

ENGERTON HOUSE

The logo for Engerton House, featuring a stylized white icon of a house or building with a chimney, followed by the text "ENGERTON HOUSE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

2024 Orientation Guide



WELCOME TO EDGERTON HOUSE!

This guide was created to help you find your way around the basics of MIT life and living in the Boston/Cambridge area, as well as introduce you to all the facilities Edgerton has to offer. This is meant to augment - not replace - the other orientation guides, so please see the information on the official [MIT Graduate Student Orientation website](#), the GSC events in the Anno (their email newsletter), as well as any academic information you were given by your department.

MIT has a terrific graduate orientation program, and we highly recommend that you take advantage of the numerous social and informational events during your first few weeks. In addition to campus-wide events put on by the GSC, many academic departments have their own orientation events (after all, you'll be spending a ton of time over the next few years with the people in your department).

The information in this guide represents a compilation of nearly 20 years of experience from many different people. This guide has been revised multiple times, but that doesn't mean there aren't errors (in fact, there are probably a few 😊). If you have questions about anything, please feel free to contact me, the Heads of House, or the House Manager. All of us at Edgerton hope that living here will be a pleasant and rewarding experience for you.

Welcome to Edgerton!

Best,

Audrey DeVault

Edgerton House Association President

eha-president@mit.edu

Thanks to the 2008 and 2018 Orientation Guides for serving as the starting point for this one!



Officers

Heads of House	David and Pamela Mindell	mindell@mit.edu
President	Audrey DeVault	eha-president@mit.edu
Vice President	Henrietta Emefa Asamoah	eha-vice-pres@mit.edu
Treasurer	Cormac O'Neill	eha-treasurer@mit.edu
Secretary	Arash Nasr-Esfahany	eha-secretary@mit.edu
Resources Chair	Trevor Bormann	eha-resources@mit.edu
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Social Chairs	Kasey Shashaty, Payal Chandak, Nassim Oufattole, Margherita Firenze	eha-social@mit.edu
Thirsty Ear Rep	Pouya Hamadani	eha-teec-rep@mit.edu

Staff

House Manager	Matthew Caskey	mgcaskey@mit.edu
Desk Associate	Katina Ross	
Desk Associate	Melissa Nelson	
Desk Associate	Gregory Baskerville	
House Mechanic	Sonam Shatshang	
House Keeper	Carmen Santiago	
House Keeper	Brian Haugh	



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I'm Here... Now what?

Upon arrival:

- 1) Check-in at the Front Desk (143 Albany Street). Sign any required documents and get the key to your room.
- 2) Secure a blanket, a pillow, and a lamp (and a mattress if you get in early enough), for your first night. Stores are usually open from 9am to 7pm. If you arrive later than stores are open and have nothing to sleep on, contact the front desk and there may be a cot to borrow.
- 3) Call your loved ones to let them know that you arrived safely. Get a good night's sleep!

The next day(s):

- 1) Eat! Clean! Settle In!
You will probably want to unpack and buy some food. There are several stores nearby for groceries, such as Target and Trader Joes. In addition, as most people do nowadays, you can buy most of your furniture online and have it shipped to Edgerton House and the front desk will take it in for you. However, during move-in time, the front desk does have to handle a lot of packages so please be considerate and pick up your packages promptly.
- 2) International Students – Sign up for Immigration Session
If you are an International student, proceed immediately to the International Students Office [ISO] in room 5-133 to sign up for an immigration session. You MUST do this to get clearance from the ISO. Without this clearance, you cannot get an ID card or register for courses. If you're already in the United States, there's a good chance you can sign up for this session online. Check <http://iso.mit.edu> for more details.
- 3) Get an MIT ID Card
You can get your MIT student ID card at the Atlas Services Center (E17-106). You can submit the picture for your ID online beforehand to make the process a lot faster. If you lose your card, please notify the card office immediately. MIT ID cards are required for access to Edgerton and for checking out movies and other building equipment. Once you have an MIT ID you can add to it a semester Meal Plan, or add TechCash in desired increments at any time. This is a very convenient way to make purchases at all MIT dining locations, and various stores in the MIT community. In addition, your MIT ID card also works as a Charlie Card to use for the T. You can suspend the card balance in case it is lost or stolen.
- 4) Open a bank account
The most renowned banks here are Bank of America (formerly Fleet Bank), Citizens Bank, The Cambridge Trust Company and the MIT Federal Credit Union, but you can use any other bank that suits your needs. Many banks participate in the fairs happening throughout orientation week – see the "Banking" section for more information.



Important Contacts

Emergency

Emergency	911
Emergency (On-campus phone)	100
MIT Medical Urgent Care (8am – 8pm)	(617) 253-4481
MIT Campus Police	(617) 253-1212
Dean on Call (Via campus police, on nights/weekends)	(617) 253-1212

Urgent Maintenance Problems

Emergency Maintenance (Ask for Unit 12) (617) 253-1500 (ext. 3-1500)
 Alternatively, you can immediately come to the front desk if it's open. For any non-urgent maintenance concerns, utilize Atlas to create a work request for your need.

Lockouts

If you are locked out of your room between 8am and midnight, Mon. – Fri., or between 10am to 10pm on Sat. or Sun. Please go to the front desk and the desk associate will provide you with a key to open your room. The key must be returned within 1 hour, otherwise you may be charged \$5 per additional hour, up to a maximum fine of \$50. If the desk is closed, call (617) 253-1500 and ask for Housing Unit 12.

