

Dean, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

The [School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences \(SHASS\)](#)—the third largest school at MIT—employs a teaching faculty comparable in size to that of most liberal arts colleges and plays a number of important roles at MIT. Among other functions, the School:

- Offers 17 undergraduate major programs and 30 undergraduate minor programs
- Engages more than 10,000 enrollments each year in Anthropology; Comparative Media Studies; Economics; Global Studies and Languages; History; Linguistics; Literature; Music; Philosophy; Political Science; Science, Technology, and Society; Theater Arts; Women’s and Gender Studies; and Writing
- Supports five doctoral programs with a total of over 1,700 enrollments in Economics, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, and History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS)—all ranking within the top 10 such programs internationally
- Provides over 500 subjects toward the undergraduate Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences requirement, an eight-class portion of the General Institute Requirement
- Operates the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives, MIT’s pioneering international education program, which matches more than 950 students with internship, teaching, and research opportunities abroad each year

The sections to follow provide more details on teaching and research in SHASS over the past year.

Undergraduate Education

The SHASS faculty are uniquely involved in the intellectual development of all MIT undergraduates. Every MIT student must take a minimum of eight subjects in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Undergraduates who want a deeper engagement with the disciplines represented by the School may pursue a major or minor in one of our departments or sections, or choose from among several interdisciplinary majors and minors.

As the interests of students admitted to MIT continue to diversify, the School’s role in the mainstream education of MIT’s scientists and engineers becomes increasingly important. Having faculty members of national rank in the fields of humanities, arts, and social sciences ensures that MIT undergraduates receive the rounded education that they expect when they matriculate. SHASS faculty members’ educational mission is reflected in the high-ranked teaching evaluations received by our instructors and the educational innovations that emanate from the various disciplines.

Oversight of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) requirement is the purview of the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement, a standing subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. Under this system, undergraduates are required to take three HASS Distribution subjects, one from each of the three categories: humanities, arts, and social sciences. The committee deals with individual student petitions and approves new subjects for HASS credit.

The SHASS Education Advisory Committee is charged with considering the full range of issues related to undergraduate education in our School. During the past year, the committee was chaired by Associate Dean Agustín Rayo (Linguistics and Philosophy). Committee members included Professors Christopher Leighton (History), Janet Sonenberg (Music and Theater Arts), and Bradford Skow (Linguistics and Philosophy). HASS academic administrator Andrea Wirth served as an ex officio member.

In September 2016, the School held its fourth annual TOUR de SHASS, a student fair designed to give a lightning tour of the department, program, and section offerings. All SHASS academic programs participated. The fair will be scaled up and continued on an annual basis.

Undergraduate Enrollment Statistics: Recent Trends

Total enrollments in all undergraduate SHASS subjects were 10,297 in AY2017 (10,096 in AY2016 and 10,118 in AY2015), and the number of undergraduate SHASS subjects offered increased to 503 (488 in AY2016). The three fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: Global Studies and Languages (2,127, down from 2,283 in AY2016), Economics (1,654, up from 1,587 in AY2016), and Music (1,357, holding steady from 1,357 in AY2016). The next highest enrollments were in Political Science (1,001), Writing (829), Theater Arts (768), and Philosophy (694).

Enrollment in School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Fields, AY2017

Field	Undergraduate subjects	Undergraduate enrollment	Graduate subjects	Graduate enrollment
Anthropology	17	308	10	94
Comparative Media Studies	39	600	46	569
Economics	35	1,654	53	1,122
Global Studies and Languages	130	2,127	39	702
History	44	544	5	30
Linguistics	15	272	25	251
Literature	51	629	0	0
Music	65	1,357	7	66
Philosophy	20	694	11	88
Political Science	38	1,001	33	400
Science, Technology, and Society	23	493	22	250
Theater Arts	28	768	4	52
Women's and Gender Studies	22	369	4	7
Writing	51	829	7	103
Total (Master Subjects Only)	503	10,297	142	1,744

Note: In the case of joint and meets-with subject clusters, enrollment is calculated by the total number of students in the class, regardless of which subject number they signed up under. Totals are calculated by master subjects and will not match the totals for each column (which count jointly listed subjects). In cases where subjects have two undergraduate “meets with” numbers in the same field and category (such as the undergraduate “Globalization” co-requisite language subjects in Global Studies and Languages), enrollments are counted twice—once under each subject number. The numbers shown are for undergraduate and graduate subjects excluding subjects that are scheduled on an individual basis, such as theses and UROPs.

