



# Graduate Women Support Survey

## ENTIRE SURVEY, 11/23/2009

Dear MIT Graduate Student,

I am writing to ask you to complete a survey of graduate women students sponsored by the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, the Division of Student Life, and the Graduate Student Council. The goal of this survey is to understand how well we meet the needs of women students and how we might do better.

You do not have to complete this survey in one sitting. You may re-enter the survey at any time, and your previous responses will be visible to edit and complete. This survey is completely voluntary, and you may answer as few or as many questions as you wish. All data will be treated as confidential and will be reported in summary format.

There will be an opportunity at the end of the survey to enter into a drawing for one (1) \$50 TechCash card and two (2) \$25 TechCash cards.

Thank you in advance for completing this survey.

Sincerely,

Blanche E. Staton  
Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education

## Begin the survey>>

You will need MIT web certificates to enter the survey.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact [websurvey@mit.edu](mailto:websurvey@mit.edu).

## About You

### What year are you in your program?

- 1st year
- 2nd year
- 3rd year
- 4th year
- 5th year or higher

### What is your current degree program?

- Masters (S.M., M.B.A., M.Arch., M.C.P.)
- Masters in Engineering (M.Eng.)
- Engineer
- Doctorate (Ph.D., Sc.D.)

### Does your department currently offer resources, workshops, or receptions specifically for graduate women?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If yes, what resources, workshops, or receptions are you aware of? Please list below.

### Do you have any children or plan to have any children while you are a graduate student at MIT?

- Yes, I have children
- Yes, I plan to have children while at MIT

- Yes, I am considering having children while at MIT
- No
- Have not decided

### MIT Resources for Graduate Women Students

Please rate the following institute-wide resources based on two scales: usage and quality of experience, if applicable.	Have you used this resource?			If you used the resource, please rate the quality of your experience.					
	Aware of resource, USED IT	Aware of resource, HAVE NOT USED it	Not aware of resource	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Not applicable
Graduate Women's Group (GWG)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Association of MIT Alumnae (AMITA)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Office of the Dean for Graduate Education (ODGE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Graduate Community Fellows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Graduate Women's Reading Group (A student-run group that reads a book per month; sponsored by ODGE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Support Services (S^3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Graduate Student Council (GSC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mediation@MIT and Resources For Easing Friction and Stress (REFS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Ombuds Office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Women's Studies Program (gradfeminists@mit.edu)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MentorNet ( <a href="http://www.mentornet.net/">http://www.mentornet.net/</a> )	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Campus Police	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Aware of resource, USED IT	Aware of resource, HAVE NOT USED it	Not aware of resource	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Not applicable
MIT Medical's Gynecology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Medical's Obstetrics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Medical's Pediatrics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Medical's Mental Health Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Medical's Center for Health Promotion and Wellness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Activities Office (SAO)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
International Students Office (ISO)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
spouses&partners@mit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### MIT Services for Graduate Women Students

MIT offers a number of services for use by graduate women students.

Have you participated in the following programs available to graduate women students?	Yes	No, but planning to	No, not planning to	Was not aware of this service
Graduate Women welcoming reception	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cheney Room (3-310)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Graduate Women lunches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Graduate Mom lunches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Path of Professorship Workshop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leaders in Life Workshop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guest speaker lunches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you utilized the following services available to graduate women students and graduate women groups?	Yes	No, but planning to	No, not planning to	Was not aware of this service
Personal counseling from faculty or staff (someone to talk to if anything happens)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help starting departmental women group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help building interdepartmental connections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help programming workshops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help formulating initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help planning events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### MIT Events for Graduate Women Students

Please indicate which of the following types of events most interest you. Select one topic in each column.	Most interesting	2nd most interesting	3rd most interesting
Social events with peers on-campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social events with peers off-campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Round table discussions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Networking with faculty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Networking with alumni	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technical/professional conferences at MIT or elsewhere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MIT offers workshops on a variety of topics relevant to women students. Please indicate which of the following workshop topics most interest you. Select one topic in each column.	Most interesting	2nd most interesting	3rd most interesting	4th most interesting
Academic development and advising relationship (as graduate student)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic development and career path choices (post graduate degree)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic, professional, and personal mentoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Balancing work, family, and life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and wellness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication and interpersonal skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal stories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-understanding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Resources around MIT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other 1 (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other 2 (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In general, how important do you think it is to have events where the participants are largely and/or entirely women?

- Not important
- Somewhat important
- Very important
- Essential
- I don't know

If you think it is important or essential to have graduate student events targeted directly to women, please indicate what kind of events.

