
Section 3

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Students

The Institute's fall 2017 student body of 11,466 is highly diverse. Students come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four territories and dependencies, and 129 foreign countries. The Institute's 3,413 international students make up eleven percent of the undergraduate population and forty-two percent of the graduate population. See pages 116–117 for more information about international students.

Student Profile, 2017–2018

Student Level	Count	Percentage
Undergraduate	4,547	40
Graduate	6,919	60
Total	11,466	100

In fall 2017, 43 percent of MIT's first-year students (who reported their class standing) were first in their high school class; 93 percent ranked in the top five percent.

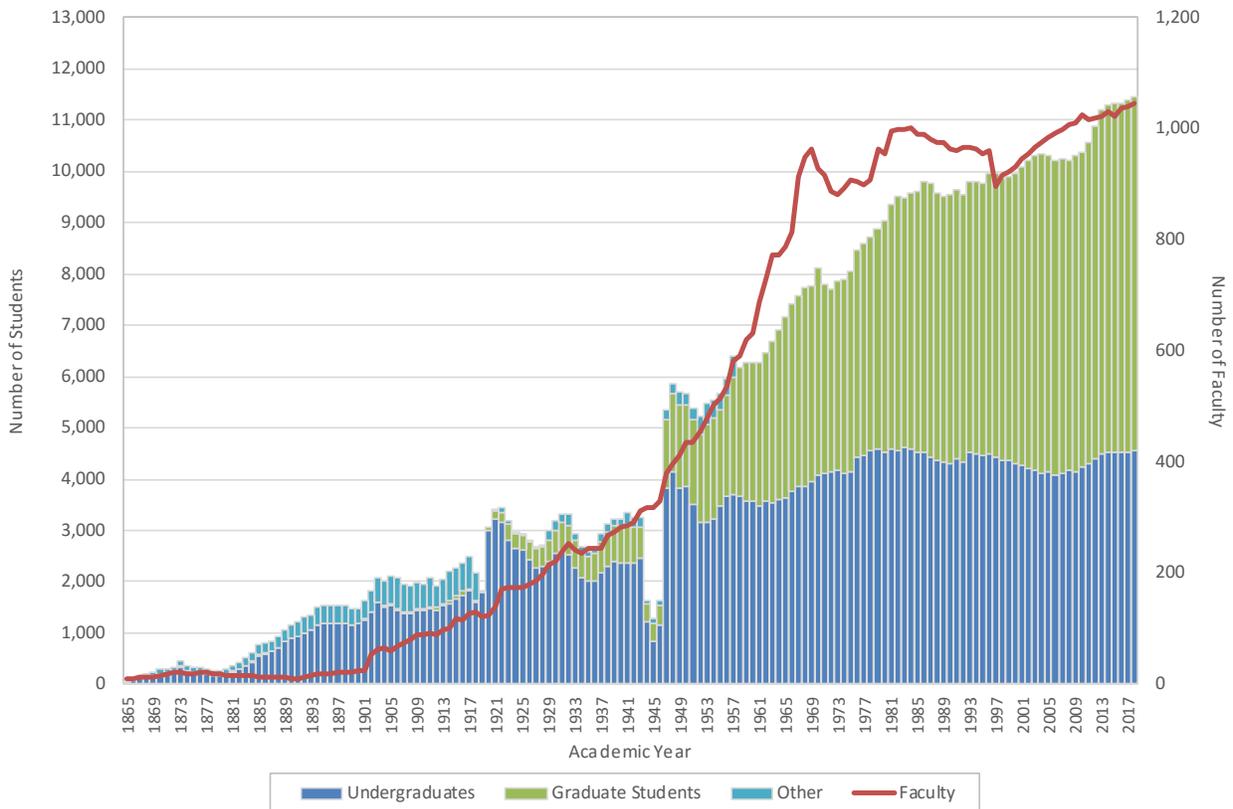
U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident Student Minorities, 2017–2018

Ethnicity	Undergraduate Count	Graduate Count
Asian American	1,381	889
Hispanic or Latino	645	378
African American	397	135
American Indian or Alaskan Native	58	31
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	10	7

Students may identify with more than one race or choose not to identify with a group. Sixty-nine undergraduate and 458 graduate students chose not to identify an ethnicity or race. These figures may not precisely reflect the population because they are self-reported.