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Concentrations

In AY2017, students completed 1,300 concentrations in SHASS fields (1,259 in AY2016 and 1,220 in AY2015). Once again, Global Studies and Languages and Economics led in the number of completed HASS concentrations. In AY2017, 321 students completed concentrations in Global Studies and Languages (322 in AY2016) and 282 students completed concentrations in Economics (268 in AY2016). The third most popular HASS concentration field was Music, with 134 completed concentrations (135 in AY2016). The next most popular concentrations were Philosophy (71), Theater Arts (71), Political Science (66), Comparative Media Studies (57), and Science, Technology, and Society (48).

Concentrations in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences as of June 2017

SHASS concentration field	All active concentrations	Completed concentrations
African and African Diaspora Studies	1	0
American Studies	1	0
Ancient and Medieval Studies	15	10
Anthropology	38	23
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	36	21
Comparative Media Studies	112	57
Development Economics	1	1
Economics	474	282
Ethics	10	3
Global Studies and Languages*	472	321
History	48	37
Latin American and Latino Studies	5	3
Legal Studies	1	0
Linguistics	43	31
Literature	72	47
Middle Eastern Studies	7	3
Music	234	134
Philosophy	114	71
Political Science	105	66
Religious Studies	0	0
Russian and Eurasian Studies	15	7
Science, Technology, and Society	76	48
Special Concentration	5	2
Theater Arts	131	71
Women's and Gender Studies	43	29
Writing	66	33
Total	2125	1300

*combined count across all languages and areas of studies within Global Studies and Languages

Global Studies and Languages Specific Concentrations Breakdown as of June 2017

Specific concentrations	All active concentrations	Completed concentrations
Chinese	88	57
English language studies	7	4
French	82	60
German	44	30
Japanese	65	42
Portuguese	6	4
Russian	2	1
Spanish	132	97
Other languages	33	16
Studies in international literatures and cultures	8	6
Theory of languages	5	4
Total	472	321

Undergraduate Majors

In AY2017, there were a total of 193 active undergraduate majors in SHASS fields including both primary and secondary degrees (182 in AY2016 and 185 in AY2015). Of these, 75 students were awarded majors in SHASS fields (58 in AY2016 and 76 in AY2015). The most awarded majors were in Economics (18), Comparative Media Studies (10), Humanities and Engineering (8), and Political Science (8).

SHASS Undergraduate Majors by Academic Year

Academic year	Economics	Humanities	Linguistics and philosophy	Political science	Total
AY2007	(70)	(26)	(11)	(18)	(125)
AY2008	(68)	(32)	(8)	(20)	(128)
AY2009	(82)	(39)	(5)	(14)	(140)
AY2010	154 (90)	92 (37)	11 (6)	35 (17)	292 (150)
AY2011	156 (95)	75 (33)	17 (4)	40 (19)	288 (151)
AY2012	125 (72)	66 (23)	19 (9)	26 (16)	236 (120)
AY2013	109 (72)	65 (31)	19 (11)	24 (15)	217 (129)
AY2014	91 (58)	59 (31)	24 (17)	15 (10)	189 (116)
AY2015	73 (55)	74 (28)	24 (12)	14 (6)	185 (101)
AY2016	63 (30)	79 (34)	23 (10)	17 (7)	182 (81)
AY2017	76 (27)	86 (33)	18 (10)	14 (7)	194 (77)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the fall term, and do not include nonprimary degrees or second majors. Figures not in parenthesis were calculated in July, after Commencement, and include nonprimary degrees, second majors, and any majors that were declared between October and July.

SHASS Undergraduate Majors Breakdown by Field

Majors	All active majors	Awarded*
Anthropology	3	2
Comparative Media Studies	24	10
Economics	49	18
Global Studies and Languages	1	0
History	1	1
Humanities	4	2
Humanities and Engineering	19	8
Humanities and Science	1	0
Linguistics	9	2
Literature	9	6
Mathematical Economics	27	5
Music	8	2
Philosophy	9	3
Political Science	14	8
Science, Technology, and Society	1	1
Theater Arts	5	4
Writing	10	3
Total	194	75

*Includes students who graduated in September 2016, February 2017, and June 2017

Honors and Awards Granted to Undergraduate Majors

The list below highlights some of the more notable honors achieved by SHASS majors this year.

