

International Scholars Office

The [International Scholars Office](#) (ISchO) facilitates visas for international researchers and faculty who come to MIT for teaching, research, meetings, and programs. ISchO advises on immigration matters, issues visa documents, and provides guidance, workshops, and print and web-based information on a wide range of issues relevant to the international scholar population. Weekly orientation sessions are held for incoming scholars and family members. Orientation specifically for new international tenure-track faculty members is offered biannually. Numerous workshops are held for department, laboratory, and center personnel administrators to inform them about working with the ISchO, MIT visa sponsorship policies, and visa processing. Additional programming for scholars as well as events open to the whole campus community are held throughout the year. ISchO also engages in advocacy efforts to protect international educational exchange, prevent burdensome government regulations, and clarify and improve related regulations and procedures.

MIT's International Scholar Population, Academic Year 2013

During the academic year July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, ISchO served 2,248 international scholars affiliated with MIT and their accompanying family members. (An international scholar is someone who is not a US citizen or US permanent resident.) This reflects an increase of approximately 3.2% over the previous year (2,175). According to the most recent Institute of International Education Open Doors report (2011–2012), MIT ranked 10th nationally with regard to the numbers of international scholars at US institutions, up from 11th last year. International postdoctoral associates and postdoctoral fellows made up 61% of MIT's international scholars.

Foreign national scholars came to MIT from 90 countries, with the highest numbers coming from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Germany, India, Canada, Japan, Italy, France, Spain, and Israel. This is roughly the same as the top 10 countries of origin of the entire international scholar population in the US. Scholars from these countries constituted 67% of MIT's international scholar population.

ISchO worked closely with administrators in the 77 departments, laboratories, centers, and programs that hosted international scholars during AY2013. The areas hosting the largest number of scholars were, in descending order, the Research Laboratory of Electronics, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Department of Chemical Engineering, the Department of Chemistry, the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, the Department of Biological Engineering, the Sloan School of Management, the Department of Biology, and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Seventy-six percent of international scholars were men and 24% were women.

The majority of MIT's international scholars were sponsored on MIT's J-1 exchange visitor program. There were 1,171 scholars under MIT's J-1 visa program sponsorship during AY2013. An additional 93 scholars were here through other J sponsors (the Fulbright program, Cultural Vistas programs, and other academic institutions). There

were 251 scholars on campus in H-1B visa status sponsored by MIT. Fifty-one scholars were in TN status and six were on O-1 visas sponsored by MIT. The rest of the scholar population had other sponsors or were in other nonimmigrant categories. ISchO also submitted permanent residence petitions to US Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of tenure-track faculty members and upper-level researchers.

International postdoctoral fellows and postdoctoral associates accounted for approximately 62% of MIT's total postdoc population. Fifty-three percent of people on "visiting" appointments at MIT were international.

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