

# The Graduate



## Orientation Issue

Welcome  
Becoming an MIT grad student  
Orientation 101

MIT quirks and history  
Academics, Activities  
and more...

# The Graduate

## table of contents

### live

Institute welcomes	pp 4 – 5
Getting settled	pp 6 – 9
Orientation schedule and events	pp 11 – 14
Campus map	pp 16 – 17



### work

Sustainability at MIT	p 15
Academics and research	pp 18 – 19
Alumni externships	p 24

### play

Some of the quirks of MIT	p 10
Orientation schedule and events	pp 11 – 14
Activities and campus life	pp 20 – 21
Explore Boston and New England	pp 22 – 23
MIT history	p 25
MIT hacks	p 27





# from the editor

Welcome entering graduate students!

We've put together a publication containing nuggets of wisdom and advice to help you embark on your new journey here at MIT. You've read so much about MIT and have worked so hard to get here, now we're giving you the inside story on what you need to know to truly make MIT home.

As you flip through these pages, pay particular attention to the Orientation section. This section introduces you to your orientation leaders and lists a schedule of activities and events designed to get you settled in at MIT. These events answer many questions about the logistics of grad school and will also get you on your way towards making friends and feeling at home in your new environment.

You'll want to keep an eye on our website: <http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation/> for updates. In the future, you can always turn to the GSC website for information about graduate student life. This website is a way to keep you abreast of graduate news as well as provide a venue for sharing information, ideas, opinions and activities.

Happy reading and congratulations on your choice of MIT! The road ahead is a busy one, but also a fulfilling one. Best of luck!

*Sofia Vallila*

<http://gsc.mit.edu/>

## the graduate

### editor in chief

Sofia Vallila

### contributors

Katie Casey Maloney	Rebecca E Krentz Wee
Alex Hamilton Chan	Sumeet Kumar
Michael Dean	Clarissa Lee
Aalap Dighe	Daniel Macaya
Ulric Ferner	Simona Nedelcu
Abigail Francis	Christine Ortiz
Kay Furman	Jennifern Recklet Tassi
Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook	Todd Schenk
Ahmed Helal	Shane Torchiana
Shan Jiang	Sofia Vallila
DiOnetta Jones	Kuang Xu

*Those interested in contributing to the graduate are encouraged to inquire via [gsc-editor@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-editor@mit.edu)*

*The graduate is the official publication of the  
MIT Graduate Student Council*



**Graduate Student Council**  
of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<b>Officers</b>	Gleb Akselrod <i><a href="mailto:gsc-vice-president@mit.edu">gsc-vice-president@mit.edu</a></i>
Ulric J. Ferner <i><a href="mailto:gsc-president@mit.edu">gsc-president@mit.edu</a></i>	Zhao Chen <i><a href="mailto:gsc-treasurer@mit.edu">gsc-treasurer@mit.edu</a></i>
Todd Schenk <i><a href="mailto:gsc-secretary@mit.edu">gsc-secretary@mit.edu</a></i>	<b>Nominations</b> Gleb Akselrod <i><a href="mailto:gsc-vice-president@mit.edu">gsc-vice-president@mit.edu</a></i>
<b>Standing Committees</b>	<b>Orientation</b>
<b>Academics, Research &amp; Careers</b>	Aalap Dighe
Sumeet Kumar	Kuang Xu <i><a href="mailto:gsc-oc@mit.edu">gsc-oc@mit.edu</a></i>
Simona Nedelcu <i><a href="mailto:gsc-arc@mit.edu">gsc-arc@mit.edu</a></i>	<b>Publications &amp; Publicity</b>
<b>Activities</b>	Todd Schenk <i><a href="mailto:gsc-pp@mit.edu">gsc-pp@mit.edu</a></i>
Greg Kuperman	<b>Graduate Student News</b>
Yunna Sinskey <i><a href="mailto:gsc-ac@mit.edu">gsc-ac@mit.edu</a></i>	Sofia Vallila <i><a href="mailto:gsc-editor@mit.edu">gsc-editor@mit.edu</a></i>
<b>Association of Student Activities</b>	<b>Webmaster</b>
Rebecca Krentz-Wee <i><a href="mailto:gsc-asa@mit.edu">gsc-asa@mit.edu</a></i>	Ryan O'Toole <i><a href="mailto:gsc-webmaster@mit.edu">gsc-webmaster@mit.edu</a></i>
<b>Funding Board</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Zhao Chen <i><a href="mailto:gsc-treasurer@mit.edu">gsc-treasurer@mit.edu</a></i>	Imani Ivery
<b>Housing &amp; Community Affairs</b>	Spyridoula Kerasaridi <i><a href="mailto:gsc-admin@mit.edu">gsc-admin@mit.edu</a></i>
Javier Sanchez-Yamagishi	
Brian Spatocco <i><a href="mailto:gsc-hca@mit.edu">gsc-hca@mit.edu</a></i>	
<b>Muddy Charles Pub</b>	
David Keith <i><a href="mailto:gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu">gsc-muddy-chair@mit.edu</a></i>	

77 Massachusetts Avenue  
50 – 220  
Cambridge MA 02139 – 4307  
Phone: 617-253-2195  
*<http://gsc.mit.edu>*

# welcome to your new home



I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all of you at the beginning of this new chapter in your life, as a graduate student at MIT. We are delighted to have you as members of our vibrant community and look forward to joining you on this exciting journey.

As you will soon see, MIT is a remarkable institution like no other in the world. It is characterized by intensity, rigor, a diversity of cultures and ideas, and seemingly endless opportunities. Creativity and innovation are valued and embraced. The credo of MIT is “mens et manus” — i.e. mind and hand, which reflects deep foundational learning applied to practical application. Your graduate education at MIT will enable you to generate new, original knowledge that pushes the frontiers of your fields, to understand the meaning of this new knowledge in a broad global context, and to apply these concepts to practical solutions which address the most difficult problems of the world.

It is one of the most exhilarating times in history to be a graduate student and to be at MIT. MIT is driving extraordinary advances in areas such as sustainability, clean water and energy, transportation, infrastructure, healthcare, new materials development, manufacturing, as well as countless others, and graduate students are at the core of these efforts. When one considers the unique environment of MIT combined with the ongoing revolutionary progress in communication, instrumentation, and computation, it is clear that individual MIT graduate students

will be able to have a broad and, potentially, global impact.

Graduate school will, without a doubt, be a transformative experience for you. You will be challenged. You will be inspired. You will establish lifelong mentors and colleagues. Your life will take unexpected directions. You will make great discoveries. You will tap into and hone talents you may not even be aware you have. You will develop important transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, tenacity, and critical thinking.

I would encourage you to make use of the enormous set of opportunities available to you at MIT; international engagement, personal and professional development, mentoring, public service and outreach, interdisciplinary collaboration, entrepreneurship, leadership, seminars and workshops, networking, social and cultural activities. Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to faculty and staff. We are here to act as mentors, guides, teachers, and counselors to assist you in achieving your academic, personal, and professional goals.

I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming year and wish you all the best for your future career at MIT and beyond.

Sincerely,

*Christine Ortiz*

Christine Ortiz - Incoming Dean for Graduate Education

---

Dear fellow students,

As graduate student president, congratulations and welcome to MIT! I have no doubt that your experience at the Institute will be uniquely challenging, rigorous and ultimately, highly rewarding.

“Vibrating in place” is how many describe MIT’s campus, and I encourage you to contribute and to be an active part of this community. In addition to nurturing world-class research and phenomenal classroom teaching, MIT also encourages its students to reach out, get involved, and continually improve the Institute. You will be passionate about your research and classroom activities, and I urge you to complement this work by finding things you are passionate about in the student community. Join clubs or student groups, and get involved in the plethora of opportunity that is MIT. This way, the Institute will arm you with technical rigor and also with a set of diverse leadership and management skills. Our graduate community has produced leaders in every facet of modern society and this tradition continues today. Welcome to the team.

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is the single representative body of all graduate students at MIT, and the Council holds numerous opportunities for such development. For the past 57 years, the Council has provided a multitude of services to enhance graduate student research and student life at MIT. The GSC’s set of activities includes the design and execution of

the orientation you will soon participate in, the negotiation of student stipends with the administration, broad MIT policy development, professional development seminars, career services, organizing social activities and community building events, funding student groups, and organizing the Grad Rat ring for graduate students. This is only a subset of the things the Council does, and to find out more please do reach out to us. As you settle into MIT, you will notice that the work of this team of executive committee members, dozens of Council representatives, and hundreds of volunteers makes an impact in nearly every aspect of graduate student life. So, I extend an invitation to you to join the Council, to get your feet wet by signing up as a volunteer, or to jump right in and become a GSC representative. You can find out more about the Council at <http://gsc.mit.edu>. I also invite you to ask us many questions and to attend our monthly General Council Meetings. (GCM’s take place in room 50-220 on the first Wednesday of each month at 5pm.)

I wish you a fruitful and productive MIT experience. Good luck, and see you in August!

*Ulric J. Ferner*

Ulric Ferner - President  
Graduate Student Council



# welcomes from the institute



Dear Friends and Allies,

On behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Student Services at MIT (lbgt@MIT) and the graduate student group, Rainbow Coffeehouse, welcome to the MIT community! Whether you are straight, gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, questioning, or an ally, lbgt@mit Student Services are open to you.

The five MIT LBGT student groups, the LBGT alumni group, and the allies@mit group provide wonderful networking opportunities as well as political and social events each year for the entire community. A great way to start the year off is with a wonderful community leadership weekend retreat in Provincetown. All LBGT students and allies are welcome. You can also join in our monthly LBGT Issues Group meetings to learn more about LBGT-related issues at MIT and some ways to get involved. For more information you can find us online at: [web.mit.edu/lbgt](http://web.mit.edu/lbgt)

Please feel free to stop by the Rainbow Lounge in the Walker Building, 50-005, to say hello. We look forward to meeting you soon!

*Abigail Francis,*  
Director of LBGT Services

Dear Graduate Students,

The Office of Minority Education (OME) welcomes you to MIT! The OME is dedicated to promoting academic excellence, building strong communities, and developing professional mindsets among students of underrepresented minority groups, with the ultimate goal of developing leaders in the academy, industry, and society.