Important MIT Phone Numbers/Emails

MIT Medical

MIT Mental Health and Counseling	(617) 253-2916
Patient Billing	(617) 253-1322

Other

Student Support Services (S3)	(617) 253-4861
Housing	(617) 253-2811
Office of Minority Education	(617) 253-5010
Resources for Easing Friction & Stress (REFS)	(617) 253-3276

Important non-MIT Phone Numbers

Aids Action Committee of Boston (HIV Prevention and Testing)	(617) 437-6200
Alcoholics Anonymous	(617) 426-9444
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center	(617) 492-RAPE
LGBTQ+ Helpline	(617) 267-9001
Samaritans Suicide Prevention	(617) 536-2460
Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault	(617) 557-1800
Massachusetts Eating Disorders Association	(617) 558-1881
Massachusetts Poison Control Center	(800) 682-9211
Planned Parenthood (Greater Boston Health Center)	(800) 258-4488
Safelink (Domestic violence hotline)	(877) 785-2020
The Network / La Red (LGBTQ+ Abuse Hotline)	(617) 695-0877



General Edgerton Information

Edgerton Address

Please do not include MIT in your address since it will delay the delivery of your mail. Don't forget to include "USA" at the end of the address for international parcels. Edgerton's mailing address is:

*143 Albany Street, Apt # (Your apt. number)
Cambridge, MA 02139*

House Manager

The House Manager for Edgerton House is Matthew Caskey. If you have any questions about general house operations, you can email him at mgcaskey@mit.edu.

Front Desk Hours and Services

The front desk of Edgerton House is staffed from 8am to 12am, every day of the week. During this time, either a staff member or a student monitors the entrance to the house and receives packages. With a valid ID, you can borrow vacuum cleaners, the iron and ironing board, moving dollies, pool/ping-pong/foosball equipment, movies, hammocks, pick up parcels, etc. For the full list of rentable items check our website. Reservations for either of the two lounges, the music room, and the barbecue pit can only be made on the Edgerton webpage (<https://eh.mit.edu>); for more information, read the Reservations Policy on page #13.

Repairs

For non-urgent repair requests, you can fill out a repair request form online at <https://atlas.mit.edu>. Edgerton House has an outstanding maintenance team. Our maintenance mechanic, Sonam Shatsang, will respond before the end of the next workday. Residents with urgent maintenance problems should immediately come to the front desk (water leaking, smell/see smoke, fire) Monday through Sunday if the incident is before 4pm ONLY, after 4 pm, please call (617) 253-1500. For toilet backups, refrigeration hot/cold, stove died and toilet will not flush should call (617) 253-1500 if it's after 4pm.

Head of House

The Heads of House, David & Pamela Mindell, are live-in faculty who reinforce the Institute's educational mission. The Head of House serves as an advocate for graduate student concerns and works to improve communication between the house teams, administration, and a variety of resource offices on campus. The Heads of House also provide direct support, cultural integration of international students and their families, and can provide counseling support (crisis management). They also run entertainment and social events, and help out with the student government. You can contact them via email at mindell@mit.edu.



Safety

Emergencies and Fire Safety

If you smell smoke or suspect a fire, contact Campus Police immediately (dial 911 or x3-1212). If evacuation is necessary, follow the evacuation procedures outlined on the back of your apartment door.

It is MIT policy and Massachusetts state law that all residents immediately evacuate the building upon the sounding of a fire alarm. Do not use elevators.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Learn to recognize the fire alarm signal and become familiar with the exit door closest to your room, as well as with an alternate exit. Leave the building as soon as you hear the alarm, and help the residents with hearing, mobility and visual impairments. Go to NW30, 224 Albany Street and wait for the Campus Police to authorize reentry into Edgerton House. Report any issues (e.g. medical, lack of alarms) to your House Manager.

Personal Safety

Since Edgerton House is on the outskirts of campus, security is vitally important. House access is restricted to residents and their guests. You should escort guests at all times within the house.

Though the area around MIT is reasonably safe, it is recommended that students not walk alone during the night and very early in the morning. A very viable option is to take the SafeRide or Tech Shuttle, for more information see page 21. You can also call the MIT Police, at x3-1212 or 100, and request to be escorted to your destination. If you find yourself walking alone at those hours, be aware of your environment. If you see anything suspicious or feel threatened, use one of the blue emergency phones with direct connection to MIT Police. There are blue emergency phones all along Albany Street. The Warehouse graduate dorm is also located on this street at 224 Albany St.

MIT police are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They are located at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Vassar St. in W31-215. The MIT Police want to help; they are friendly and experienced. PLEASE do not be afraid to contact them. Besides emergency help, they run pancake breakfasts, bike auctions, laptop registration, toys for tickets (pay your MIT parking tickets by donating holiday children's gifts!), and IAP auto safety. For general information, call (617)-253-2996.

Sexual assault can occur to both men and women. Report incidents 24 hours a day to the MIT police, (617) 253-1212. You may ask for either a female or male officer. By law, your name must and will remain confidential if you make a report. The police will take great measures to ensure confidentiality, including driving you to the hospital in an unmarked car driven by a non-uniformed officer. You can file an anonymous sexual assault report online at <http://web.mit.edu/communications/hg/forms.html> or you can submit a paper form to Detective Sergeant Mary Beth Riley in room W31-215.

Although not common, individuals of various interests have managed to make their way into the MIT housing buildings. Rarely they are interested in the students' private property. Please use your key or ID to enter to building in order to help keep Edgerton safe. In addition, make sure you lock your door when you leave your room to avoid theft.

Carrying pepper spray in Boston or Cambridge without proper registration is not permitted. For more information on registration, inquire with the Cambridge Police Department. The Cambridge Police Department is located at 5 Western Avenue, at the intersection of Western Avenue, River Street and Green Street, one block southwest from Central Square.



Edgerton Services

Recycling

Recycling of paper, glass and metal is mandatory for residential buildings in Cambridge. There are two trash rooms and one recycling room in Edgerton, all located in the main building. The two trash rooms are #230 and #330. The recycling room is located on the first floor, exactly below the trash chutes, room #132.

You should go to the trash rooms to dispose trash in the chute (only in tied plastic bags) and to recycle cardboard (device boxes, cereal and drink boxes, etc.). White and colored paper goes to room #230. For all other categories of recyclable items you should go to the recycling room. Please, never put trash in the recycling room.

