Research can be an invaluable way to broaden a student's education. Through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (http://web.mit.edu/urop), undergraduates discover avenues for participation in research projects that can count toward their major, including possibilities for thesis work. For graduate students, research opportunities can often lead to thesis topics—and research assistantships—as well as advanced degrees.

Some interdepartmental educational programs have been approved for graduate students by the Committee on Graduate Programs. Students must be admitted by a regular academic department in order to participate in one of these programs (with the exception of the Operations Research Center, which accepts students directly). Each has a standing faculty committee that administers the program, but degrees in the field of study are granted by the student's department of registration. The program descriptions in this section indicate any advanced degrees that may be offered.

MIT Centers, Labs, and Programs, and Affiliated Institutions

- Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/broad-institute)
- Center for Archaeological Materials (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-archaeological-materials)
- Center for Bits and Atoms (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-bits-atoms)
- Center for Collective Intelligence (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-collective-intelligence)
- Center for Computational Engineering (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-computational-engineering)
- Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-energy-environmental-policy-research)
- Center for Environmental Health Sciences (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-environmental-health-sciences)
- Center for Global Change Science (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-global-change-science)
- Center for International Studies (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-international-studies)
- Center for Real Estate (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-real-estate)
- Center for Transportation and Logistics (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-transportation-logistics)
- Clinical Research Center (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/clinical-research-center)
- Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/computer-science-artificial-intelligence-laboratory)
- Concrete Sustainability Hub (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/concrete-sustainability-hub)
- D-Lab (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/d-lab)
- Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/deshpande-center-technological-innovation)
- Division of Comparative Medicine (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/division-comparative-medicine)
- Draper (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/draper-laboratory)
- Haystack Observatory (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/haystack-observatory)
- Institute for Medical Engineering and Science (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/institute-medical-engineering-science)
- Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/institute-soldier-nanotechnologies)
- Institute for Work and Employment Research (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/institute-work-employment)
- Knight Science Journalism Program (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/knight-science-journalism-program)
- Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/koch-institute-integrative-cancer-research)
- Laboratory for Financial Engineering (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/laboratory-financial-engineering)
- Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/laboratory-information-decision-systems)
- Laboratory for Manufacturing and Productivity (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/laboratory-manufacturing-productivity)
- Laboratory for Nuclear Science (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/laboratory-nuclear-science)
- Lincoln Laboratory (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/lincoln-laboratory)
• Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/martin-trust-center-entrepreneurship)
• Materials Research Laboratory (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/materials-research-laboratory)
• McGovern Institute for Brain Research (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mcgovern-institute-brain-research)
• Microsystems Technology Laboratories (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/microsystems-technology-laboratories)
• MIT Center for Art, Science, and Technology (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/center-art-science-technology)
• MIT Energy Initiative (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mit-energy-initiative)
• MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/environmental-solutions-initiative)
• MIT Innovation Initiative (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mit-innovation-initiative)
• MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mit-kavli-institute-astrophysics-space-research)
• MIT Media Lab (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mit-media-lab)
• MIT Open Learning (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/office-digital-learning)
• MIT Portugal Program (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mit-portugal-program)
• MIT Professional Education (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mit-professional-education)
• MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/mit-program-art-culture-technology)
• MIT Sea Grant College Program (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/sea-grant)
• Nuclear Reactor Laboratory (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/nuclear-reactor-laboratory)
• Operations Research Center (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/operations-research-center)
• Picower Institute for Learning and Memory (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/picower-institute-learning-memory)
• Plasma Science and Fusion Center (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/plasma-science-fusion-center)
• Research Laboratory of Electronics (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/research-laboratory-electronics)
• Simons Center for the Social Brain (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/simons-center-social-brain)
• Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology Centre (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/singapore-mit-alliance-research-technology)
• Sociotechnical Systems Research Center (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/sociotechnical-systems-research-center)
• Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/whitehead-institute-biomedical-research)
• Women's and Gender Studies Program (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/research/womens-gender-studies-program)