

Instructions for Application

The application deadline is January 15 for admission the following September, and the Admissions Committee makes its decision by April 1. The program does not admit students in the spring term. Applications become available in August of the year before prospective admission.

To apply to the Graduate Program, you must supply

1) The MIT Application for Graduate Admission

- This includes the MIT essay referred to as a “Statement of Objectives.”
- You need not fill out the “Record of Subjects Taken” section of the MIT application.

2) Graduate Record Examination scores: General Test Score

- Please note that scores from tests taken after early December of the current year may not reach our office by the admissions deadline of January 15, so plan accordingly.
- The school code to use for filling out the GRE form is 3514. The departmental code is 4599.

3) Official transcripts of previous academic study, including study abroad.**4) Three letters of recommendation** from those in a position to evaluate your likelihood to prosper in the literary and scientific environment of this program. Evaluations on letterhead must be accompanied by the ranking form that is part of the MIT Application for Graduate Admission.**5) Resume or curriculum vitae****6) Graduate Application Supplement**, consisting of:

- (a) *A statement or essay*, normally from 500 to 1500 words, addressing your ability to confront scientific and technical complexity in your writing

You might start out by telling the admissions committee of your five years’ experience as a bench scientist. Or you might recount how as a writer you have addressed comparable complexity in other, non-scientific fields. You might discuss your reading habits, hobbies, and interests insofar as they bear on your relationship to science and technology. Indeed, you may take any approach that leaves us better able to evaluate your likely success in writing about science.

As part of, or appended to, your essay, please also briefly describe one or two early tentative ideas for a thesis topic; no one will hold you to them but we would like to get some inkling of your interests and how you think about writing. We encourage you to visit our website to get a sense of past years’ thesis topics.

(b) *Writing samples*, arranged as you choose, that represent your writing at its best. These might be work done in school or on the job, published or not, in a good many shorter pieces or a few longer ones. Where the context is not clear, please add a few words of explanation; if the work has benefited from an editor's or teacher's hand, or represents a collaboration, please say so.

In selecting your samples, please be aware that journal articles or other purely scientific publications tell us little about your ability to write for general audiences and should not be included. However, you may, if you wish, include as one of your samples a 500-word general interest article, written for the occasion, that explains, distills, or otherwise builds upon a scientific or technical article that has appeared in a specialized publication.

To reiterate, please note that our application calls for **two** essays, **in addition** to your writing samples;

- The first is part of the regular MIT application (item 1) and is referred to there as a "Statement of Objectives." We encourage you to use this essay in whatever way you feel will best illuminate your background, your goals for graduate study, your intellectual and professional interests, or your long-term goals.
- The second or "supplemental" essay is part of the Graduate Application Supplement (item 6a) and described above.

Foreign applicants must satisfy all the same criteria as U.S. citizens. Applicants whose first language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test.

Please record your name on each page of the application and supplementary materials, and send completed applications to the department at:

**Graduate Program in Science Writing
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 14N-108
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307**

Visits by prospective students: Students who wish to visit the Program prior to applying for admission are encouraged to attend one of our fall on-campus information sessions.