Recyclables include: white and colored glass (remove paper labels, no mirrors or drinking glasses), plastics labeled 1-7 including plastic shopping bags, tin/steel (remove labels), aluminum (i.e. soda cans), paper bags, newspaper, directories, white and colored paper and cardboard. Please flatten boxes before adding them to the recycling area. All containers, bottles, tins have to be rinsed before entering the recycling room. Any food residue results in unpleasant odors and pest problems. Please be considerate of your fellow residents living in the area, and spare them the misfortune of stinky hallways. Thank you for helping the environment!

TV

If you don't have your own TV, you can share the giant widescreen TV with a satellite connection in the large lounge. If you do have your own TV, sadly Edgerton no longer has cable jacks.

That said, MIT does offer XFINITY on Campus, which allows all students residing on campus to stream TV from their computers. You can find more information about it here:

<https://kb.mit.edu/confluence/display/istcontrib/MIT+IPTV+Service+-+XFINITY+On+Campus>

Laundry

Please download the CSC Go app in the google or the apple app store. For all laundry repairs and refunds, you should go through the CSC Go app. Please do not report this matter to the front desk or Atlas.

Kitchens

The common kitchens have a stove, full-size refrigerator and freezer, and dishwasher. Keeping the common kitchens clean is the responsibility of everyone who uses them – the janitors are not in charge of cleaning the kitchens. So please be considerate and wipe up anything you spill on the counters, floor, stoves, etc., and don't leave food in the sinks.



Gym

The gym is located on the first floor and available for use at any time. You can unlock the door using your MIT ID. Inside the gym are treadmills, ellipticals, and exercise bikes. In addition, there are free weights, a squat rack and multiple workout machines. Guests are allowed to use the gym as well so long as they are accompanied by an Edgerton resident. In terms of safety, there are several signs posted around the gym. In general, use common sense and be safe.

Front Desk Check Outs

Movies (DVD), board games, selected sports equipment, moving trollies, and cleaning equipment can be checked out at the front desk. A link to a list of Edgerton's movie collection, including whether the movie is currently checked out or not, can be found on Edgerton's web site: <http://eh.mit.edu>. A list of the sports equipment available to Edgerton residents can also be found on our website. The soundproof music room, with a grand piano and a drum kit, on the 4th floor can be accessed with an ID card.

Storage

Storage Edgerton offers limited storage space to its residents. To located your assigned bin, consult the table below. Combination locks to the bins can be obtained from the front desk. Personal locks are not permitted and may be removed by MIT staff. All residents must remove items from their storage bins at the time they depart Edgerton.

AA) 001-420	AB) 002	AC) 003-302	AD) 004-402
AE) 009	AF) 010-203	AG) 011-303	AH) 012-403
AI) 013-220	AJ) 014-320	AK) 015-202	AL) 019
AM) 020-223	AN) 021-323	AO) 022-423	AP) 023-024
AQ) 124-131	AR) 133	AS) 134	AT) 135-140
AU) 136-137	AV) 138-201	AW) 209-210	AX) 211-212
AY) 213-219	AZ) 221-222		
BB) 226	BC) 228-23	BD) 233	BE) 234
BF) 235-239	BG) 236-240	BH) 237-238	BI) 301-401
BJ) 309-310	BK) 311-312	BL) 313-319	BM) 321-322
BN) 326	BO) 328-331	BP) 333	BQ) 334
BR) 335-339	BS) 336-340	BT) 337-338	BU) 409-410
BV) 411-412	BW) 413-419	BX) 421-422	



Edgerton House Webpage

The Edgerton House website (<http://eh.mit.edu/>) is a work in progress, but arguably the best and most updated Edgerton resource. From this website, you can see notices on upcoming events, check information about the house government & policies, find House floor plans, read a list of videos & DVDs in our library, and more!

Dormitory Ethernet and Wireless Connections

If you have a computer, you can get an Ethernet connection to the Internet from your room in Edgerton. The Ethernet jacks for the internet are larger than the phone jacks. A large part of the MIT campus, including most of Edgerton, also has wireless connections. For detailed instructions for getting on the network, visit Residential Networking (<https://ist.mit.edu/mitnet>). Or if you need help, go to the MIT RCC (<https://ist.mit.edu/help>) - an Athena account is needed to log in. The first one is for submitting installation or help requests. If you have problems even getting to that point, you can contact the MIT Computing Help Desk (<http://web.mit.edu/helpdesk>) or (617) 253-1101, or go see an actual live person in Building N42 on weekdays from 8am to 6pm.

For Wi-Fi, you can access **MIT Secure** with your Kerberos username and password. In addition, **eduroam** is a Wi-Fi network that you can access at college campuses in the area. To utilize eduroam, the username is your MIT email and the password is your password.



Edgerton House Association

The Edgerton House Association is the student government in the building. Its purpose is to promote social interaction and to improve the quality of life in the building. The Edgerton House Association sponsors a variety of social activities. The House Association Officers schedule parties, barbecues, and trips. Emails are sent and flyers are posted in the front lobby and around the house to announce these all-inclusive events. If you have suggestions for these events, please contact the social chairs (eha-social@mit.edu).

Please feel free to email any questions, concerns or comments you have to the officer responsible for your topic of concern (list of officers email addresses is on pg. 2). Any resident can apply to become an officer for the following academic year. Application forms will be available by e-mail during February 2025. Officers are elected to one-year terms in a general election held during the Spring Semester.

Your input is especially valuable to the House Association. There is also an anonymous feedback form available [here](#).



CPR Training Session



Edgerton Policies

Smoking

All MIT buildings are smoke-free – this includes offices, halls, rooms, bathrooms, kitchens, lounges, hallways, staircases, emergency exit routes and entrance areas. Smoking inside the Edgerton courtyard is permitted if it does not disturb anyone. Edgerton holds a strict non-smoking policy:

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: \$100 fine billed to your MIT account
- Third offense: Removal from building

Maintenance Access

Please do not block the heating/air-conditioning unit. Access to the unit is imperative for your safety.

Edgerton Residents' Checklist

Once you are at Edgerton, you and your suitemates will be required to fill out a residents' checklist and submit it by the end of September. This list contains items such as – who will clean the bathroom, how do we take care of the common areas, what are our apartment's guest policies, etc. This checklist is an agreement among the apartment occupants and its main purpose is to prevent problems and confrontations at a later date. The list will be provided to you and your suitemates.

