Several MIT offices publish important information about the graduate population, including Admissions, the Alumni Association, the International Students Office, Office of the Registrar, and Institutional Research in the Office of the Provost. The following Q&A relies on their research. We hope that these are useful facts to have at your fingertips and encourage you to explore the sources for further details. Please address any questions to odge@mit.edu.

Updated October 2010

**How many graduate students are enrolled at MIT?**
For fall term 2010, there were 6,267 graduate students enrolled at MIT, or 59 percent of the total student population of 10,566.

*Source: Office of the Registrar, October 2010*

**How does that compare with undergraduate students?**
For fall term 2010, there were 4,299 undergraduate students enrolled at MIT, or 41 percent of the total student population of 10,566.

*Source: Office of the Registrar, October 2010*

**Is there a cap on the number of graduate students?**
No, there is no cap on the number of graduate students admitted to MIT. Departments 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.

*Source: Office of the Dean for Graduate Education*

**What are the demographics for the graduate and undergraduate populations?**
Graduate students: There are 4,310 men (69%) and 1,957 women (31%). Of the total 6,267 students, 2,356 are international students (38%).

Undergraduate students: There are 2,316 men (55%) and 1,916 women (45%). Of the total 4,232 students, 410 are international students (10%).

*Source: Office of the Registrar, October 2010*
How diverse is the student body?
Of the 6,267 graduate students enrolled, there are 2,356 international students. Of the domestic graduate student population, there are 153 African Americans; 755 Asian Americans; 242 Hispanics; 51 Native Americans; and 2,114 Caucasian students. The remaining 589 are “ethnicity unknown.”

Of the domestic undergraduate student population, there are 371 African Americans, 1,083 Asian Americans, 557 Hispanics, 60 Native Americans, and 1,583 Caucasian students. The remaining 228 are “ethnicity unknown.”

Source: Institutional Research, Office of the Provost, 2010-11

Which five countries have the largest representation of international graduate students?
China, PRC (358 students)
South Korea (257 students)
India (238 students)
Canada (213 students)
Taiwan (84 students)

Source: Office of the Registrar, October 2010

When did graduate students first outnumber undergraduates?
Graduate students first outnumbered undergraduates in 1980 with a headcount of 4,536 graduates vs. 4,517 undergraduates, a difference of 19 students. Over the past decade, the graduate population has increased at an average rate of 0.5% per year. Today’s graduate students outnumber undergraduates by 1,968 students (6,267 graduates vs. 4,299 undergraduates).

Source: Institutional Research, Office of the Provost, 2010
What’s the tuition charge for graduate students?
By Institute policy, tuition and fees are the same for both undergraduate and graduate students; for the academic year 2010-11 they are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$38,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Activity Fee</td>
<td>$272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$1,740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuition for all regular students, including graduate student staff, in the first and second terms is $19,470 per term, except for students entering the Sloan Master’s Program and the Leaders for Global Operations Program, for whom the tuition is $25,177 per term (or $50,353 for the academic year).

*Source: MIT Bulletin 2010-11*

What are the primary sources of graduate support?
Doctoral students are supported in the following ways:

- Graduate fellowships or traineeships, 30%
- Graduate research assistantships (RA), 50%
- Graduate teaching assistantships (TA), 11%
- Other types of support, including students with no support, 9%

*Source: Institutional Research, Office of the Provost, 2010*

How many graduate students live on campus?
Currently, there are 4,037 students living off campus (64%) and 2,230 students living on campus (36%). MIT has committed itself to a goal of providing housing for 50 percent of its graduate student population in the future. Although still short of that goal, a new state-of-the-art graduate residence hall was built and opened in fall 2008, providing additional space for graduate students. Total capacity in graduate residence halls is as follows:

**Single graduate housing**
- Ashdown House, 484
- Edgerton House, 184
- The Warehouse (NW30), 120
- Sidney & Pacific, 680
- Tang Hall, 404

**Family graduate housing apartments**
- Eastgate, 203
- Westgate, 208

Approximately 81 graduate students serve as Graduate Resident Tutors and live in undergraduate residences.

*Source: MIT Graduate Housing, 2010-11*
What percentage of current alumni received a graduate degree as their first degree from MIT?

Of the 123,821 living alumni, 62,467 alumni (50%) received a graduate degree as their first degree from MIT. Representation by School is as follows:

- Engineering, 22,689 (39%)
- Management, 15,782 (27%)
- Science, 9,291 (16%)
- Architecture and Planning, 5,623 (10%)
- Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, 2,651 (5%)
- Whitaker, 248
- Other, 1,584 (3%)
- Total, 57,868

Source: MIT Association of Alumni and Alumnae, 2010

What services does the Alumni Association provide to graduate students?

Graduate students may access the Online Alumni Directory and the Institute Career Assistance Network, or ICAN, by registering for a free Infinite Connection account. The directory provides access to over 100,000 alumni worldwide. Through ICAN, a subset of the directory, students have access to more than 2,200 career advisers. Graduate students are also welcome to join the official MIT Alumni LinkedIn group.

