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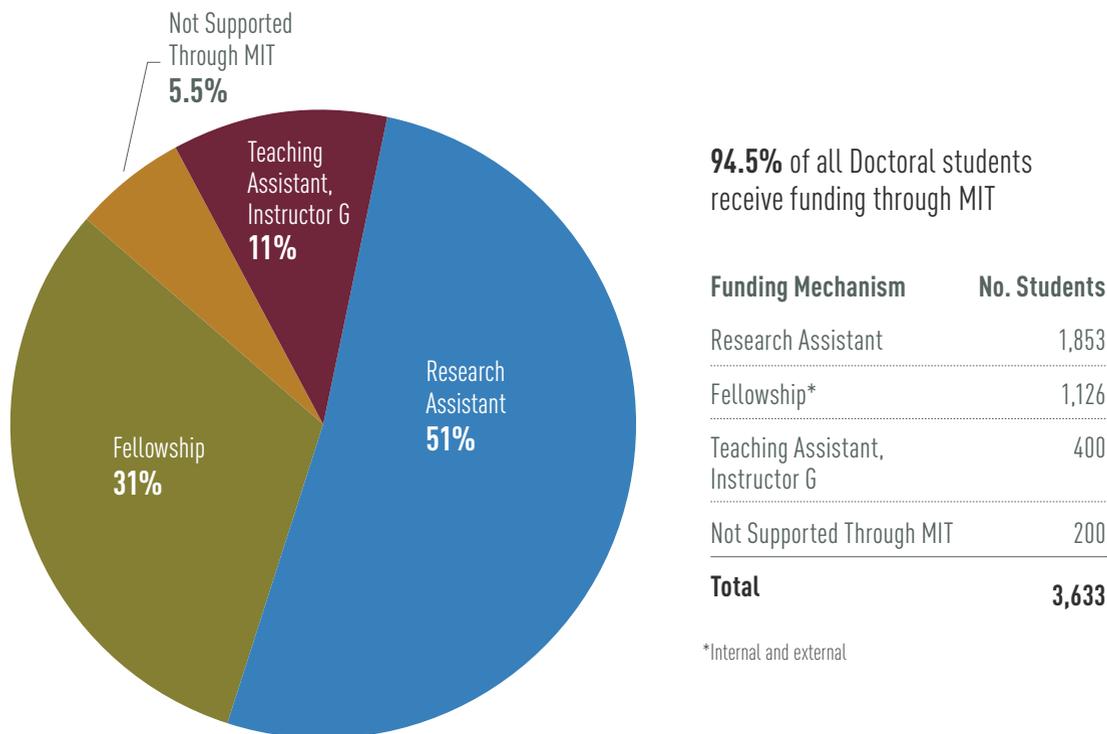


