Graduate Study

Media Arts and Sciences offers a graduate program leading to master’s and PhD degrees. Graduate students work closely with a research advisor in an apprenticeship relationship. Students enter the program from a wide variety of backgrounds, including electrical engineering, physics, computer science, cognitive science, mechanical engineering, art and design, and the learning sciences.

For the master’s degree, students are required to spend at least four terms in residence (one of which may be a summer term) and to complete a satisfactory research thesis.

Students wishing to pursue a PhD degree must demonstrate exemplary progress in the master’s program and gain approval from a departmental committee review. Requirements for the PhD degree include successful completion of MAS general exams, and successful completion and defense of a dissertation based on original and significant research within one of the Media Lab’s research groups.

Financial Support

The Program in Media Arts and Sciences offers financial assistance to all successful applicants in the form of research assistantships within the Media Lab, which are an important part of the educational program. Research assistants receive academic credit for part of their research activities.