Students who identified, at least in part, as a U.S. minority group totaled 3,864—54 percent of undergraduate and 21 percent of graduate students.

Faculty and Students, 1865–2018



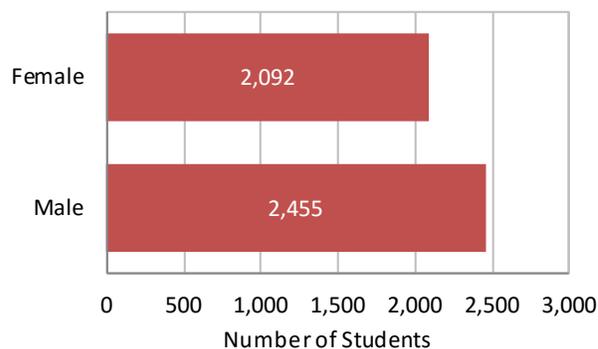
Undergraduate Students

Students first enrolled at MIT in 1865. Twenty-seven students enrolled as undergraduate students that first year. In fall 2017, there were 4,547 undergraduate students.

Undergraduate Students by Citizenship, 2017–2018

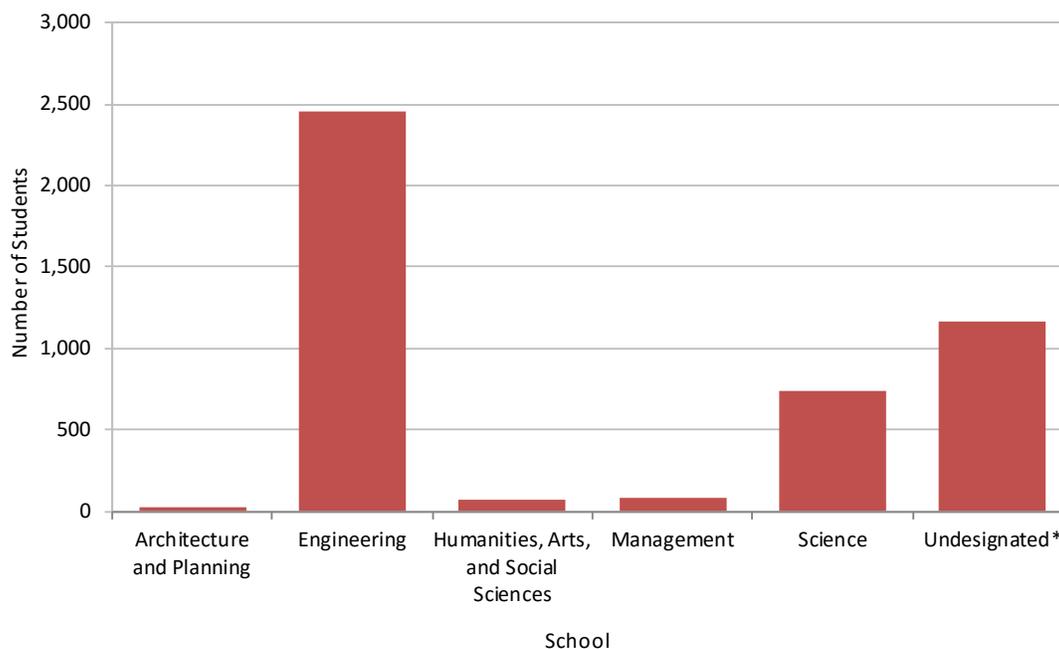
Citizenship	Count	Percentage
U.S. citizen	3,850	85
U.S. permanent resident	176	4
International	521	11
Total	4,547	100

Undergraduate Students by Gender, 2017–2018



Undergraduate Students by School, 2017–2018

School	Count
Architecture and Planning	30
Engineering	2,455
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	74
Management	86
Science	737
Undesignated*	1,165
Total	4,547



*Undesignated comprises freshman who do not enroll in a major and undesignated sophomores.