Visitation Policy

Each resident is allowed 6 guests for visitation per day. Overnight guests are allowed for only three consecutive nights, or three nights per week. Any overnight guest that needs more than three nights should be approved by the HoH. All guests including MIT residents need to show proper identification (photo ID preferred). If guests arrive and there is nobody staffing the desk, they should use the sign-in sheet at the front desk to check-in. Guests should contact the resident to inform them that they are waiting inside the lobby. The resident must come and meet them in the Front Lobby. No unescorted visitors will be allowed past the front desk.

- Hosts are responsible for their guests at all times. Guests may not use common areas of the building without their host.
- Guests must be escorted by the resident host when entering/exiting the building.
- Residents are prohibited from giving guests their room/apartment keys or MIT ID card or Mobile ID data at any time.
- Guests, as well as all non-residents, are not allowed to enter MIT residence halls with any animal(s), except service animals which have been individually trained to do work or perform a task on behalf of an individual with a disability.

No other visitors will be allowed in the building. Guests are allowed in Edgerton a maximum of three days/nights per week. Please remember to be respectful of your suitemate's wishes regarding visitors

Policy for Lounge Use and Reservations

(The definitions and rules presented are MIT Policy – please don't yell at us!)

Residents must reserve the lounges and BBQ pits for a party, defined as a gathering of more than 10 people at which food or drink will be served. If there is no reservation on file, the event can be closed down immediately.

WHO can make reservations for using the lounge?

- ONLY residents of Edgerton House



- Residents or groups are discouraged from reserving a lounge regularly or frequently (i.e. for a weekly club meeting)
- MIT activities, clubs, groups, etc. are expected to use other MIT facilities on campus and only to use Edgerton facilities if no other campus facilities are available.

WHEN can facilities be reserved?

- 11am – 10pm if there are classes on the day after the event (Sun. – Thurs.)
- 11am – 1am if there are no classes on the day after the event (Fri., Sat.)
- Events during the summer and extended holidays (i.e. Spring Break) would fall into the second category
- During the final exam period, lounges may only be used for quiet study or House sponsored study breaks
- Please be considerate of other residents, especially late at night; all functions must end by 10pm Sun. – Thurs., 1am Fri. – Sat. (you have an extra hour to clean and leave the lounge)
- For reservations by multiple people on the same day, please allow a two-hour cushion between reservations
- Only one lounge may be reserved at a given time – the other lounge must remain open (this does not include the BBQ pit, which may be reserved at the same time as a lounge)

HOW to make reservations?

- Lounges and BBQ pits are reserved on a first come, first served basis
- Reservations are available on the Edgerton Webpage
- Please plan your event far enough in advance to use the normal reservation procedure; however, provided the lounge is free and you inform the desk worker on duty, last-minute reservations are possible
- Any questions regarding reservations should be directed to Reservations Chair (eha-reservations@mit.edu)

WHAT about alcohol?

- Parties with alcohol (whether you or your guests provide it) have to be registered with additional campus bodies in addition to the front desk, so all paperwork must be submitted a minimum of 4 working days before your event
- A party with alcohol is a gathering of 6 or more people with more than a 6-pack
- The event must be registered with Residence and Campus Activities, which takes 5-7 business days to process and must be signed by the House Manager; more information at: <http://web.mit.edu/alcohol/www/events.html>
- You are required to take specific precautions to prevent the possession and consumption of alcohol by those under 21
- ALCOHOL IS NOT ALLOWED UNLESS THE EVENT HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE ABOVE BODY – FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN AN UNPLEASANT VISIT BY THE CAMPUS POLICE.

BEFORE the event

- Signs announcing the reservation should be posted on the lounge doors by noon on the day before the event; signs are included in the reservation package
- If your guests are non-Edgerton residents, please leave a guest list at the desk to facilitate their entry into the building
- If you need a vacuum for cleanup, please check it out before the desk closes
- Please ensure the facility is in good shape before your event starts and report any damage to the appropriate officer, or it will become your responsibility
- For the BBQ pit, check the build-up of ash in the pit; if it exceeds 1cm, then the ashes should be removed (but only if they are cold!)



DURING the event

- The event sponsor must remain at the event from beginning to end
- You are responsible for ALL the actions of your guests while at Edgerton; any damage, theft, etc. that may occur in the lounges or anywhere else in Edgerton as a result of your guests' actions will be your responsibility
- Please do not abuse common room equipment; do not place other objects such as coats, food, or people on the equipment
- If the common room equipment is damaged during the function, the event's sponsor is liable for the full cost of repair or replacement of the equipment, up to its original price (NOTE: Some pieces of equipment cost over \$1000)

AFTER the event

- Please ensure facilities are clean at the end of the event - failure to do so WILL result in a fine between \$10 and \$100 levied through the Bursar's office
- Return furniture to original position, empty garbage cans and dispose of contents in the trash chutes, vacuum carpets, and take reservation signs down
- If a desk worker is on duty after the party, check out with the desk worker, who will check the lounge condition



The Super Bowl Watch Party of 2018

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are from 12am-8am Mon-Thurs nights, 2am-8am Fri-Sat nights. Parties and loud noise are strongly discouraged throughout final exam period. Keep noise at other times to a reasonable level. Note that Edgerton walls are very thin, so something as simple as increasing the TV's volume could be keeping someone else awake.



Noise Internal to Edgerton

Please attempt to contact the resident first. If the noise persists during Quiet Hours, you can call Unit 12, the MIT police ((617) 253-1212). For persistent noise problems (i.e. a party every Friday), please contact the EHA President at eha-president@mit.edu.

Noise External to MIT

For example: deliveries to adjacent businesses, loading dock noise, etc. Please contact EHA President and HoH at eha-president@mit.edu and mindell@mit.edu with as much information as possible about the incident.

