

## 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; 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 that are open to the campus community are offered throughout the year. ISchO also engages in advocacy efforts to protect international educational exchange, prevent burdensome government regulations, and clarify and improve immigration-related regulations and procedures.

### MIT's International Scholar Population 2017–2018

During Academic Year 2018, ISchO served 2,345 international scholars affiliated with MIT and their accompanying family members (“international” is defined as a non-US citizen, non-US permanent resident). This reflects a decrease of 1.4% since last year (2,379). According to the 2017 Institute of International Education *Open Doors* report, MIT ranked 10th nationally with regard to the numbers of international scholars at US institutions.

Foreign national scholars came to MIT from 92 countries, with the highest numbers coming from the People’s Republic of China, India, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Canada, Japan, France, Italy, Spain, and Israel. The top ten countries of origin of the international scholar population present in the US are roughly the same. Scholars from these top ten 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 over the past year. The areas hosting the largest numbers of scholars were, in descending order, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Research Laboratory of Electronics, Department of Chemistry, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Department of Chemical Engineering, Department of Biological Engineering, Department of Physics, Sloan School of Management, and McGovern Institute for Brain Research. Seventy-five percent of international scholars identify as men and 25% identify as women.

The majority of MIT’s international scholars were sponsored by the Institute’s J-1 exchange visitor program. There were 1,310 scholars under MIT’s J-1 program sponsorship during AY2018. An additional 97 scholars were at MIT through other J sponsors (Fulbright, Cultural Vistas, and academic institutions). There were 265 scholars on campus in H1B status sponsored by MIT. Twenty-six scholars were in TN status and nine 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 66% of MIT's total postdoc population. Sixty percent of people on "visiting" appointments at MIT were international.

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