

## International Scholars Office

The International Scholars Office (ISchO) facilitates the visas for international researchers and faculty who come to MIT for teaching, research, meetings, and programs. ISchO advises on immigration matters, issues visa documents, and provides guidance, workshops, and print and web-based information on a wide range of issues relevant to the international scholar population. Weekly orientation sessions are held for incoming scholars and family members. Orientation specifically for new international tenure-track faculty members is held biannually. Workshops and question-and-answer sessions are held throughout the year for personnel administrators who work to process visas with the ISchO for the many departments, labs, centers, and programs hosting internationals. Additional programming for scholars and events open to the campus community are held throughout the year. ISchO also engages in advocacy efforts to protect international educational exchange, prevent burdensome government regulations, and clarify and improve related regulations and procedures.

### MIT's International Scholar Population, Academic Year 2010

During the year July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, ISchO served 1,882 international scholars affiliated with MIT and their accompanying family members. This reflects a decrease of approximately 3.2% since last year (1,944). The Broad Institute separated from MIT on July 1, and the international scholars working there transitioned out. With the exception of AY2009 (the year before Broad's departure, when the Broad Institute numbers were highest), the highest number of scholars assisted (post-Broad) by ISchO is 1,882. According to the most recent Institute of International Education Open Doors report (2008–2009), MIT ranked 11th nationally with regard to the numbers of international scholars at US institutions. Postdoctoral associates and postdoctoral fellows accounted for 53% of MIT international scholars. International faculty accounted for approximately 37% of new faculty hires.

Foreign national scholars came to MIT from 88 countries, with the highest numbers coming from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Germany, Canada, Italy, France, and Spain. Scholars from these top 10 countries constituted 67.6% of MIT's international scholar population. This distribution of countries and percentage matched that of the entire international scholar population in the US.

ISchO worked closely with administrators in 95 departments, laboratories, centers and programs, of which 75 hosted scholars during AY2010. ISchO assisted by preparing the appropriate visa documents and petitions for incoming and continuing scholars and their families. The areas hosting the largest number of scholars were, in descending order, the Department of Chemistry, the Department of Chemical Engineering, the Research Laboratory of Electronics, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, the Sloan School of Management, the Koch Institute, the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Science, and the Department of Biology. Of the total international scholar population, 79% were male and 21% female.

The majority of MIT's international scholars were sponsored on MIT's J-1 exchange visitor program. There were 1,003 scholars under MIT's J-1 program sponsorship during AY2010. An additional 82 scholars were here through other J sponsors (Fulbright, AIPT and academic institutions). There were 312 scholars on campus in H-1B status, sponsored by MIT. This reflects a 7.1% decrease since last year (336), also likely due to the departure of Broad Institute scholars. Forty-two scholars were in TN status and six in O-1 status sponsored by MIT. The rest of the scholar population had other sponsors or were in other nonimmigrant categories. ISchO submitted permanent residence petitions to US Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of numerous tenure-track faculty members and upper-level researchers.

According to data from MIT's Human Resources, over 60% of MIT's postdoctoral associates and fellows and nearly 60% of scholars on "visiting" appointments were non-US citizens/permanent residents.

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*More information about the International Scholars Office may be found at <http://web.mit.edu/scholars/>.*