If it is a Novartis nitrogen gas refill, they are supposed to schedule them outside of local ordinance quiet hours, and alert the City if there is an emergency requiring an after-hours refill. If a nitrogen gas refill is happening after hours, please email alicia.dernier@novartis.com and novartis@mit.edu documenting the incident, and CC the EHA President and HoH.

Pets

In the graduate residences, no pets may be kept by residents or guests. The term “pets” includes mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Fish are not specifically prohibited. Students accompanied by a Guide Dog or Hearing Dog are exempted from the prohibition of pets on campus. Roommates will be informed of the presence of this type of pet and allowed to transfer if a problem arises.

Alcohol Policy

MIT's alcohol policy (serving alcohol at events, etc.) can be found in the MIT handbook and in the Event Planning Guide. These can be found here:

- <https://handbook.mit.edu/alcohol>
- <http://web.mit.edu/eventguide/eventregulations/alcohol.html>

Large Event Registration

For events in residence halls, the following types of events must be registered with MIT:

- Any event open to non-residents where the attendance will exceed 100 people
- Any event closed to non-residents where the attendance will exceed 250 people
- All events at which alcohol will be present.

Registration forms must be completed at least five (5) business days prior to the event date to ensure that Campus Police and licensing can be processed/arranged with enough lead-time. For more information on event registration see <https://institute-events.mit.edu/plan/event-registration>.



General MIT Information

Short Notes on MIT Building Numbers

MIT buildings are referred to by numbers (though most of them also have names). Edgerton is number NW10. On the main campus most of the even numbered buildings are to the east of the Building 10, and odd numbered buildings are to the west. If you are interested in finding out the names of the buildings or where they are located, visit the campus map and use the “buildings by name” option (<http://whereis.mit.edu/>). Also, you can find a map of MIT on the MIT Mobile app.

E, NE, N, NW, and W in front of a building name mean east, northeast, north, northwest and west, respectively. There is nothing to the south, except for the Charles River. Some buildings have a letter behind the building number. And yes, it is possible to move between most of these buildings without ever setting foot into the outside world (very convenient when the temperatures drop during winter). Be sure to get familiar with the basement tunnels which connect a major portion of the main MIT campus. Departments are also referred to by numbers, except for BE, CMS, ESD, HST, MAS and STS. The departmental numbering is in the order in which the departments were founded.

Athletics

For comprehensive information on MIT athletics see:

<https://www.mitathletics.com/landing/index> or <https://stuff.mit.edu/activities/sports.html>





Campus Athletic Facilities

Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center (*Building W35*) –

An Olympic-class 50 meter pool, seating for 450 spectators, six squash courts, a sports medicine area, a huge fitness center and much, much more. This center opened in Fall 2002. Check it out on <http://web.mit.edu/zcenter/>

Dupont Athletic Center (*Building W32*) –

An older facility with lockers, rifle and pistol ranges, a weight room with Nautilus and Universal systems, trainers' room, six squash courts and rooms for fencing, wrestling and general exercises.

Johnson Athletic Center (*Building W34*) –

Ice rink, 200m. Synthetic track and multipurpose infield.

Rockwell Cage (*Building W33*) –

Three basketball, six volleyball, or eight badminton courts.

DuPont Gym (*Building W31*) –

Two basketball/volleyball courts and gymnastic apparatus.

Briggs Field (*west of Kresge and Zesiger*) –

23 acres for football, track, soccer, softball, Frisbee, etc. Outdoor tennis courts.

Alumni Swimming Pool and Wang Fitness Center (*Building 57 - Stata Center*) –

25 yd. competition pool, smaller teaching/warm-up pool and a number of work-out machines. Also eight squash courts, two of which may be converted for handball.

MIT Sailing Pavilion (*Building 51*) –

Along the Charles River, opposite Walker Memorial. Learn to sail ... for free! Lessons taught on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings during the summer. Once trained, you are able to whenever the pavilion is open on your own. For more information, visit <https://sailing.mit.edu/>.

Pierce Boathouse (crew) (*Building W8*) –

Along the Charles River, opposite Burton House.

Esplanade or Dr. Paul Dudley White Bikeway –

Okay, this isn't actually a campus facility, but it runs alongside the Charles River right next to campus. It's about 18 miles long and an excellent place for running, biking or rollerblading. The boathouses nearby make it very easy to go rowing, sailing or kayaking too!

Intramurals

MIT has a bunch of intramural sports which can be found: <http://intramurals.mit.edu/>

They are all played at various levels of competition. If you are interested in any intramural sport, at any level, contact the Edgerton Athletics Chair at eha-athletics@mit.edu.



Sports Equipment

Edgerton House has a collection of numerous pieces of sporting equipment including tennis racquets and balls, footballs, soccer balls, frisbees, baseball gloves and balls, a volleyball, badminton set, a basketball, and more. This equipment may be signed out through the front desk at anytime. In addition, the Edgerton House gym is available to use for all residents and contains treadmills, and various other exercise equipment. Any suggestions for the House to purchase additional equipment may be made to the Athletics Chair at eha-athletics@mit.edu and will be considered based on the available House budget.

Short Notes on the Finances

Once you've settled in and the semester has started you should start receiving emails about your monthly bursar's bills. This is an online bill that indicates the state of your financial account with MIT. Your tuition, rent, health insurance (if not waived), student activities fees, and any other charges you have will be posted to this account. You can access the information about your bursar's account (MITPAY) and much other information at <http://student.mit.edu>.

If you have a Research or Teaching Assistantship, your stipend should be available on a bimonthly basis. If you have a fellowship, so check with your fellowship program. Payment checks usually can be picked up at the Student Services Center or at the Building 10 payroll window. You can avoid picking up checks all together by signing up for direct deposit on Atlas (<http://atlas.mit.edu>). You will also be able to find your W-2s and paystubs through Atlas. This information may not apply to all forms of financial support. Living in Boston/Cambridge area can be expensive, so plan your finances accordingly.

