

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 files petitions with government agencies, 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. 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 offered throughout the year. ISchO also engages in advocacy efforts to protect international educational exchanges, prevent burdensome government regulations, and clarify and improve immigration-related regulations and procedures.

MIT's AY2017 International Scholar Population

During the academic year July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, ISchO served 2,379 MIT-affiliated international scholars and their accompanying family members ("international" is defined as not a US citizen and not a US permanent resident). This reflects a decrease of slightly over 2% since last year (2,436). According to the most recent Institute of International Education Open Doors report (2016), MIT ranked 10th nationally in number of international scholars at US institutions.

Foreign national scholars came to MIT from 96 countries, with the highest numbers coming from the People's Republic of China, India, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Israel, and Spain. The top 10 countries of origin of the international scholar population in the United States 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 74 departments, laboratories, centers, and programs that hosted international scholars over the past year. The areas hosting the largest numbers of scholars were, in descending order, the Research Laboratory of Electronics, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Department of Chemistry, the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, the Department of Chemical Engineering, the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the Department of Biological Engineering, the Sloan School of Management, and the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. Seventy-five percent of international scholars were men and 25% were women.

The majority of MIT's international scholars were sponsored by the Institute's J-1 exchange visitor program. There were 1,363 scholars under J-1 program sponsorship during AY2017. An additional 110 scholars were here through other J visa sponsors (Fulbright, Cultural Vistas, and academic institutions). There were 295 MIT-sponsored

scholars on campus in H-1B status. Also, 35 scholars in TN visa status and seven on O-1 visas were sponsored by MIT. The remaining 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 63% of MIT's total postdoctoral population. Fifty-five percent of people on visiting appointments at MIT were international.

Penny Rosser
Director