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; 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 info session concludes. Please stop by room 100 before 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 in 1861, but did not admit its first students until 1865.
• 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 comprises 5 Schools and 30+ departments, labs, centers, and programs whose work cuts across traditional departmental boundaries.
• The Institute makes freely available its class lecture notes, exams, and videos through MIT OpenCourseWare, with complete courses offered through the online learning initiative edX.
• MIT was originally located in Boston’s Back Bay neighborhood. In 1916, the Institute moved to Cambridge. It is located on 166 acres that extend more than a mile along the Charles River.
• MIT’s central group of interconnected buildings, known as the Main Group, was designed by architect William 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, 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, 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, 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, Eduardo Catalano, I.M. Pei ('40), Steven Holl, Frank Gehry, and Eero Saarinen.
• MIT’s intramural program offers competition in 18 different sports.
• MIT’s varsity teams are known as the Crimson, and play in the Ivy League.
• MIT has won 123 varsity titles, including hockey, basketball, and lacrosse, as well as 5 NCAA championships.
• More than 1,900 single graduate students live in MIT’s 5 campus houses. MIT’s 2 campus sororities and living groups.
• Most undergraduate students live in one of MIT’s 11 Institute houses or 36 affiliated fraternities, sororities, and living groups.
• MIT offers more than 100 recognized student organizations and clubs, and many are open to both faculty and students.

Finding your way: MIT’s building numbers explained
• Although many campus buildings are named, people usually refer to the buildings by their assigned numbers.
• The numbering system may appear confusing at first, but there is an explanation for it: buildings east of Killian Court and the Great Dome (Bldg. 10 [P] have even numbers and those to the west have odd numbers. Thus, Buildings 1 and 2 are on opposite sides of Killian Court.
• Buildings west of Massachusetts Avenue begin with “W,” those north of the railroad tracks begin with an “N,” and those east of Ames Street begin with an “E.”
• When you see a number on an office door, the number preceding the hyphen is the building number; the first number after the hyphen is the floor; the last numerals are the room number (i.e., 1-390 is Bldg. 1, floor 3, room 90).
• To help you navigate, we use letters of the alphabet on the suggested tour route to avoid confusion with building numbers.

WALKING TOUR ROUTE
• Leave Lobby 7 (Bldg. 7 [A] and cross Massachusetts Avenue (Mass Ave). Central and Harvard Squares are up the street to your right, and the Harvard Bridge (leading into Boston) is to your left. Mass Ave is a main street connecting Cambridge and Boston, and bus stops servicing major routes can be found on either side of the street.
• If you decide to walk across the Harvard Bridge (recommended if the weather is nice!), you’ll notice painted markings indicating an unusual measurement: the smoot. Named for MIT graduate Oliver Smoot ('62), a fraternity pledge to Lambda Chi Alpha, the smoot originated in 1958 as part of a fraternity prank. Oliver Smoot lay down across the bridge repeatedly, using his body to measure its length (determined to be 364.4 smoots, plus or minus 1 cm). Mr. Smoot later became chairman of the American National Standards Institute and the president of the International Organization for Standardization. The term smoot is recognized today as an unofficial unit of measure.
• Cross Mass Ave and proceed toward the Julius Adams Stratton Building (Bldg. W20 [B]), which houses the Student Center (architect: Eduardo Catarino). Just outside of W20 you’ll see Jane’s Pleas’s Alchemist. The sculpture was commissioned by an anonymous donor on the occasion of the Institute’s 150th anniversary, and was given to MIT in honor of all the alumni who have helped support the Institute over the years.
• Inside the Student Center you’ll find a variety of quick dining options, as well as a convenience store and several service shops (post office, bank, dry cleaner, etc.). The Student Center also contains a small branch of the Tech Coop, MIT’s bookstore. The main branch of the Tech Coop, which sells books, is located in Kendall Square on Main Street (Bldg. NE20), noted by the star on the upper-right hand corner of the map.
• The Catherine N. Stratton Lounge, the Jerome B. Winner Student Art Gallery, and offices for MIT’s student activities are also located in Bldg. W20. Fact: there are 100,000+ recognized student organizations and clubs, and many are open to both faculty and students.
• After leaving the Student Center, proceed toward Kresge Auditorium (Bldg. W16 [C]). Straight ahead to the right (just beyond the Kresge and adjacent to the Student Center) are the athletics facilities, including the Zvezdo Sports and Fitness Center. Further ahead you’ll find Steinbrenner Stadium and Briggs Field. MIT athletic facts: MIT offers one of the broadest intramural and intercollegiate athletic programs in the world. About 20% of undergraduates compete in intercollegiate athletics. MIT has 33 varsity teams and competes mostly against Division III New England colleges and by league schools. MIT’s intramural program offers competition in 18 different sports. Physical education is required for all undergraduates. Kresge Auditorium (C). Designed by Eero Saarinen, the main auditorium seats 1,100 people. The Little Theatre has a capacity of 212 and is used for productions by the Drama Shop and the Shakespeare Ensemble. Among Kresge’s interesting features is its outer shell, which is one-eighth of a sphere that floats freely from the rest of the auditorium. Kresge’s roof is supported in 3 places and is 3.5 inches thick in the middle.
• The grassy area in front of Kresge Auditorium is called Kresge Oval. There you can view a distance some of the student housing along the river. Some facts about MIT on campus housing: Most undergraduates live in one of MIT’s 11 Institute houses or 36 affiliated fraternities, sororities, and living groups. All unmarried first-year students live in one of the Institute’s residence halls, with the exception of students who live with family. The current number of undergraduates living on campus is 8,370. More than 1,900 single graduate students live in MIT’s 5 campus houses. MIT’s 2 campus apartment complexes accommodate more than 400 graduate and undergraduate students with families.
• Proceed to the MIT Chapel (Bldg. W15 [D]). You may enter the Chapel unless it is being used for a service or function. The building’s architect is Eero Saarinen. Inside, a metal sculpture by Harry Bertoia is behind the altar—it is used to scatter light that enters the space from the beautiful stained glass skylight. The Chapel also features a 1,300-pound bell cast at MIT’s Metals Processing Laboratory.
• Cross Mass Ave and enter Bldg. 1 (E) through the doorway at 33 Mass Ave. Climb the short flight of stairs and turn left; you will now be in Bldg. 5. Down the hallway to your right is the Hart Nautical Gallery of the MIT Museum, one of the most important collections of nautical materials in the country. Gallery hours: daily; 10 am – 5 pm.
• Turn right when you exit the gallery and walk toward Lobby 7 (A). If you get there, turn right to head down the Infinite Corridor, the hallway that is almost one-sixth of a mile long. (over)
MIT Medical serves the healthcare needs of the Institute.

