

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
- Enrolls more than 10,000 students 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 more than 1,700 enrollments in Economics; History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society; Linguistics; Philosophy; and Political Science—all ranking within the top 10 such programs internationally
- Provides over 500 subjects that count toward the undergraduate Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) 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

Undergraduate Education

The SHASS faculty are uniquely involved in the intellectual development of MIT undergraduates. Every MIT undergraduate student, regardless of major, 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 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 a rounded education. SHASS faculty members' educational mission is reflected in the high-ranking teaching evaluations received by our instructors and the educational innovations that emanate from the various faculties.

The SHASS Education Advisory Committee has been charged with considering the full range of issues related to undergraduate education in our school. This past year, the committee was chaired by Associate Dean Agustín Rayo (Philosophy). The other committee members were Professors William Broadhead (History), T.L. Taylor (Comparative Media Studies), and Teppei Yamamoto (Political Science) as well as student Jessica Tang '20 (Comparative Media Studies). SHASS academic administrator Andrea Wirth served as an ex officio member.

In September 2018, the school held its sixth 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 continued to show an upward trend, increasing to 10,742 in AY2019 (from 10,699 in AY2018, 10,297 in AY2017, and 10,096 in AY2016); 511 undergraduate SHASS subjects were offered during the year (as compared with 515 in AY2018, 503 in AY2017, and 488 in AY2016). The three fields with the largest overall enrollments were the same as last year: Global Studies and Languages (2,319, up from 2,297 in AY2018), Economics (1,762, up from 1,648 in AY2018), and Music (1,448, up from 1,390 in AY2018). The next highest enrollments were in Theater Arts (945), Philosophy (874), Writing (794), and Literature (792).

Enrollment in School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Fields, AY2019

Field	Undergraduate Subjects	Undergraduate Subject Enrollments	Graduate Subjects	Graduate Subject Enrollments
Anthropology	18	346	5	47
Comparative Media Studies	40	649	33	436
Economics	28	1,762	54	1,310
Global Studies and Languages	134	2,319	35	763
History	39	542	6	56
Linguistics	14	305	23	217
Literature	64	792	—	—
Music	67	1,448	8	105
Philosophy	28	874	13	95
Political Science	31	745	31	399
Science, Technology, and Society	22	480	11	209
Theater Arts	38	945	5	42
Women's and Gender Studies	24	406	5	8
Writing	47	794	6	113
Total (master subjects only)	511	10,742	123	1,619

Notes: Final enrollments are for subjects offered by departments, programs, and sections in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the end of the fall 2018, 2019 Independent Activities Period, and spring 2019 semesters. In the case of joint and meets-with subject clusters, enrollment numbers are 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 each of the fields involved). In cases where subjects have two undergraduate “meets-with” numbers in the same field and category, enrollments are counted twice—once under each subject number. Very few subjects have two subject numbers in the same field, so the effect is minimal. The numbers shown are for undergraduate and graduate subjects excluding only subjects scheduled on an individual basis.

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Concentrations

In AY2019, students completed 1,296 concentrations in SHASS fields (as compared with 1,243 in AY2018 and 1,300 in AY2017). Once again, Economics and Global Studies and Languages led in the number of completed HASS concentrations, with 286 students completing concentrations in Economics (295 in AY2018) and 278 completing concentrations in Global Studies and Languages (the same total as in AY2018). The third most popular HASS concentration was Music, with 141 completed concentrations (131 in AY2018). The next most popular concentrations were Philosophy (74), Political Science (73), Theater Arts (69), Comparative Media Studies (61), and Science, Technology, and Society (48).

