Welcome

The MIT International Development Network is pleased to welcome you to the fifth annual MIT International Development Fair. The goal of the fair is to introduce incoming students and other members of the MIT community to the student groups, classes, centers, programs and academic departments at MIT who, through their activities, have demonstrated an interest in sustainable international development. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the student groups, classes, centers, programs, and departments participating in the fair and mentioned in this guide. They represent opportunities for MIT students to become informed participants in the global effort to promote justice and sustainable development.

The content of this guide and other useful information can be viewed online at our website (http://web.mit.edu/idn). We welcome your suggestions for how we could improve on this guide and next year's fair. We also welcome your ideas for how to promote a greater understanding at MIT of the Institute's potential to be a leader in sustainable international development.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude for the generous support of the MIT Public Service Center, Edgernton Center, Technology and Culture Forum at MIT, International Development Initiative, School for Humanities and Social Sciences, Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, MIT Program in Developmental Entrepreneurship, Design for Change, and TechLink.

Sincerely,

The IDN Planning Team

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Introduction to International Development @ MIT

Joost Bonsen

Three-quarters of humanity live beyond rich country borders, all too often in tragically impoverished areas. Access to clean water, food, energy, communications, healthcare, and education are all global giga-challenges, each affecting over one billion people worldwide. While faculty and scholars in labs throughout MIT’s five schools are tackling these challenges, student action through classes and extracurriculars is hugely important and worthy of special emphasis. Whether via experiential-learning classes or through club events or extracurricular projects, students play a vital role working on tangible projects, all while learning-by-doing in classic MIT-style.

The landscape of international development activities at the Institute, however, can be a bit difficult to grasp quickly or in its entirety. To help remedy this problem, a team of students and staff from the International Development Network (IDN) at MIT created an annual International Development Fair (IDF or IDFair). The IDFair showcases the many groups, projects and activities at the Institute that engage students in international development activities and provide the opportunity for students to meet and connect with others involved with international development at the Institute. For the first time this year, the IDF will also be the culmination of a week-long spotlight on global action at MIT, the International Development Week (IDW or IDWeek).

Beyond the IDWeek, clubs such as Design-for-Change host regular International Development Discussions in their club headquarters in the Walker Memorial basement. The Muddy Charles, MIT’s graduate student-run Pub in Walker, hosts informal development drinks and dinner gatherings to bring together Harvard and MIT students. The Technology & Culture Forum at MIT (TAC) offers public lectures and symposia throughout the year, often focused on development-related issues. In the spring, the MIT Museum hosts a Friday evening Development Innovations Reception to welcome attendees of the Harvard-MIT International Development Conference (IDC).

The MIT IDEAS (Innovation-Development-Enterprise-Action-Service) Competition, a joint program of the MIT Public Service Center and Edgerton Center, supports teams that develop and implement projects that will have positive impact in the world. With the support of IDEAS, student teams can make progress toward solving challenges faced by communities, all driven by the spirit of public service and student enterprise. The most promising projects continue on beyond IDEAS, with further prototyping and field trials. They may form the basis for an entrepreneurial startup company, with many IDEAS participants also entering a business plan in the MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition. Over the past 5 years, IDEAS winners have amassed over $1m in follow-on funding for their service projects from sources including USAID and the World Bank Development Marketplace.

Several project-oriented development classes prepare students during the regular semester for time in the field during MIT’s Independent Activity Period (IAP) in January or over the summer. These classes include the D-Labs, or Development-Design-Dissemination Labs, the joint MediaLab/Sloan course on Developmental Entrepreneurship (DE), and Sloan’s Global Entrepreneurship Lab (G-Lab), Social Entrepreneurship, and Practicing Management classes. Dozens more courses in Urban Planning, Architecture, the Media Lab, Sloan School, the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences as well as Engineering and the Sciences have an international development and/or practicum element.

Anyone interested in International Development at MIT can find information in this Guide and online via the IDN website. The Public Service Center and the Edgerton Center jointly support the MIT International Development Initiative (IDI) as it pursues appropriate design solutions, engages students in collaborative designs, and ultimately implements and disseminates technologies in partner communities throughout the world. The Program in Developmental Entrepreneurship (DE) focuses on design and deployment of commercially sustainable products and services for low-income communities. The Poverty Action Lab (PAL) concentrates on poverty research based on randomized trials leading to clear scientific results that enable policy makers to more successfully combat poverty. These are only a few of the development initiatives at the Institute; there are many more focused programs in water and sanitation, clean energy, and educational technology.

Solving global giga-challenges requires a concert of methods, including cross-cutting approaches drawn from various emerging sectors, all while harnessing the full power of research, education, and extracurricular triad of activities at MIT. Only through novel technological and social innovations can we have sustainable and viable global impact.

The following broad categories should give some sense of the range of activities at the Institute:
Broad, Multi-Sector – A variety of groups cut across many sectors of global development, including the Alliance for Global Sustainability, Design for Change, the Global System for Sustainable Development, the MIT IDEAS Competition, the MIT Public Service Center, the Technology and Culture Forum at MIT, and the International Development Initiative.


Business, Finance, and Entrepreneurship - At the intersection of business and finance and development are the Program in Developmental Entrepreneurship, the MIT Entrepreneurship Center, the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation, and the MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition.


Communications, Computing, and Media - The Media Lab, the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), and several departments engage in a wide variety of analysis and development projects related to next generation communication devices, network infrastructure, and higher level applications.


Education - The Media Lab, through programs such as Lifelong Kindergarten, is creating tools to expand the range and reach of creative educational possibilities. MIT’s OpenCourseWare provides high quality course material to people around the world via the web. Other groups that are heavily involved in educational development include the Middle East Education through Technology (MEET), Expediting Access to Standard Education (EASE), the Global System for Sustainable Development, Learning International Networks Consortium (LINC), the MIT-Africa Internet Technology Initiative (AITI), and the Technology and Culture (TAC) Forum at MIT.


Energy - The Energy Research Council highlights how MIT expertise can address the world’s energy crisis through research and education, for example, via the work in the Laboratory for Energy and Environment (LFEE), or on energy conversion technologies in the Microsystems Technology Lab (MTL). The student-run MIT Energy Club provides a cross-disciplinary forum for literature reviews and discussions of emerging energy technologies and runs the annual MIT Energy Conference.


Environment - Understanding and working within Earth’s ecological constraints requires reliable scientific data about the evolution and current state of our planet. This is the goal of a number of different programs at MIT, including the Earth System Initiative, the Alliance for Global Sustainability, the Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, Students for Global Sustainability (SfGS), and the Technology and Culture (TAC) Forum at MIT. The Environment at MIT website surveys the research and education landscape and highlights on-campus initiatives.


Health Care and Life Sciences - There is substantial fundamental through applied research at MIT in prosthetics, medical diagnostics, molecular therapeutics, and tissue engineering, just to name a few. Advanced research on infectious disease genomics and proteomics happens at the Whitehead and Broad Institutes. Low-cost X-Ray and agri- and bio-diagnostic labs-on-a-chip are among the research supported by the Deshpande Center in the School of Engineering. Activities such as the student-run United Trauma Relief (UTR) tackle emergency health concerns in developing countries.