As you walk along Ames Street you will see the Media Lab (K), which comprises 2 buildings. The original building, E15, the Jerome B. and Laya W. Wiener Building, was designed by I.M. Pei and the Wiener was MIT’s 13th President and former student of John Williams, Jr. In 2009, E14 was added; the design team was led by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Fumihiko Maki.

The Media Lab contains 25+ research groups working on 350+ projects that range from engineering to exploring how children learn through play, the Interactive Media Arts Center, MIT’s contemporary art museum, is located in E15: Gallery hours: Tues. – Wed. and Fri. 12 pm – 6 pm, Thu. 12 pm – 9 pm, closed Mon. and on major holidays.

MIT Medical (Bldg. E23): MIT Medical serves the healthcare needs of the Institute.

On display in the Stata Center, which you’ll see later.

Hayden Memorial Library is 1 of 5 major subject libraries on campus. The MIT Libraries offer flexible teaching and learning for independent study and research. In addition to for-credit courses, hundreds of non-credit opportunities are offered.

About academics

Hacks at MIT are creative and difficult campus projects meant to display technical skill (or the lack of it) to confer community cultural prestige. Many hacks have involved the Great Dome. You can read more about hacking at MIT by scouring the code by right on your mobile device or by visiting hacks.mit.edu. A few former hacks are on display in the Stata Center, which you’ll see later.

You will be standing in the Killian Court (J), which was named for Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McDermott of Dallas, Texas. McDermott received a BS from MIT in 1923 and an MBA in 1930. He founded the McDermott Co., a manufacturer of electronic components and materials. McDermott was a generous benefactor of MIT and was responsible for the largest single gift in MIT’s history. He was also a patron of the arts, and he was a philanthropist and a community leader. McDermott’s legacy is the McDermott Center, a complex of buildings that includes the Killian Court and the Killian Court Library.

The buildings surrounding McDermott Court

Edgerton’s Strobe Alley (Bldg. 10, 4th floor) is located along the hallway and contains a variety of musical instruments and hands-on exhibits.

About: Harvard “Doc” Edgerton achieved international and lasting recognition as a pioneer in strobe photography and ultra-high-speed photography. His remarkable photographs of stopped motion have been seen, and enjoyed by millions.

Philip M. Morse (1890-1977) was born in Lebanon, Maine, and attended MIT, where he received his B.S. in 1911 and his Ph.D. in 1915. Morse was a professor of electrical engineering at MIT from 1915 to 1956 and served as president of the university from 1947 to 1954.

In the fall of 1869, George Eastman, a 22-year-old Harvard Law student, visited Terry Alden’s photographic studio in Boston and took an interest in photography. Eastman returned to New York City and formed a partnership with Edward J. Eastman, a textile manufacturer, to produce and sell photographic supplies. The company was incorporated in 1871 and was initially known as E. & G. Eastman Kodak Company.

In 1880, Eastman purchased a camera and attempted to photograph a wedding scene. The resulting image was a complete failure, and Eastman was convinced that photography was not a viable profession. However, he continued to experiment with different photographic processes and materials, and by 1885 he had developed a process that allowed for the mass production of photographic prints. Eastman then traveled to the East Coast of the United States to promote his new process to potential customers.

In 1911, E. & G. Eastman Kodak Company was incorporated and was renamed Eastman Kodak Company. In 1923, Eastman Kodak Company was acquired by Goodyear (now Goodyear Photocopy), which held the majority of its stock from its early days. Eastman Kodak Company continued to grow and expand its operations, eventually becoming the largest photographic company in the world.

The Eastman Kodak Company was one of the first companies to develop and market a successful color film, and it continues to be a leader in the field of photography today.

In 1923, Eastman Kodak Company was acquired by Goodyear (now Goodyear Photocopy), which held the majority of its stock from its early days. Eastman Kodak Company continued to grow and expand its operations, eventually becoming the largest photographic company in the world.

The Eastman Kodak Company was one of the first companies to develop and market a successful color film, and it continues to be a leader in the field of photography today.