Graduate Students

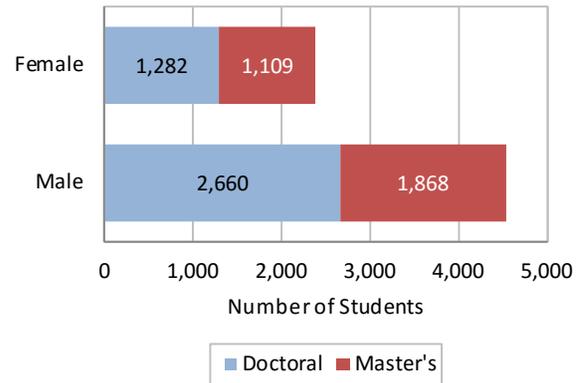
Graduate students have outnumbered undergraduate students at MIT since 1980. In fall 2017, they comprised 60 percent of the student population with 6,919 students—2,977 master’s students (includes 139 non-matriculating) and 3,942 doctoral students.

Graduate Students by Citizenship, 2017–2018

Citizenship	Count	Percentage
U.S. citizen	3,779	55
U.S. permanent resident	248	4
International	2,892	42
Total	6,919	100

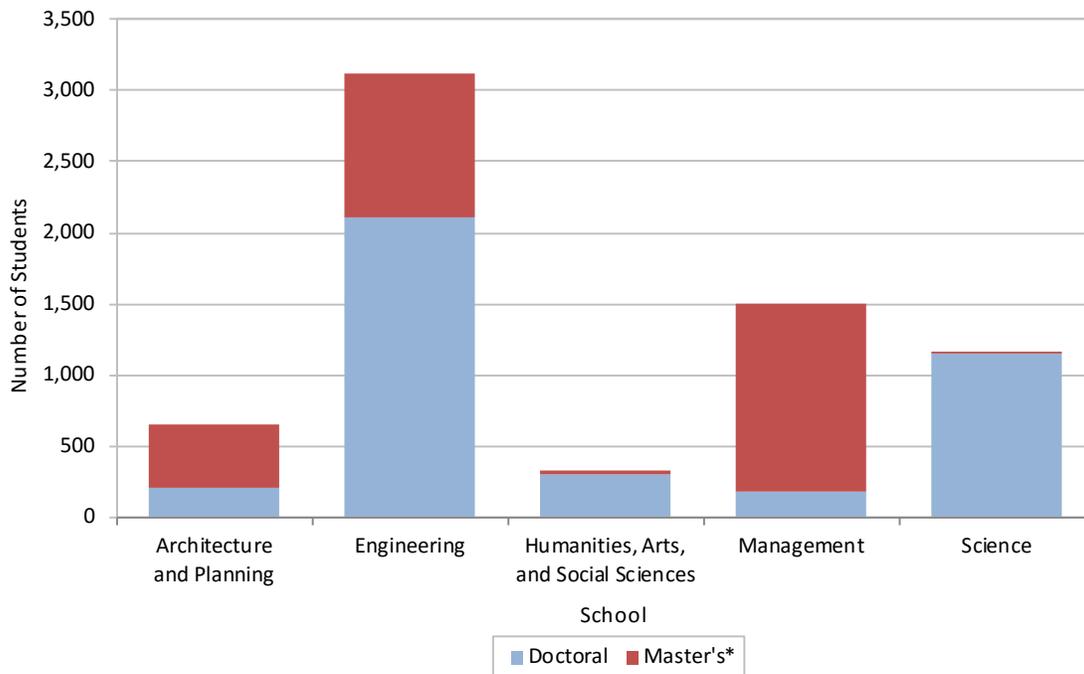
Note, percentage does not total due to rounding.

Graduate Students by Gender, 2017–2018



Graduate Students by School, 2017–2018

School	Master's Count*	Doctoral Count	Total
Architecture and Planning	455	203	658
Engineering	1,021	2,105	3,126
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	27	303	330
Management	1,325	176	1,501
Science	10	1,155	1,165
Total	2,838	3,942	6,780



*Excludes non-matriculating students

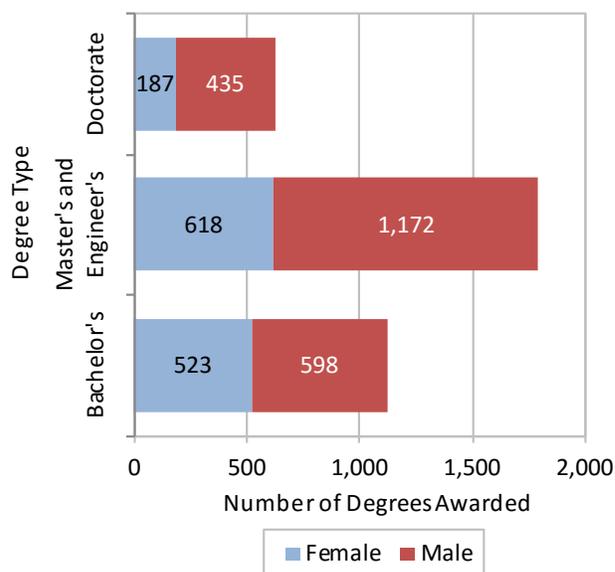
Degrees

In 2016–2017, MIT awarded 3,533 degrees.