Although the OME focuses primarily on undergraduates, we also work very closely with graduate students. Graduate students facilitate our freshman academic workshops (Seminar XL); serve as tutors through our Tutorial Services Room (TSR); and mentor undergraduate students through OME professional development programs such as Laureates and Leaders, Pathway to Graduate School, Master Your Future, etc.

This vitally important partnership between our office and the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education helps to cultivate student interest in graduate school, and more importantly, it builds a mutually-beneficial network of support for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

I invite you to stop by the OME (Bldg. 4-113) to meet our staff. In addition, throughout the fall, we invite you to participate in our Friday Coffee/Social Hours and Thank Goodness Its Friday (TGIF) events. These events are corporate sponsored, and they are open to undergraduate and graduate students. I also encourage you to email Lorena Tovar (ltovar@mit.edu) in the OME. She will add you to the OME student listserv. You will receive the bi-weekly OME "Heads Up" E-newsletter which provides program and event updates, job opportunities, and other important information.

Again, welcome to MIT! Have a successful and productive academic year.

*DiOnetta Jones*  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education  
Director, Office of Minority Education

Dear Graduate Student Families,

Welcome to MIT! Balancing work and your personal relationships can be challenging at MIT, but there are many resources here to help you.

[spouses&partners@mit](mailto:spouses&partners@mit) is a support network for the wives, husbands, and partners of MIT students and staff. We can help spouses and partners build a social network and participate in MIT activities and in the larger community. We help newcomers from all over the world meet each other and create a fulfilling life here. For more information, visit: [web.mit.edu/spouses](http://web.mit.edu/spouses).

MIT FamilyNet is an online community designed for MIT families: those with or without children, married or partnered, and single parents. Members can network and share information via our searchable member database and forums on a variety of topics, including pregnancy, parenting and family life and settling into life at MIT. You can also find a list of MIT affiliated babysitters on FamilyNet. Join us and meet other families at <http://familynet.mit.edu>.

The MIT Center for Work Family and Personal Life is a wonderful resource for families. They provide consultations, seminars, a lending library, and materials in the areas of parenting, child care, school information, elders, and job flexibility.

During Orientation week, you can learn more about these resources at our social events and at our tent on the Kresge Oval during the Welcome Address on Thursday. Check the Orientation schedule for our events and other kid-friendly activities. We're looking forward to meeting you.

*Jennifer Recklet Tassi*  
Program Coordinator  
[spouses&partners@mit](mailto:spouses&partners@mit)

Dear International Students and Families,

Welcome to the United States and especially welcome to MIT! We are thrilled and honored to have you as part of our vibrant and diverse community. We have 109 countries represented at MIT, and over 38% of our graduate students are foreign nationals. So you are not alone!

During your first weeks at MIT, I urge you to attend as many of the Orientation activities as possible so that you can learn about your new home away from home. The staff in the International Students Office (ISO) is here to assist you in any way we can. Visit our website at: [web.mit.edu/iso](http://web.mit.edu/iso)

We look forward to meeting each and every one of you as you embark upon academic life in one of the most intellectually stimulating environments on the planet!

*Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook*  
Associate Dean and Director  
International Students Office

# 10 steps to becoming an MIT grad

## 1. get to MIT

MIT's address is 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139. For driving directions see: [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com)

### From Logan Airport:

1) Taxi (approximately \$30)  
2) GSC's airport shuttle (free) [web.mit.edu/gsc/www/firstyear/airport](http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/firstyear/airport).  
3) Boston public transportation (\$2.00) For information check [www.mbt.com](http://www.mbt.com). Take the Silver line to South Station. From South Station, take the red line to Kendall

## 2. move in

For information on MIT Graduate on and off campus housing see: [web.mit.edu/housing/grad](http://web.mit.edu/housing/grad)

These websites are also very helpful for finding a place to stay:

- 1) [boston.craigslist.org](http://boston.craigslist.org)
- 2) [rentmonkey.mit.edu](http://rentmonkey.mit.edu)
- 3) [web.mit.edu/reslife/fsilg](http://web.mit.edu/reslife/fsilg)

Many students live near the T stations: Kendall, Central, Porter and Davis

## 3. get a student id

Get your student id card at Card Services, Stratton Student Center, building W20. Try to get your card as soon as you arrive on campus.

Be sure to bring a valid picture id (driver's license, passport, etc.). For more information see: [web.mit.edu/mitcard/getcard.html](http://web.mit.edu/mitcard/getcard.html).

International students must also visit the International Student Office (5-133)

## 4. get connected

To register for an email address go to: [web.mit.edu/register](http://web.mit.edu/register)  
You can do this as soon as you have your MIT id number

To access some MIT websites you will need "certificates." To install these go to: [web.mit.edu/ist/topics/certificates](http://web.mit.edu/ist/topics/certificates)

For information on getting started, visit: [ist.mit.edu/getting\\_started/students](http://ist.mit.edu/getting_started/students)



## 5. stay healthy

Things can get hectic when you move. Don't forget to take care of yourself.

Stock up on groceries at Shaw's, Harvest, Star Market, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's or Market Basket.

Once you have your MIT id, sign up for your free gym membership. For information visit: [mitrecsports.com](http://mitrecsports.com)

## 6. get to know your campus

MIT offers free campus tours Monday - Friday at 11:00 and 3:00 pm.

Tours leave from lobby 7, located at 77 Mass Ave. Tours last 75 - 90 minutes. For information see: [web.mit.edu/infocenter/campustours.html](http://web.mit.edu/infocenter/campustours.html)

MIT also has a great online interactive map at: [whereis.mit.edu](http://whereis.mit.edu)

## 7. explore your community

Once the school year gets started, things get busy fast. Take some time to get to know Cambridge and Boston.

With your MIT id, you get free admission to most of the area's museums.

Duck tours are a great way to see the city: [www.bostonducktours.com](http://www.bostonducktours.com)  
Check out the orientation schedule for a list of organized events!

## 8. explore your department

You'll spend many hours in your department, so explore your building and try to introduce yourself to future administrators and advisors.

Find out about course requirements, classes and your advisor.

Your department may even be hosting an orientation of its own.

## 9. get oriented

There are numerous events during Orientation week scheduled to help you make friends, become familiar with MIT and have fun in Boston.

See pages 12 - 14 for a full schedule of events.

You can also visit our website for an updated list of events at: [gsc.mit.edu/orientation](http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation)

## 10. congratulations

You're extremely close to becoming an official MIT student! Keep reading for a few more tips and enjoy your time here!



# information to help you get settled

## health insurance

All full-time students are automatically enrolled in the Student Extended Health Insurance Plan. This insurance plan is generally paid for by teaching assistantships or fellowships. You can opt out by submitting a waiver to MIT medical. Note that Massachusetts law mandates that everyone have health insurance, so be sure you're covered before you opt out!

- For more information visit: [web.mit.edu/medical/p-student.html](http://web.mit.edu/medical/p-student.html)
- More information will be covered at the Orientation events "Graduate School 101" and "Graduate School 102"

## transportation

In Boston, the subway is called the "T." To get to MIT, you'll want to get off at the Kendall/MIT stop on the red line or you can take the number 1 bus to 77 Massachusetts Avenue. For information about the T, schedules and routes, go to [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com)

- MIT offers discounts for the T, free campus and evening shuttles, as well as limited parking. For all of your transportation questions, visit: [web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation](http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation)
- If you plan on driving a car, visit the Registry of Motor Vehicles : [www.mass.gov/rmv](http://www.mass.gov/rmv)
- For parking information around Cambridge: [www.cambridgema.gov/traffic](http://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic)

## banking

Students can get free bank accounts with MIT's Federal Credit Union or Bank of America, both of which have branches in the student center. ([www.mitfcu.org](http://www.mitfcu.org), [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com))

## grocery stores

- LaVerde's Market on-campus grocery and convenience store - Stratton Student Center, building W20
- Star Market - 20 Sidney Street (close to several graduate dorms)
- Harvest Coop - community market, 581 Mass Ave (for those looking for an organic option)
- Whole Foods Market - 340 River Street (also a variety of organic foods. Beautiful produce and delicious meats)
- Trader Joe's - 727 Memorial Drive (extremely affordable wine!)
- Market Basket - not within walking distance of MIT, but extremely inexpensive: 400 Somerville Ave
- Haymarket - for extremely cheap produce, visit this outdoor food market. Open Friday and Saturday only

## weather and clothing

Boston weather can be very unpredictable. Make sure to have a heavy coat and waterproof boots by the time the winter starts. You'll need them once December hits!

## shopping and dining

- CambridgeSide Galleria - A free shuttle leaves from the MIT/Kendall T stop every 20 minutes between 9 am and 7pm Monday - Saturday. In this mall, you can find department stores, computing stores and more
- Downtown Crossing - For shopping that's not in a mall setting
- Harvard Square - a great place for shopping, dining and going out. Just watch out for those Harvard students!
- The North End - Come here to satisfy your craving for Italian food

## activities

Your budget may be tight on that MIT stipend, but there are ways to visit the city for less! Visit [web.mit.edu/mitac/](http://web.mit.edu/mitac/) for a list of discounts available to MIT students.

## study friendly coffee shops

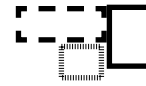
For those days when you don't want to study in the library or lab, try these great coffee shops:

- Andala - 286 Franklin Street
- Clear Conscience Cafe - 581 Mass ave
- Diesel Cafe - 257 Elm Street
- Cafe Luna - 403 Mass Ave
- Toscanini's - 899 Main Street

## information for international students

Visit the International Student's Office (ISO) for all issues related to visas and immigration. The ISO is located in 5-133. Come here to receive clearance to get your MIT id card, use MIT facilities and register for classes. Be sure to bring your passport, I-94 card and I-20 or DS-2019 form. You may also need to take an English Evaluation Test (EET)

For more information visit: [web.mit.edu/iso](http://web.mit.edu/iso)



## ***Adjusting to the new home*** - by Shan Jiang (China)

You are most of the way through the long process of applying to schools, waiting for admission letters, getting a visa, securing housing, booking air tickets, figuring out what to squeeze into your limited luggage allowance, and finally arriving in the Boston area. Congratulations on accomplishing all these tasks, and welcome to MIT, one of the most vibrant, diverse, exhilarating and challenging academic communities on the planet!