The Alumni Association’s Externship Program gives graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to explore a specific career path, gain marketable job experience, and make professional connections, by working with alumni during MIT’s Independent Activities Period (IAP).

The Alumni Association also helps graduate student groups connect with their group’s alumni: send a newsletter, create an email list, or find an alumnus speaker for an event.

For more information on all the student services offered by the Alumni Association, please visit alum.mit.edu/students.

Source: MIT Association of Alumni and Alumnae, 2010
What are the goals of MIT’s Campaign for Students?
The Campaign for Students aims to increase funding levels for financial aid and student life initiatives to enhance both the educational and living environments for MIT students. The campaign surpassed its initial $500 million goal in July 2010, and fundraising continues for core campaign priorities such as graduate fellowships.

MIT has traditionally relied on federal funding to support graduate study, but these resources are in decline. A majority of graduate students increasingly rely on institutional fellowships for funding. Meanwhile, intensifying competition for graduate candidates threatens to erode MIT’s position as the world’s leader in science and technology.

Strengthening MIT’s resources for graduate students, particularly by increasing the number and quality of graduate fellowships, helps the Institute:

- Maintain its unique community of innovation and invention by attracting top students;
- Stay competitive with other schools by offering more generous financial incentives;
- Attract and retain faculty by supporting their graduate student researchers; and
- Offer graduate students more flexible research options and enhanced work/life balance.

Source: Resource Development, 2010

How many graduate degrees are awarded each year?
For the academic year 2009-10, the number of graduate degrees awarded was 2,180, in the following categories:

SM, 743
MArch, MCP, MEng, MBA, MFin 837
Engineer, 17
PhD, 575
ScD, 8

This represents a 6% increase in degrees awarded over a 10-year period.

Source: Office of the Registrar, 2009-10
Source: Institutional Research, Office of the Provost, 2009-10
What is the average number of years to degree?
Degree type (average years to degree)

Engineer (3 years)
Master of Architecture (3 years)
Master of Science (2 years)
Master of Business Administration (2 years)
Master in City Planning (2 years)
Master of Engineering (1 year)
PhD (6 years)
ScD (6 years)

Source: Institutional Research, Office of the Provost, 2010

How many applicants does MIT attract?
For the spring, summer, and fall of 2010, the Admissions Office received 22,145 applications for admission to MIT for graduate study.

Source: Institutional Research, Office of the Provost, 2010

Of those who apply for admissions, how many are admitted? What is the yield?
For 2010, MIT departments admitted 3,431 new graduate students.

When the departments and programs are grouped by School, the School of Engineering had the most admits with 1,358 (40%), followed by Sloan School of Management with 1,039 (30%); School of Science with 485 (14%); School of Architecture and Planning with 381 (11%); the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences with 127 (4%). Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology admitted 41 (1%).

New graduate admits included 1,121 women (33%). The ethnic breakdown was: international, 37%; white American, 36%; Asian American, 14%; Hispanic, 5%; African American, 3%; and Native American, less than 1%; unknown ethnicity, 5%.

Of the 3,431 graduate admits, 2,141 will enroll at MIT (62% yield).

Source: Institutional Research, Office of the Provost, 2010
Who makes the decisions about graduate admissions?
Applicants apply directly to the academic department, or degree-granting program of interest, where the admission decisions are made.

Each department or program determines admission through deliberations of its faculty graduate admissions committee. This committee receives and reviews applications, selects students, and determines the type and amount of financial support to be offered. Departmental admissions decisions are final, in that there is no central administrative review, oversight, or appeal.

The Admissions Office provides central administrative support to departments and degree-granting programs. Their website provides details on graduate admissions, including information on the application process, degree requirements, and how to order a course catalogue.

For details on unique requirements for the online application process by department, visit the admissions website at web.mit.edu/admissions/graduate/.

Persons interested in taking graduate courses may apply for special student status. A special graduate student is one whose intended program of study is essentially graduate in nature, but who is not a candidate for an advanced degree.

Source: Office of the Dean for Graduate Education

Where do graduate students go after graduation?
For students graduating from MIT with an SM degree, 29% go on to graduate school and 61% enter the work sector (10% are ‘other’). For those graduating with an MEng degree, 18% go on to graduate school and 78% enter the work sector, and the remaining 4% have other plans. 3% percent of students with an MBA go on to graduate school, 94% enter the work sector and 3% are ‘other’. Other includes continuing studies, internship, taking time off, traveling, deciding between fields, public service, still looking for a job, and undecided.

Overall, 94% of PhD students plan to work after graduation, 2% are continuing their education, and 4% have other plans. Fifty-one percent of those working are in postdoctoral positions, 9% are in faculty positions, 6% in engineering, 16% in research, 7% in finance or consulting, and 11% in other positions.

Source: Global Education and Career Development Center, 2010