Welcome to MIT!

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

The Visitor Information Center (located off of the lobby in Bldg. 7 [A]) offers student-led campus tours weekdays at 11 am and 3 pm (excluding federal and Institute holidays); Admissions information sessions are held weekdays at 10 am and 2 pm. The Admissions Office is located in room 10-100 (first floor of Bldg. 10).

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 was a member of 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 is comprised of 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’s 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 165 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 Eero Saarinen, 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.

MIT Coop/Kendall Square

*Women: 2,035 (46%)
Minorities: 2,317 (51%)
Graduate students: 6,807
Women: 2,177 (22%)
Minorities: 1,379 (20%)

MIT by the numbers

FACULTY
Professors: 1,021 (all ranks)
Women: 224
Student-faculty ratio is 8:1
Nobel Prize winners: 81 (current and former members of the MIT community, including 9 current members)
MacArthur Fellows: 22 (current)

More MIT facts:
web.mit.edu/facts/faqs.html

WALKING TOUR ROUTE

- Leave Lobby 7 (Bldg. 7 [A]) and cross Massachusetts Avenue (Mass Ave). Central and Harvard Squares are up on 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 serving 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 after 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 6.444 meters, or 21 feet 0.5 inches). At the time, 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 measurement.
- 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 cleaners, 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.
- Outside the Student Center, proceed toward Kresge Auditorium (Bldg. W16 [C]). Straight ahead to the right just beyond Kresge and adjacent to the Student Center are the athletics facilities, including the Ziegler Sports and Fitness Center. Further ahead you’ll find Steinbrenner Stadium and Briggs Field. MIT athletic facts:
- MIT offers one of the most inclusive intercollegiate athletic programs in the world.
- About 20% of undergraduates compete in intercollegiate athletics.
- Approximately 4,000 students (graduate & undergraduate) take part in intramural sports.
- MIT has 33 varsity teams; MIT competes mostly against Division III New England colleges.
- Physical education is required for all undergraduates.
- Kresge Auditorium [C]: Scouringly under renovation! 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 a structure resembling 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 known as Kresge Oval. There you can view from 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 16 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 their families.
- Housing is guaranteed for undergraduates who choose to live on campus all 4 years.
- Approx. 2,000 single graduate students live in MIT’s 6 campus houses, and approx. 400 graduate students with families live in 2 campus apartment complexes.
- Approx. 80 graduate students live in undergraduate dorms as resident tutors.
- 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 domed skylight. The Chapel also features a 1,300-pound bell cast at MIT’s Metal Processing Laboratories.
- 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 are daily. (over)
Turn right into Bldg. 3 [F] and look at the glass display case for Design and Manufacturing course 2.007. The sign in the case will explain the context.

Special thanks to [G] for providing the photos of the Bldg. 3 corridor and exit left onto Killian Court [G]. Killian Court is named after MIT's 10th president, James K. R. like on your left is the sculpture Three- \[edged work being done on cancer research. The Institute includes 40-+ laboratories and 500+ researchers dedicated to advancing the fight against cancer.

- Exit the Koch Institute and proceed to the Stata Center. On your right, you'll see a large granite sculpture. This is the campus memorial to Sean Collins, the MIT police officer who was shot and killed on April 18, 2013 during the events surrounding the Boston Marathon bombing.

- The memorial is a space of reflection for the MIT community.

- Enter the Ray and Maria Stata Center (Bldg. 32 [M]), designed by Frank Gehry. (Note: the building is open to the public only on weekdays, 8 am – 6:30 pm. The Stata Center is home to the Laboratory for Information and Inference Systems (LIDS), the Technology and Policy Program, the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems (LIDS), and the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. The Stata Center is named for the late Ray Stata, former MIT student, named for MIT's 5th president. Along Student Street you will find displays of MIT hacks.

- The Stata Center is an environmentally friendly building that harvests rainwater via a storm water management system: a dry creek bed collects rainwater from adjoining roofs and surrounding parking lots. The water then filters through intensive landscaping, creative plantings and crushed stone and then sent either to a building tank inside the building to be used for flushing toilets or to the city's main drainage system. The pumps are also powered by solar panels.

- FYI: Hacks (cont'd) Twice per year people gather to watch as the sun shines the length of the corridor. In addition to these public gatherings, MIT's mascot is the black squirrel, symbol of the university and a fixture on campus. The sculpture just ahead of you, Reclining Figure, Draped with a Shield, is by Henry Moore. On the other side of the courtyard is the 11-piece granite sculpture Cooneyette Pair by [H].

- The sculpture just ahead of you is the iconic Great Dome, patterned after Rome's Pantheon. The dome provides the Institute's architectural focus. Conceived in the classic tradition by Bowdorse, the dome is part of the original 1866 plan for the MIT campus.

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- The buildings surrounding McKnight's Hall are Eastman Court, named for MIT's most famous donor, George Eastman of Eastman Kodak Company. Donations from Mr. Eastman, who used "Mr. Seniors" as a nickname for MIT students also supported the construction of McKnight's Hall. In 1927, McKnight's Hall was completed. Today, the building houses much of the Chemistry Department and was dedicated in 1970.

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