

International Scholars Office

The [International Scholars Office](#) (ISchO) facilitates the 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 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 2015

During the academic year of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, ISchO served 2,403 international scholars affiliated with MIT and their accompanying family members ("international" is defined as not a US citizen and not a US permanent resident). This reflects an increase of slightly more than 4% percent over the past year (2,305). According to the most recent Institute of International Education Open Doors report (2014), MIT ranked 11th nationally in number of international scholars at US institutions. International postdoctoral associates and postdoctoral fellows made up 59% percent of MIT's international scholars.

Foreign national scholars came to MIT from 93 countries, with the highest numbers coming from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, India, Germany, Canada, Japan, Italy, Israel, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The top 10 countries of origin of the international scholar population in the US are roughly the same. Scholars from these top 10 countries constituted nearly 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 AY2015. The areas hosting the largest number of scholars were, in descending order, the Research Laboratory of Electronics, Department of Chemical Engineering, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Chemistry, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Department of Biological Engineering, and the Sloan School of Management. 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 1,434 scholars under MIT's J-1 program sponsorship during AY2015. An additional 98 scholars were here through other J visa sponsors (the Fulbright

Program, Cultural Vistas programs, and other academic institutions). There were 272 scholars on campus in H-1B status sponsored by MIT. Fifty scholars were in TN visa status and four 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 65% of MIT's total postdoctoral population. Sixty-three percent of people on visiting appointments at MIT were international.

Penny Rosser
Director