Impact Assessment - The Poverty Action Lab (PAL), based in the Department of Economics, assesses the effectiveness of development efforts around the world through randomized trials of policy interventions, much like the clinical trials to validate the efficacy of pharmaceuticals.

http://www.povertyactionlab.org/

Labor, Migration, and Social Justice - The Migration and Development Working Group and Students for Labor Justice focus on issues in labor and development, including international and regional migration, fair trade, working conditions, and offshoring employment practices. Amnesty International and the MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice span the spectrum ranging from proactive tactics and advocacy through research and policy-making.


Law, Regulation, and Dispute Resolution - The Technology and Law Program bridges policy and technology, with special focus on sustainability, trade, and the environment. The MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program seeks to understand mediation and other forms of consensus building to resolve public disputes surrounding resources, priorities, regulations, and other sources of conflict.


Security and Disaster Relief - The Security Studies Program connected with the Political Science Department is a focal point for work in understanding the political, cultural, and strategic dimensions of conflict and international security. Other groups working in this area include MIT Humanitarian Demining, the Program on Human Rights and Justice, and United Trauma Relief.


Shelter and Urbanization - The Department of Urban Studies and Planning, particularly through the International Development Group (IDG), helps advance the state of the art in sustainable urbanization. The MIT Building Technology Program participates in cooperative projects to develop sustainable urban housing. The Smart Cities group is one of several efforts to pursue urban innovations.


Transportation - The Center for Transportation and Logistics (CTL) is a major node for research in ground transportation for people and freight, while the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics focuses on air transportation innovations. The SmartCities group CityCar is one example of a School of Architecture and Planning-based effort to improve urban mobility. The Sloan Automotive Lab is one of the energy-related efforts focused on transportation fuel efficiency.


Water - Major research into water and sanitation systems is centered in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department (See entry: “Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries Projects” further on in this Guide) and in Urban Studies and Planning, including both big infrastructure projects as well as highly distributed grassroots solutions. The Center for Ocean Engineering and Sea Grant Programs are foci for understanding soundly managing marine resources.

Guide to Organizations

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
URL: http://www.povertyactionlab.org/
Contact: Rachel Glennerster <rglenner@mit.edu>
Description: The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab serves as a focal point for development and poverty research based on randomized trials. The objective is to improve the effectiveness of poverty programs by providing policy makers with clear scientific results that help shape successful policies to combat poverty. The Lab works with NGOs, international organizations, and others to evaluate programs and disseminate the results of high quality research. We work on issues as diverse as boosting girls’ attendance at school, improving the output of farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, racial bias in employment in the US, and the role of women political leaders in India.
Participation: There are a number of opportunities for economic graduate students and recently matriculated undergraduates to work with J-PAL. Opportunities (aimed at those with bachelors degrees) are posted at http://povertyactionlab.org/getinvolved/?type=3. A few UROP opportunities are available for students who have taken course 14.74 Foundations of Development Policy.

AID-MIT
URL: http://web.mit.edu/aid-boston
Contact: Ramya Rajagopalan <aid-boston-exec@mit.edu>
Description: Association for India’s Development (AID) strives to empower rural communities by funding people-centered initiatives targeted at improving health, education and general welfare. Sustainability, local acceptance and community involvement are central aims of AID-supported initiatives. AID-MIT is a student chapter dedicated to raising awareness about social issues such as poverty, illiteracy, and inadequate healthcare. We collaborate with other AID chapters to raise funds for development projects in India. We also host visits by volunteers from NGO’s who are working at the grassroots level in India in order that the MIT community can learn from the volunteers’ experiences in the field. In addition, we run an annual seminar series focusing on the interface between technology and development, featuring guest speakers who are researchers in medicine, science and engineering. The seminar series highlights ways in which technology is or could be applied to improving the welfare of people in developing countries.
Participation: Any member of the MIT community or the Cambridge/Boston area

AIDG Inc.
URL: www.aidg.org
Contact: Peter Haas <phaas@aidg.org>, Ben Lee <blee@aidg.org>
Description: The AIDG incubates appropriate technology manufacturing facilities in developing countries. These facilities market goods to rural villages and NGOs. We provide hands on experience in developing country manufacturing settings for students as well as experimental design placement and testing in rural communities. We also offer design internships in the Boston area.
Participation: All MIT students, faculty and alumni

Alliance for Global Sustainability (AGS)
URL: http://globalsustainability.org
Contact: Karen Gibson <kgibson@mit.edu>
Description: The AGS is an international partnership of four leading science and technology universities: MIT, ETH-Zurich, University of Tokyo, and Chalmers University, Goteborg. AGS brings together hundreds of university scientists, engineers, and social scientists to address the complex issues at the intersection of environmental, economic, and social goals. In partnership with universities and governments around the world, AGS works towards better scientific understanding of global environmental challenges, development of technology and policy tools to help societies reconcile ecological and economic concern, and education of a new generation of leaders committed to sustainable development. The AGS is a program of the MIT Laboratory for Energy and the Environment.
Participation: Faculty and researchers from the partner schools participate in regional case studies related to large-scale programs on energy and on food and water. Students participate through specific AGS research projects, fellowship programs (such as the Martin Family Society for Fellows for Sustainability at MIT), curriculum based on AGS output, and the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES), a two-week summer institute led by ETH-Zurich combining lectures and workshops on the environment, with field experience in the form of a group case study.

Amnesty International
URL: http://web.mit.edu/amnesty
Contact: Shankar Mukherji, Giovanni Talei-Franzesi <mitai-exec@mit.edu>
Description: Amnesty International is a non-governmental, non-partisan organization working for the protection of human rights. As one of the largest human rights organizations in the world (over 1 million members in 45 countries), Amnesty International uses its broad international membership to publicize cases of human rights abuse and brings international pressure to bear on the governments in question, thereby aiding the development of political and human rights around the world.
Participation: Chapter meetings are open to all

Boston Network for International Development
URL: http://www.bnid.org
Contact: Tammie Warmus <info@bnid.org>
Description: The Boston Network for International Development (BNID) was founded in 2004 in order to serve as a point of connection between individuals and organizations in the Boston area - profit and nonprofit, academic and nonacademic, informational and activist. At present, BNID’s efforts are concentrated on three initiatives. A website and email list to serve as a clearing-house for events, resources, and opportunities related to international development; a network of student groups engaged in international development issues at colleges and universities in the Boston area; and an annual forum focused on study, career, and internship opportunities in international development. In the future, we envision further activities, all intended to enhance connections and coordination among groups and individuals in the Boston area.
Participation: Anyone who is interested can join the network and take advantage of our web resources. We welcome suggestions for ways to better serve the students of Boston
Caribbean Club
URL: http://web.mit.edu/caribbean/www/
Contact: Pierre Bhoorasingh, Vice-President, JodieMarie Fernandes <caxec@mit.edu>
Description: The purpose of the MIT Caribbean is to recognize the effectiveness of technology and creativity in development; to generate new, creative, instrumental ideas for approaching old socio-economic issues; to encourage an active thinking process among emergent Caribbean leaders; and to empower the humanitarian development paradigm.
Participation: Anyone!

Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies
URL: http://web.mit.edu/cbbs/
Contact: Andrea Wirth <awirth@mit.edu>
Description: The Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies at MIT is an interdisciplinary center in Foreign Languages and Literatures devoted to examining the multifaceted intersections between languages and cultures in the global environment of the 21st century. Since its inception in 1999, CB/BS has been committed to exploring the impact on art, identity, and cultural politics of crossing linguistic, national, and cultural boundaries. Each year the Center sponsors visiting writers, artists, filmmakers and scholars, classes, seminar series, web resources, student projects, faculty research, conferences, audio and video projects, and publications. Please see the website for a list of current activities throughout the year.
Participation: Anyone!

Children of Guayaquil
URL: www.EcuadorOrphans.org
Contact: Nicki Lehrer <nicki@mit.edu>
Description: Children of Guayaquil is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of the Ecuadorian street children. Children of Guayaquil, Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit organization on December 5, 2005. Since then, we have gained support throughout the United States and Ecuador in our quest to provide basic human needs and educational opportunities for these children. Our inaugural project in the town of Pascuales is scheduled for implementation in February of 2007. Our goal is to provide opportunities for these children to learn, grow, and study in an encouraging, supportive, and safe environment. Future plans include providing scholarships for continuing studies at the university level.
Participation: Anyone!

D-Lab
URL: web.mit.edu/d-lab
Contact: Amy Smith <d-lab-staff@mit.edu>
Description: D-lab is a series of courses and field trips that focus on international development, appropriate technologies, and sustainable solutions for communities in developing countries. In the fall, students learn about international development and appropriate technology through case studies, guest speakers and hands-on laboratory experiences. During IAP, students work in the field with community partners in developing countries to implement projects and identify further technical challenges on which to collaborate. In the spring semester students can take a spring design seminar (SP.722) or a seminar on project implementation (SP.723) to develop solutions to the problems identified during the IAP field trip. Students can return to their host communities over the summer to test their designs and get feedback to refine their solutions. They can also continue working on the projects the following fall in a product development seminar (SP.724) or through independent UROPs or theses.
Participation: Students who register and take the class, or international student groups that would like to host a field site
Design for Change

**URL:** web.mit.edu/dfc/www

**Contact:** Sunita Darbe, Megan Roberts <dfc@mit.edu>

**Description:** Design for Change (DfC) at MIT aims to enable students and faculty to use their skills to serve developing communities worldwide. We exchange ideas and information through a weekly discussion group about innovative technologies in the developing world and through an e-newsletter with information on international development related events and opportunities available at MIT and in the surrounding communities. We provide support for student design projects, from idea conception to project implementation, and also set up summer internships in development work abroad for interested MIT community members.

**Participation:** Anyone interested

Design for Demining (SP776)

**URL:** http://mit.edu/demining

**Contact:** Andrew Heafitz <heafitz@mit.edu>

**Description:** Design for Demining SP776 is a spring semester class where the students and staff here at MIT apply our engineering and invention skills to develop technologies to help solve the landmine problem. Thousands of our tools are already in use around the world! This is a hard problem, and we go in-depth to solve it. We give you the information you need to apply your skills. The class includes a field trip to an Army base for demining training, and real deminers come from around the world to consult and speak to the class. Are you up to the challenge?

**Participation:** Graduate and Undergraduate students

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Emergence BioEnergy

**Contact:** Iqbal Quadir <quadir@mit.edu>, Firas Ahmad <firas_ahmad@ksg05.harvard.edu>

**Description:** Emergence BioEnergy (EB) is a Cambridge, MA based company that seeks to establish a distributed energy program in Bangladesh that provides electricity, heat and other services to rural areas. The energy source is methane gas extracted from cow manure, a resource widely available in the country. EB is currently utilizing a Stirling engine, designed by New Hampshire based DEKA Research, to generate electricity and heat, which will be used for drying food products. The goal of EB is to develop a franchise of mini-power plants that can be owned and operated by rural Bangladeshis, leading to increased opportunity and poverty alleviation.

**Participation:** EB is interested in working with students, faculty and experts in addressing some technical issues related to the project, and in particular the Stirling engine.

Expediting Access to Standard Education

**URL:** http://web.mit.edu/ease/www

**Contact:** Irina M. Azu <irinaa@mit.edu>, Sadik Antwi Boampong <sadik@mit.edu>

**Description:** MIT Expediting Access to Standard Education (MIT EASE) works hand in hand with EASE Ghana to ensure that under-privileged children in rural parts of Ghana receive basic education. Providing the school fees and other requirements for school are provided. This is done through fund raising activities that bring Ghanaian culture to the MIT community to bridge the gap, not just academically, but socially as well.

**Participation:** Anyone who is interested

First-Step Coral

**Contact:** Gerardo la O' <gilao@mit.edu>, Martin Lorilla <mlorilla@mit.edu>, Emzo de los Santos <emzodls@MIT.EDU>

**Description:** Coral reefs in the Philippines have the highest marine biodiversity in the world and this rich resource provides ~60% of animal-protein consumed. However, ~90% of the country’s reefs are highly threatened by human activities earning the Philippines a number-one rank in the world’s top-10 hotspots for coral reefs. First-Step Coral harnesses vastly untapped renewable energy in the Philippines to grow Biorock assisted coral reefs to enhance reef growth rates, improve resistance to climatic bleaching and, importantly, increase fish populations.

**Participation:** Anyone interested

FloodSafe Honduras

**URL:** http://web.mit.edu/lem/honduras/

**Contact:** FloodSafe Executive Council <floodsafe-exec@mit.edu>

**Description:** FloodSafe Honduras is a group of MIT students and affiliates working within Honduras to solve community problems using engineering and science skills. We work with a partner organization called the Centro Tecnico San Alonso Rodriguez. Through their advice and community suggestions, we design and implement projects requiring technical solutions. Current projects include developing an automated flood early warning system - the Sistema de Alerta Temprana, or SAT -- and a series of infrastructure projects in a rural farming community including wind-powered water pumps and biogas generation.

**Participation:** Anyone
Foreign Languages and Literatures Section
URL: http://web.mit.edu/fll/www/
Contact: Andrea Wirth <awirth@mit.edu>
Description: Students at MIT have the unique opportunity to combine an extraordinary professional training with a first-rate humanistic education. MIT’s educational mission involves providing students with the tools for a sensitive and successful involvement in the global community. The Foreign Languages and Literatures Section (FL&L) contributes in significant ways to the internationalization of MIT’s education. MIT provides a unique perspective on foreign languages because of the opportunities available to integrate the study of natural languages with the latest technological advances in multimedia and interactive language learning. FL&L-affiliated faculty are exploring and implementing methods in which multimedia technology can be used to make learning a foreign language a more authentic experience.
Participation: Anyone at all levels and all parts of the world. A set of knowledge management, search, and navigation functionalities allow users to customize their own site inputs into the system and/or to tailor specific retrieval queries over the GSSD knowledge base. Please see http://gssd.mit.edu to learn more about research taking place at the GSSD Lab or email gssd@mit.edu.

