

AROUND CAMPUS

Through an integrated educational program focused on academics, research, and community, MIT prepares students to address complex global challenges in service to the nation and the world.

In our classrooms, students gain an understanding of the fundamentals of science, technology, and other areas of scholarship, with a deep commitment to developing problem-solving skills, excellence in quantitative and qualitative analysis, historical and literary insight, and an appreciation for the scientific method. Hands-on research opportunities provide students with a foundation for professional competence and opportunities to learn by doing. And with a mission that charges us to work "effectively for the betterment of humankind," MIT presents its students with opportunities to engage meaningfully with their communities, hone their leadership and communication skills, and develop an appreciation for the application and impact of their work.

The continuous renewal and renovation of MIT's physical facilities, guided by a commitment to strengthening campus community and supporting innovation, is essential to the Institute's mission to advance knowledge and educate students. The MIT campus is undergoing significant change, with smart residence halls and common spaces developed to inspire innovative collaborations; cutting-edge laboratories to support the emergence of new technologies; and centers to reinforce the curiosity that drives us.

Students and Faculty

MIT enrolled (<https://facts.mit.edu/enrollment-statistics>) 11,920 students in 2022–2023, including 4,576 undergraduates and 7,344 graduate students. These MIT students came from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and 136 foreign countries. The broad international student representation of 3,478 students made up 11% of the undergraduate and 41% of the graduate population.

In the same year, there were 1,089 faculty (<https://facts.mit.edu/employees/faculty>) members in MIT's professorial ranks, including 300 women. The total teaching staff numbered 2,109. Most faculty members at MIT teach both undergraduate and graduate students. Undergraduates frequently register for graduate classes, and many undergraduates and graduate students participate, often together, in advanced research.

The confluence of ages, disciplines, and nationalities so characteristic of MIT brings together students and teachers, biologists and architects, humanists and engineers, young and old, and deeply influences the life and experience of every member of the academic community. The result is an academic environment with a strong focus on excellence and a diverse range of interests.

The Campus

In 1916, MIT moved from its Boston location to Cambridge, and the current campus now encompasses 168 acres that extend more than a mile along the Cambridge side of the Charles River Basin. The heart of campus is anchored by a historic group of interconnecting buildings, designed by architect W. Welles Bosworth (Class of 1889), which facilitate interaction and communication among MIT's schools and departments.

In addition to the Bosworth buildings, the MIT campus (<http://whereis.mit.edu>) now showcases a range of architectural styles, from neoclassical through modernist, brutalist, and deconstructivist. Among the remarkable landmarks on campus are buildings designed by leading architects such as Alvar Aalto, Frank Gehry, Fumihiko Maki, I.M. Pei '40, and Eero Saarinen. New buildings on campus include the state-of-the-art music building designed by SANAA and the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing. A substantial restoration of the historic Metropolitan Storage Warehouse is transforming the landmark structure into a hub for design and education. Meticulous renewal of iconic buildings on campus has resulted in no fewer than nine preservation awards from the Cambridge Historical Commission.

Student life (<http://studentlife.mit.edu>) on campus is anchored by 20 undergraduate and graduate residence halls, each with its own distinctive personality and community. MIT's newest residence, Graduate Junction, expands living options for students and families. The renewal of undergraduate residence East Campus is underway with a targeted reopening date of fall 2025. Strategic improvements to the Stratton Student Center have upgraded the building and created a welcoming campus hub for wellbeing, performance arts and dance, healthy eating, and community building.

In their academic and research endeavors, students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities ranging from wet labs and clean rooms to collaboration areas and makerspaces. Specialized equipment on campus includes 3D printers, laser cutters, wind tunnels, and drone and robot test labs. In every field, innovation and entrepreneurship are fostered by cross-disciplinary facilities like the MIT Media Lab (<https://www.media.mit.edu>), the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research (<https://ki.mit.edu>), and the Lisa T. Su Building (<https://mitnano.mit.edu>), the Institute's nanotechnology and advanced imaging center. At its edges, the campus merges with vibrant Cambridge neighborhoods, including Kendall Square, where the close association of industry and research expertise has made this area the most innovative square mile on the planet. The MIT Welcome Center and MIT Admissions (<https://mitadmissions.org>) can be found at MIT's new campus gateway at Kendall along with the MIT Museum (<https://mitmuseum.mit.edu>), and the MIT Press Bookstore (<http://mitpressbookstore.mit.edu>). A large, landscaped open space at the gateway hosts campus and community events year-round.

Committed to decreasing its carbon footprint (<https://climate.mit.edu/climateaction>), MIT encourages a multi-modal approach to transportation around campus. The campus is urban and walkable, with more than 40 gardens and greenspace areas and more than 60 publicly sited works of art to enjoy along the way. MIT offers free shuttles around campus, bicycle benefits including a bike-share program and fix-it stations, carpool and rideshare incentives, and public transportation subsidies.

As the campus continues to evolve, MIT actively pursues measures that improve sustainability and conservation. To date, three building projects on campus have achieved LEED-Platinum certification (the Morris and Sophie Chang Building, the Lisa T. Su Building, and New Vassar Residence Hall), and 20 building projects have achieved LEED-Gold certification. For existing buildings, MIT's proactive Capital Renewal program (<http://capitalprojects.mit.edu>) is engaged in continuous renewal and renovation projects that promote energy efficiency while ensuring that the campus will support the community's broad spectrum of educational, research, and student life activities.

The Boston and Cambridge Environment

MIT is in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on the north bank of the Charles River, facing the city of Boston. With over 118,000 people located within a 6.26 square mile area, Cambridge is a unique community with a strong mix of cultural, demographic, and social diversity; intellectual vitality; and technological innovation. The city's diversity is reflected in its international community, with nine percent of residents being foreign born. Well known as the residence of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge is home to many students and professionals. About 40% of its residents are college and graduate students.

The city's largest employment sectors are higher education, government, biotechnology, and healthcare. Cambridge is home to more than 300 life-science and technology-related companies. The Kendall Square neighborhood is a renowned hub of innovation of entrepreneurship.

Boston's Museum of Science and Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the New England Conservatory of Music, Symphony Hall, the New England Aquarium, and the Boston Public Library, as well as Fenway Park and TD Garden for professional baseball, basketball, hockey, and concerts are all within a two-mile radius of the MIT campus. Students can also travel easily to Boston's theater district, where Broadway plays are previewed and local productions are staged.

Among the cultural organizations enriching life in the area are the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Boston Ballet Company, the Opera Company of Boston, the Boston Center for the Arts, Boston University's Huntington Theatre Company, the Loeb Drama Center, and the American Repertory Theater.

MIT is one of more than 50 schools located in the Boston area, including Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Lesley University, Northeastern University, Simmons College, Tufts University, Wellesley College, and many specialized professional art and music schools. The concentration of academic, cultural, and intellectual activity in this area is one of the most significant in the country.

An hour or two away from MIT by car are the mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire, the ocean beaches of Cape Cod, the lakes and rivers of Maine, the small clusters of fishing towns along the New England coast, and many places of historical interest in Massachusetts alone—Salem, Sturbridge, Lexington, Concord, and Plymouth. With its varied landscapes and four distinct seasons, New England offers unlimited possibilities for recreation—skiing, mountain climbing, hiking, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and camping.