Upon arrival, you should check in with the International Student Office (ISO). From there you will start the process of applying for the IDs that you will need for your new life here at MIT and in Massachusetts. The ISO is always the right place to visit if you have any issues around your student status, work permission, and even for inviting family members. If you plan to temporarily leave the U.S., remember to make sure that your papers are in order.

If you have been assigned on-campus housing, congratulations. In most cases, useful materials – including guides, maps, and event calendars - will be dis-

tributed to your room. If you don't see them, feel free to ask your housemaster - a senior faculty member or administrator living in your building. For new students, housemasters are caring guides. They will give you effective advice to help you through academic, residential, and medical problems. They also support student residential officers and hall councils as they organize events, including brunches, ice-cream socials and BBQs, to build strong and connected communities. You will start to develop lasting friendships with your neighbors via these events and will soon feel like part of a big family.

If you live off campus, don't worry, you will also have plenty of opportunities to experience the care MIT offers. For example, there is the Margaret Cheney Room, a lounge with a kitchen, living room and study area for female students. A wealth of events and resources, from free Symphony tickets to subsidized transit passes, are available via various student groups and university departments.

Are you ready for MIT? Just open your heart and free your mind, an exciting life is waiting for you!

---

## ***Dragging the family around the world*** - by Todd Schenk (Canada via Hungary)

It takes courage to get off a plane in a foreign city and start a new life. The rewards can, however, be outstanding. As an international student at MIT you are also not alone; more than a third of graduate students are foreign, coming from almost 100 different countries.

My wife, one-year-old son and I started our MIT adventure back in August 2007 after a long flight from Budapest. We did not know what was ahead of us – Would I succeed in school? Would my wife find a job? Would our son develop a thick Boston accent?

Finding a place to live was our first priority. This was a bit more difficult than expected, but we ultimately found a great place that we called home for the next two years. If you plan to live off campus, good places to start are Housing's website ([housing.mit.edu](http://housing.mit.edu)), our own Rent Monkey ([rentmonkey.mit.edu](http://rentmonkey.mit.edu)) and Craigslist ([boston.craigslist.org](http://boston.craigslist.org)).

The immigration process is not over once you arrive.

Take the International Student Office's directions seriously and stay on top of your paperwork. Clarify your work conditions, file your taxes, and stay within the law. The ISO is there to help you with this, and is a great source for information.

Arriving with a family brings its own challenges. Child-care in the area is not cheap and the waitlist at MIT is long. My advice is to get on the MIT list and check out the other options available via the Center for Work, Family & Personal Life (<http://hrweb.mit.edu/worklife/>). Another great resource is Spouses & Partners @ MIT, especially if your partner is not immediately studying or working (<http://web.mit.edu/spouses/>).

Finally, relax. You will be in a new place so take advantage of it. Take in a range of events during orientation and beyond. Join a club. Hear a famous speaker. Take a bus to New York. Watch the leaves explode with color in the fall. We are all here to study and research, but that need not consume our lives – make the most of this time and place socially and intellectually.



# internationals: make Boston home

Whether you are from a foreign country or from across the United States, coming to Boston can be a big change. For some new American friends this is a big place, but for some international friends, it seems like a very small town.

A friend of mine came to Boston from China as a medical doctor and added a PhD to his MD. He said he had no huge cultural differences to negotiate upon his arrival in the U.S. This is hard for me to believe. Many international grad students who arrive at MIT are probably like my friend, Wei. They would not readily admit to suffering from some type of cultural confusion, but if pressed, they quickly come up with several things they miss about home or a list of things they might like to change about the culture here.

Most people do in fact go through some stages of adjustment when they enter a new culture. Whether you are coming from Tokyo, or from the middle of Montana, you are probably going to experience at least some of the following stages of cultural adjustment. Most people arrive in the TOURIST phase, where everything new is exciting and wonderful. Some call this a time of arrival fascination. After a few months comes a time of FRUSTRATION, when there is some lack of understanding, not fitting in, or other negative feelings. Everyone does not experience terrible loneliness and disorientation, but many people experience some period of time when they become more critical and judgmental toward the new culture. This is normal. Finally over time, people arrive at a time of UNDERSTANDING, when the new culture is able to be better seen and accepted for its positive and negative points.

Over the last twenty years, I have had the privilege of working in some capacity with international students. For thousands of international graduate students, there are two main needs that continue to be expressed: 1) Language help and 2) Friendship. Recently, an international grad student shared with me the challenges of making friends with 'Americans' even after four years here at MIT. Many 'Americans' still need to grow in our ability to be hospitable to our new neighbors from around the world.



So, what do you do to squeeze yourself into this new and strange culture of MIT, Boston/Cambridge or the USA? First, remember who you are. Do not try to be something different, but instead educate those around you about your culture and way of life. Second, be patient with others and with yourself. Perhaps an area of great challenge will be your communication with faculty/staff or other students. Take your time in verbal conversation. Work quickly to gain confidence in English and practice all the time. Consider finding a roommate from the U.S. rather than your home country. This is a good idea even if you do not struggle in spoken English. Third, be intentional about reaching out to get to know others. Unfortunately, many here do not have the same gifts for hospitality as you may find in your own family or culture. But give us a

chance. Make a link with those at MIT who are here to help you get used to a new place. Find a group of people to be supportive of you.

This is why I started free English and culture classes for internationals at MIT. Since 1990, my office has sponsored these classes for international

students, scholars and spouses at MIT. If this is something you could benefit from come to Building W11 on Thursday, Sept 9th. (see orientation schedule), write to me at [mdean@mit](mailto:mdean@mit), or go to <http://web.mit.edu/bcm/www> and click 'Internationals' to see about our free Thursday English classes and international potluck dinners. You can make friends and practice English all at once. Of course, others offer programs as well including Spouses & Partners, and the MIT Women's League. So, be sure to find where you can make an investment and reap some rewards as well. While MIT is a wonderful place, many here still need your help to enlarge our true understanding of the world. Thanks for joining us here as you make MIT your home.

Finally, do not hesitate to share your culture and your lives with your hosts or others you meet while in Cambridge. You have much to teach us as well.

By Michael Dean, Chair, MIT Board of Chaplains

# getting around MIT

by Sofia Vallila

As you probably already know, at MIT we refer to buildings by number rather than by name. The numbering system may seem random to you, but believe it or not, there's an order to the madness. I can't guarantee that you'll understand it (I still get lost going to building 3), but it's comforting to know that the numbers are rooted in some logic. Here are some tips I found on MIT's library archive site:

**The Original 10:** Buildings 1-10 were the first buildings built on Cambridge's main campus.

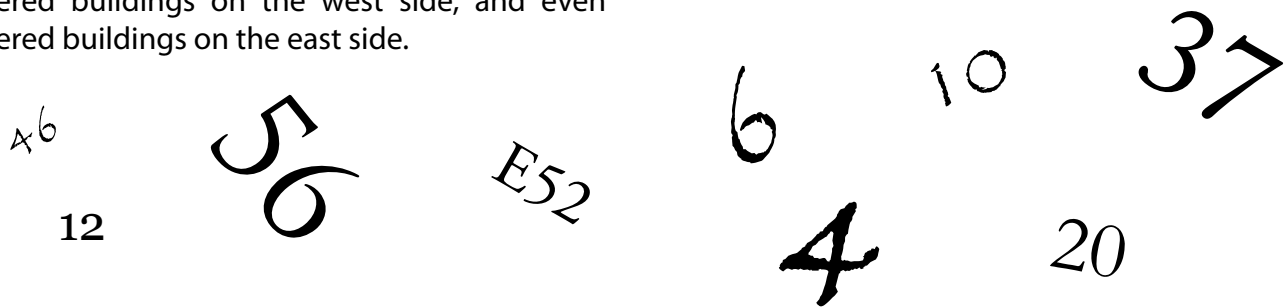
Buildings 1-8 are symmetrically arranged around building 10 (home of the Great Dome), with odd numbered buildings on the west side, and even numbered buildings on the east side.

**East Campus:** "the 6s" . Buildings ending with the digit 6, connect on the east side of campus (6,16,26,36,56,66).

Buildings East of Ames street are prefixed with an E (E52).

**Vassar Street:** "the 30s" Buildings in the 30s run along Vassar street on the north side of main campus.

**West Campus:** Buildings west of Mass Ave generally start with a W (W20).



# the grad rat

by Ahmed Helal

MIT's graduate class ring is the most recognized ring around the world. Following the infamous Brass Rat, it embodies the collective, life-changing experiences and the unique graduate culture that we encounter at MIT.

Come learn all about the GradRat at the GradRat Social on Wed, Sept. 15th

For more info, visit [www.gsc.mit.edu/ring](http://www.gsc.mit.edu/ring)

The Bezel represents the journey the graduate student takes at MIT.

Night time littered with coffee & books for the all-nighters we endure



Sunrise symbolizing graduation and bright careers

Billboard blocking the path to graduation representing the last set of data before moving on. It outlines the word "MIT" & represents the ups and downs of the graduate experience.

"Greater than 72" representing the 72 MIT Nobel prizes by MIT community. The "7" & "2" double helix structure & the tiny flames show MIT's growing involvement in biology-related & energy-related research.

The tipped over hourglass under its tail represents the lack of free time and the unknown time to graduation. It also looks like an infinity symbol representing the Infinite Corridor.

The Beaver is confidently holding its degree, sitting on a bed of branches forming the famous letters "IHTEFP". The letter G represents the registrar's designation for graduate students.

# greetings from your orientation chairs



**Kuang Xu** is a second-year PhD student in the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), with a focus on applying the theory of probability and stochastic processes to resource allocation and performance evaluation problems in networks. Before coming to MIT, he spent eighteen years in the ancient city (built 2000+ years back) of Suzhou, China, and four years in the lovely town of Urbana, Illinois (and the cornfields surrounding it) during his undergraduate study at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

In his spare time, Kuang dances with the MIT Ballroom Dance Team (MITBDT) as an International Latin dancer and competes in various collegiate competitions on the east coast. He is also actively involved with the GSC Legislative Action Subcommittee, which works with congressional leaders to implement policies that will positively impact the graduate student body at MIT, the research community, as well as the general public.



**Aalap Dighe** is a second-year PhD-track student in the department of Mechanical Engineering. His research focuses on microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) design and fabrication.