Global System for Sustainable Development
URL: http://gssd.mit.edu
Contact: Prof. Nazli Choucri <nchoucri@mit.edu>, Christi Electris <electris@mit.edu>, Dinsha Mistree <dmistree@mit.edu>, Behram Mistree <bmistree@mit.edu>
Description: The Global System for Sustainable Development (GSSD) is an adaptive and evolving, multi-lingual and multi-national, distributed and quality-controlled, global knowledge system dedicated to sustainable development based on knowledge networking principles and practices. Designed to help identify and develop innovative best-practices, enabling technologies, as well as new institutional, financial and regulatory mechanisms, the GSSD domain spans over the complex dimensions of the sustainability challenges -- at all levels and all parts of the world. A set of knowledge management, search, and navigation functionalities allow users to customize their own site inputs into the system and/or to tailor specific retrieval queries over the GSSD knowledge base. Please see http://gssd.mit.edu to learn more about research taking place at the GSSD Lab or email gssd@mit.edu.
Participation: Anyone

Humphrey-Spurs Fellows
URL: http://web.mit.edu/spurs
Contact: Nimfa de Leon <nvdeleon@mit.edu>
Description: 19 mid-career professionals with expertise on various development issues are invited to the MIT campus each year. The Humphrey-Spurs Fellows enables the MIT community to establish contacts and create links with the fellows that could lead to collaborative endeavors now or in the future.
Participation: Anyone interested in connecting and/or collaborating with the Fellows

IDEAS Competition
URL: http://web.mit.edu/ideas
Contact: Alison Hynd <ideas-admin@mit.edu>
Description: The IDEAS Competition encourages teams to develop and implement projects that make a positive change in the world. Entries are judged by a panel of experts who focus on the innovation, feasibility, and community impact of the projects. Every year, at least six teams win IDEAS awards of up to $7500 to develop and implement their projects. The IDEAS staff work with teams throughout the year to help them refine their ideas and applications. Development grants are available to assist teams during the application process.
Participation: The Competition is open to everyone, but at least one third of a team must be full-time MIT students

Impact Career Expo
URL: http://web.mit.edu/impact
Contact: Megan Roberts, Gwen Johnson <cfair@mit.edu>
Description: Impact was created to meet the needs of the many students who are interested in pursuing socially responsible careers. These students want to leverage their education in engineering, science, and the humanities to make a positive impact on society. International development is one of the many sectors featured at the fair.
Participation: Anyone with the enthusiasm and initiative to make the event a success

International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience
URL: http://www.iaesteunitedstates.org
Contact: Zheng Gong <zhengg@mit.edu>, Julia Fong <jcfong47@mit.edu>
Description: IAESTE is the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, a global organization with more than 80 member countries, dedicated to providing international internships in technical and scientific disciplines, IAESTE has matched nearly 300,000 student interns with more than 100,000 employers. We are IAESTE’s local chapter at MIT. It’s a voluntary, student-run group, dedicated to providing MIT students the opportunities to have internships abroad, as well as providing services to the foreign students who have internships in Boston area.
Participation: Anyone
International Development Group (Department of Urban Studies and Planning)
URL: http://web.mit.edu/dusp/idg/
Contact: Diane Davis <dedavis@mit.edu>, Jean Farewell <jeanmf@mit.edu>
Description: The International Development faculty, in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, conduct research and help with planning practice in low-income countries around the world that are striving for social, political, and economic development. The faculty cover issues from allocating resources regionally and sectorally, to examining urban, regional, and national socioeconomic impacts of major public and/or private investments, to solving the problems of squatter housing, to addressing issues of un- and under-employment, municipal finance, metropolitan sprawl, and social disparities at a variety of scales. IDG faculty and students believe that effective planners operating in today’s world must acquire an institutional and integrated view of economic, physical, political, and social factors.
Participation: Students from all departments are encouraged to take IDG courses and participate in IDG activities. To facilitate exchange among faculty and students, IDG and the Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) sponsor a weekly luncheon seminar series on Mondays from 12:15pm-2:00pm in 7-338 at which noted development experts, scholars, and practitioners share ideas with students, Fellows, and faculty. For more information about the seminar, please contact Nimfa de Leon at nvdeleon@mit.edu

International Development Initiative
URL: http://web.mit.edu/idi
Contact: J. Kim Vandiver, Sally Susnowitz, Amy Smith, Stephanie Dalquist <idi-admin@mit.edu>
Description: The MIT International Development Initiative (IDI) is a joint program of the Edgerton Center and the Public Service Center, created to expand opportunities at MIT for work in international development, particularly for students. Our programs enable us to provide tangible assistance to developing regions in defining community needs and finding appropriate design solutions, implementing and disseminating technologies, and capacity-building and maintaining relationships with community partners. Current opportunities available through IDI include D-Lab, the IDEAS Competition, International Fellowships, International Development Grants, and U2U.
Participation: Open to MIT students and others in the MIT community

Middle East Education through Technology (MEET)
URL: http://meet.csail.mit.edu
Contact: Anat Binur <info@meet.csail.mit.edu>
Description: MEET is an innovative educational initiative started in 2003 which aims to create a common professional language between Israeli and Palestinian young leaders. Working together with students and faculty at MIT, MEET has created a three year computer science and business program for Palestinian and Israeli high school students. The program, which takes place in Jerusalem, consists of intense summer sessions taught by instructors from MIT and year long projects led by local high tech professionals. The program enables its participants to acquire advanced technological and leadership tools while empowering them to create positive social change within their own communities.
Participation: Anyone

MIT Africa Internet Technology Initiatives
URL: http://web.mit.edu/mit-africa/www
Contact: Bryant Harrison <mit-aiti-exec@mit.edu>
Description: MIT-AITI is a program based around students helping other students. Included in the intensive 6-week curriculum, we teach Java and entrepreneurship to high school and university students across Africa. Our goal is to expose students to the rapidly growing field of information technology and its applications. MIT-AITI has worked in Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Zambia and provides MIT students a rigorous yet fun way to spend a summer and help out others a continent away. We are always looking for enthusiastic students to participate in the wide range of AITI activities throughout the year!
Participation: All MIT Undergraduate and Graduate students

MIT Careers Office
URL: http://web.mit.edu/career/www
Contact: <mitco@mit.edu>
Description: Students may use the Careers Office services to help with many aspects of their transition to International Development. Our staff can help students to clarify their career values and goals, explore options, develop networking skills, and ultimately to develop and implement a job search strategy related to their goals. Along the way students may want advice on such things as creating a resume, preparing for interviews, and utilizing their contacts in their area of interest. Come visit us in 12-170 or read our website for more information.
Participation: Any MIT student or alum
MIT Center for International Studies
URL: http://web.mit.edu/cis/
Contact: Amy Tarr <atarr@mit.edu>
Description: The Center for International Studies has for more than 50 years conducted research and presented public programs relating to global development, human rights, security and migration issues. Our programs include MISTI (the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives), which offers talks and other events having to do with international education, and which organizes internships abroad for MIT students; The Inter-University Committee on International Migration, which presents public seminars on migration- and refugee-related topics; Jerusalem 2050, an interdisciplinary urban planning and politics project aimed at envisioning what a shared Jerusalem might look like in the year 2050; a working group on Local Perspectives on Global Justice; and the CIS Starr Forums, a public event series whose topics are relevant to those interested in development issues.
Participation: All are welcome

MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition
URL: http://www.mit100k.net/
Contact: Karina Drees <karina@mit.edu>
Description: The MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition is designed to encourage students and researchers in the MIT community to act on their talent, ideas and energy to produce tomorrow’s leading firms. Now in its 15th year, the Competition has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and business startup services to outstanding teams of student entrepreneurs who submitted business plans for new ventures showing significant business potential in areas ranging from cutting edge technology to social, economic and environmental development.
Participation: All teams must have at least one MIT student to be eligible

MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)
URL: http://mit.edu/misti
Contact: Patricia Gercik, <gercik@mit.edu>, Bernd Widdig <bwiddig@mit.edu>
Description: Work and study abroad with the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI). MISTI was established in 1994 to give MIT students a “hands on” experience abroad. Currently, we have 8 country programs in China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and forums in Africa and Singapore. MISTI educates prospective interns in the language and culture of the host country before placing them in positions that will use their background and talents.
Participation: Undergraduate, graduate and PhD candidates

MIT Learning International Networks Consortium (LINC)
URL: http://linc.mit.edu/
Contact: Professor Richard C. Larson <clarson@mit.edu>, Liz Murray <emurray@mit.edu>
Description: MIT LINC is an international community of individuals and organizations that focuses on higher education in emerging countries. By leveraging innovative e-learning technologies, LINC seeks to help these countries increase access to quality university education for a larger percentage of their student populations. The annual LINC conferences are intended to support the innovative efforts of participants and to send them back to their home countries with new ideas and a supportive group of colleagues from around the world. LINC is working with a group of e-learning leaders from the Greater Middle East to design and develop a joint program to educate high school science and math teachers in the respective countries there.
Participation: Students, staff, and faculty

MIT OpenCourseWare
URL: http://ocw.mit.edu
Contact: Farnaz Haghseta <famaz@mit.edu>
Description: A fundamental part of MIT OCW’s mission is to extend the reach and impact of MIT OCW materials throughout the world. Much of MIT OCW’s efforts have focused on developing regions of the world, where MIT OCW materials are largely underutilized due to limited Internet connectivity. Outreach activities include the “MIT OCW in a Box” program, support of various localization efforts, and awareness-building partnerships with various IGOs/NGOs.
Participation: The MIT OCW materials are available without charge to anyone at: http://ocw.mit.edu
MIT Program in Developmental Entrepreneurship
URL: http://web.mit.edu/de
Contact: Mary Heckbert, Alex (Sandy) Pentland, Iqbal Quadir <de-www@mit.edu>
Description: The MIT Program in Developmental Entrepreneurship (DE) focuses on design and implementation of commercially sustainable products and services for low-income communities around the world. MIT's commitment to technology, entrepreneurship, and global diversity provides a uniquely qualified environment to develop innovative products, services and organizations that improve the lives of people in low-income communities. DE helps students invent new technologies and organizations, increases their understanding of the challenges faced by low income communities, connects them to other resources at MIT and elsewhere that may help them design and implement sustainable enterprises, and conducts research that may be useful to entrepreneurs and enterprises. DE strives to provide scholarships for young entrepreneurs focused on low-income communities, providing travel and project funds to develop their ideas, along with a supportive network to help them grow and nurture their dreams. The Program in DE in conjunction with the Entrepreneurship Center at the Sloan School of Management, the Media Lab and the MIT Design Lab offers instruction in development-oriented entrepreneurship; works with all of the other development-oriented programs at MIT; builds the Developmental Entrepreneurship Network (DEN) in partnership with the MIT Alumni Association; and supports the new MIT $100k Competition in Entrepreneurship for Development.
Participation: Anyone interested


MIT Public Service Center
URL: http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc
Contact: Sally Susnowitz <susnowit@mit.edu>, Alison Hynd <hynd@mit.edu>, psc@mit.edu
Description: The PSC offers planning and financial assistance for students interested in all types of public service work, including international development work. Through Public Service Fellowships and grants, service learning, and the MIT IDEAS Competition, the PSC supports innovative, effective, and collaborative services to communities worldwide. In partnership with the Edgerton Center, the PSC also co-sponsors the MIT International Development Initiative to increase the capacity of MIT students to assist people in developing regions around the globe.
Participation: Undergraduate and graduate continuing students can use all PSC resources. Grants and planning assistance are available to all MIT community members for projects that involve MIT students in public service. Faculty and alumni are also welcome as project advisors and class mentors

MIT Student Pugwash
URL: http://web.mit.edu/pugwash/
Contact: Chris Sequeira <pugwash-officer@mit.edu>
Description: MIT Student Pugwash encourages science and engineering students to consider how their work can positively or negatively affect humanity.
Participation: All are welcome

Oxfam America
URL: http://www.oxfamamerica.org
Contact: Clara Herrero <cherrero@oxfamamerica.org>
Description: Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization. Founded in 1970, we have been providing lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice in the US and around the world for more than 35 years. Oxfam America works in over 26 countries to change the world one community at a time by helping poor people use their own knowledge and power to transform their lives. We are part of Oxfam International, a confederation of 13 Oxfam organizations, which expands our collective reach to more than 120 countries. Together, we make a global impact.
Participation: Anyone
Philippine Emerging Startups Open (PESO)

URL: http://web.mit.edu/peso
Contact: Gerardo la O’ <gjiao@mit.edu>, Chester Yu <cyu@mit.edu>
Description: The objective of this project is to establish the PESO (Philippine Emerging Startups Open) Challenge, a business plan competition in the Philippines to promote world class, innovation-fueled entrepreneurship that will contribute to Philippine economic development. The project takes inspiration from the MIT $50K Business Plan Competition. PESO is intended to be a vehicle to not only provide monetary incentives for new Philippine-based startups, but also to transfer knowledge and expertise from MIT, and to promote closer collaboration between the academic, professional, industrial and financial communities in the Philippines. In the long run, we envision that this competition would become an annual event and lead to the establishment of many Philippine startups, some of which would grow into thriving enterprises that would create jobs, improve the quality of life for Filipinos, and make a significant positive impact on the national and international economy.
Participation: Any MIT student or alum

Results@MIT

URL: http://web.mit.edu/em/www/results/
Contact: Katherine Romer <kromer@mit.edu>
Description: Results is a grassroots organization of political activists across the country and around the world. We’re working to create the political will necessary to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty. Results activists educate members of Congress and the general public about efficient, effective, long-term solutions that will bring millions of people out of poverty. Results activists work to set policy priorities that will reduce poverty and hunger. Along the way, Results activists gain the skills they need to engage in our democracy. If you want to learn to write letters, publish an editorial, or meet your members of Congress, Results@MIT is for you. If you care about global health, education, and development, Results@MIT is for you.
Participation: Anyone at MIT is welcome