Concentrations in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, as of June 2019

Concentration	All active concentrations	Completed concentrations
African and African Diaspora Studies	7	5
American Studies	3	1
Ancient and Medieval Studies	23	14
Anthropology	26	21
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	36	24
Comparative Media Studies	113	61
Development Economics	8	1
Economics	438	286
Ethics	17	9
Global Studies and Languages	465	278
History	55	37
Latin American and Latino/a Studies	5	2
Legal Studies	0	0
Linguistics	57	42
Literature	61	37
Middle Eastern Studies	3	1
Music	298	141
Philosophy	130	74
Political Science	121	73
Religious Studies	4	2
Russian and Eurasian Studies	9	8
Science, Technology, and Society	68	48
Special Concentration	13	7
Theater Arts	127	69
Women's and Gender Studies	37	23
Writing	64	32
Total	2,188	1,296

Concentration Details of Global Studies and Languages, as of June 2019

Concentration	All active concentrations	Completed concentrations
Chinese	102	57
English Language Studies	4	1
French	86	40
German	31	24
Japanese	80	45
Other Languages	26	15
Portuguese	5	4
Russian	11	7
Spanish	108	75
Studies in International Literatures and Cultures	7	6
Theory of Languages	5	4
Total Global Studies and Languages	465	278

Minors

SHASS oversees all HASS minors (including those in departments outside of SHASS). The number of HASS minors awarded in AY2019 was 168 (the same number as in AY2018; 164 were awarded in AY2017). The HASS minors awarded to members of the Class of 2019 were in 25 fields. The three most awarded minors were Economics (29, down from 41 last year), Music (28, down from 36 last year), and Global Studies and Languages (27, up from 20 last year).

HASS Minors as of June 2019

Field	All active minors	Minors awarded
African and African Diaspora Studies	0	0
Ancient and Medieval Studies	7	3
Anthropology	1	1
Applied International Studies	6	5
Art, Culture, and Technology	1	1
Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies	1	0
Chinese	11	8
Comparative Media Studies	5	5
Economics	41	29
French	16	3
German	10	3
History	6	1
History of Architecture, Art, and Design	0	0
International Development	1	1
Japanese	17	8
Latin American and Latino/a Studies	0	0

Note: Includes September 2018, February 2019, and June 2019 graduates.

Field	All active minors	Minors awarded
Linguistics	6	4
Literature	23	10
Middle Eastern Studies	1	1
Music	63	28
Philosophy	12	8
Political Science	28	19
Public Policy	18	9
Russian and Eurasian Studies	2	1
Science, Technology, and Society	3	1
Spanish	16	5
Theater Arts	11	7
Urban Studies and Planning	2	0
Women's and Gender Studies	7	2
Writing	10	5
Total	325	168

Note: Includes September 2018, February 2019, and June 2019 graduates.

Undergraduate Majors

In AY2019 there was a large increase, to 340 (from 264 in AY2018 and 194 in AY2017), in the number of active undergraduate majors in SHASS fields (including both primary and secondary degrees). Of these students, 74 were awarded majors in SHASS fields (as compared with 55 in AY2018 and 75 in AY2017). The most awarded majors were in Mathematical Economics (11); Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science (10); Philosophy (8); Comparative Media Studies (7); and Literature (6).

SHASS Undergraduate Majors by Academic Year

Academic year	Economics	Humanities	Linguistics and philosophy	Political science	Total
2009	(82)	(39)	(5)	(14)	(140)
2010	154 (90)	92 (37)	11 (6)	35 (17)	292 (150)
2011	156 (95)	75 (33)	17 (4)	40 (19)	281 (151)
2012	125 (72)	66 (23)	19 (9)	26 (16)	236 (120)
2013	109 (72)	65 (31)	19 (11)	24 (15)	217 (129)
2014	91 (58)	59 (31)	24 (17)	15 (10)	189 (116)
2015	73 (55)	74 (28)	24 (12)	14 (6)	185 (101)
2016	63 (30)	79 (34)	23 (10)	17 (7)	182 (81)
2017	76 (27)	86 (33)	18 (10)	14 (7)	194 (77)
2018	151 (52)*	76 (30)	26 (10)	11 (4)	264 (96)
2019	194 (103)*	106 (38)	30 (12)	10 (4)	340 (157)

Note: Figures in parentheses are from the registrar's "Y" report as of October of the fall term and do not include non-primary degrees or second majors. Figures not in parentheses were calculated in July, after Commencement, and include non-primary degrees, second majors, majors shared between schools, and any majors that were declared between October and July.