Aalap grew up in Mumbai, India. After finishing high school, he moved to West Lafayette, Indiana to pursue undergraduate studies at Purdue University, where he majored in mechanical engineering and minored in economics.

When he is not in lab or replying to GSC-related emails, Aalap enjoys running, lifting, outdoor sports and cooking.

---

We've prepared a variety of events to **orient** you to your new campus and meet new **friends**. Most of these events fit into four broad **themes**. Turn to pages 12 - 14 for the full schedule of referenced events.

**1. introduction** to the institution

This is the core of orientation. Wondering what a course number is, or why most buildings have no names? Events such as the Grad School 101 and 102 Information Sessions will help you answer these and many more questions, while getting you acquainted with the resources available for a successful transition to life at MIT.  
*Events: 4,5,8,10-12,15,16,18,20,21,26-28,30,41,53*

**2. getting to know the MIT community**

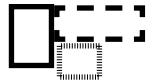
While the number of years you will spend as an MIT graduate student is finite (hopefully), it is the friendships you strike up here that will last a life time. We have prepared for you a wealth of activities to get you immersed in the MIT and surrounding community. Events in this category are of great variety, ranging from dorm/inter-collegiate parties, to social mixers, to gatherings for families.  
*Events: 1,6,9,13,14,17,18,22-25,29-34,36,37,39,42,43,46,47,49,54,57-60*

**3. exploring greater boston**

Moving to a new city can seem daunting at first. Events such as the Duck Tour, Hiking Trip to the White Mountains, and Cambridge Pub Crawl are designed to help you find your way around Cambridge, Boston and New England.  
*Events: 19,25,35,38,48,50,58,60*

**4. international development**

This is a place to embark on a journey that starts during Orientation but continues to grow as a part of your MIT experience. As part of an initiative-oriented theme, the international development events will demonstrate to you how MIT students and organizations have been addressing societal challenges in developing countries with technology and innovation, and more importantly, how you can get involved.  
*Events: 45,56*



# MIT graduate orientation

Run by GSC Orientation Chairs Aalap Dighe & Kuang Xu

The schedule is current as of July 4, 2010. See our website for the most recent updates.

<http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation> Email: [gsc-oc@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-oc@mit.edu)

## Sunday, August 29

- 12-2PM <sup>1</sup>Ashdown Brunch [Ashdown House, NW35] \*+
- 5-11PM <sup>2</sup>Thirsty Ear BBQ [Thirsty Ear Pub/Ashdown House, NW35] \* #

## Monday, August 30

- 9-10AM <sup>3</sup>Continental Breakfast [26-100]
- 10AM-12PM <sup>4</sup>Grad School 101 (GS 101) Information Sessions [26-100]
- 12-1PM Lunch [26-100]
- 1-4PM GS 101 Information Sessions
- 4-6PM <sup>5</sup>Campus Police Safety Walking Tour [Departs from Killian Court]\*
- 8PM-12AM <sup>6</sup>Thirsty Ear Trivia Night [Thirsty Ear Pub, NW35] \* #

## Tuesday, August 31

- 9AM-12PM <sup>7</sup>English Evaluation Test [10-250]
- 10AM-6PM <sup>8</sup>Information Booth [Lobby 10]
- 10AM-12PM <sup>9</sup>Coffee Hour for Spouses & Partners of Grad Students [20 Chimneys, W20] \*+
- 10-11AM <sup>10</sup>GS 102 Information Sessions [34-101]
- 11AM <sup>11</sup>Campus Walking Tour [Meet 34-101]\*
- 12PM Campus Walking Tour [Departs from Lobby 10] \*
- 12-1:30PM <sup>12</sup>Intro to Campus Police (Welcome Lunch) [Mezzanine, W20]
- 1:30-4PM Grad School 102 (GS 102) information sessions [34-101]
- 6-9PM <sup>13</sup>Sidney-Pacific BBQ [Sidney-Pacific, NW86] \*#
- 9-11PM <sup>14</sup>Sidney-Pacific Movie Screening [Sidney-Pacific, NW86] \*

## Wednesday, September 1

- 10AM-5PM <sup>15</sup>Information Booth [Lobby 10]
- 11AM&1:30PM <sup>16</sup>Campus Walking Tour [Departs from Lobby 10] \*
- 3-5PM <sup>17</sup>Coffee Hour for Spouses & Partners of Grad Students [20 Chimneys, W20] \*+
- 5PM-7PM <sup>18</sup>Welcome Reception Under the Dome [10-500]!
- 7-9PM <sup>19</sup>Prudential Skywalk & Ice Cream [Departs Sidney Pacific & 77 Massachusetts Avenue] !\*+

## Thursday, September 2

- 12-1PM <sup>20</sup>Graduate Welcome Address [Kresge Auditorium]
- 12-1PM Spouses/Partners/Families Welcome Area [Kresge Oval] \*+
- 1-2:30PM Graduate Welcome Lunch [Kresge Oval] \*+
- 12-2PM <sup>21</sup>Meet the Chaplains [Kresge Oval] \*+
- 6-9PM <sup>22</sup>Welcome Banquet [Morss Hall, 50] \*
- 8PM-12AM <sup>23</sup>Karaoke Night [Thirsty Ear Pub, NW35]\*#
- 8PM onwards <sup>24</sup>Bowling at Jillian's [Location TBD] #

## Friday, September 3

- 9:30AM-2PM <sup>25</sup>Apple-Picking Trip [Departs Sidney Pacific, NW86] !\*+
- 1:30-4:30PM <sup>26</sup>Health, Wellness & Community Fair [Kresge Oval] \*+
- 4-6PM <sup>27</sup>Lemelson-MIT Program Reception [10-105 (Bush Room)] \* #
- 4-6:30PM <sup>28</sup>Activities Midway [Johnson Athletics Center]
- 9PM-1AM <sup>29</sup>MIT-Harvard Orientation Party [Ashdown House, NW35] \*#

## Saturday, September 4

- 9AM-1PM <sup>30</sup>MIT Families 101 [Location TBD]\*+
- 2-4PM <sup>31</sup>Westgate Welcome BBQ [Westgate, W85] \*+
- 3-9PM <sup>32</sup>Orientation Olympics [Johnson Athletics Center, W34] \*

## Sunday, September 5

- 12-2PM <sup>33</sup>Sidney Pacific Brunch [SP Multi-Purpose Room, NW86] \*+
- 5PM <sup>34</sup>Pre-Cruise Meeting [MIT COOP, Kendall] !\*#
- 6-9:30PM Boston Harbor Cruise Party [168 Seaport Blvd, Boston] !\* #

## Monday, September 6 - Labor Day (Holiday)

- 2-4PM <sup>35</sup>Boston Duck Tours (Bus Tour) [Departs Ashdown/SP]!\*+
- 8-9PM <sup>36</sup>Seven Deserts Dessert Night [Ashdown House, NW35] \*

## Tuesday, September 7 - Registration Day

- 6-8PM <sup>37</sup>LGBT Welcome [50-005 (Rainbow Lounge)]\*
- 8PM-onward <sup>38</sup>Cambridge Pub Crawl [Departs from Thirsty Ear Pub, NW35] \* #

# schedule 2010



Orientation Committee C/o Graduate Student Council  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Room 50 - 220  
 142 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139

## Wednesday, September 8 – Classes Begin

- 2-3:30PM <sup>39</sup>Ice Cream Social for International Graduate Student Spouses [W11 Main Dining Room] \*+
- 4-6PM <sup>40</sup>Student Art Association Open House [W20-429] \*
- 5:30-7PM <sup>41</sup>Introduction to Graduate Student Council & 1st General Council Meeting (GCM) [Morss Hall, 50] \*
- 7-9PM <sup>42</sup>Graduate Women's Welcome Reception [R&D Pub, 32]
- 9-10PM <sup>43</sup>Sidney Pacific Special Coffee Hour [Sidney Pacific, NW86] \*

## Thursday, September 9

- 1:15-2:30PM <sup>44</sup>Free Conversational English Class [W11 Main Dining Room] \*
- 4-6PM <sup>45</sup>International Development Theme Event [1-190]
- 6PM-onward <sup>46</sup>LGBT Orientation Dinner [Departs 50-005 (Rainbow Lounge)]

## Friday, September 10

- 9PM-1AM <sup>47</sup>Sidney-Pacific Orientation Dance Party [Sidney-Pacific, NW86]\*#

## Saturday, September 11

- 8:30-9AM <sup>48</sup>Graduate Student Volunteer Day (GSVD) Breakfast & Introduction [W20 Lobby] \*
- 9AM-2PM Graduate Student Volunteer Day [Various Locations] \*
- 2-4PM GSVD Appreciation BBQ [Kresge Pits] \*
- 6-9PM <sup>49</sup>International Dance Festival/Mentorship Mixer [W20] \*

## Sunday, September 12

- 7:30AM-10PM <sup>50</sup>Hiking Trip in the White Mountains [Departs Ashdown House, NW35] !\*

## Tuesday, September 14

- 5-7PM <sup>51</sup>Student Loan Art Lottery Reception [List Visual Arts Center, E15 Upper Atrium] \*
- 5-7PM <sup>52</sup>Grad Arts Explosion [List Visual Arts Center, E15 Lower Atrium] \*

## Wednesday, September 15

- 5-7PM <sup>53</sup>Grad Rat Social [Location TBD] \*
- 8-10PM <sup>54</sup>Free Wings Night [Muddy Charles Pub, 50] \* #

## Thursday, September 16

- 1:15-2:30PM <sup>55</sup>Free Conversational English Class [W11 Main Dining Room] \*
- 4-8PM <sup>56</sup>International Development Theme Event [1-190] \*

## Friday, September 17

- 9PM-1AM <sup>57</sup>Edgerton Orientation Party [Edgerton House, NW10] \*#

## Saturday, September 18

- 10AM-3PM <sup>58</sup>Family Picnic to Walden Pond [Location TBD] !\*+

## Sunday, September 19

- 1PM <sup>59</sup>Eastgate BBQ [Eastgate Lawn] \*+

## Thursday, September 23

- 9PM-2AM <sup>60</sup>BU-MIT Joint University Party [Tequila Rain, 145 Ipswich St, Boston] \* #

TBD To Be Determined  
 ! Pick up tickets at the Information Booth Aug 31& Sept1. Beginning Sept 2, tickets still available can be picked up at the GSC office (50-220).  
 \* Spouses & partners are welcome  
 + Child-friendly event  
 # Bring a valid photo ID

<http://gsc.mit.edu/orientation>



9:30AM-2PM	<sup>25</sup> Apple-Picking Trip [Departs Sidney Pacific, NW86] !*+			
Time	Index	Event Name	Location	Features

# orientation event descriptions



## **Activities Midway**

If you like to knit, fight medieval-style or just hack for fun, and do it in groups, this is your thing.