Degrees Awarded by Type, 2016–2017

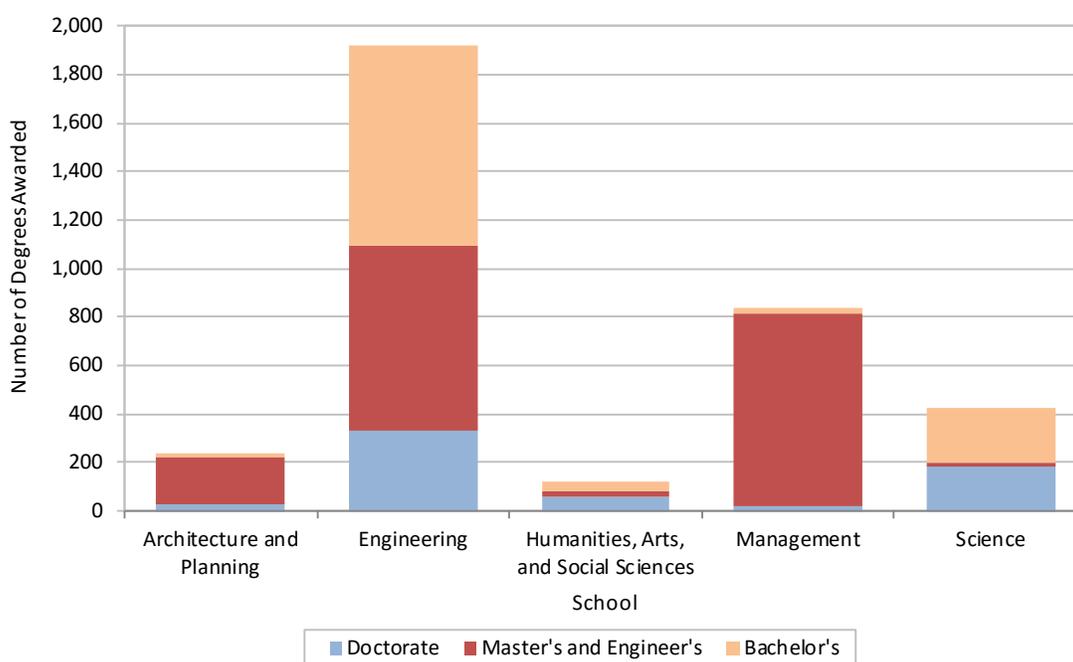
Degree Type	Count
Bachelor of Science degrees	1,121
Master of Science degrees	690
Master of Architecture, Master in City Planning, Master of Engineering, Master of Business Administration, and Master of Finance degrees	1,090
Engineer's degrees	10
Doctoral degrees	622

Degrees Awarded by Gender, 2016–2017



Degrees Awarded by School, 2016–2017

School	Bachelor's Count	Master's and Engineer's Count	Doctorate Count	Total
Architecture and Planning	14	192	30	236
Engineering	825	760	332	1,917
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences	41	23	58	122
Management	19	794	21	834
Science	222	21	181	424
Total	1,121	1,790	622	3,533



Alumni

In May 2017, MIT invited 932 undergraduate alumni from the class of 2006 to participate in a survey that asked them about their postgraduate education, their career, and their MIT undergraduate experience. The survey closed at the end of May with a 36% response rate.

Seventy-four percent of alumni respondents said they have enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program since graduating from MIT. Of those who have enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program, 46% did so immediately upon graduation. Seventy-five percent of respondents said they are employed either full-time or part-time. Among those respondents who are employed, 60% work in the for-profit sector, 17% work in the nonprofit sector, 15% work in government or other public institution or agency, including military, and 7% are self-employed.