Housing

If you find you don't like your room, there are some options available to you. For any mechanical problems in your room, you can submit a request for repairs form (<http://atlas.mit.edu>). For noise issues, please see the Quiet Hours section. For suitemate issues, please use the Edgerton Resident's Checklist whenever possible. If the situation becomes difficult, or you do not feel comfortable approaching your suitemate, please contact the EHA President (eha-president@mit.edu), the House Manager (mgcaskey@mit.edu) or the Head of House (mindell@mit.edu) as soon as possible to prevent further escalation of the situation.

If you find you don't like Edgerton (but we know this won't happen), there is a House Transfer Process sponsored by Housing (<http://web.mit.edu/housing/grad/index.html>) during the winter months. Since few people participate in this lottery, there is a very good chance you can transfer to another dormitory. If you can't wait, please contact Student Support Services (<https://studentlife.mit.edu/s3>), and they may be able to help. Housing will not simply move you whenever you want.

Another housing option you may want to investigate is becoming a Graduate Resident Tutor (live-in counselor at an undergrad dormitory or FSILG), which awards you free housing and a small stipend. Information is available on the Housing website.

Women's Lounge

There is a lounge designed specifically for women to relax and study. Bring your ID to 5-104 to obtain the password.



Sexual Health

As many MIT students come from different backgrounds, a short note on sexual health is pertinent. MIT Medical provides sexual health exams, STD and HIV testing, STD and HIV treatment, contraceptive consultations, pregnancy testing, and abortion referrals all free of charge. Oral contraceptive is available through MIT's pharmacy, and will say "Medication and Supplies" on your bill. Emergency contraceptive is available at MIT Medical 24 hours a day. Contact MIT Medical within 120 hours (the sooner the better). But please realize that the morning-after pill is only for emergencies; it is not to be used as a regular method of birth control. One dose costs \$15. Also, if you have had unprotected sex, you need to be tested for STDs as soon as possible. All MIT students are covered for the cost of STD testing even if they have waived their extended insurance plan. There is no charge for STD testing for MIT students, and your parents will never be given access to your medical records without your written consent.

For further questions, please go to <https://health.mit.edu/community/sexual-health>.



MIT Orientation 2024

You can find the official graduate orientation event calendar by going to: <https://oge.mit.edu/grad-orientation/>

Your primary source of Orientation material should be the Canvas module “**2024 Grad Student Orientation.**”

Orientation has events for grad students of all backgrounds and is a great time to meet people from other departments and also people with similar backgrounds or situations.

Keep an eye on GSC’s email newsletter, “The Anno”, for an updated list of upcoming events hosted by the graduate dormitories, clubs, and other on-campus entities.





A SHORT(ISH) GUIDE TO BOSTON





The Basics

Yes, the Boston accent is a real thing. It'll take a bit but you'll get used to it. After a while it almost feels like you're just living out *Good Will Hunting* with, fingers crossed, less violence and trauma. Also, make sure to get out of Cambridge because it really is just a small part of this huge city. There's a ton of touristy things to do, like duck boats, the Freedom Trail and a bunch of museums, but also a lot of cool stuff you probably won't find from googling. Anyway, hopefully the rest of the guide helps your time while you're here.

Random Things

The building numbers at MIT make no sense. And to cope with that problem, definitely download the MIT app. That said, there are a lot of MIT apps for a lot of different purposes. The main "MIT Mobile" app that you can find on the Google Play store or Apple App store (or whatever app store you use) contains a map of MIT. Aside from buildings 1-10, it's really easy to get confused.

Card access is required to a lot of the MIT buildings/hallways after 6pm aside from the regular touristy areas. Also, with regards to tourists and tour guides, if your lab is exposed to the hallways of MIT (as in if there are windows to your lab that tourists can peak in from) you have now become an attraction of MIT tours. It's both fun and really, really weird to get used to. I know, these aren't Boston things, but they're random things that'll come up at various points in your grad school career.

Lastly, online dating/dating apps are a big thing in this city, probably due to the huge number of colleges in the area. So ... yeah.

Transportation

Basics

Fun fact, 77 Mass Ave is the address for building 7 at MIT. It is also a random building in Boston. So the number one thing to do before you call your Uber or Lyft is to make sure you specified what city you're supposed to be in.

Most places are easily accessible via the T, but the T doesn't run all night so keep that in mind.

Having a car, to my knowledge, is a nightmare purely because of parking. With reference to actually driving in the city, it may be best summed up with the fact that drivers in Boston are colloquially termed "Massholes." But it might be worth it to get groceries?

There are definitely more things I could write here, but if you open Google Maps, you'll be totally fine for the most part. Unless you're driving, in which case, there's a lot of construction in the area and changes for roads, so that's not always up to date.



The T; Public Transport (MBTA)

Don't bother buying a Charlie Card, because your MIT ID works as a Charlie Card. **Definitely** don't bother buying Charlie Tickets for use on the subway/bus system because it costs more and it's wasteful.

Important Notes:

- MIT offers a Student T-Pass Program which subsidizes the price of monthly T-passes; you might find it useful if you use the T a significant amount. You can find more information about it here: <http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/tpass/students.html>
- The closest T-stations (subway stations) to MIT are the Kendall/MIT station, on the east side of campus, and Central Square on the north side of campus. Both of these are Red Line. You can also get to the Green Line by crossing the Charles and going towards the west side of BU.
- For bus stations, the most convenient bus is the #1 which goes all along Mass Ave and runs in both directions.
- INBOUND and OUTBOUND labels on T stops refer to going to downtown where INBOUND is towards the main connection points of the T and OUTBOUND refers to the end of the lines.





EZRide

- The EZRide (blue bus) runs between Cambridge and Boston's North Station.
- It is free with an MIT ID.
- There is a stop near Edgerton, by Ashdown.
- It operates Monday through Friday, 6:20am to 8:00pm, but with varying service in different areas depending on the time of day.
- You can find more information here: <http://crtma.squarespace.com/ezride-shuttle/>

SafeRide

- SafeRide is MIT's safety shuttle service.
- It's free and available to all members of the MIT community who have an MIT Kerberos account.
- SafeRide operates two schedules: class in session and holiday/summer schedule.
- You can find more information about SafeRide here:
http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles/safe_ride.html

Tech Shuttle

- The Tech Shuttle provides transportation around campus.
- The service is free and available to all members of the MIT community.
- You can find more information about Tech Shuttle here:
http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles/tech_shuttle.html

Car? Motorcycle? Your Own Ride?