## **Apple Picking**

An amazing outing to a local orchard where you'll find a variety of apples, pears, peaches and berries in a beautiful New England setting.

## **Boston Duck Tours**

Is it a bus? Is it a boat? Explore Boston on land and on sea with this unique city tour.

## **Boston Harbor Cruise Party**

Enjoy a breezy fall evening around Boston Harbor dancing and mingling under the moon and stars with your new friends and the best DJ music.

## **BU-MIT Joint University Party**

Come and party with friends from Boston University, just across the river!

## **Cambridge Pub Crawl**

Explore the local Cambridge nightlife with new and senior grad students.

## **Campus Police Safety Walking Tour**

Long hours are common here. Come and learn the best routes for going home late at night.

## **Eastgate BBQ**

Come hang out with the friendly family folk at Eastgate and enjoy oodles of barbecued gourmet goodies.

## **Edgerton Orientation Party**

MIT's Doc Edgerton was known for "stopping time" with his amazing strobe photography. Join us in celebrating his feats with a strobe light party.

## **Family Picnic to Walden Pond**

Enjoy the beautiful view and learn about Massachusetts with your family!

## **Grad School 101/102**

A series of panels and presentations that will introduce you to life as a graduate student at MIT.

## **Grad Rat Social**

Come learn about the MIT graduate class ring while enjoying delicious food.

## **Graduate Student Volunteer Day**

Meet new friends and have fun doing community service. Reward your hard work at the Appreciation BBQ.

## **Graduate Welcome Address**

The official address to incoming graduate students to MIT, where you will be welcomed by President Susan Hockfield and special keynote speakers.

## **Graduate Women's Welcome Reception**

Meet current and incoming graduate women over drinks and appetizers at MIT's R&D Pub.

## **Health, Wellness & Community Fair**

Get information about health and support groups on campus.

## **Hiking Trip in the White Mountains**

Explore the spectacular New Hampshire wilderness with a small group of your new classmates. Bus and hike leaders provided for a range of difficulty levels.

## **Information Booth**

Visit our Information Booth to pick up your goodie bag! Also purchase tickets to GSC Orientation events.

## **Introduction to the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and 1st General Council Meeting**

Get involved in student governance. Come to the GSC Meeting and learn about what the GSC does.

## **International Development Theme Event**

Make your own contributions to anti-poverty programs at MIT.

## **International Dance Festival / Mentorship Mixer**

Meet international students, both current and incoming, while enjoying food and performances from a variety of cultures!

## **LBGT Welcome**

An official welcome by one of the five MIT Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgender student groups. Allies welcome.

## **Lemelson-MIT Program Reception**

Come here to learn more about the program, the awards and prizes, and to meet with past winners and finalists.

## **MIT-Harvard Orientation Party**

Meet new and old students over free food, a variety of dance floors, and drinks from the Thirsty Ear in this huge dance party brought to you by MIT and Harvard.

## **MIT Families 101**

Student, faculty and staff families: if you want help on where to shop, finding the best parks, museums, libraries, pediatricians, childcare options, etc., please join us for a fun day (food, a petting zoo, face painters and more) filled with expert information on the best ways to navigate life as an MIT family.

## **Muddy Charles Free Wings Night**

Every Wednesday during the year, come to the Muddy Charles Pub for free chicken wings and cheap drinks!

## **Orientation Olympics**

An afternoon of fun and sports! Participants will be teamed by region or country to battle in a variety of activities. Open to all graduate students!

## **Prudential Skywalk & Ice Cream**

See Boston from the top of the Prudential Center and have some ice cream. No bungee jumps allowed.

## **Sidney-Pacific Dance Party**

It's time for the wildest event in town. Don't miss Sid-Pac's annual Summer Dance Party.

## **Spouses/Partners/Families Welcome Area**

Social event for students' families while students participate in the Welcome Address.

## **Thirsty Ear BBQ**

Enjoy a delicious BBQ in the Ashdown courtyard. Drinks available at the Thirsty Ear Pub.

## **Welcome Banquet**

A fabulous feast complete with drinks and music, in Walker Memorial.

## **Welcome Reception under the Dome**

Enjoy food and drinks at our classic mixer under the MIT Dome

## **Westgate Welcome BBQ**

You and your family are invited for a fun day in the Westgate courtyard. This is a great opportunity to meet other students and their families over hot dogs, burgers and vegetables and fun activities like face painters, balloon artists and more.

# graduate women at MIT (GWAMIT)

**Who we are.** Graduate Women at MIT (GWAMIT) is a student-led, institute-wide group affiliated with the GSC. We launched this past spring with a week of events including panels and workshops on negotiation, collaboration, and life-work balance. A graduate man said of our keynote on implicit bias, "Anyone considering doing a startup should know this."



**Fall plans.** During the first week of school, in collaboration with the Graduate Student Council, we will be hosting a celebratory welcome reception for women to network, rejuvenate, and learn about campus resources. This fall, there will be a GWAMIT Leadership Conference that will provide practical negotiation and leadership skills. GWAMIT is also

launching our Mentoring Program for matching graduate women with successful women in academia and industry.

**Get involved.** We would love to have you join us in any way. You can:

- Join our mailing list (<http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/gwamit>) to get our weekly digest.
- Attend our events!
- Become a Departmental Representative to help advertise our events.
- Join one of our planning committees!

**Learn more.** <http://gsc.mit.edu/gwamit>



## Welcome Reception

### Take a break with us!

**When:**

Wed, Sept 8, 7 - 9 pm

**Where:**

R&D Pub (Stata, 4th Floor)

Light appetizers and drinks will be provided.

## sustainability at MIT

by Todd Schenk

A woman walks out of a lab and tosses a soda can into the trash without a thought. A man elsewhere on campus leaves the office after a long day and jumps into his truck for the commute home. Her lab is on the cutting edge of cancer research, finding innovative ways to solve one of modern society's biggest problems. His research group is testing new ways to evaluate social programs, ultimately leading to more effective and efficient interventions.

Both are engaged in profoundly important work that is truly changing the world. What, then, is wrong with this picture?

Drinking from the fire hose, as the old MIT adage goes, can be an intense experience. It is easy to get so immersed in the important work around us that we forget that we are also individuals with comprehensive commitments to not only present but also future generations. Answering society's 'big questions' and solving important problems in the lab is very important work, but it is not enough. We each can - and must - do our part in small ways in our lives to ensure that our environment can sustain us in the future.

What does this mean in practice? Well, the good news is that it does not have to be complicated. MIT has a plethora

of options that can help students live more sustainable lives.

Most coffee shops give discounts for reusable mugs - so bring yours along. The campus is easily accessible via public transit, bicycle lanes and on foot from many locations - so a car is not necessary. Printing may be free, but that does not mean that we need to go through forests each semester - reading electronically and printing double-sided are two ways in which we can save paper. Landlords may have few incentives to be efficient, but you will as a tenant paying utilities - encourage them to help you save money, and the environment, by investing in retrofits. MIT has, not only recycling, but also composting receptacles in many locations - take a moment to understand which bin is which rather than tossing ignorantly. Cambridge has invested millions in a world-class water system - there is no need to buy bottled water when such a great resource is freely available.

These are just some of the small steps that each of us can take as students to make a difference. Individually, they may not be profoundly transformative. Collectively they are, however, key to a sustainable future.