2017 Burchard Scholars: Phoebe Cai (Economics), Ying Gao (Economics), Yuliya Klochan (Philosophy and Political Science), Jennifer Lee (Music), Ankita Reddy (Anthropology), and Megan Schussman (Linguistics)

2017 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Jia Yi Goh (Economics), Fiona Lam (Economics), Emilio Lamar (Economics), Claire Lazar (Economics), Jennifer Lohmeier (Economics), Connor Popik (Economics), Mrudul Thatte (Linguistics and Philosophy), and Elliot Tobin (Economics)

Biology Undergraduate Symposium Speakers: Mary Clare Beytagh (Literature)

Ernesto Blanco Award for Mechanical Engineering: Sabrine Ahmed Iqbal (Theater Arts)

Boit Manuscript Prize, Fiction: Jessica Adams, Second Prize (Writing)

Boit Manuscript Prize, Poetry: Gailin Pease, First Prize (Writing); Elise Bickford, First Prize (Philosophy)

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize, Essay: Hairuo Guo, Honorable Mention
(Comparative Media Studies)

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize, Poetry: Gailin Pease, First Prize (Writing); Nicholas
Matthews, Third Prize (Literature)

Robert A. Boit Writing Prize, Short Story: Gailin Pease, Third Prize (Writing)

Alan Brody Prize in Theater Arts: Noelle Colant (Theater Arts)

Bridge Builder Award in Student Activities Office: Caroline Mak (Economics)

Chemistry Research Award: Jessica Gable (Literature)

Edward S. Darna Award in Theater Arts: Marisa Wang (Comparative Media Studies)

Dewitt Wallace Prize for Science Writing for the Public: Theresa Machemer, First
Prize (Writing); Francesca Schembri, Second Prize (Writing)

Peter S. Donaldson Prize for Excellence in Literary Studies: Casey Crownhart
(Literature); James Rowan (Literature)

Joseph D. Everingham Award in Theater Arts: Neerja Aggarwal (Theater Arts);
Sabrine Ahmed Iqbal (Theater Arts)

German Studies Excellence Award: Riley Davis (Global Studies and Languages)

Golden Beaver Award in Student Activities Office: Mehmet "Efe" Akengin
(Political Science)

Kelly-Douglas Summer Travel Fellows: Elise Bickford (Philosophy), Holly Haney
(Comparative Media Studies), Scott Perry (Humanities and Engineering)

King Prize for Writing Science Fiction: Melanie Abrams, First Prize (Writing),
Gailin Pease, Second Prize (Writing)

Lowell Lindgren Prize for Musical Scholarship: Katherine Young (Music)

Andrew J. Morsa Prize: Allan Ko (Comparative Media Studies)

Ragnar and Margaret Naess Awards in Music or Theater Performance: Tal Scully
(Theater Arts)

Obermayer Prize: Francesca Schembri (Writing)

Schwarzman Scholar: Lisa Ho (Mathematical Economics)

Senior Prize at Sloan School of Management: Kirby Ledvina (Economics)

Gregory Tucker Memorial Prize for Music and Theater: Natasha Skowronski
(Music), Bertrand Stone (Music)

Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Award: Jacob Gunter (Humanities and
Engineering), Hallie Voulgaris (Music)

Undergraduate Minors

SHASS oversees all HASS minors (including those in departments outside of SHASS). The number of HASS minors awarded in AY2017 was 164 (158 in AY2016 and 151 in AY2015). The 164 HASS minors awarded to members of the Class of 2017 were in 23 fields. The three most awarded minors were Economics (47, up from 45 in AY2016), Global Studies and Languages (22, down from 25 in AY2016), and Music (19, down from 23 in AY2016).

HASS Minors as of June 2017

Field	All active minors	Minors awarded*
African and African Diaspora Studies	1	0
Ancient and Medieval Studies	7	3
Anthropology	5	4
Applied International Studies	12	7
Art, Culture and Technology	1	1
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	1	0
Chinese	12	0
Comparative Media Studies	6	4
Economics	73	47
French	13	3
German	12	5
History	8	6
History of Architecture, Art, and Design	1	0
International Development	0	0
Japanese	14	8
Latin American and Latino Studies	1	1
Linguistics	3	3
Literature	12	6
Middle Eastern Studies	0	0
Music	53	19
Philosophy	12	5
Political Science	20	12
Public Policy	13	4
Russian and Eurasian Studies	4	1
Science, Technology, and Society	3	0
Spanish	8	6
Theater Arts	13	7
Urban Studies and Planning	4	2
Women's and Gender Studies	5	4
Writing	9	6
Total	326	164

*Includes September 2016, February 2017, and June 2017 graduates

Graduate Education

In AY2017, there were a total of 335 active majors in graduate SHASS fields (337 in AY2016 and 328 in AY2015). Of these, 81 students were awarded graduate majors in SHASS fields (62 in AY2016). Among these students, 25 were awarded the Doctor of Philosophy in Economics; 13 were in Political Science; eight were in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society; eight were in Philosophy; and four were in Linguistics. Also among the graduate majors, 12 students were awarded the Master of Science in Comparative Media Studies and six were awarded the Master of Science in Science Writing.