- Parking is a pain and MIT doesn't make it easier.
- A lot of MIT campus requires "Pay-per-day" permits.
- Residents are generally discouraged from bringing cars due to scarcity of parking spaces.
- To obtain a parking permit, you have to fill out an online application.
- You can find more information about the rules and application here:
<http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/parking/student/index.html>

Car Rentals/Zip Car

For renting a car, if you're under 25, renting is definitely more difficult and expensive than other transportation options. However, there are a significant number of agencies on Mass Ave that you can go to to rent a car.

For MIT related business, MIT has agreements with Budget or Avis that waives the age requirement, and limits or waives MIT's responsibility in case of an accident. You can read more about that here:

<https://insurance.mit.edu/services/insurance-coverage-claims/automobile/rentals>



ZipCar is also an option and there are parking locations throughout the city. You can visit <https://www.zipcar.com/> to find more information. MIT is also in the ZipCar for Universities program so you can apply as an MIT affiliate.

Bikes

During the warmer season, biking is certainly the best way to get around in Cambridge. Conveniently, there are a number of bike lock-up points throughout Edgerton.

- MIT police collects all abandoned bikes on campus at the end of the summer term and sells them during the MIT bike auction in the fall (check announcements for exact date.) Some of these bikes are in ruins, because they have been exposed to the weather for a long time, but still you may find a decent deal on a bike.
- Where to get a new or used bike outside of MIT?
 - Cambridge Bicycle [259 Mass Ave, (right down Pacific Street). Tel: 617-867-6555]
 - They also do reparations and have an air station. However, this fancy store is not necessarily a place to get a simple and cheap bike.
 - Broadway Bicycle School [351 Broadway. Tel: 617-868-3392]
 - A nonprofit, collectively-owned bike store that sells both reconditioned and new bikes. Their bikes are rather safe, simple and good for getting around in the city. Besides repairing bikes, they also offer bike-repair classes where people can learn how to work on their own bikes.

Take care of your bike!

- In Cambridge, it's better if you don't press your luck. Bikes get stolen frequently.
- A strong lock is a must (such as a U-Bolt)
- You should also consider getting a long cable that allows you to lock both wheels. Lock your bike and remove the seat to prevent it from being stolen. Do this also when your bike is locked in Edgerton or in the basement of your lab.
- Another safety measure is to register your bike with MIT police. They will note down the serial number of your bike and give you a sticker that says that your bike belongs to the MIT campus. There is not much hope that your bike will be retrieved once it is stolen, but thieves will have a much harder time reselling it. You can register online at http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/bicycle_reg.html

Important notice about biking in Cambridge

- It is forbidden by the City of Cambridge regulations to ride a bicycle on the sidewalks in Central Square.
- You can also be fined by the MIT or Cambridge Police if you are riding a bike too fast on any sidewalk.



Banking

Most people upon coming to the Boston area will have to get a sign up for a new bank account. Never fear, however...during the beginning of the school year there are usually a bunch of representatives from various banks and credit unions in the Student Center, that have oodles of brochures containing info about various types of bank accounts. In this section we have provided some basic info about the most common banking options. (Note: This is not a complete list. There are other banks you can choose from. These are just the most common choices of MIT Students.)

- **Bank of America** has a branch inside the Student Center, and there are ATMs in the lobby of Building 10 and on the corner of Mass Ave and Vassar St. and all over town. Some plans have monthly service charges. Bank of America has online banking and direct deposit for your RA/TA checks, as do many other banks. Bank of America also has many ATM locations throughout Boston.
- **Citizens Bank** is another bank near campus. They have branches in Star Market, Central Square and the Tech Square area. Citizens offers accounts with interest on savings and checking and you don't get charged ATM fees for using ATMs other than ones at Citizen. Also, look into getting an e-checking account such as those offered by pcbanker.com, they offer excellent interest rates since they operate without excessive overheads.
- **MIT Federal Credit Union (MIT FCU)** is a membership-based bank. Getting membership is easy and their offices are located at 700 Tech Square and Lincoln Laboratory in Building A (room 100). They offer checking account services at low prices. Withdrawing money from ATMs is free 8 times per month if you withdraw from an ATM in the SUM network (which are most non-Bank of America ATMs in the Boston area). Check out their website for more information: <https://www.mitfcu.org/>.



In a previous guide, they offered this handy hint (which I'm not sure how accurate it is anymore given that the guide was written in 2008):

“MIT FCU offers small loans to buy a computer or a car. This may be particularly helpful if you happen to be an international student and are having a hard time getting a credit card. You may be in a difficult situation since essentially all banks (including Bank of America) require some “credit history” in the USA before they can give you credit. Not to worry, however. The Visa card office of the MIT FCU offers two possibilities to work around this problem: (1) you can ask your bank back home to give you a credit history or (2) you deposit a certain amount on your savings account at the MIT FCU. This amount is equal to your credit card coverage. It serves as your security and you cannot touch it for a few months (while it is earning some small interest though). Once you have paid your credit card bills regularly for a while, you can ask MIT FCU to give your money free again. Admittedly during the first month it is not really a “credit” that you get with your credit card, but after this you have built a “credit history” and better chances to get higher coverage or successfully apply for other credit cards.”



Shopping

Shopping Checklist

Below is a list of items you may want to get you started. This list may be too extensive or incomplete in relation to your personal preferences.