**A****B****C**

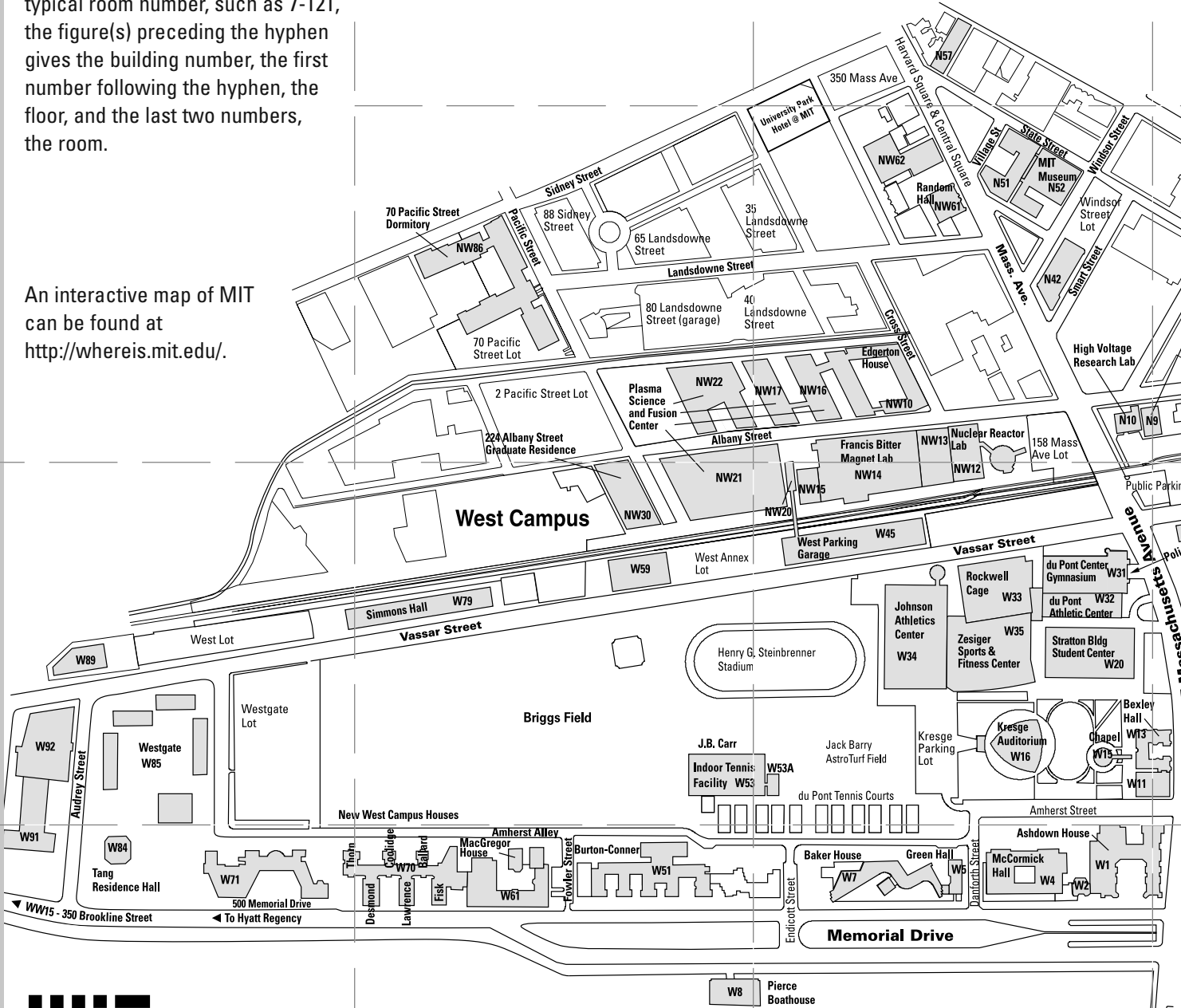
# MIT Campus Map

## Welcome to MIT

All MIT buildings are designated by numbers. Under this numbering system, a single room number serves to completely identify any location on the campus. In a typical room number, such as 7-121, the figure(s) preceding the hyphen gives the building number, the first number following the hyphen, the floor, and the last two numbers, the room.

**1****2**

An interactive map of MIT can be found at <http://whereis.mit.edu/>.

**3****4**

Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology

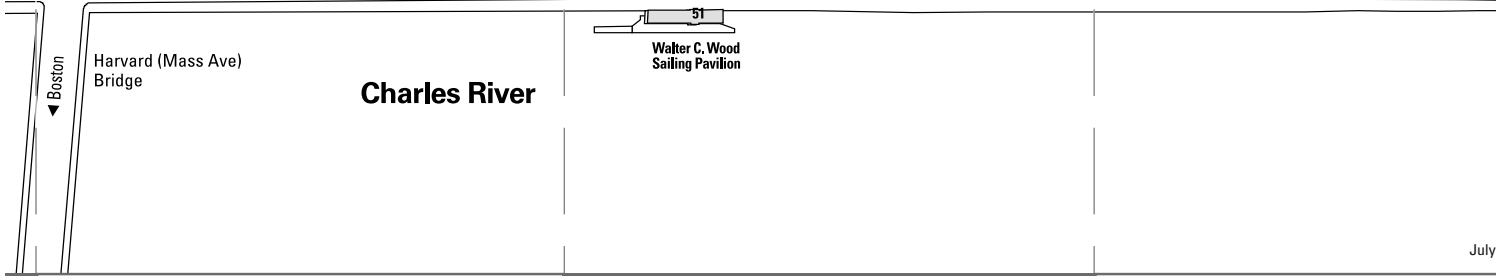
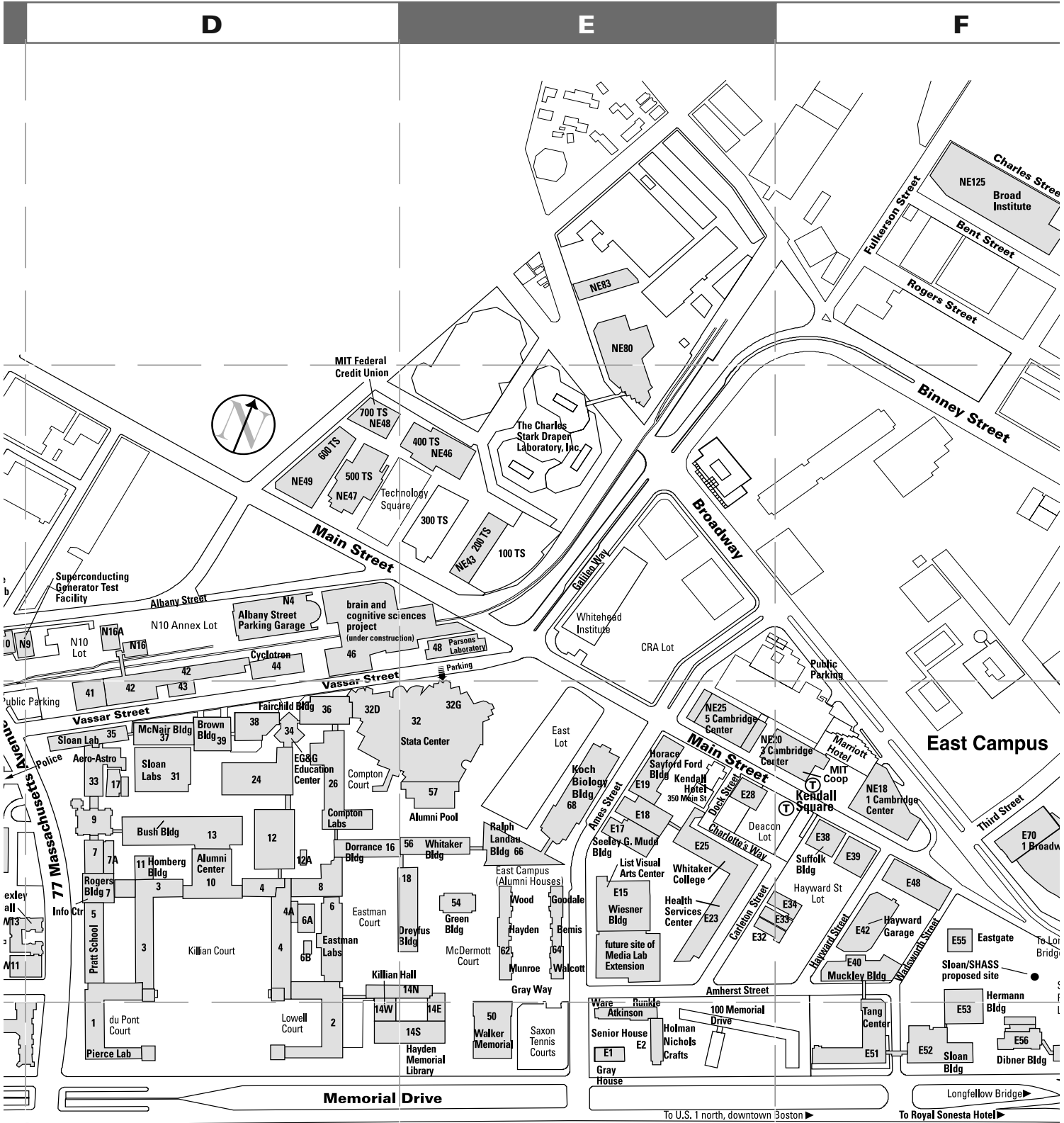
**A****B****C**



D

E

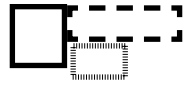
F



D

E

F



source: web.mit.edu/facts

### MIT mission statement

**The mission of MIT is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century.**

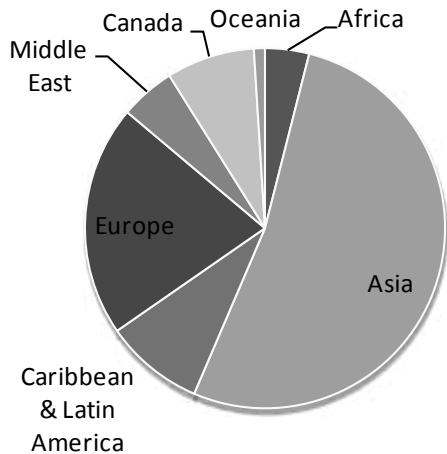
*The Institute is committed to generating, disseminating, and preserving knowledge, and to working with others to bring this knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges. MIT is dedicated to providing its students with an education that combines rigorous academic study and the excitement of discovery with the support and intellectual stimulation of a diverse campus community. We seek to develop in each member of the MIT community the ability and passion to work wisely, creatively, and effectively for the betterment of humankind.*

### admission

In 2009, 19,446 candidates applied for graduate study. Of the 2,991 candidates who received offers of admission, 1,880, or 63 percent, registered in advanced degree programs at MIT.

During academic year 2008–2009, MIT hosted 1,944 international scholars from 95 countries.

International students at MIT



### faculty and staff

Seventy-three present and former members of the MIT community have won the Nobel Prize, including eight current faculty members. Thirty-three current and former members of the MIT faculty have received the National Medal of Science. Three former members of the MIT faculty have been awarded the Kyoto Prize.

Seven current and former members of the MIT faculty and staff have been awarded the Japan Prize.

There are 78 Guggenheim Fellows, six Fulbright Scholars, and 21 MacArthur Fellows among current MIT faculty and staff.

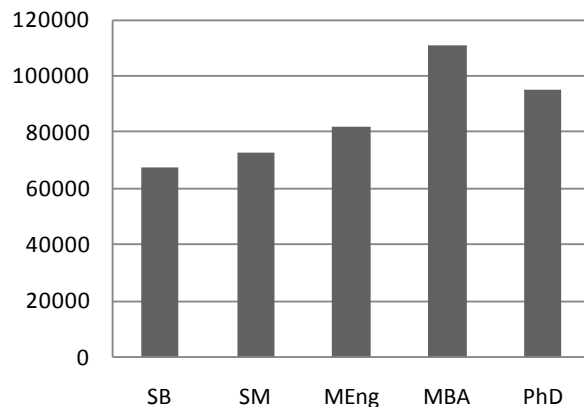
### research

MIT's commitment to marrying education with the creation of knowledge provides a fertile setting for research that has spawned a host of scientific breakthroughs and technological advances. Past achievements include the creation of modern food preservation processes, the first chemical synthesis of penicillin and vitamin A, the development of inertial guidance systems, modern technologies for artificial limbs, high-speed photography, and the magnetic core memory that made possible the development of digital computers.