SHASS Graduate Majors by Academic Year

Academic year	Economics	HASTS*	Linguistics and philosophy	Political science	CMS**	Science writing	Total
AY2007	122	28	70	68	20	11	319
AY2008	114	30	73	68	20	7	312
AY2009	115	29	71	69	24	9	317
AY2010	118	30	66	68	12	7	301
AY2011	119	28	68	57	3	7	282
AY2012	133	27	66	56	16	8	306
AY2013	123	31	70	60	21	9	314
AY2014	125	35	73	65	18	8	324
AY2015	129	31	76	65	19	8	328
AY2016	130	36	81	65	18	7	337
AY2017	130	32	81	66	18	8	335

Note: Figures are from the Registrar's "Y" Report as of October of the previous year.

*History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society

**Comparative Media Studies

SHASS Graduate Majors Breakdown by Field

SHASS Majors	Awarded*
Master of Science: Comparative Media Studies	12
Master of Science: Economics	1
Master of Science: Linguistics	1
Master of Science: Philosophy	0
Master of Science: Political Science	3
Master of Science: Science Writing	6
Master of Science Total	23
Doctor of Philosophy: Economics	25
Doctor of Philosophy: HASTS	8
Doctor of Philosophy: Linguistics	4
Doctor of Philosophy: Philosophy	8
Doctor of Philosophy: Political Science	13
Doctor of Philosophy Total	58

*Includes students who graduated in September 2016, February 2017, and June 2017

Diversity Efforts

The School continues to make diversity a priority, and has charged Associate Dean Agustín Rayo with overseeing its diversity efforts.

The SHASS Faculty Diversity Committee (FDC), chaired by the associate dean, works with search committees to ensure that candidates from underrepresented groups are afforded as many opportunities as possible throughout the search process. As part of this effort, the School has established a set of faculty search guidelines, which all faculty search committees are asked to adhere to. The guidelines are designed to encourage search committees to implement practices that empirical research has found to be effective in promoting diversity. They are also designed to ensure frequent interaction between search committees and the FDC.

A Diversity Travel Fund has been instituted for faculty attending diversity-related activities or conferences. Faculty who use this fund are asked to submit a brief report on ideas that might further the School's diversity efforts.

Building on the diversity pre-doctoral fellowship in political science, SHASS now offers diversity pre-doctoral fellowships in every discipline within the School. This program recruits promising PhD students who are in the final stage of their dissertations and offers them a year of support to help them complete their dissertations. Our support includes a modest stipend, office space, and a faculty mentor. The program's goal is to identify promising underrepresented minority PhD students and build lasting ties with them. The program is also intended to send a message that MIT is a welcoming place for scholars from underrepresented groups. Thanks to generous support from the Provost's Office, the fellowship program has expanded significantly. We have gone from hosting eight fellows within eight different units in AY2016, to hosting 11 fellows within eight different units in AY2017.

SHASS instructors teach a large number of subjects focusing on issues related to diversity, including subjects on race and ethnicity, on cultures outside the United States, on gender and sexuality, and on globalization or transnationalism. In an effort to highlight these subjects, we maintain a webpage with up-to-date listings of our over 140 diversity-related offerings.

Honors and Awards

SHASS faculty members garnered an array of honors and awards this year, as highlighted below.

Alberto Abadie, professor of economics, was elected as a fellow of the Econometric Society.

Daron Acemoglu, Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics, received an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship and won the distinguished BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award for Economics, Finance, and Management.

Vivek Bald, associate professor of writing and digital media, received the 2017 Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

Olivier Blanchard, Robert M. Solow Professor of Economics emeritus, was elected president of the American Economic Association.

Suzanne Berger, Raphael Dorman-Helen Starbuck Professor of Political Science, received the Powell Mentoring Award from the Comparative Politics Section of the American Political Science Association.

Christopher Capozzola, associate professor of history, was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute.

Nazli Choucri, professor of political science, received the 2016 Myron Weiner Award.

Catherine Clark, Class of 1947 Career Development Professor, received a Mellon Fellowship.

Anita Desai, professor emerita of humanities, received the 2017 Blue Metropolis International Literary Grand Prix.

Junot Díaz, Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing, was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters and received the Hispanic Heritage Foundation Award for Literature.

Esther Duflo, Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and awarded an inaugural MITx Prize for Teaching and Learning in MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses).

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu, McMillan-Stewart Career Development Associate Professor of History, was awarded a grant from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation of Portugal.

Sara Ellison, senior lecturer in economics, was awarded an inaugural MITx Prize for Teaching and Learning in MOOCs.