Service is a part of the lives of our alumni. Fifty-five percent of respondents have served as an officer or on a committee for a local club, organization, or place of worship in the last 10 years. Twenty-five percent have been a board member for a nonprofit organization. Sixty-two percent have done volunteer work at least once in the last year.

A fall 2012 survey of graduate alumni revealed that 93% of respondents are employed, with just 2% seeking employment (others are engaged in such activities as travel and caring for family). The average annual salary was reported to be \$156,793; the median was \$137,500. Graduate alumni, overall, were most likely to report working in a private for-profit organization, 54%; in a U.S. four-year college or university, 13%; or to be self-employed, 9%. 3.8% were employed by the U.S. federal government; 0.4% by U.S. state government; and 0.7% in U.S. local government. A spirit of entrepreneurship flourishes, as 28% of all surveyed graduate alumni have started a company. Among doctoral alumni, 41% have at least one patent or invention. A survey of graduate alumni will be administered during 2018.

MIT's 136,079 living alumni are connected to the Institute through graduating-class events, departmental organizations, and over 43 clubs in the United States and 42 abroad. Beyond classes and regional clubs, the MIT Alumni Association supports a range of shared interest groups that foster connectedness among MIT alumni. Nearly 16,000 volunteers offer their time, financial support, and service as student mentors, project advisors, and on boards and committees; as well as on the MIT Corporation, the Institute's Board of Trustees. MIT graduates hold leadership positions in industries and organizations around the world. Over 22,000 alumni reside in Massachusetts, and about 15 percent of MIT's alumni live outside of the United States.

Undergraduate Financial Aid

Principles of MIT Undergraduate Financial Aid

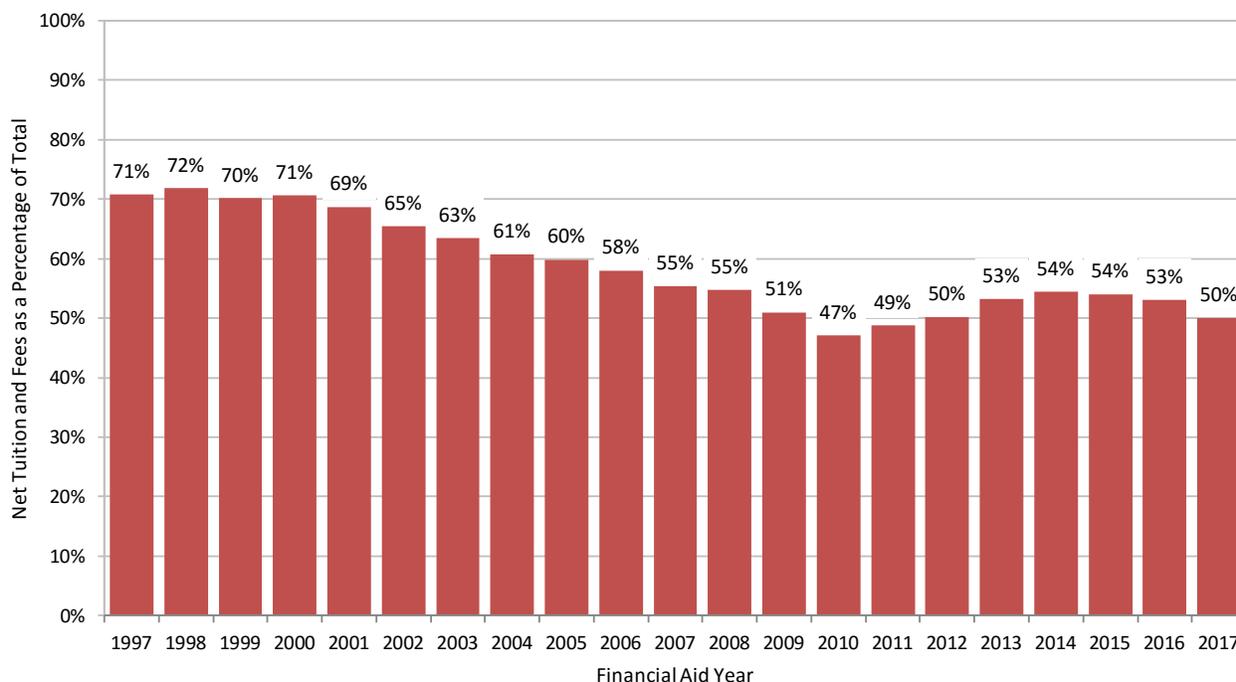
To ensure that MIT remains accessible to all qualified students regardless of their financial resources, MIT is committed to three guiding financial aid principles:

- Need-blind admissions: MIT recruits and enrolls the most talented and promising students without regard to their financial circumstances.
- Need-based financial aid: MIT awards aid only for financial need. It does not award undergraduate scholarships for academic or athletic achievements or for other non-financial criteria.

