering, and annual giving efforts. More than 14,400 alumni, students, and friends volunteered in service to the MIT community. MIT Annual Giving reported \$89.8 million in gifts, and nearly 33,500 alumni, students, and friends gave to MIT.

Resource Development

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, almost 31,000 individuals and organizations gave or pledged \$691 million to support the talented people of MIT in their quest to tackle the world's hardest problems.

Philanthropic contributions provide essential flexible funds that are critical for MIT to ensure student access, seize opportunities, explore the unknown, and remain agile and resilient in the face of ongoing and emerging challenges. Such funds—which can be directed toward pressing institutional priorities—provide a springboard for MIT to launch strategic initiatives in areas such as climate change, human health, AI, manufacturing, and quantum science and engineering. They are also vital to our financial aid program; half of all MIT undergraduate scholarships and graduate financial aid combined comes from unrestricted funds.

MIT is focusing its fundraising efforts in 2026 on cultivating the support of its alumni and friends for ongoing core needs: flexible funds, scholarships, fellowships, professorships, and infrastructure. This approach will help MIT to continue its mission-driven work in education, research, and innovation, and ensure the Institute's financial health in an uncertain and unpredictable global geopolitical and economic environment.

Operating Financials

Value of Plant and Invested Assets, Fiscal Year 2025

Asset	Value (in millions)
Land, buildings, and equipment, net book value	\$5,638.3
Market value of endowed funds	\$27,366.2
Market value of total investments	\$35,790.3

Gifts and Pledge Payments to MIT, Fiscal Year 2025

Source	Amount (in millions)
Foundations	\$360.9
Individuals	\$200.0
Corporations	\$120.6
Other	\$0.1
Total	\$681.6

Gift and Pledge Payment Designations, Fiscal Year 2025

Designation	Amount (in millions)
Research and education programs	\$398.4
Graduate fellowships	\$95.0
Unrestricted	\$50.8
Faculty chairs	\$40.5
Construction and renovations	\$30.7
Scholarships and other undergraduate aid	\$28.9
Undesignated and miscellaneous	\$24.0
Undergraduate education and student life	\$13.3
Total	\$681.6

Operating Expenditures, Fiscal Year 2025

Category	Expenditures (in millions)	%
Sponsored research	\$2,205.8	43%
Instruction and unsponsored research	\$1,668.2	33%
General and administrative*	\$1,243.2	24%
Total	\$5,117.2	100%

*Includes auxiliary enterprises and Alumni Association.

Operating Revenues, Fiscal Year 2025

Category	Revenues (in millions)	%
Investment return to operations	\$1,565.4	29%
Sponsored support—Lincoln Laboratory	\$1,476.1	27%
Sponsored support—Campus	\$917.9	17%
Gifts and bequests for operations	\$473.0	9%
Tuition, net of discount	\$436.1	8%
Other revenue	\$296.0	6%
Auxiliary enterprises	\$181.1	3%
Sponsored support—Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology	\$27.2	1%
Total	\$5,372.8	100%

Accreditation

MIT is [accredited](#) by the New England Commission of Higher Education.

Inquiries regarding MIT's accreditation status may be submitted to MIT at accreditation@mit.edu or directly to the commission:

New England Commission of Higher Education
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210
Wakefield, MA 01880
telephone 781-425-7785
email info@neche.org

Many degree programs at MIT are accredited by specialized professional accrediting bodies, including ABET, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the American Chemical Society, the National Architectural Accrediting Board, and the Planning Accreditation Board. Academic departments can provide information on the accreditation of the specific degree programs they offer.