### MIT press

One of the largest and most distinguished university presses in the world, the MIT Press is known for quality, innovation, and distinctive design. The Press publishes in diverse fields including art and architecture; cognitive science; computer science; economics; environmental studies; neuroscience; new media; and science, technology, and society. It publishes journals, scholarly monographs, trade books, textbooks, and reference works, in a variety of print and electronic formats, with authors are drawn from throughout the global academic community. The MIT Press is especially noted for its work in emerging fields of scholarship, for its strong international distribution, and for pioneering projects such as CogNet, the electronic community of cognitive science.

Average salaries earned by MIT graduates entering industry positions





The **Academic, Research and Careers Committee (ARC) of the GSC** undertakes several initiatives to address issues related to student advocacy, academic and professional development of graduate students.

Some of the key programs and initiatives under ARC for the following year are:

### travel grants

Conference visits are extremely important in the tenure of a graduate student. The GSC Travel Grant program provides opportunity for conference travel to students by providing partial or full monetary support when their funding is limited.

### advising initiative

This project aims to develop a quantitative understanding of the advisor-advisee relationship at MIT. We currently have specific recommendations that address the core graduate advising issues. Further plans involve dialogue with the administration to discuss the results and also implementation of these recommendations.

### dissertation boot camp

The boot camps are organized three times a year and provide terminal graduate students with a quiet and focused environment, free food, stretching exercises and writing tips to support them in writing their thesis.

### professional development series

Panel discussions and talks to educate graduate students about job preparation and life in industry.

### academic career series

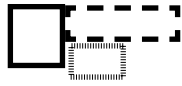
Seminars and panel discussions on academic job search and choices related to industry vs. academic jobs.

For more information please visit our website: <http://gsc.mit.edu/index.php/arc>



### libraries

The MIT Libraries support the Institute's programs of research and study with holdings of more than 2.9 million print volumes and 3.1 million additional items, including microforms, maps, images, musical scores, manuscripts, recordings, and electronic resources. The library system also incorporates the Institute Archives and Special Collections, containing many of MIT's founding documents, technical reports, and personal papers of noted faculty members.



Being a grad student isn't all about doing research in the lab, writing reports, and solving homework problems. MIT students are students who excel, and they don't only do so in the lab or in the classroom.

Recognizing this, the MIT community offers a plethora of choices for procrastination, relaxation, and just plain fun. With over 450 recognized activities and organizations, there's something for everyone. Student activities are a great place to meet people, practice old skills and learn new ones, have fun, and give back to the community.

For information on MIT student groups, visit:  
<http://web.mit.edu/asa/welcome>

You'll learn about current MIT groups, opportunities for collaboration and even information on how to start your own group.



## student government

Don't worry, by government we don't mean stodgy old people wearing wigs and debating the finer points of domestic trade policies. At MIT, student governments come in many forms. At the more local levels, there are student groups in almost every academic department on campus (e.g. the Sloan Senate, Graduate Association of Mechanical Engineers) as well as governments in each graduate dorm. Unifying all of these governments is the Graduate Student Council (GSC), which has representatives from every department and dorm. The GSC has several standing committees, such as Academic, Research, and Careers (ARC); Housing and Community Affairs (HCA); Orientation; and Activities (meaning graduate student events); and the Association of Student Activities (ASA, which covers all student groups). These groups, among other things, organize social activities, advocate for policy changes in their departments/dorms, and provide provide resources (including funding) for student groups. To learn more about the GSC, visit <http://gsc.mit.edu/>

## student groups

Student activities span the full gamut of interests. There are academic groups, which include departmental groups, MIT chapters of national academic societies, teams for academic competitions, pre-professional groups, and ethnic academic groups. There are several student publications, such as The Graduate, which you are reading; The Tech, MIT's student newspaper; and Voodoo, the campus humor magazine. Cultural groups represent nations around the world, from Lebanon to Singapore, Brazil to Japan, and, yes, even Canada. For spiritual needs, MIT has religious groups for Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Christians (of nearly any denomination), and atheists alike. In keeping with the rich history of activism in Cambridge, there are several political groups on campus, such as Amnesty International and Students for Global Sustainability. Service groups like Habitat for Humanity offer plentiful opportunities for service on campus, in the local Cambridge/Boston area, and all around the country and the world. If you're a singer, comedian, dancer, or actor, there are several performing arts groups, including theater troupes, vocal ensembles, dance groups, instrumental music



organizations, and visual art societies. And there are dozens of more general interest groups, from business competitions to liking a specific food, gaming societies and more. There is no simple way to categorize the wide range of topics they cover, especially as new groups appear all the time. To learn more about the current groups or how to start your own group, visit: <http://mit.edu/asa/fysm/>



### athletics

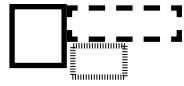
Some student groups are focused on athletics, ranging from Tae Kwon Do to cycling and quidditch. But the opportunities for athletics at MIT go far beyond just club sports. The Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) has more than a dozen facilities across MIT's campus, such as the Johnson Athletic Center, Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center (Z Center), du Pont Athletic Center, MIT Sailing Pavilion, Briggs Field, and Steinbrenner (that's Henry, not George) Stadium. Any DAPER facility can be used for free by graduate

students, but you must register in the lobby of the Z Center. MIT offers intramural leagues for twenty-one sports, including (American) football, soccer, ice hockey, basketball, softball, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, and even pistol. Intramural teams are often

organized by dorms, departments, or groups of friends. For many intramural sports, there are even different leagues based on skill level, ranging from novice to 'Why are you going to MIT? You should be a pro athlete.' To learn about the athletics and fitness options at MIT, visit: <http://web.mit.edu/athletics/>

### going out

No description of campus life would be complete without mentioning the two (grad) student-run bars, located, yes, right on campus. The Thirsty Ear and the Muddy Charles Pub are great places to relax, socialize, and enjoy a cold beverage. And they also employ needy grad students. For more information, check out: <http://thirsty-ear.mit.edu/> and <http://web.mit.edu/muddy/>



## walk around

Boston truly earns its name "The Walking City". One of the best ways to explore Boston is with your feet! So grab one of the many maps in your orientation packet and head off on your days adventure.

I would highly recommend walking through Fanueil Hall, the North End, the Waterfront, and Chinatown (in that order since you can walk directly from one to another). If you want to start out closer to MIT, walk down Newbury street, stop off in the Prudential Center mall, and end with some relaxing and people watching in the Boston public gardens. Have a secret passion for history? Then check out the Freedom Trail or Black History Trails marked around Boston.

## restaurants

Of course one of the best ways to explore a city is with your stomach. Cambridge and Boston do not fall short in terms of great eats. You can find just about every ethnic cuisine within a short walk or T-ride away. Grab some great Italian food and desserts at the north end, head to Chinatown for dim sum, or leave your utensils behind and try some Ethiopian cuisine in the beautiful South End. Inman square (a bit East of Central Square) also boasts a plethora of great restaurants including Brazilian BBQ, Portuguese, and a New York style deli.

As expected for a costal city, Boston is well known for its seafood including the classic New England clam chowder and the lobster roll. Have a hankering for something cold and creamy? Your in luck as Boston and Cambridge seems to pride itself in having loads of ice-cream and frozen yogurt places, many of which make their ice cream in house daily.

A great resource for the inside scoop on local restaurants is the Phantom Gourmet (think Zagat but more informal). Also, be on the lookout for special meal deals at many restaurants in the area such as half price happy hours and \$1 oysters.

The collegiate savings book (pick one up from the CO-OP) has many great coupons for local places to keep you within your grad student budget. If your looking to try a more upscale restaurant without breaking the bank, wait until Boston's twice annual restaurant week.



## night life

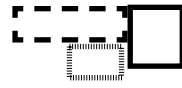
If you're in the mood for some pubs and clubs then look no further than your own back yard! Central Square boasts a variety of night-life venues all within a convenient walking distance from most graduate housing. Harvard Square, the Back Bay, and Fenway are all equally distant from MIT and offer some more great options. If you feel like traveling further into Boston, the Theater District, Fanueil hall/Waterfront, and Boylston Street are hotspots (although watch the cover).

Have a very mixed interest group? Check out Jil-lions near Fenway park where you can drink, dance, lounge, play pool, or bowl, all at the same place! A few words of wisdom before you depart 1) Guys: no sneakers! 2) The T shuts down around 12:30 pm so plan accordingly 3) Last call is usually 1:30 am and all venues basically close by 2 am.

## outdoors and day trips

Our proximity to the Charles river makes sailing, paddling, rowing, and wind surfing all within reach. Learn how to sail for free via the MIT sailing club. Also, along either side of the river is the Esplanade running path, making a 17.3 mile loop from the museum of science to Newton.





One of the best parts about Boston is the ability to get away from it when necessary! There are tons of hiking trails, campsites, rock climbing, paddling, mountain biking, skiing, and snowboarding destinations within a 2-3 hour radius of Boston. Common places get outdoors are the Fells (close by place for hiking and mountain biking), Cape Cod, Western Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. New Hampshire is known for the White Mountains, especially Mt. Washington, the highest peak in the north east (very steep!) and home to the highest wind speeds on earth!



Fall is a great time to go apple picking or hiking to watch the foliage turn into its vivid autumn colors. During Halloween, Salem is a classic (albeit crowded) place to go. Other day trips include visiting Cape Cod MA, Newport RI, and Providence RI. Don't have a car or know anyone with one? No problem! The MIT outing club runs a series of trips throughout the year. A small membership fee entitles you to be a part of these trips and rent all the gear you will ever need. Many of the graduate student dorms will also organize outings to such places.

## museums & culture

Boston is rich in culture and few of the larger attractions include the Museum of Fine Arts, Harvard Museum of Natural History (be the guest of someone with a Harvard ID and get in for free), New England Aquarium, and the Museum of Science (free entry with your MIT ID). You can also play like a tourist and go whale watching or take a duck tour around Boston and the harbor in a converted WWII amphibious assault vehicle.



## festivals

Throughout the year there are many street festivals including the Cambridge river festival, Caribbean festival, July 4th fireworks and POPs concert on the Charles river, and numerous Harvard Square festivals, including one for Oktoberfest complete with crazy costumes and beer gardens.

## sports

Boston loves its sports, and with good reason! We have the Boston Red Sox, Celtics, New England Patriots, and Boston Bruins all under one roof. Look for special ticketing offers through MIT.

This brings me to my final word of advice which is to check out the MIT Activities committee in the Stata center for discounted tickets to many Boston attractions and events.