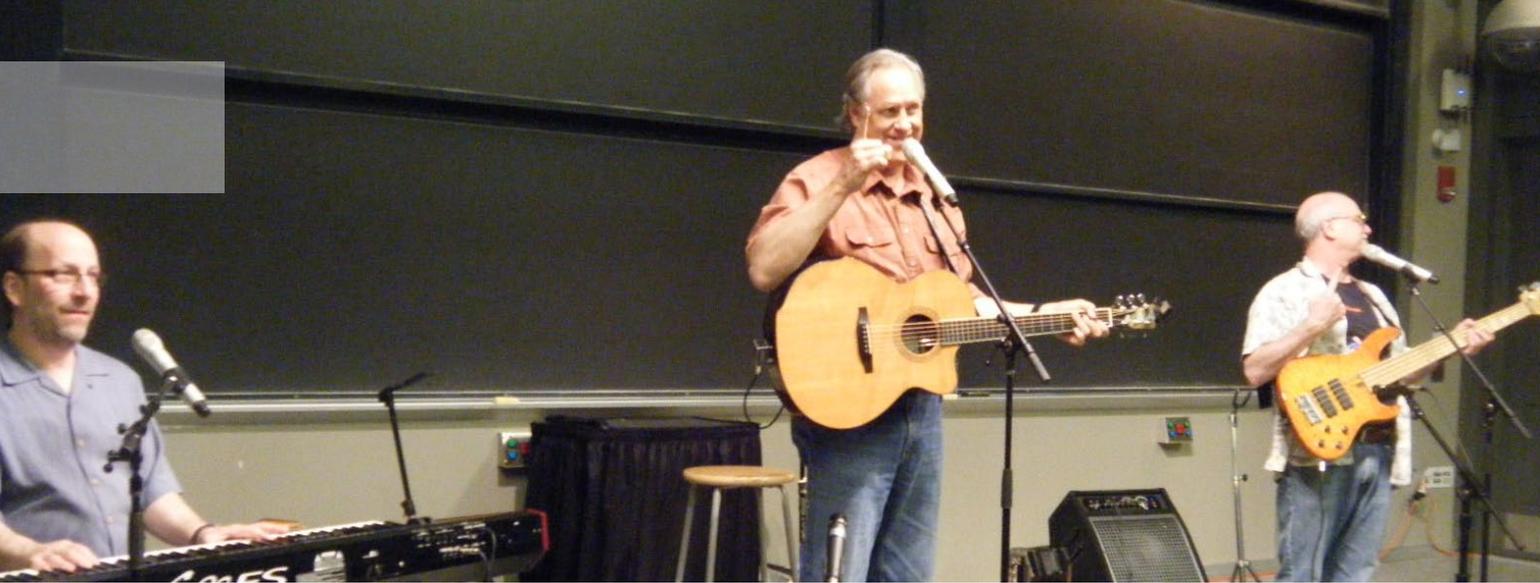
Competitiveness in Graduate Funding

EWU

Today's graduate student desires not only attractive first-year funding but also financial security throughout the next several years of schooling and a low debt burden upon graduation. Traditionally, funding at MIT has relied heavily on sponsored research assistantships in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields. These assistantships are further supplemented by external competitive and internal fellowships, teaching assistantships, and loans. We must ensure that all admitted graduate students can complete their chosen degrees in an appropriate amount of time, and thrive in the MIT educational environment without imposing undue financial hardship on themselves or their families. As part of our ongoing work, the ODGE provides and administers central graduate fellowships and responsibly stewards internal and external funds entrusted to the office; we collaborate with The Office of Resource Development and the MIT Alumni Association on fund-raising and stewardship.

Figure 3: Breakdown of MIT Doctoral Student Funding, Academic Year 2010–2011





The following objectives support increased competitiveness in graduate funding.

Fund-Raising

The ODGE will support the efforts of individual graduate programs, schools, the MIT Office of Resource Development, the MIT Alumni Association, and the MIT senior administration in fund-raising for graduate education. We will target the following areas:

- » *Fellowships*. Support will be provided for fund-raising for graduate fellowships; fellowship information will be disseminated broadly in oral, electronic, and print form; fellowship application support will be provided through workshops, panels, and interaction with current fellows and fellowship program managers, for example; and fellows will be engaged to provide firsthand accounts of their experiences that demonstrate the impact of a fellowship on their academic and research progress.
- » *Graduate Education Initiatives*. Additional areas of fund-raising in graduate education will be explored, including excellence in graduate research awards, diversity activities, and professional and personal development.
- » *Graduate Education Proposals*. Proposals will be developed for graduate education activities to present to current and prospective donors. These proposals will outline the strategic vision for graduate education at MIT, tell personal stories, demonstrate specific outcomes and potential for broad impact, and provide opportunities for giving.
- » *Graduate Alumni*. To better engage MIT graduate alumni, communications and interactions with them will be energized. To do so, opportunities for graduate alumni will be developed to support and become personally involved in graduate education at MIT through social, intellectual, and professional development activities. There will also be a greater recognition of former students through the creation of electronic and print materials on the historical, scientific, cultural, and societal contributions of graduate alumni.



Stewardship

Enhanced stewardship strategies for existing internal fellowships and awards managed by the ODGE will be created. To do so, donors will receive firsthand accounts of the valuable knowledge and experience students gain through fellowships. These materials will emphasize the positive impact the fellowship or award has had on a student's academic and research career. In addition, a culture of philanthropy will be fostered among the next generation of graduate alumni. By developing materials that demonstrate to graduate students where their funding comes from, the seed of giving back will be planted.

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Financial Data Collection, Analysis, and Information Dissemination

To meet our objective for data collection, analysis and information dissemination, the ODGE will focus on three main strategies, as follows.

The first is facilitating funding packages. The extent of need by school and department for recruitment funding packages will be assessed. Expected support levels for all admitted students will be communicated to graduate programs, assigning different levels for different degree types (for example, professional and research master's degrees, and doctoral degrees).

The second is to provide clear information on funding mechanisms and levels for admitted students prior to arrival and enrollment.

And third, a better illustration of MIT's support of graduate students is proposed by constructing a data template on graduate funding for inclusion in "Grad Facts."