

## International Scholars Office

The [International Scholars Office \(ISchO\)](#) facilitates visas for international researchers and faculty who come to MIT for teaching, research, meetings, and programs. ISchO advises on immigration matters, issues visa documents, files petitions with government agencies, 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 offered biannually. Workshops are given for department, laboratory, and center personnel administrators about working with the ISchO, MIT visa sponsorship policies, and visa processing. Additional scholars and events programming 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 immigration related regulations and procedures.

### MIT's AY2019 International Scholar Population

During the year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, ISchO served 2,456 international scholars ("international" is defined as non-US citizen, non-US permanent residents) affiliated with MIT and their accompanying family members. This number includes 221 visitors on academic appointment and on business visas who either did not register with ISchO due to the brevity of their visits, or who come and go to MIT but are not based primarily on campus. ISchO assists departments, laboratories, and centers with invitation letters and occasional advising to these visitors.

The majority of MIT's international scholars were sponsored on MIT's J-1 exchange visitor program. There were 1,241 scholars on MIT's J-1 program sponsorship during AY2019. An additional 103 scholars were here through other J sponsors (Fulbright, Cultural Vistas, and academic institutions). There were 269 scholars on campus in H-1B status sponsored by MIT. Twenty-seven scholars were in TN status and seven were on O-1 visas sponsored by MIT. The rest of the scholar population had other sponsors or were in other nonimmigrant categories. ISchO also submitted permanent residence petitions to US Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of tenure-track faculty members and upper-level researchers.

Of our international scholars, 75% identified as men and 25% identified as women. International postdoctoral fellows and postdoctoral associates accounted for 66% of MIT's total postdoc population. Of people on so-called visiting appointments at MIT, 58% were international.

According to the most recent Institute of International Education Open Doors report (2018), MIT ranked 11th nationally with regard to the numbers of international scholars at US institutions.

Foreign national scholars came to MIT from 97 countries, with the highest numbers coming from China, India, South Korea, Germany, Japan, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, and Israel. This closely resembles the top 10 countries of origin of the international

scholar population present in the United States. Scholars from these top 10 countries constituted 67% of MIT's international scholar population.

ISchO worked closely with administrators in the 73 departments, laboratories, centers, and programs that hosted international scholars. The areas hosting the largest number of scholars were, in descending order, Research Laboratory of Electronics; Department of Mechanical Engineering; Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research; Department of Chemistry; Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory; Department of Chemical Engineering; MIT Sloan School of Management; Department of Biological Engineering; Department of Mathematics; and the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory.

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