



Traveling and Study Abroad at MIT

Traveling can be a good way to get away from it all and relieve stress. We spoke to some of the various traveling offices on campus, including Ellen Sico (Travel Manager/Sr Acctg Officer at Controller's Accounting Office), Casey Johnson-Houlihan (Center for International Studies), and Hannah Bernstein (MIT Careers Office).

Why would I want to travel / study abroad?

It broadens one's perspective to travel, or study outside of one's home country. Depending on one's field of study, gaining international experience may be essential. And some fields (physics, for example) are truly international, with research facilities in various parts of the world.

What happens to my status at MIT if I study abroad?

Graduate students should consult their department for this information.

What opportunities does a graduate student have to study abroad?

When graduate students want to pursue study or travel abroad, they consult their department at MIT. This is because graduate students are admitted by their departments, and funded through their departments, and generally need to work out plans for time away from MIT with their advisors.

Travel/ study abroad programs include:

- MIT Study Abroad Office
<http://web.mit.edu/studyabroad/>.
- The MISTI Program (MIT International Science and Technology Initiative) offers professional internships abroad in Japan, China, India, Singapore, Germany, Italy, and France. Please visit the MISTI website for more information <http://mit.edu/misti/>.
- MIT-AITI, a student run organization aimed at enhancing the MIT experience by providing students the opportunity for real world problem solving through summer information technology education programs in Africa.
<http://web.mit.edu/mit-africa/www>
- The Center for International Studies, a more academic research center.
- The MIT Public Service Center
<http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/> offers a variety of funded and volunteer opportunities in other countries. See <http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/fundedops/>
- Other programs include The Technology and Culture Forum, Western Hemisphere Project, Program on Human Rights and Justice, Association for India's Development - MIT/Boston chapter, International Development Initiative in partnership of the Edgerton Center and the Public Service Center.

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What about travel resources?

Here are some resources which may be of interest to graduate students considering study or travel abroad:

- MIT Travel Risk Policy: <http://web.mit.edu/emergency/travel/travel-risk-policy-7.14.04.pdf>
- U.S. Department of State Travel Info: <http://travel.state.gov>
- Foreign Embassies in the U.S.: <http://www.state.gov/misc/10125.htm>
- British Consulate Website (info. on study and travel in the UK): <http://www.britainusa.com>
- The IIEPassport Student Guide Written by William Hoffa and William Nolting, this Student Guide contains essential information about studying abroad - everything from choosing a program to managing money. <http://info.iiepassport.org/studyabroadguide>
- Calculation and Conversion Utility: <http://www.calculateme.com/>
- Travel accounting office <http://controllers.mit.edu/travel>.

But traveling is so expensive... what MIT resources are available to help defray costs?

- CARROLL L. WILSON AWARDS - \$5k grant for GRADUATE students. Spend 6 weeks in a foreign country researching an important societal problem with international dimensions.
- International Development Forum website (contains links to many other MIT organizations)
- Virtual Library on International Development - Lists many organizations (aid, educational, NGO's) involved with international development.
- D-Lab Home Page - Includes MIT links related to technology for developing countries, as well as organizations beyond MIT.

Any good recommendations for tour groups to book with?

MIT does not officially recommend any groups. *So I won't recommend any either... but there is a STA Travel office at 714 Massachusetts Ave from which you can get free advice about trips and tours.*

Edgerton Elections, & New Officer Positions

February 23 is Edgerton Elections! Edgerton is a student-run house that relies on its elected officers to organize programs for residents and to respond to resident concerns. Election to an Edgerton House office constitutes a one-year commitment (March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007). Officers must reside in Edgerton House during their term; housing at Edgerton is guaranteed for the year that the officer serves his/her term. In addition, officers have the first pick of available rooms in Edgerton, if they wish to switch apartments in the spring.

The Common Space Officer and Large Lounge Officer positions are being restructured. Declaration of Candidacy Forms will be distributed as soon as the position duties are specified!

Spotlight

Program Manager Dan Kirsch

*Look for Dan's
picture on the
updated staff
sheets!*

What is your title, and what do you do?

I am the Residential Life Associate (RLA) for Burton-Conner and MacGregor, two undergraduate halls here at MIT. I do event planning, educational programming, and provide logistical support to house governments and Housemasters. I am also part of the Dean On Call system, which provides after-hours support for students (graduate and undergraduate) in crisis.

What do you specifically do for Edgerton?

I supervise the Graduate Coordinator, Kelly Klima; provide food for the Edgerton House Officer meetings; work with the Edgerton house government on transition issues during and after elections; provide logistical support to the house government at their request; help resolve roommate or other issues as necessary; meet regularly with the House President, Graduate Coordinator, and House Manager; and stay abreast of house issues through discussions with House Manager.

What kinds of issues should be directed toward you?

Issues with the Graduate Coordinator or house government; questions about Institute policies other than housing or facilities concerns (Trudy, the House Manager, fields those); and on-going issues with roommates or others living around you that help from Kelly, the Graduate Coordinator, has been unable to resolve.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spare time? What's that? Actually, I like to read, go to movies, hang out with friends, explore Boston, travel, and I'm not averse to hiking when the opportunity presents itself.

How long can we expect to work with you?

I will be working with Edgerton at least through the end of the semester and partially into the summer.

Upcoming Edgerton Events

February 1 – Next Edgerton House Social

February 5 – Superbowl Party

February 11 – Snowtubing with Edgerton

February 16 – Event Registration and Beverage Tasting Workshop

February 23 – Edgerton Elections & Survey

After voting, enter a drawing for a free \$50 gift certificate to the
Cambridgeside Galleria!