Share a Vital Earth (SAVE)

URL: http://mit.edu/save
Contact: Freyian E. Sifuentes <fray@mit.edu>
Description: From rising sea levels in the Pacific Islands, to more and harsher droughts in Africa, from chemicals in the water systems, to pollution in the air and soil, our energy consumption and styles of living create a negative impact on the livelihood of other people. We work in creating awareness on how our ways of living affect the environment and others, and how we can help reduce that impact. We make reused-paper notebooks and organize Earth Day events, in addition to sponsoring recycling, energy and paper-saving awareness campaigns.
Participation: Anyone from the MIT community

Social IMPACT

Contact: Thierry Senechal <thierry@mit.edu>, Pascal Marmier <pamarmier@mit.edu>, Sinead O’Flanagan <sinead@mit.edu>, Chandrika Samarth <samarth@mit.edu>
Description: We are a group of Sloan Fellows from the Class of 2007. We have diverse backgrounds with a common interest in social issues, sustainable development and emerging technologies for development and environmental conservation. Our agenda is to organize conferences and seminars in order to increase the appreciation of social concerns amongst our Sloan cohorts. We are also interested in supporting one or two business ideas for the MIT $100K Competition.
Participation: Any MIT student or alum, particularly from Sloan

South Asian American Students

URL: http://web.mit.edu/saas/www/
Contact: Jugal Shah <jugal@mit.edu>, <rispuram@mit.edu>
Description: MIT SAAS maintains an active participation with various international development groups. SAAS plans large-scale events on campus that promote South Asian culture, and the proceeds from many events go towards international development. For example, after the Asian Tsunami, SAAS members organized a Tsunami Fundraising Relief Dinner, from which thousands of dollars were donated to relief efforts. Also, SAAS partnered with ASHA for Education for an Indian a capella concert to raise money for educational resources in South Asian countries. SAAS looks forward to a successful year in raising awareness for international efforts.
Participation: All members for the MIT Community and non-MIT are welcome to participate in planning and attending SAAS’s community service events

Special Interest Group in Urban Settlements (SIGUS)

URL: http://web.mit.edu/sigus
Contact: Reinhard Goethert <rgoethert@mit.edu>, W. Victoria Lee <lizteeth@mit.edu>
Description: SIGUS explores methods for promoting affordable, equitable and efficient housing for low income communities, with focus in developing countries. It champions participatory technique through short workshops and courses, and undertakes research on innovative approaches in support of the low-income. It concentrates on the new professionalism emerging for designers, architects, and planners demanding a shift in practice and teaching. SIGUS has over 10 years of experience in Action-Learning workshops. It has lead programs in Peru, Ecuador, Poland, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, India, Bhutan, Syria, and Ethiopia; hosted by governments, development agencies, or NGOs, with local university counterparts.
Participation: Open to all
Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS)
URL: http://web.mit.edu/spurs/www/
Contact: Bish Sanyal <sanyal@mit.edu>, Nimfa de Leon <nvdeleon@mit.edu>, Tina Rosan <trosan@mit.edu>
Description: The Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) is a one-year program designed for mid-career professionals from developing countries. SPURS was founded in 1967 as part of MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP), which has a long-standing commitment to enabling qualified individuals to expand their expertise in the field of international development. The program is designed to allow individuals, often at a turning point in their professional careers, to spend a year at MIT broadening their perspectives and enhancing their policy-making and planning skills. SPURS Fellows have returned to their countries with new abilities for addressing complex national, regional and local development issues. Over its 39-year history, SPURS has hosted over 550 women and men from 90 countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Eastern and Central Europe.
Participation: In the past, SPURS Fellows have worked with MIT students on development projects in their home countries. SPURS Fellows are interested in meeting with MIT students to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Every Monday during the semester, the SPURS program hosts a lunch seminar from 12-2pm in room 7-338 about development issues that is open to the MIT community. For more information about the speakers’ series, please e-mail Nimfa de Leon at nvdeleon@mit.edu

Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries Projects
Contact: Susan Murcott <murcott@mit.edu>, Eric Adams <eeadams@mit.edu>
Description: Since 1998, the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department’s Master of Engineering program has engaged graduate students in multi-disciplinary teams (with students from Sloan GLab, Urban Studies and Planning and other departments) to work on water and sanitation projects in developing countries, including sites in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Throughout the academic year, students work in teams with local partners to assess water quality, design treatment systems, emphasizing appropriate and sustainable development concepts. Teams travel to field sites during IAP to gather data and implement best solutions. The student’s Masters thesis is usually derived from their group project work.
Participation: Most participants are enrolled in the department’s 9-month Master of Engineering Program, but graduate students from other departments and some undergraduate UROPs and have also participated in multi-disciplinary teams

Western Hemisphere Project
URL: web.mit.edu/hemisphere
Contact: Kendra Johnson <kendraj@mit.edu>
Description: The MIT Western Hemisphere project is a group of students, faculty, and community members dedicated to exploring issues of politics, economics, cultures, and societies across the Americas. We organize events, film series, and forums to discuss issues of sustainable development, indigenous rights and culture, and recent developments in the Western Hemisphere. We also host a weekly radio show Spheric, from 4-5pm on the MIT radio station, wmbw 88.1FM, on which we feature different guests each week who share their experiences and perspective these same themes.
Participation: Anyone can be a member of Western Hemisphere Project: undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and non-MIT

Wheelchair Design in Developing Countries Class
Contact: Amos Winter <awinter@mit.edu>
Description: The Wheelchair Design in Developing Countries class will give students the chance to better the lives of others by improving wheelchairs and tricycles made in developing countries. Lectures will focus on understanding local factors, such as operating environments, social stigmas against the disabled, and manufacturing constraints, then applying sound scientific/engineering knowledge to develop appropriate technical solutions. Multidisciplinary student teams will conduct term-long projects on topics such as hardware design, manufacturing optimization, biomechanics modeling, and business plan development. Engineering theory will further be connected to real-world implementation during guest lectures by MIT faculty, Third-World community partners, and US wheelchair organizations. Funded opportunities for summer travel to implement class projects into wheelchair workshops will be available.
Participation: MIT students (both undergraduate and graduate) from all academic disciplines are encouraged to participate.

Study Abroad and Distinguished Fellowships Office
URL: http://web.mit.edu/studyabroad
Contact: Kimberly Benard, Jennifer Cook, Nancy Crosby, Malgorzata Hedderick <studyabroad@mit.edu>
Description: The Study Abroad and Distinguished Fellowships Office provides support to MIT undergraduates and graduates whether they are studying abroad for a summer, semester or year or are applying to a prestigious scholarship such as the Marshall, Rhodes or Fulbright.
Participation: MIT community only

The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT
URL: http://web.mit.edu/tac
Contact: Amy McCreath <mccreath@mit.edu>, Patricia Weinmann <weinmann@mit.edu>
Description: The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT sponsors lectures, symposia and meetings that address critical issues of our time. The programs explore the role of science and technology in promoting positive social, ecological, and economic change. In addition, the forum stimulates discussion about the ethical implications of scientific discovery and technological innovations.
Participation: A Steering Committee, comprised of students, faculty and alums, plans and coordinates events. All MIT students, faculty, staff and the public are invited to most events
Index of Development-Related Resources at MIT

MIT Resources
MIT is a great environment for resourceful people. Programs and departments may have funds available to students who work in the areas they represent. Administrators and department Chairs may have discretionary funds that they might apply to interesting projects. Student government resources may be available for local fundraising activities that can in turn support international development work. Also consider working through established resources such as research teams, the IDEAS Competition, D-Lab, and Alternative Spring Break. In other words, it is important to think strategically when it comes to resource acquisition at MIT.