*Includes majors in Course 6-14 (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science).

SHASS Undergraduate Majors Breakdown by Field

SHASS major	All active majors*	Awarded*
Anthropology	2	1
Comparative Media Studies	21	7
Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science	126	10
Economics	35	5
Global Studies and Languages	5	2
History	1	0
Humanities	3	2
Humanities and Engineering	19	5
Humanities and Science	5	1
Linguistics	12	4
Literature	12	6
Mathematical Economics	33	11
Music	22	5
Philosophy	18	8
Political Science	10	1
Science, Technology, and Society	1	1
Theater Arts	3	0
Writing	12	5
Total	340	74

*Includes students who graduated in September 2018, February 2019, and June 2019.

Graduate Education

In AY2019, there were a total of 327 active majors in graduate SHASS fields (as compared with 330 in AY2018 and 335 in AY2017). Of these students, 69 were awarded graduate majors in SHASS fields (up from 53 in AY2018); 25 were awarded the Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, 10 in Linguistics, eight in Political Science, six in Philosophy, and four in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS). Also, among the graduate majors, seven students each were awarded the Master of Science in Comparative Media Studies and the Master of Science in Science Writing.

SHASS Graduate Majors Breakdown by Field

Major	Awarded*
Master of Science: Comparative Media Studies	7
Master of Science: Economics	1
Master of Science: Linguistics	1
Master of Science: Science Writing	7
Doctor of Philosophy: Economics	25
Doctor of Philosophy: HASTS	4
Doctor of Philosophy: Linguistics	10
Doctor of Philosophy: Philosophy	6
Doctor of Philosophy: Political Science	8
Total	69

*Includes students who graduated in September 2018, February 2019, and June 2019.

SHASS Graduate Majors by Academic Year

Academic year	Economics	HASTS	Linguistics and philosophy	Political science	CMS	Science writing	Total
2009	115	29	71	69	24	9	317
2010	118	30	66	68	12	7	301
2011	119	28	68	57	3	7	282
2012	133	27	66	56	16	8	306
2013	123	31	70	60	21	9	314
2014	125	35	73	65	18	8	324
2015	129	31	76	65	19	8	328
2016	130	36	81	65	18	7	337
2017	130	32	81	66	18	8	335
2018	127	30	80	69	16	8	330
2019	119	33	78	73	16	8	327

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

Honors and Awards Granted to Graduate and Undergraduate Majors

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

- 2019 Fulbright Fellowship: Samira Okudo (Humanities and Engineering)
- 2019 Phi Beta Kappa inductees: Riley Davis (Global Studies and Languages), Run Chen (Linguistics and Philosophy), Kimberly Feng (Humanities), Sophie Mori (Linguistics and Philosophy), Michael Nimefroh (Economics), Nancy Wang (Economics), and Grace Yin (Music and Theater Arts).
- 2019 Burchard Scholars: Fiona Chen (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science), Sebastian Franjou (Music), Jude He (Humanities and Engineering), Catherine Huang (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science), Tara Liu (Comparative Media Studies), Chad Qian (Economics), Amy Shim (Humanities and Engineering), Steven Truong (Writing), Rona Wang (Comparative Media Studies), Isabelle Yen (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science), and Whitney Zhang (Mathematical Economics).
- Award for Excellence in German Studies: Riley Davis (Global Studies and Languages)
- Robert A. Boit Prize (essay): Gailin Pease, second prize (Writing)
- Robert A. Boit Prize (poetry): Rona Wang, first prize (Comparative Media Studies)
- Robert A. Boit Prize (short story): Chloe Yang, first prize (Writing); Ivy Li, second prize (Literature); Hannah Ledford, third prize (Writing); and Gailin Pease, honorable mention (Writing)
- Boit Manuscript Prize (essay): Jessica Adams, first prize (Literature)
- Boit Manuscript Prize (fiction): Rona Wang, first prize (Comparative Media Studies); Daniel Guberek, second prize (Literature); and Sam Pauley, honorable mention (Comparative Media Studies)