- *For the bedroom and bathroom:*
 - Mattress
 - Bed sheets
 - Pillow
 - Pillow Cases
 - Blanket or other bed cover
 - Desk lamp and/or floor lamp
 - Desk
 - Clothes hangers
 - Towels, hair dryer, and other toiletries (i.e. toothbrush, soap, shampoo, etc.)
 - Laundry bag/basket, laundry detergent, bleach, fabric softener, dryer sheets
 - Toilet paper, cleaning supplies
- *For the kitchen:*
 - Plates, and cutlery (forks, spoons, etc.)
 - Cups and mugs
 - Pans, pots, bowls
 - Groceries
 - Cooking utensils (spatula, tongs, etc.)
 - Drying rack
 - Sponge and detergent (for dishwashing)

In my honest opinion, Amazon prime is definitely worth it and will save you a lot of hassle in getting all of these things to Edgerton. That said, please pick up your packages within 2 days of delivery. And if you can't pick it up within that time, please let the front desk staff know (aaileyah@mit.edu) know and it will be held until you can get it.

Also, if you are expecting live furniture deliveries (especially large boxes), you should make arrangements to be at home to receive them.

Lastly, **packages for friends/family will not be accepted under any circumstances**. It has to have your name on it for Edgerton House to accept the package (to my knowledge).



Grocery Shopping

There are a few grocery shops nearby. The five closest places to go grocery shopping are **Target, H-Mart, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods**. Getting to Trader Joe's and Whole Foods can be a little bit of a hassle if you're walking, but there is a grocery shuttle that will take you there every Sunday.

If you're willing to get on the T or take a bus, there is **Star Market** by Porter Square which is only two stops away by the Red line. There are also a couple of supermarkets that are cheap but a bit far away like **Market Basket**, and **Wegman's**. Neither of these supermarkets require a membership.

Aside from that, **Costco** and **BJ's** are by far cheaper for purchasing groceries, but also a significant hassle to get to. Both are wholesale warehouse clubs that require membership.

If you want to go to Costco there are a few options. The Graduate Student Council allows MIT grad students to borrow Costco cards for personal use. Also, there is a free Costco shuttle that runs every other Sunday.

Buying Clothes/Stationary/Things

If you're not interested in waiting two days for an Amazon Prime shipment, there is a **Target** nearby on Mass Ave which is great for if you're in need of emergency toilet paper or other toiletries. In case you need an emergency eraser or pen, there is **University Stationery** for all your stationery needs. If you're looking to purchase books, there is the **MIT Bookstore** on Mass Ave. I could go on, but this is the part where you can google and go on adventures.

Other places you can go to for shopping include **Faneuil Hall, Newbury Street** and **The Prudential**, though they are all on the Boston side. On the Cambridge side, **Harvard Square** has a lot of stores and the like.

Places to Eat

So this is the part where I say to use google and yelp to your advantage. There's a lot of places for food and I would be silly if I tried to name every place worth going in the area.

That said, **Flour and Mariposa** are nearby and offer breakfast, sandwiches, and also dessert. At the **Student Center** there's tons of options: **Dunkin' Donuts, Bibimbox, Tawakal Halal Cafe, and Carolicious**. As a rule of thumb, **Harvard Square** is great for food of virtually every kind. On the Boston side, **Newbury Street** is a place with not just a bunch of **Starbucks** locations but also a variety of food places. At both Harvard Square and Newbury Street, you can find the infamous **Shake Shack**.



Touristy Things

MIT Discounts

As an MIT student, you get a ton of discounts for having an MIT ID. You can also purchase things at a discount at MITAC, the MIT Activities Committee, ticketing offices. You can find more information about that here:

<http://mitac.mit.edu/>

Also, the Council for the Arts at MIT offers discounted tickets to performances from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Ballet, and many other performances. You can find more information about that here:

<https://arts.mit.edu/camit/discount-tickets/>

Museums



Institute of Contemporary Art

The Institute of Contemporary art is located in the seaport district in Boston. It is an art museum and exhibition space with amazing visual art exhibitions. Admission is free for MIT students and faculty and MIT students are also eligible for discounted pricing.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

The museum is not only full from top to bottom with art works from various geographies and times, but it is also a contemplation space with its courtyard full of great flowers. The courtyard is surrounded by an inward-looking Venetian palace. Check out the schedule for concerts before you go at their website. Admission is free with student ID but requires advance reservation online.

MIT Museum

This highlights science and technology exhibits and programs related to MIT. Admission is free with your ID.



Museum of Science

Admission is normally \$14. (Free admission with MIT ID card)

Museum of Fine Arts

MFA features an extensive sculpture and painting collection (including Renoir, Van Gogh, Rembrandt, and Monet) as well as Egyptian and Asian art. You can get in for FREE at certain times or at a discounted student rate. (Normal admission, not including special exhibits/movies).

New England Aquarium

The aquarium has over 70 exhibits featuring aquatic animals and their habitats. There's also an IMAX theatre featuring films about science, nature and conservation.

Parks



Boston Harbor Islands

These islands are protected for their historical heritage. Once you get to the George Island, you can take a free water taxi to the other islands. The experience is indeed less nature and more history, but you get out of the city and get a great vista on the Boston skyline and the harbor.

Emerald Necklace

A series of parks stretching from the Boston Common downtown to the Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park in Roslindale and Roxbury. More information can be found here: <http://www.emeraldnecklace.org>

Esplanade

There is more to see if you walk or bike upstream - you can find a number of green spots until you reach the Upper Charles Reservation, including the Hemlock George Reservation.



Places out of the city



Acadia National Park

Located in Maine, Acadia National Park is a 47,000 acre woodland with mountains, beaches, and scenic trails. It's by the town of Bar Harbor which happens to be a popular tourist destination.

Blue Hills Reservation

Located just south of Boston, it is a popular hiking location for people from Boston. During the winter, the reservation is a location for skiing. During the warmer months, rock climbing, hiking and even horseback riding is also possible.

World's End Reservation

Located South-East of Boston, World's End is a reservation located on the peninsula of Hingham. It is a peaceful reservation for anyone who's looking to just be in nature and the outdoors.

White Mountains

Located in New Hampshire and western Maine, the White Mountains are part of the Appalachian Mountain Range. It's known for waterfalls, "The Basin" which is a smooth granite bowl containing a waterfall, and various areas to swim.