Welcome to MIT!

We hope you enjoy your visit! The tour route outlined on this map will help you explore MIT's campus.

The Office of Admissions conducts information sessions followed by student-led campus tours for prospective students and families, Mon–Fri, excluding federal, Massachusetts, and Institute holidays and the winter break period. Info sessions begin at 10 am and 2 pm; those campus tours immediately follow. Visitors who are not prospective students are welcome to contact MIT Admissions to inquire about joining a campus tour after the information session concludes. Please stop by room 10-100 the day of your visit. If space is available, visitors will be informed where and when to join up with the tour group.

Before you embark: a (very) brief MIT overview

- MIT was founded by William Barton Rogers, a distinguished natural scientist. Rogers wanted to establish a new kind of independent educational institution to address the challenges posed by rapid advances in science and technology. He believed that professional competence was best fostered by coupling teaching and research and focusing attention on real-world problems.
- Today, teaching and research—with relevance to the practical world as a guiding principle—continue to be MIT's primary purpose.
- MIT is independent, coeducational, and privately endowed.
- MIT’s central group of interconnecting buildings, known as the Main Group, was designed by architect William W. Welles Bosworth (Class of 1889) and dedicated in 1916. Many other buildings have also been designed by leading architects such as Alvar Aalto, Eduardo Catalano, I.M. Pei ’40, Steven Holl, Frank Gehry, and Eero Saarinen. Sculptures, murals, and paintings, including works by Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Anish Kapoor, Cai Guo-Qiang, Pablo Picasso, and Louise Nevelson, are found throughout the campus.
- Innovation winners: 29
- National Medal of Science recipients: 58
- MacArthur Fellows: 45
- Nobel Laureates: 85

The page contains an image of a campus map with letters indicating various buildings and locations. The text provides a brief overview of MIT, mentioning its founding, key figures, and notable achievements. It also outlines the campus tour route, advising visitors to follow the letters on the map to navigate the campus. The text includes information about the student-faculty ratio, the number of students and alumni, and various accolades and honors associated with MIT. The page is a comprehensive guide for visitors interested in exploring MIT's campus.
MIT Medical serves the healthcare needs of the Institute. A special feature of education at MIT is the Walker Memorial is part of the original group of buildings known as the Main Group, that comprised MIT after its 1916 move from Boston to Cambridge. Inside the Dome is the James Madison Barker (Class of 1907) Engineering Library, which you will see at the end of this tour.

Exit Killian Court and enter Bldg. 4, where you’ll find the Ellen Swallow Richards Lobby (HS). Ellen Swallow Richards (Class of 1873) was MIT’s first female graduate and member of the chemistry program. Conceived in the classic tradition by Bosworth, the Dome is part of the 14 original buildings the Institute moved from Boston to Cambridge. Inside the Dome is the Madison Barker (Class of 1907) Engineering Library.

By now you’ve probably noticed the abundance of public art on MIT’s campus. Many works in the Permanent and Public Art Collections will be brought to campus by the newly formed MIT Arts Initiative. Planned in collaboration with MIT Facilities and formally instituted in 1968, the program allocates 2 percent, up to $250,000, of the budget for each new major renovation or building project to commission art. Earlier in 1968, the program allots 2 percent, up to $250,000, of the budget for each new major renovation or building project to commission art. Earlier this year, the program’s first major commission unveiled a large-scale electronic display in the Media Lab.

Robin Price

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