- Boit Manuscript Prize (poetry): Gailin Pease, second prize (Writing)
- Chamber Music Performance Award: Isabel Kaspriskie (Music)
- Edward S. Darna Award in Theater Arts: Margaret Kosten (Music and Theater Arts) and Grace Kuffner (Music and Theater Arts)
- Isabelle de Courtivron Writing Prize: Ivy Li, first prize (Literature); Hanna Kherzai, second prize (Economics); and Chloe Yang, second prize (Writing)
- DeWitt Wallace Prize for Science Writing for the Public: Miriam Wahid, first prize (Writing), and Lean Yost, second prize (Writing)
- Peter S. Donaldson Prize for Excellence in Literary Studies: Milka Piszczek, first prize (Literature), and Daniel Guberek, honorable mention (Literature)
- Enterprise Poets Prize for Imagining a Future: Jessica Adams, first prize (Literature)
- Rebecca Blevins Faery Prize for Autobiographical Essay: Chloe Yang, first prize (Writing), and Rona Wang, second prize (Comparative Media Studies)
- Goodwin Medal: Clare Kim G (History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society)
- History Undergraduate Writing Prize: Alden James (Humanities)
- King Prize for Writing Science Fiction: Steven Truong, first prize (Writing), and Daniel Guberek, second prize (Literature)
- S. Klein Prize (scientific writing): Leah Yost, first prize (Writing)
- S. Klein Prize (technical writing): Kimberly Feng, first prize (Humanities)
- Lowell Lindgren Prize for Musical Scholarship: Ian Clester (Music)
- Philip Loew Memorial Award for Creative Accomplishment in Music: Audrey Pillsbury (Music)
- Patrick J. McGovern '59 Entrepreneurship Award: Adam Xing Liang Zhao (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science)
- Ronald E. McNair Scholarship Award: Adedoyin Olateru-Olagbegi (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science)
- Ragnar and Margaret Naess Award in Music or Theater Performance: Talia Khan (Music) and Gabriel Tony Terrasa (Music)
- Obermayer Prize for Writing for the Public: Boer Fu G, first prize (Linguistics)
- Obermayer Prize for Writing on the History of Innovation: Steven Truong, honorable mention (Writing), and Jessica Adams, honorable mention (Literature)
- Jeffrey L. Pressman Award in Political Science: Nwanacho Nwana (Political Science), Ignacio Ortega Castineiras (Economics), and Sarah Powazek (Political Science)
- Benjamin Siegel Writing Prize in Science, Technology, and Society: Samuel Mendez G (Comparative Media Studies)
- Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans: Indira Puri G (Economics)
- Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts: Grace Yin (Music)

- Gregory Tucker Memorial Prize for Music and Theater: Isabel Kaspriskie (Music)
- Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Award: Amalia Lee (Music)

Diversity Efforts

The school continues to make diversity a priority, with Associate Dean Rayo overseeing these efforts.

The SHASS Faculty Diversity Committee, chaired by Rayo, 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 follows guidelines to which all faculty search committees are asked to adhere.

SHASS continues to offer 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 additional professional support and mentoring as they complete their work. Our support includes a modest stipend, office space, library privileges, and access to faculty of the school. 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 Office of the Provost, the fellowship program was able to host eight pre-doctoral fellows in AY2019.

Honors and Awards

- Joshua Angrist, Ford Professor of Economics, was awarded the Fama Prize.
- Marjorie Liu, longtime lecturer in Comparative Media Studies/Writing, became the first woman to win an Eisner Award for best writing—the comic industry's top writing award.
- Evelyn Fox Keller, professor of the history and philosophy of science emerita (Science, Technology, and Society), received the Dan David Award.
- Sasha Costanza-Chock, associate professor of civic media in Comparative Media Studies, was among the winners of the *Journal of Design and Science* essay contest.
- Jerry Allen Hausman, John and Jennie S. MacDonald Professor of Economics, was elected to the British Academy.
- Eran Egozy, professor of the practice in music technology, won a \$50,000 grant from the Knight Foundation for ConcertCue.
- Charlotte Brathwaite, associate professor of theater, won the 2019 Creative Capital Award for *Forgotten Paradise: Gazette's Sun*.
- Joshua Angrist (Economics), Graham Jones (Anthropology), and T.L. Taylor (Comparative Media Studies) received 2019 MacVicar Faculty Fellowships, the Institute's highest honor in undergraduate teaching.