- Meeting the full need: MIT guarantees that each student’s demonstrated financial need is fully met.

As a result of these guiding principles, the Institute significantly discounts tuition. The chart below shows the share of total tuition and fees MIT students pay has declined by nearly twenty percentage points since 1997. In Financial Aid Year 2017, the net cost of undergraduate tuition and fees was 50% of the total tuition and fees when accounting for financial aid.

**Net Undergraduate Tuition and Fees
as a Percentage of Total Tuition and Fees***



*Net tuition and fees calculated as a percentage of gross undergraduate tuition and fees. Net tuition and fees exclude MIT undergraduate scholarships.

Who Pays for an MIT Undergraduate Education

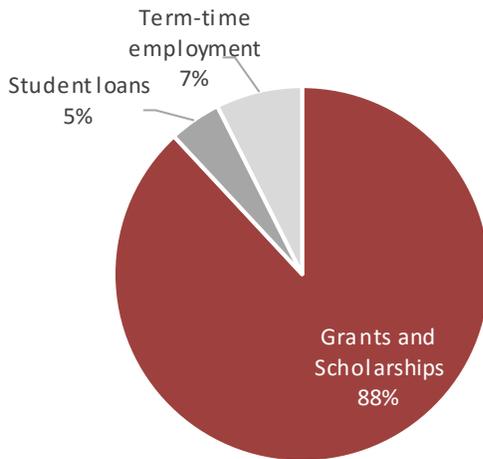
In 2016–2017, the annual price of an MIT education totaled \$66,028 per student—\$48,452 for tuition and fees, \$14,210 for room and board, an estimated \$2,816 for books, supplies, and personal expenses, and a per-student average of \$550 for travel. With 4,489 undergraduates enrolled, the collective price for undergraduates was \$296.4 million. Of this amount, families paid \$153.1 million, or 52 percent, and financial aid covered the remaining 48 percent, or \$143.3 million. Since MIT subsidizes the cost of educating undergraduates through its tuition pricing and continues to be the largest source of financial aid to its undergraduates, the Institute is the primary source for paying for an MIT undergraduate education, and families the secondary source.

Forms of Financial Undergraduate Aid

The primary form of financial aid to MIT undergraduates is grants or scholarships—terms that are used interchangeably, although grants are gift aid based on need and scholarships are gift aid based on merit. Since 2005–2006 the share of undergraduate aid in the form of grants/scholarships rose from 80.9 to 88.1 percent while the share in the form of student loans fell from 11.1 to 4.5 percent and term-time work decreased from 8.0 to 7.4 percent.

From the students’ perspective, grants are the sole form of aid that unambiguously increases the financial accessibility of college, since they don’t require repayment and don’t increase the students’ indebtedness. The preponderance of grant aid at MIT sets the Institute apart from other higher education institutions.

**Types of Financial Aid for MIT Undergraduates
2016–2017**



**Amounts of Financial Aid for
MIT Undergraduates, 2016–2017**

Aid Type	Amount (in U.S. Dollars)	Percent of Total
Grants and Scholarships	126,213,136	88.1
Student Loans	6,418,990	4.5
Term-time employment	10,627,254	7.4
Total	143,259,380	100.0

Sources of Undergraduate Financial Aid

In 2016–2017, MIT provided 83.0 percent of undergraduate financial aid. State and private resources provided 8.9 percent, and the remaining 8.1 percent came from the federal government. MIT differs here from the national trend of relying on the federal government as the largest source of financial aid.

Approximately 57 percent of MIT undergraduates received an MIT scholarship, averaging \$42,081 each. These scholarships come primarily from MIT’s endowed funds, gifts from alumni and friends, and general Institute funds.