### Resources:

To find out more details about the activities listed in this article, check out these great resources.

Exploring New England:

<http://www.boston.com/travel/explorene>

Boston Visitors Guide:

<http://www.boston.com/travel/boston>

Night Life:

<http://instantnightlife.com>

Phantom Gourmet:

<http://www.phantomgourmet.com>

MIT Activities Committee:

<http://web.mit.edu/mitac>

MIT Outing Club:

<http://www.mit.edu/~mitoc>

The Student/Alumni Externship Program connects current students to alumni in their workplaces worldwide during MIT's Independent Activities Period (IAP), January 3-28, 2011. These are short-term opportunities with long-term benefits offered in a wide variety of fields and are available to both graduate and undergraduate students. Externships can lead to summer internships, full-time employment, and meaningful connections with MIT alumni.

The Externship Program is organized and sponsored by the MIT Alumni Association. Externships can last from one week to the entire length of IAP depending on the needs of the alumni sponsors. These sponsors offer externships at companies, start-ups, labs, and universities primarily in the Boston, New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco areas but also in other U.S. and international cities. Learn more about the program and application process at <http://alum.mit.edu/students/externships>. Students can view the opportunities online and submit applications starting September 22. All graduate students should explore the possibilities. Some are exclusively for graduate students, but many welcome both undergraduate and graduate students. A free Infinite Connection account with the MIT Alumni Association is required to apply to externships. Register at <http://alum.mit.edu/students>.

---

## **One student's experience** - Shane Torchiana, Sloan Master of Finance candidate

After working in asset management for a few years before coming to MIT, I was expecting more of the same out of my externship at Platinum Gate Capital Management. But, as has a tendency to happen, life threw me a curveball. Being asked to do things like travel to the United Arab Emirates or hang out backstage at a Victoria's Secret fashion show made my internship experience anything but run of the mill.

Many would call Platinum Gate a multidisciplinary asset manager—i.e. hedge fund—but in essence it is a group that links those seeking capital in the U.S. to those able to provide it—in abundance—in the Middle East. They serve as a literal platinum gate through which capital can pass.

I came in as an investments intern, not entirely sure of what I'd be doing at this new company. As I've alluded to, the experience far exceeded my expect-

ations of what an internship could be. From day one I was meeting with an eclectic mix of impressive and interesting clients, from sports team owners to Hollywood super-agents to mega-farm entrepreneurs. Having the opportunity to originate work on a billion-dollar clean energy deal right out of the gate was not something I expected, but that and other experiences like it have come as a nice surprise.



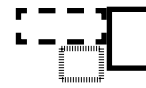
It was a wild run, one in which I had the opportunity to work with outstanding people at every turn. I learned quite a bit about the deal side of the business, using the financial skills I've honed at MIT to help work out mutually beneficial capital allocations. In what appears to be a happy ending, it looks as if there might be an opportunity for permanent employment here as well. This has been a great experience that I can thank MIT and Platinum Gate for providing.

---

September 22 Learn more about the application and matching process from the program coordinators at the Externship Information Session at 6:30 p.m. in the Bush Room (10-105).



# a bit of MIT history



compiled by Sofia Vallila

The campus that you will soon wander and get to know so well, didn't always stand as it stands today. Here are a few little tidbits of history, to show you what MIT was like in the early days...

## a Boston campus (1865 – 1910)

MIT's first campus was located in Boston's Back Bay. Our first building, the Roger's Building was completed in 1865.

Yet in the 1900's, MIT began outgrowing its Boston campus, so plans were laid for a move to Cambridge. The original buildings were torn down, making way for the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company building and the Natural Society building, which, until recently, housed upscale, clothier Louis Boston. The John Hancock Tower now stands on the block that used to house MIT's engineering annexes.



## a pre WWII Cambridge campus

In 1939, MIT officially moved to Cambridge. It is at this point that MIT relocated to a 50-acre site in Cambridge (purchased in large part with a \$500,000 donation from an MIT chemistry department graduate).

MIT had received pressure to merge schools with Harvard as labs and campuses at both schools expanded, but with the help of past MIT graduates, MIT was able to gather enough funds to resist pressure and maintain a unique Cambridge presence.

## cold war developments

Building 20 was built during the cold war period to house the famous "Radiation Laboratory," which has now been replaced by the Stata Center.



Dr. Killian

The Great Court, (renamed Killian Court in 1974 in honor of MIT's 10th president) was designed to emphasize MIT's openness to the urban environment. It is on this lawn that thousands of MIT students have graduated over the years.

## fun facts

- 1865 first MIT classes ever held in Boston
- 1868 first MIT graduating class
- 1870 first attempted takeover of MIT by Harvard
- 1873 first female to graduate from MIT, Ellen Swallow
- 1874 first formal graduation exercises held
- 1876 cardinal red and silver chosen as MIT colors
- 1889 first student yearbook, Technique, published
- 1914 the beaver becomes the official mascot of MIT
- 1916 first MIT dorm is opened (now known as Senior House)
- 1924 Edwin H. Blashfield ('69) paints murals in Walker Memorial
- 1929 a committee selects a ring later to be referred to as the "Brass rat"
- 1959 Oliver Smoot ('62) is used to measure the Harvard Bridge
- 1964 the Green building, MIT's tallest building, is completed designed by MIT graduate, I.M. Pei



facts and photos courtesy of the MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections

for more historical information, visit:

[libraries.mit.edu/archives/timeline/index.html](http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/timeline/index.html)

# The Smart Money

Welcome to MIT! Now you and your family can enjoy the benefits of an exclusive credit union.

## Why we're better.



When it comes to your finances, most people think "bank." But a bank is not your only option.

A credit union is a financial cooperative, offering the same products and services as a bank. It is insured, just like a bank.

But unlike a bank, a credit union is owned & run by its members. Since we have no stock-holders, we are often able to offer higher returns on savings and lower rates on loans.

## Not just *any* credit union.

MIT Federal Credit Union is exclusively for MIT students, employees, affiliates and their household and immediate family members. We exist solely to help our members realize their financial goals.

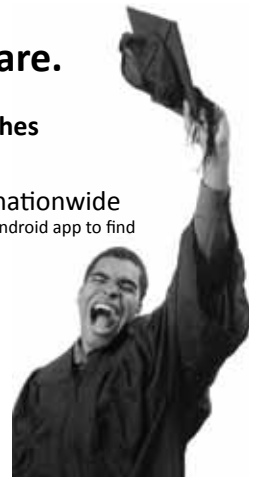
Therefore, the emphasis is on providing our members with the products they want and services they deserve.

## The value of Student Membership.

- ✓ **Totally FREE Checking Account**
- ✓ **Savings Account**
- ✓ **Debit MasterCard®**
- ✓ **Apply for a Visa® Credit Card**
- ✓ **FREE Mobile Banking, Online Banking, Bill Pay, e-Statements, e-Deposits, and FinanceWorks**
- ✓ **Alternative Student Loans**  
To help fill the gap that federal aid can leave behind, private student loans are also available.

## We're everywhere you are.

- ✓ **7 ATMs and 2 full-service branches on campus**
- ✓ **NO surcharges at 35,000 ATMs nationwide**  
Get a text message or download an iPhone or Android app to find the nearest surcharge free-ATM
- ✓ **Shared Branching** gives you easy access at 6,300+ participating credit unions and 1,700+ 7-Eleven® kiosks



## JOIN or Get to Know us Better

### ONLINE

Visit our website to learn more about the products and services we provide and the value and benefits of becoming an MITFCU member.

[www.mitfcu.org](http://www.mitfcu.org)

### CALL

Give us a call and we'll answer all your questions.

**617.253.2845**

### VISIT

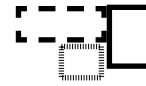
Stop in at a branch:

**Tech Square Branch**  
Bldg NE48 - 700 Technology Sq  
Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm

**Student Center Branch**  
Bldg W20 - 84 Massachusetts Ave  
Mon-Wed & Fri, 9:00am-4:30pm  
Thurs, 9:00am-5:30pm



# hacking at MIT



photos by eric schmiedl photography

The word **hack** at MIT usually refers to a clever, benign, and "ethical" prank or practical joke, which is both challenging for the perpetrators and amusing to the MIT community (and sometimes even the rest of the world!). Note that this has nothing to do with computer (or phone) hacking (which we call "cracking").

As a grad student, you might not be too involved in creating hacks, but you should certainly keep your eyes open for them. Hacks can range from subtle signage, to huge disruptions to college football games. They sometimes make a statement about current politics, about MIT, something personal or something just plain random.

Here is just a sampling of hacks taken from MIT's official website on hacks: <http://hacks.mit.edu/>

- 1982 During timeout of a Harvard-Yale football game, MIT students used a remote control to trigger the launching of a giant balloon from below the turf at the 46 yard line.
- 1990 An MIT banner was launched from an end zone using a model rocket and the Boston Herald head line read "MIT 1--Harvard Yale 0: Tech Pranksters Steal the Show."
- 1994 Perhaps one of the most famous Dome hacks of all time. Hackers placed what appeared to be a real MIT Campus Police cruiser on top of the dome, complete with flashing lights.
- 2006 MIT hackers placed a 25'-long Fire Truck on the Great Dome to commemorate the five-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.
- 2007 During the night prior to the release of the heavily advertised Halo 3 video game, MIT hackers transformed the statue of John Harvard into th Master Chief character from the game. In the game, the character's real name is known only as John, but for MIT students it presented the perfect opportunity to perform a hack on a rival neighbor.
- 2009 Hackers installed a solar-powered Boston MBTA-style subway car riding on the wall around MIT's Great Dome



## photo contest

Take a photo at any MIT Orientation Event and earn a chance to win a free MIT Grad Rat!

We are looking for great pictures that capture your 2010 orientation experience at MIT. The first prize winner will win a free Grad Rat! In addition, the winning picture will be posted on the GSC website.

Submit photos to [gsc-photocontest@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-photocontest@mit.edu) by **September 25, 2010**

Winners will be announced by October 15, 2010.

Please submit photos in high quality pdf, jpeg, png, tig or gif formats.

By submitting any photo to the contest, you grant the GSC the right to use, adapt and publicly display your photo on GSC related materials and websites.

"leftovers"



"first name basis, pt2"



"really cool"