Here are a few funding and information resources:

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Purpose: Carnegie runs an annual national competition to select from 8-10 graduating seniors to be research fellows in its DC offices. Successful applicants are matched with a senior associate--academics, former government officials, lawyers and journalists from around the world to work on a variety of international affairs issues.
Amount: $2,750 per month. A full benefits package is also provided
Time Commitment: 1 year
Eligibility: MIT graduating seniors or have graduated from MIT within the past year
Timing: December
Website: http://web.mit.edu/cis/fo2_9.html

Carroll L. Wilson Award
Purpose: To provide opportunities for MIT graduate students to study an important societal problem with international dimensions.
Amount: Four or five $5,000 awards are awarded each year
Time commitment: Approx. six weeks
Eligibility: MIT graduate students selected through a competitive evaluation of proposals by the Carroll Wilson Award Selection Committee
Website: http://entrepreneurship.mit.edu/wilson_award.php

CIS Summer Study Grants
Purpose: To support dissertation research primarily on international aspects of such issues as energy and the environment, and the relationship between energy and security, although a broad range of international issues will be considered.
Amount: $5,000
Time Commitment: Summer
Eligibility: Doctoral students studying international affairs
Timing: February
Website: http://web.mit.edu/cis/fo2_2.html

Echoinggreen Fellowship
Purpose: For individuals with innovative ideas for creating new models for tackling seemingly unsolvable social challenges. These Fellowships offer them the opportunity to develop and test their ideas.
Amount: $60,000 for individuals, $90,000 for partnerships
Time Commitment: 2 years
Eligibility: Applicants 18 years and older
Timing: Early December
Website: http://www.ashoka.org/us-canada/main/home.cfm

Eloranta Fellowship
Purpose: Student-originated and/or directed research, investigation, or creative study in any field.
Amount: $6,000 Allowable expenses: living expenses, travel, or materials and services costs
Time commitment: Full-time summer occupation
Eligibility: MIT undergraduates (including June graduates)
Timing: Early April application deadline for summer award
Website: http://web.mit.edu/eloranta/

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad
Purpose: To support foreign languages and area studies.
Amount: Average fellowship amount is $32,356
Time Commitment: During doctorate
Eligibility: Graduate students
Timing: Late September - Early October
Website: http://web.mit.edu/scholarships/details/fulbright-hays.htm

Fulbright Program for US Students
Purpose: Advanced research, graduate study, or teaching at the university, secondary or elementary level.
Amount: Travel & educational expenses; language or orientation courses; maintenance for one academic year; supplemental health and accident insurance
Time Commitment: During graduate studies
Eligibility: Graduating seniors or graduate students
Timing: Late September - Early October
Website: http://web.mit.edu/scholarships/details/fulbright.htm
Harry S. Truman Scholarship Program
Purpose: Government, non-profit sector, or public service.
Amount: $30,000
Time Commitment: During graduate studies
Eligibility: Juniors
Timing: Mid November
Website: http://web.mit.edu/scholarships/details/truman.htm

Program on Human Rights and Justice
Purpose: To provide MIT students the opportunity to study human rights issues firsthand at the field level or through applied research.
Amount: $5,000 maximum
Time commitment: 8-12-week summer
Allowable expenses: Living and travel expenses
Eligibility: Graduate and undergraduate students
Timing: Late March application deadline for summer award
Website: http://web.mit.edu/phrj/internships.html

International Development Initiative
Purpose: IDI grants make it possible to lead or develop a project that involves MIT students in international development.
Amount: Variable
Allowable expenses: Materials and transportation
Eligibility: Open to MIT community. Students and faculty are especially encouraged to apply
Timing: Rolling deadline
Website: http://web.mit.edu/idi/programs.html#idg

Public Service Center Grants
Purpose: Community service work, including conference attendance related to service leadership and training; group programs and events; individual service projects.
Amount: Variable
Allowable expenses: Materials and transportation
Eligibility: MIT graduate and undergraduate students who will be enrolled for at least one semester following the grant project
Timing: Applications accepted monthly
Website: http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc

John S. Hennessy Fellowship
Purpose: To support environmental studies.
Amount: Tuition, student health insurance and a stipend of $2,170 per month
Time Commitment: Fall semester
Eligibility: Any graduate student pursuing environmental studies
Timing: March
Website: http://web.mit.edu/gso/financialaid/intfellowships.html#hennessy

Public Service Center Fellowships
Purpose: Independent community service projects that provide sustainable benefits.
Amount: Variable
Time commitment: IAP or summer
Allowable expenses: Living expenses, travel, materials, or stipends
Eligibility: MIT graduate and undergraduate students who will be enrolled for at least one semester following the Fellowship
Timing: October application deadline for IAP award; April deadline for summer award
Website: http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc

Kelly/Douglas Traveling Fellowship
Purpose: To enable MIT juniors who are committed to further work in the humanities, arts or social sciences to travel to develop a scholarly project to support theses or other future work.
Amount: $500
Time commitment: Full-time summer occupation
Allowable expenses: Living expenses, travel, or materials and services costs
Eligibility: MIT juniors Timing: mid-April application deadline for summer award
Website: http://web.mit.edu/mta/www/music/resources/kellytraveling.html

US Ashoka Fellowship
Purpose: For leading social entrepreneurs who are recognized to have innovative solutions and the potential to change patterns across society.
Amount: Depends
Time Commitment: None
Eligibility: Everyone
Timing: Rolling
Website: http://www.ashoka.org/us-canada/main/home.cfm

Morris K. Udall Undergraduate Scholarship
Purpose: Environmental study or related fields, Health care or tribal public policy (Native American and Alaskan natives only).
Amount: Up to $5,000
Time Commitment:
Eligibility: Sophomores and juniors
Timing: February
Website: http://web.mit.edu/scholarships/details/udall.htm
Classes at MIT

*Sunita Darbe*

Classes touching on various aspects of international development are available through almost every academic department at MIT. Technical skills classes give students a set of tools to get their hands dirty building or designing for the benefit of the world. Business, entrepreneurship, language and communication classes fall into the category of nontechnical skills classes. Regional and global context courses cover topics such as the culture, history, and current political situations of developing nations. Project classes incorporate the other three categories throughout the process of creating a product to aid the developing world.