### Functions of Support for Graduate Women Students

How important to you are the following functions of graduate women support at	Not	Somewhat	Very	Essential	No
<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MIT?	important	important	important		opinion
Events that welcome new graduate student women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs that build community amongst women at MIT	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities for MIT offices to share relevant information (e.g., conferences/fellowships/news/tips) and to publicize resources for graduate women students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encouragement for women students to take on leadership roles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workshops on topics related to graduate women students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events and Programs that address feelings of isolation for graduate women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Career planning guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to learn how to communicate more effectively with male colleagues and advisors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Connections with alumnae (female alumni)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information regarding existing MIT resources for graduate women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal counseling or confidential support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conflict resolution training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health support from a health professional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Your Feelings About MIT Resources and Services for Graduate Women Students

Please rate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Nether agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
I would like to have more formal mentoring opportunities from within MIT.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like to see graduate women's events and programming organized by an institute-wide women's group.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel confident handling difficult situations in the laboratory or research group.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel a sense of community among graduate women students at MIT.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel empowered to voice my academic contributions and request professional acknowledgement (e.g., financial support, letter of recommendation, paper authorship, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel empowered to voice my personal concerns and request personal support from MIT when needed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel that graduate women student support services are not necessary.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like to see a greater connection among graduate women at MIT across schools and departments.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you, or other MIT graduate women students you know, experienced the following situations at MIT?	Yes	No
Have you had difficult conversation(s) with your advisor, where the difficulty could be attributed to your being a woman?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you received one-on-one mentoring from a female faculty member?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you experienced or observed inappropriate or negatively stereotyping comments directed toward graduate women students either in the classroom or other professional settings?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

As a graduate woman student, how supported do you feel as an individual at MIT?

- Not at all supported
- Minimally supported
- Somewhat supported
- Mostly supported
- Completely supported

In general, how supportive is MIT to the needs of graduate women students?

- Not at all supportive
- Minimally supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Mostly supportive

Completely supportive

Are you willing to be contacted for focus groups or to share more about your experiences regarding graduate women support at MIT? If so, please list your name and email address.

Name  
 Email

### Resources for Graduate Student Mothers

Does your department have its own graduate mom group?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Does your on-campus graduate residence have its own graduate mom group?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable (e.g., I live off-campus)

Which of the following institute-wide graduate mom support resources have you used? How helpful were they?	Have you used this resource?			If applicable, how helpful was this resource?					
	Aware of resource, USED IT	Aware of resource, HAVE NOT USED it	Not aware of resource	Very unhelpful	Somewhat unhelpful	Neither helpful or unhelpful	Somewhat helpful	Very helpful	Not applicable
MIT FamilyNet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Graduate Mom lunches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GSC Family subcommittee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Center for Work, Family, & Personal Life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What is the one thing MIT could do to improve support for graduate moms?

### Last Section: Your Comments

Please use a few words to describe the most important positive aspects of current graduate women support at MIT.

Please use a few words to describe the most important negative aspects of current graduate women support at MIT.

Other comments:

**INVITATION**

Subject: MIT Graduate Women Support Survey  
Date: Tue, 1 Dec 2009 13:35:09 -0500  
From: Blanche E. Staton <gradstudentsurvey@MIT.EDU>

Dear Jag Patel,

I am writing to ask you to complete a survey of graduate women students sponsored by the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, the Division of Student Life, and the Graduate Student Council. The goal of this survey is to understand how well we meet the needs of women students and how we might do better.

We understand that completing a comprehensive survey of this sort takes time, and that your time is precious. The information you provide is important as MIT considers how it can further improve the quality of life here for graduate women students. Data from this survey will guide programmatic and support efforts directed toward graduate women in the future.

You may access the graduate student survey using your MIT web certificate from:  
<http://web.mit.edu/surveys/grad/support/>

You do not have to complete this survey in one sitting. You may re-enter the survey at any time, and your previous responses will be visible to edit and complete.

This survey is completely voluntary, and you may answer as few or as many questions as you wish. All data will be treated as confidential and will be reported in summary format.

All respondents will be entered into a drawing for one (1) \$50 TechCash card and two (2) \$25 TechCash cards. Thank you in advance for completing this survey.

Sincerely,

Blanche E. Staton  
Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education  
Office of the Dean for Graduate Education  
Room 3-138  
617-253-4869  
bestaton@mit.edu

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**REMINDER**

Subject: Feedback on MIT Graduate Women Support  
Date: Sun, 6 Dec 2009 22:06:46 -0500  
From: Jed Wartman <jwartman@MIT.EDU>

Dear Jag Patel,

Last week Dean Blanche Staton wrote you asking for your input on how MIT can better meet the needs of graduate women students. If you haven't yet responded, we hope you will take 5-10 minutes to provide your feedback by visiting

<http://web.mit.edu/surveys/grad/support/>

All respondents will be entered into a drawing for one (1) \$50 TechCash card and two (2) \$25 TechCash cards. Thank you in advance for completing this survey.

Thanks,

Jed

Jed W. Wartman  
Assistant Dean for Student Activities  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Mass. Ave., Building W20-549  
Cambridge, MA 02139