MIT participates in the Federal Pell Grant Program, the Federal Direct Loan Program and the three campus-based programs: the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, the Federal Perkins

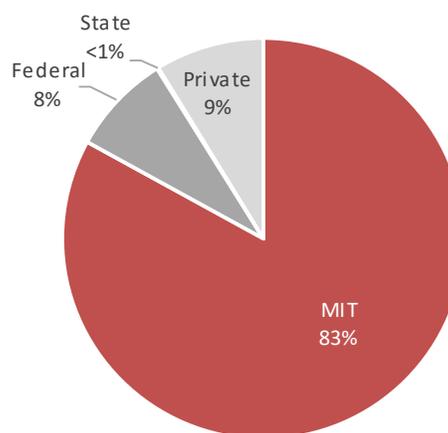
Loan Program, and the Federal Work-Study Program. Approximately 18 percent of MIT undergraduates receive a Pell Grant. MIT has participated in these programs since their inception and values their role in making an MIT education accessible to all qualified students. In addition, MIT undergraduates receive federal aid for their participation in the Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC. ROTC aid is not based on need.

Students receive private scholarships in recognition of their academic accomplishments, athletic or musical skills, career interests, and many other criteria. Two states, in addition to Massachusetts, allow their residents to receive a state grant while attending MIT: Pennsylvania and Vermont. Most state grants are need-based.

Sources of Financial Aid for MIT Undergraduates 2016–2017

Sources of Financial Aid for MIT Undergraduates, 2016–2017

Aid Source	Amount (in U.S. Dollars)	Percentage
MIT Financial Aid	118,912,068	83.0
Federal Financial Aid	11,621,668	8.1
State Financial Aid	183,812	0.1
Private Financial Aid	12,541,832	8.8
Total	143,259,380	100.0



The following table summarizes the sources and types of financial aid MIT undergraduates received in 2016–2017.

Undergraduate Financial Aid, 2016–2017

Source	Scholarships/Grants		Loans		Employment		Total*	
	Amount (\$)	Students	Amount (\$)	Students	Amount (\$)	Students	Amount (\$)	Students
MIT	108,528,145	2,579	272,768	91	10,111,155	3,029	118,912,068	3,839
Federal	7,087,393	803	4,018,176	607	516,099	379	11,621,668	1,522
State	183,812	86	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	183,812	86
Private	10,413,786	1,158	2,128,046	94	N/A	N/A	12,541,832	1,230
Total*	126,213,136	3,047	6,418,990	731	10,627,254	3,040	143,259,380	4,046

*The total column and row are unduplicated numbers of students.

Graduate Financial Aid

Principles of MIT Graduate Financial Aid

MIT makes financial support available to graduate students from a variety of sources and in several different forms. Many forms of support are granted solely on the basis of merit (teaching and research assistantships; on-campus employment; some fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships), while others are granted on the basis of financial need (federal loans; some fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships; on-campus employment) or a combination of merit and need (some fellowships, scholarships, and traineeships; on-campus employment).

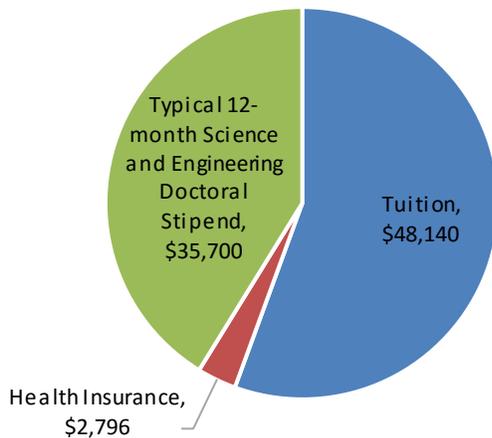
Tuition support, in particular, is provided to graduate and professional students in connection with research assistantships, teaching assistantships, and fellowship appointments. Tuition revenue support from MIT funds is considered financial aid but is not included in this report, as no singular office administers these sources of support.

A typical financial support package for a graduate student includes tuition, health insurance, and stipend support. The largest part of an MIT graduate student's expenses is dedicated to tuition (\$48,140 for the 2016–2017 academic year). Another portion (\$2,796) is dedicated to health insurance, unless a student already has comparable coverage. General living costs, including housing, food, transportation, and books, are largely covered by a stipend (approximately \$35,700 for a doctoral student). MIT houses approximately 32 percent of the graduate student body on campus, which contributes to keeping average housing costs at a reasonable level for graduate students within the context of the Boston area. The graduate residences also help foster a thriving on-campus graduate community that many graduate students cite as one of the most positive aspects of their time here.