- Kenda Mutongi, professor of history, was named a finalist for the Elliott P. Skinner Award.
- Professor Seth Mnookin of Comparative Media Studies/Writing received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant and a Guggenheim Award.
- Economist Nikhil Agarwal, associate professor of economics, was among four MIT professors selected as 2019 Sloan Fellows.
- Economist David Autor, Ford Professor of Economics, was awarded a Carnegie Fellowship.
- Agustín Rayo was honored as an outstanding mentor for students with a Committed to Caring Award.
- Susan Silbey, Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor of Humanities, Sociology, and Anthropology, was presented the Killian Award, MIT's highest faculty honor.
- Associate Professor Emily Richmond Pollock received the 2019 Arthur C. Smith Award.
- Mark Harvey was honored with the Roy Haynes Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions to jazz and the jazz community.
- Institute Professor Daron Acemoglu received the 2019 Global Economy Prize.
- Dwaipayan Banerjee, associate professor of science, technology, and society, was awarded the 2019 Levitan Prize in the Humanities.

Fundraising

New gifts and pledges for FY2019 totaled \$42,469,862. Among the highlights were several significant grants to the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, including an \$11 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Political Science Department and the Center for International Studies also secured multiple six-figure grants from institutions such as the Ford Foundation and the Stanton Foundation. In addition, the Comparative Media Studies/Writing Program received two six-figure grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation totaling \$1.6 million.

Additional gifts from individuals included a \$5 million gift for unrestricted support to the Department of Economics, a \$2 million expendable gift to the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, a \$1.1 million planned gift for endowed fellowship support in the Department of Philosophy, and two new pledges of \$1 million for endowed fellowship support in the Department of Economics.

Not reflected in the new gifts and pledges total for FY2019 were some notable capital gifts for the new music building construction project. The project secured a naming gift of \$25 million along with \$4 million in additional gifts from two other donors.

Faculty Promotions, Administrative Changes, and Retirements

In AY2019 one faculty member, Alvin Kibel (Literature), retired. In addition, Heidi Williams (Economics), Regina Bateson (Political Science), and Chris Leighton (History) left the Institute.

It was a successful year for faculty promotions. A total of 17 cases were brought forward for consideration. Of these, five faculty members were promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure: Nikhil Agarwal (Economics), Sana Aiyar (History), Stephanie Frampton (Literature), Daniel Hidalgo (Political Science), and Mariam Schoenfield (Linguistics and Philosophy). Seven were promoted to associate professor without tenure: Charlotte Brathwaite (Music and Theater Arts), William Deringer (Science, Technology, and Society), Caley Horan (History), Amy Moran-Thomas (Anthropology), Robin Scheffler (Science, Technology, and Society), Bettina Stoetzer (Global Studies and Languages), and Leslie Tilley (Music and Theater Arts). Finally, five faculty members were promoted to full professor: David Atkin (Economics), Heidi Williams (Economics), Bruno Perreau (Global Studies and Languages), David Singer (Political Science), and Lily Tsai (Political Science). These promotions are all effective July 1, 2019.

As a result of this year's recruitment efforts, four candidates accepted faculty appointments in the school. All four are assistant professors.

In 2018–2019, there were several leadership changes in the school. At the beginning of the fall 2018 semester, Alex Byrne became department head of Linguistics and Philosophy and Kai von Fintel became department head of Philosophy. Keeril Makan became the department head for Music and Theater Arts.

Melissa Nobles

Kenan Sahin Dean