

MIT–Singapore University of Technology and Design Collaboration

The third cohort of students at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) began their 3.5-year journey on May 12, 2014. Of approximately 320 students, 40% were female, a percentage that has held steady since SUTD's doors opened in 2012. While MIT and SUTD are heartened by the increase in student numbers from the second to third cohort (264 entered in cohort two), both universities see student recruitment as a top priority. To assist, MIT agreed to develop a winter program offered to SUTD students over Independent Activities Period (IAP). This program will kick off in January 2015. For three weeks, 40 students from SUTD will join MIT students in taking approximately 25 classes funded by the collaboration. This program is expected to be a win-win for both institutions, since SUTD students are invited to campus for three weeks to participate in MIT IAP courses and experience the unique MIT environment, and MIT faculty, postdocs, and other personnel are able to apply for funding to develop new IAP classes or significantly improve existing ones.

Faculty and lecturers at SUTD now number around 130, of which 76 are either tenured or on a tenure track. Recruiting world-class faculty is a top priority of the university, and recruiting continues on an ongoing basis.

All 87 of the contracted courses for development at MIT have been completed and transferred to SUTD. Exceeding the contract, MIT plans to develop an additional five courses, for a total of 92. In 2014, MIT and SUTD will begin a discussion to extend the education component of the contract, which is set to end at the end of June 2017. The research component of the contract ends in 2020.

To date, 30 MIT faculty have participated in short-term (two- or four-week) residencies in support of SUTD classes, and 11 faculty have participated or are currently participating in the 4.5-month pillar head residency set out in their contract. MIT is on track to complete its co-teaching obligation by the end of spring 2016, when MIT faculty will have spent 40 two-week and 40 four-week residencies at SUTD assisting with the teaching of classes as well as mentoring faculty and students. Each June, the entire senior leadership team of SUTD, including the president, the provost, three associate provosts, and the four pillar heads plus the HASS lead come to MIT to participate in a 2.5-day curriculum review. This event provides a forum for MIT and SUTD to focus on curriculum, educational innovation, and pedagogy.

In 2014, for a third summer, MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) Singapore program will send 22 MIT students to SUTD to help with establishing clubs and extracurricular activities and leadership training. This summer will also mark the arrival to MIT of 30 students from SUTD for the second offering of a 10-week Global Leadership Program (GLP). These students, chosen from over 180 applicants, participate in a wide variety of activities, including a summer-long electric vehicle design challenge, art and communication courses, a wilderness experience, and a leadership speakers

series made up of MIT faculty, alumni, staff, and administrators. SUTD student evaluations of the first-year GLP program were overwhelmingly positive. Both the GLP and MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives will run again in 2015.

Current budgets for research at MIT in the MIT-SUTD collaboration run about \$2M per year for a total of \$20M over the 10-year research component contract. In February 2012, the SUTD-MIT International Design Centre (IDC) was opened at MIT. The IDC serves as a hub for the study of technologically intensive design. Approximately 57 faculty researchers and students at MIT are working on projects associated with the IDC. To date, more than 500 conference publications and presentations and 259 book and journal publications have resulted from the combined efforts of the IDC at both MIT and SUTD. Professor John Fernandez (architecture) and professor of the practice Chris Magee (Engineering and Systems Division) are co-directors of the IDC. The two MIT co-directors and professor Kris Wood, SUTD co-director, conducted a research summit in January 2014 in Singapore to encourage more collaborative research between the two universities. A new state-of-the art IDC will open in December 2014 in Singapore at the new campus in the Changi district in Singapore. An inauguration ceremony is planned for the end of May 2015.

Martin Schmidt, Philip Khoury, and Ian Waitz serve on the governing board. Thomas Magnanti is on leave from MIT to serve as SUTD's founding president. John Brisson is the collaboration director at MIT.

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