The breadth of classes related to international development at MIT allows anyone to find something that suits his or her interests. From Introduction to Latin American Studies through School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences to the Global Entrepreneurship Lab at the Sloan School of Management, Water Resource Systems in the School of Engineering to Sustainable Settlement Design in the School of Architecture and Planning, and Alternative Energy Sources in the School of Science to Health Economics at the Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology, there is something for everyone. Check out the full list of IDN’s suggested courses, searchable both by Course and Category, at http://web.mit.edu/idn/getinvolved.html. If you see something missing from this list, please email idn-contact@mit.edu, so that we can ensure that it is a thorough and useful resource.

Another set of options related to academics are service learning grants and Service UROPs. Students can apply for service learning grants for individual class projects that serve communities. Faculty can also receive service learning grants to enable their students to apply classroom learning to contribute to communities, including those in developing regions. For example, classes in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning have traveled to Peru, India, and Mozambique to work on issues they have studied in those areas. Service UROPs empower students to extend their academic interests into fieldwork or other forms of research that yield community benefits. If you are interested in learning more about Service UROPs, check out http://web.mit.edu/service-learning/students/serviceurops.shtml. For information about service learning grants, students can see http://web.mit.edu/servicelearning/students/grants.shtml and faculty should go to http://web.mit.edu/servicelearning/faculty/grants.shtml.

Good luck exploring!
Kenyan grad shares what he’s learned - Graduating senior Eric Mibuari, hoping to share the fruits of his “challenging and rewarding” years at MIT, has started a community computer center in Laare, Kenya, the town where he grew up. June 7, 2006

Students win grant for Lesotho solar generator - Two MIT graduate students in civil and environmental engineering have won a 2006 World Bank Development Marketplace grant to develop a solar micro-generator that would provide affordable energy to Lesotho. June 5, 2006
http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2006/lesotho.html

Infotech program aids African students - Each summer for the past six years, the MIT Africa Internet Technology Initiative (AITI) has sent MIT students, both graduate and undergraduate, to several countries in Africa. Working in teams of four, the students teach courses computer programming courses. May 17, 2006

Building a better wheelchair - A graduate student in mechanical engineering spent last summer assessing wheelchair technology and availability in Tanzania -- a country where only 3 percent of those who need a wheelchair can get one. March 21, 2006

Contest spurs Filipino entrepreneurs - “Uncommon Solutions to Common Problems,” a talk aimed at transforming the Filipino business climate, highlighted the work that Neil Ruiz and a dedicated team of graduate students have done in the past year with the Philippine Emerging Startups Open (PESO). December 14, 2005

Initiative will address global medical challenges - A pioneering international collaboration among premier researchers and world-class institutions designed to bring the advances of engineering, science and nanotechnology to bear on major medical and public health issues launches Oct. 12 at MIT. October 12, 2005

Wampler plans African AIDS clinics – An MIT architecture professor has completed a design prototype to build at least 20 pediatric AIDS care centers in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. June 8, 2005

MIT team designs tsunami-resistant houses – Using high-tech engineering principles, an MIT/Harvard team has developed a low-tech solution to the problem of how to build homes in tsunami-prone areas. May 26, 2005

Fact-finding trip to Mozambique planned – Many people in Mozambique still lack access to clean water and basic sanitation, but a group of MIT students is working hard to change all that. May 16, 2005

Students tackle flooding in Honduras – Eight MIT students spent spring break 2005 in Tocoa, Honduras, working on an automated flood early warning system and visiting towns that had been damaged by flash flooding in October 1998. April 25, 2005

Buddhists help rebuild Sri Lanka – Sri Lankan families left homeless by the tsunami could find themselves living in an enclave of MIT-designed housing if the efforts of MIT’s Buddhist chaplain and an urban studies researcher are successful. March 15, 2005

Boat brings hope to Indian villagers – Two MIT researchers have joined forces with a humanitarian effort half a world away to help bring relief to a region of India routinely flooded by monsoonal rains each year. November 17, 2004

Irrigation could boost Chinese food production – Initial findings by an MIT team evaluating how water and land limitations affect food production in China suggest that the country should be able to raise enough food to feed its growing population if it expands irrigation. January 20, 2005

Students work to engineer solutions in Ghana – Seven engineering students from schools on three continents converged in Ghana last summer to help identify some of the persistent problems plaguing its rural areas and bring the problems to the attention of engineers. November 5, 2004

MIT filter cleans water – An easy-to-use, inexpensive filter developed by MIT researchers for treating contaminated drinking water will be installed in 25 Nepalese villages this year. March 9, 2004

MIT Career Office Opportunities
http://web.mit.edu/career/www

A central mission of the MIT Careers Office is to help students connect what they are learning at MIT with the work they want to pursue in the ‘real world.’ The Careers Office can provide students with an opportunity to clarify values, develop and explore career options, and formulate a strategy for pursuing these goals, including resume, cover letter, and interview preparation.

The Careers Office can serve as a resource to students who are seeking international development related careers. These students are likely to use strategies such as networking, research on contacts, exploration and a targeted job search rather than on-campus recruiting. We can offer expertise in the use of these strategies.

Please visit our website http://web.mit.edu/career/www/services/ to take advantage of any of our services. You may schedule an individual appointment with a career professional to discuss any career concerns, by phoning us at 617-253-4733. Students are welcome to use our services at any time of year to help you hone your networking and job search skills but some of our services (workshops, walk-ins, and mock interviews) are limited to the fall and spring terms only.

Numerous student organizations as well as MIT programs connect the MIT community with opportunities to make a difference in international development. See:

MIT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT-RELATED RESOURCES
MIT Career Office Tips Guide on International Development Careers

MIT Careers Office links on International Development, NGOs, and Related Careers
http://web.mit.edu/career/www/graduate/fieldinfo.html#international

Examples of Reference Materials


World Directory of Environmental Organizations [Science Library - Reference Collection | S920.W67]


OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT-RELATED LINKS*
Columbia University’s School of International Public Administration offers many links http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/career_services/current_students/career_resources/web_links.html
– Choose a topic, such as International Development, International Economic Policy, International Energy, International Trade, NGO's, etc.

UCSD Graduate School of International/Pacific Studies offers links to many international development resources: http://www-irps.ucsd.edu/resources/cccr_internet.php


Database of international health organizations: http://www.lda.org/iphw/links.htm

International Development & Environment Jobs & Consultancies: http://www.devnetjobs.org/

The Venture Consortium resources to explore options in public interest work: http://www.theventureconsortium.org/public_interest/

Michigan State University graduate program on Women and International Development: (Select internet resources for general links and then links by continent) http://www.wid.msu.edu/

Duke University’s Intergovernmental Organizations: http://docs.lib.duke.edu/igo/subject.html

The Italian Mission to International Organizations in Geneva website on international organizations: http://missions.itu.int/~italy/vacancies/vaclinks.htm

International students or students with multiple citizenships might have an advantage. For example, opportunities available for Swiss people in various international agencies: http://www.wid.msu.edu/interagency_jobs.html

International students should check their state department’s webpage.

State Department - Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO): http://www.state.gov/p/io/empl/

US AID - Features career resources (including internships and new professional programs) that might be of help: http://www.usaid.gov/careers/


*With thanks to the Graduate Counselors’ Consortium, made up of over 60 AAUP research universities in the US.

Be sure to check with the friendly MIT librarians and browse their on-line subject guide:

http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/development/