

MIT Professional Education

Academic year 2015 marked the 13th year of operation for the office of [MIT Professional Education](#) (MIT PE). The office was established in 2002 under the School of Engineering as the umbrella organization for all MIT non-degree professional education programs aimed at science and technology professionals. All MIT PE programs (Short Programs, Advanced Study Program, International Programs, Custom Programs, and the new Digital Programs) deliver practical learning benefits to industry professionals from around the world, furthering MIT's core educational mission and enhancing the Institute's leadership and influence globally. Teaching in MIT PE programs also allows faculty members to enhance their connections with the global practitioner community.

Goals, Objectives, and Priorities

MIT Professional Education continues to pursue expansion of course offerings, student enrollments, and faculty engagement in all of its programs, with a particular emphasis on increasing international participation to further the influence and relationship of MIT with professionals and companies around the world. To address the needs of industry professionals outside the United States who cannot easily come to the campus, MIT PE will continue to deliver a select portfolio of short courses in Asia, Latin America, and Europe. And with the success of the office's first digital program, "Tackling the Challenges of Big Data," MIT PE considers it a high priority to follow up with the introduction of additional revenue-generating online programs to further widen its global reach. Principles that guide MIT PE activities overall include the following:

- Use the best of MIT expertise to meet the learning needs of industry professionals globally
- Extend knowledge from MIT research and discoveries to industry professionals, particularly knowledge related to Institute-wide initiatives such as innovation, transportation, manufacturing, and energy
- Maintain a relatively small and nimble organization that is oriented toward customer needs and generates high net revenue

Accomplishments and Program Developments

During AY2015, MIT PE focused on offering additional deliveries of its first, highly successful digital program; adding new courses to and increasing enrollments in its summer short programs; integrating the Center for Real Estate's short program portfolio into its summer programs as part of an agreement with the School of Architecture and Planning; enrolling select students from the Masdar Institute of Technology into the office's Advanced Study Program; increasing participation among international students; and executing new custom programs, including bringing professionals from previously disadvantaged communities in South Africa to MIT for courses on innovation.

Funding

The program continues to be fully self-supporting and revenue contributing. No external funding was needed or received this year.

Future Plans

Plans for AY2016 include the following:

- Expand online offerings of professional courses and explore implementation of blended learning models (i.e., online instruction combined with on-site classroom learning)
- Enhance international program offerings, particularly in greater China and other emerging Asian markets
- Expand the number of on-campus short programs for professionals and faculty participation in these programs

Personnel

Financial administrator Nadia Ustariz left to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. Director of Short Programs Anna Mahr retired, and Heather Vigeveno was appointed acting director. Clara Piloto, director of marketing, took over as director of global programs, while Lily Fu joined as associate director of international marketing. Ben Reed joined as program associate in the Advanced Study Program, while Matt Romero was hired as a project coordinator.

Bhaskar Pant
Executive Director