Margarita Ribas Groeger, senior lecturer in Spanish and director of the Spanish Language program, was honored with the 2016 Mentor Advocate Partnership (MAP) Mentor of the Year award.

Jonathan Gruber, Ford Professor of Economics, was elected as a fellow of the Econometric Society.

Caspar Hare, professor of philosophy, received a MacVicar Faculty Fellowship.

Ellen Harris, professor emerita of music, was elected to the American Philosophical Society.

Stefan Helmreich, associate professor of anthropology, received the 2017 Staley Prize from the School for Advanced Research and the 2016 Michelle Kendrick Memorial Book Prize for his 2009 book, *Alien Ocean: Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas*.

Bengt Holmstrom, Paul A. Samuelson Professor of Economics, received the 2016 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Helen Elaine Lee, professor of writing and the head of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, received the 2016 MIT Faculty Ambassador Award.

Thomas Levenson, professor of science writing, received the 2016 Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

Richard Nielsen, associate professor of political science, received an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.

Parag Pathak, professor of economics, was elected as a fellow of the Econometric Society.

Heather Paxson, professor of Anthropology, received the 2017 James Beard Award for Reference and Scholarship as well as the Commitment to Caring award from the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education.

Bruno Perreau, Cynthia L. Reed Professor of French Studies and Language, was appointed to the Order of the French Academic Palms.

Barry Posen, Ford International Professor of Political Science, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Studies Association and was also named Kissinger Chair at the Library of Congress.

Edward Schiappa, John E. Burchard Professor of Humanities, received the Charles H. Woolbert Research Award.

Charles Stewart, Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science, received an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.

Sherry Turkle, Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology, received USC Annenberg's Everett M. Rogers Award.

John Van Reenen, Gordon Y Billard Professor in Management and Economics, was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Ariel White, assistant professor of political science, won the annual Heinz I. Eulau Award from the American Political Science Association for best paper published in *American Political Science Review*.

Alex Wolitzky, Pentti J. K. Kouri Career Development Associate Professor of Economics, was awarded a 2017 Sloan Research Fellowship.

Renovations

Renovations to W97 to house the Music and Theater Arts Theater program are complete and will open in AY2018, offering classes, and building and stage productions. Due to concerns about student schedules and transportation, the decision was made to phase in full-credit courses in W97. In fall 2017, we are only offering full credit-bearing courses that meet after 3:00 pm. This allows Theater to monitor ease of access and work with Campus Transportation regarding shuttle service, and to do this without disrupting student schedules. More classes will go online in the new space in subsequent terms.

Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2017 totaled \$24,455,536. Highlights included several significant grants to the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, including a \$3.4 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Department of Political Science received a \$1.4 million grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to launch the MIT Election Data and Science Lab, which will work to advance scientific knowledge about the conduct of elections in the United States and around the world. Additional gifts from individuals included a \$1.6 million bequest for endowed graduate student support in the Department of Economics, and six new six-figure gifts and pledges to MISTI programs from individual donors totaling \$2.2 million.

Not reflected in the new gifts and pledges total for FY2017 were some notable gifts that were allocated to the School this year from existing pledges made to MIT by donors in previous fiscal years. Highlights included \$4 million to establish the first endowed professorship in Music and Theater Arts, and a \$1 million graduate student fellowship in Economics.

Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements

In AY2017, three faculty members resigned—Professor Francis Gavin (Political Science), Associate Professor without Tenure Mihai Manea (Economics), and Associate Professor without Tenure Christopher Warshaw (Political Science).

It was a successful year for faculty promotions. A total of 15 cases were brought forward for consideration. Of these, six members were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure: David Atkin (Economics), Eugenie Brinkema (Literature), Malick Ghachem (History), Graham Jones (Anthropology), Vipin Narang (Political Science), and Bruno Perreau (Global Studies and Languages). Four were promoted to associate professor without tenure: Isaiah Andrews (Economics), Devin Caughey (Political Science), Catherine Clark (Global Studies and Languages), and Richard Nielsen (Political Science). Five were promoted to full professor: Keeril Makan (Music and Theater Arts), D. Fox Harrell (CMS/Writing), Seth Mnookin (CMS/Writing), Kenneth Oye (Political Science), and Fotini Christia (Political Science). These promotions are all effective July 1, 2017.

As a result of this year's faculty recruitment efforts, eight candidates accepted faculty appointments in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Five will be assistant professors, one will be an associate professor without tenure, and two will be full professors.

In AY2017, one leadership change occurred within the School. At the end of this year, Glenn Ellison stepped down as department head of Economics.

Melissa Nobles

Kenan Sahin Dean

Professor of Political Science