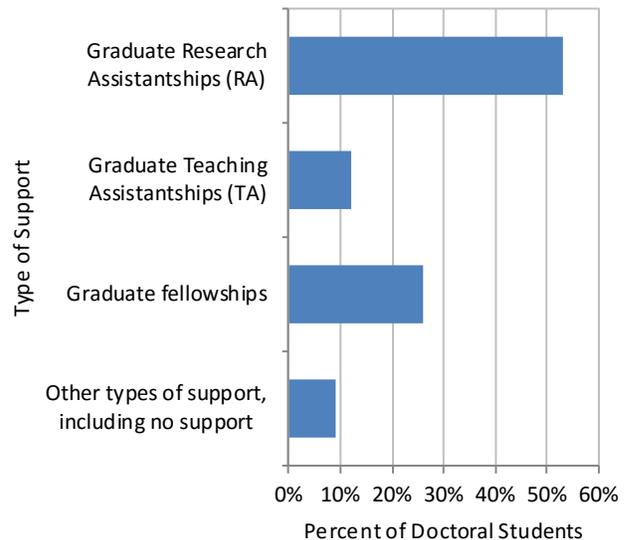
How Graduate Students are Supported

Enrollment is determined at the department and program level, and departments and programs admit as many students as they can support based on their RA, TA, and fellowship resources as well as the number of faculty available to advise on research.

Graduate Student Financial Support, 2016–2017



Doctoral Graduate Student Support, 2016–2017



Forms of Graduate Financial Aid

Fellowships, Traineeships, and Scholarships

At MIT, fellowships and traineeships differ from scholarships. A fellowship award to a graduate student covers full or partial tuition, and also provides a stipend to help defray living expenses. In the context of graduate study, a scholarship covers full or partial tuition only. Although most awards are made on the basis of academic merit, financial need is a factor in some instances. Recipients of graduate financial aid must be enrolled as regular resident students. The Institute annually receives funds from individual and corporate donors for the support of fellowships and scholarships. In addition, government agencies and private foundations provide grants and fellowships—often directly to outstanding students—for use at institutions of the student’s choice. But occasionally these funds are directed to MIT for Institute designation of recipients.

During AY2017, students that were supported, at least in part, by fellowships were as follows:

Sponsor	Count
Department of Defense	74
Department of Energy	9
National Institutes of Health	90
NASA	24
National Science Foundation	273
Other Federal Agencies	6
Other U.S. sources	58
Non-U.S. sources	101
MIT Internal	1,539

Note, students may have received a fellowship from more than one sponsor.

Teaching Assistantships

MIT employs about 1,300 graduate students each year as part-time or full-time teaching assistants to assist the faculty in grading, instructing in the classroom and laboratory, and conducting tutorials. Teaching assistants receive stipends as well as tuition support for the services that they provide.

Appointments to teaching assistantships are made upon recommendation of the head of a department. Only full-time graduate students who are candidates for advanced degrees may be appointed, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required for all teaching assistants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Research Assistantships

Each year, about 3,800 graduate students at MIT hold appointments as research assistants. The principal duty of a research assistant is to contribute to a program of departmental or interdepartmental research. Research assistants receive stipends as well as tuition support for the services that they provide, and are compensated on the basis of time devoted to their research.

Students who receive financial support from other sources (fellowships, scholarships, etc.) may receive supplementary stipends as teaching or research assistants in accordance with Institute and departmental guidelines.

Self-Support

Graduate and professional students are eligible for need-based financial aid, including student loans, and student employment under the Federal Work-Study Program, both of which are administered and reported by MIT Student Financial Services (SFS). Graduate student employment earnings under the Federal Work-Study Program, including on- and off-campus programs, totaled \$1.21 million in 2016–2017, with 2.0 percent of graduate and professional students (139 students) earning \$8,718 on average.

In AY2017, graduate students borrowed loans that totaled \$40.2 million, a decrease of approximately \$4.7 million from the prior year, with 9.8 percent of graduate and professional students (674 students) borrowing an average of \$59,591.

