

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 ISchO, MIT visa sponsorship policies, and visa processing. Additional programming for scholars and events open to the 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 2014

During the academic year July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, ISchO served 2,305 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 nearly 2.6% over the previous year (2,248). According to the most recent Institute of International Education Open Doors report (2012–2013), MIT ranked ninth nationally with regard to the numbers of international scholars at US institutions. International postdoctoral associates and postdoctoral fellows made up 58% 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, Canada, India, Japan, France, Italy, Israel, and Spain. This is roughly the same as the top 10 countries of origin of the entire international scholar population in the United States. Scholars from these countries constituted 65% of MIT's international scholar population.

ISchO worked closely with administrators in the 70 departments, laboratories, centers, and programs that hosted international scholars during AY2014. The areas hosting the largest numbers of scholars were, in descending order, the Research Laboratory of Electronics, the Department of Chemical Engineering, the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, the Department of Chemistry, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, the Department of Biological Engineering, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the Sloan School of Management, and the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. 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 1,320 scholars under MIT's J-1 program sponsorship during AY2014. An additional 102 scholars were here through other J sponsors (the Fulbright

Program, Cultural Vistas programs, and other academic institutions). There were 259 scholars on campus in H-1B visa status sponsored by MIT. Fifty scholars were in TN status and three were on O-1 visas sponsored by MIT. The remaining international scholars 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 63% of MIT's total postdoc population. Fifty percent of people on "visiting" appointments at MIT were international.

Penny Rosser
Director