Application Information for Incoming Visiting Students

For International Visiting Students Requiring Visa Sponsorship

Eligibilities

MIT sponsors J-1 Exchange Visitor visa (Student Non-Degree category) to all international Visiting Students who are currently pursuing a degree program outside of the US (except Fulbright Scholars). Therefore, all international students must meet the J-1 Student visa eligibility requirements in addition to the eligibility criteria set by the Institute.

International Visiting Students must:
- Be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree at an institution of higher education;
- Be invited by an MIT faculty member from a department or laboratory to do academic research in their field of studies;
- Comply with US Federal Regulations for J-1 Exchange Visitors. Students must be able to:
  - Demonstrate the total amount of expected expenses described below. Substantially (more than 51%) covered by non-personal, non-family funding sources:
    - For Single Student... $3020 per month* + Term Fee (s)
    - For Married Student... $3941 per month* + Term Fee (s)
    *Amount is based on the Estimated Expense in AY 2017-2018.
    - Term Fees (including Registration Fee and Student Activity Fee)
      - Fall Term (Sept-Dec) $1656
      - Spring Term (Feb-May) $1356
      - Summer Term (Jun-Aug) $900
  - Demonstrate to the Host MIT Group that he/she possesses sufficient proficiency in the English language to successfully participate in their program of study and “function on a day-to-day basis” – consult with Host MIT group for the evaluation method/standard.

Application Process

1. Invitation from Host MIT Professor/ Lab/ Department
   - Once you receive an official invitation from your host MIT group, the host group will initiate your application
- Provide your information (copy of your passport, CV, etc.) to your host MIT group
- Your host MIT group will:
  1) Obtain an approval from the VP for Research Office for your VS status
  2) Enter your Biographic and Academic info in the central Admissions Database
  3) Provide you an Invitation Letter which includes your MIT ID# and exact appointment dates (you will use this letter to request for the DS-2019 form and visa)
  4) Prompt you to create MIT Email Account (takes 48h) and navigate you to iMIT to request for your DS-2019 form from the ISO

2. Request Your J-1 Certificate of Eligibility (Form DS-2019) Online

- Wait at least 48 hours after creating your MIT Email Account. Using the instructions received from your host MIT group from step 4), log into iMIT.
  1) Go to http://imit.mit.edu
  2) Click the Full Client Services “Login” link on the left side of the page.
  3) Under Account Provider, please choose "MIT Kerberos account (or MIT web certificate)" and click "Continue."
  4) If you are using a personal computer and have an MIT digital personal certificate, please click "Use Certificate – Go."
  5) Otherwise, please use the "No Certificate? Use Kerberos username" section and enter your MIT email username and MIT email password and click "Login."
  6) Click "Visiting Student Services (Non-Degree)."
  7) Click on "J-1 Application for New Visiting Student."
  8) Complete all forms under “J-1 Application for New Visiting Student.” The form will ask to upload the following documents:
    - Passport
    - Letter of Enrollment from Home University (in English or attach translation) that includes:
      o Enrollment status in a degree program
      o Expected degree completion date
      o Certifies student is in good academic standing
    - Invitation Letter from the host MIT faculty member
    - Funding Documents (in English or attach translation)
      o Students must demonstrate the set amount of Estimated Expenses during their stay in the US/MIT (refer to “Estimated Expenses for Visiting Student” memo on ISO website for amount).
o Substantial funds (51% or more) must be demonstrated by non-personal, non-family sources.

o Document Specification (from http://web.mit.edu/iso/students/funding.shtml)

  ▪ Sponsorship letters from a Company/ Government/ Organization/ MIT etc. must:
    • Be issued on official letterhead within the last 6 months
    • Be signed by a designated official
    • Specifically state the total amount covered, which expenses will be covered, for what duration, and whether the amount includes dependent support

  ▪ Personal/ Family financial statements must:
    • Be issued on official bank letterhead
    • Be issued within the last 6 months
    • Be signed by a bank official
    • Verify the specific amount of support
    • Verify that funds are available from checking/ draft, savings, or certificate of deposits accounts ONLY.
    • Accompany a letter of support for family funds confirming:
      o They are willing to support you financially
      o Duration of their support
      o Amount of their support
      o Their relationship to you

9) Submit your request by completing “Submit Request for Visiting Student Documents”.

   - After you have completed the forms, we will create a DS-2019 Form within 30 days from your iMIT request submission, and have your host MIT group ship it to the address you provide. You will need the DS-2019 Form in order to apply for a U.S. visa (if necessary) and to enter the United States.

3. Apply for the J-1 Student Visa

   1) Once you receive your original DS-2019 form, follow the Pre-Arrival and Arrival Checklist attached to your DS-2019 form.
   2) Pay SEVIS I-901 Fee
   3) Apply for the J-1 Exchange Visitor (Student Non-Degree) visa at an American Embassy/ Consulate
   4) Schedule your trip to the U.S. upon receipt of your J-1 visa
- Pay the Registration Fee and Student Activity Fee in advance (if possible)
  http://sfs.mit.edu/billing-repayment/your-billing-statement/how-to-pay-your-bill
- Schedule mandatory New J-1 Visiting Student Orientation with the International Students Office (usually held every Wednesday afternoon, sign up on iMIT “Session Sign-ups”)

4. Arrival

1) Complete iMIT Online Check-In E-Form
2) Attend Visiting Student Orientation before the program start date
3) Complete Registration Fee and Student Activity Fee Payment/ Obtain clearance at Student Financial Services with the Registration Letter.
4) Bring the Registration Letter you received at step #6 to the Registrar’s Office
5) Obtain MIT ID Card at the Atlas Service Center
6) Get Enrolled/ Waive MIT Student Health Plan
   More info about MIT Student Health Plan:
   http://medweb.mit.edu/healthplans/student/
   http://medweb.mit.edu/healthplans/student/rates.html
7) Report your SEVIS US Address and SEVIS International Address in WebSIS

Overall Process Timeline (estimated)

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Total estimated time 75 days