AROUND CAMPUS

The Campus

In 1916, MIT moved from its Boston location to Cambridge, and the current campus now encompasses 168 acres that extend more than a mile along the Cambridge side of the Charles River Basin. The heart of campus is anchored by a historic group of interconnecting buildings, designed by architect W. Welles Bosworth (Class of 1889), which facilitate interaction and communication among MIT’s schools and departments.

In addition to the Bosworth buildings, the MIT campus (http://whereis.mit.edu) now showcases a range of architectural styles, from neoclassical through modernist, brutalist, and deconstructivist. Among the remarkable landmarks on campus are buildings designed by leading architects such as Alvar Aalto, Frank Gehry, Fumihiko Maki, I.M. Pei ’40, and Eero Saarinen. New buildings on campus include the state-of-the-art music building designed by SANAA and the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing. A substantial restoration of the historic Metropolitan Storage Warehouse is transforming the landmark structure into a hub for design and education. Meticulous renewal of iconic buildings on campus has resulted in no fewer than nine preservation awards from the Cambridge Historical Commission.

Student life (http://studentlife.mit.edu) on campus is anchored by 20 undergraduate and graduate residence halls, each with its own distinctive personality and community. MIT’s newest residence, Graduate Junction, expands living options for students and families. The renewal of undergraduate residence East Campus is underway with a targeted reopening date of fall 2025. Strategic improvements to the Stratton Student Center have upgraded the building and created a welcoming campus hub for wellbeing, performance arts and dance, healthy eating, and community building.

In their academic and research endeavors, students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities ranging from wet labs and clean rooms to collaboration areas and makerspaces. Specialized equipment on campus includes 3D printers, laser cutters, wind tunnels, and drone and robot test labs. In every field, innovation and entrepreneurship are fostered by cross-disciplinary facilities like the MIT Media Lab (https://www.media.mit.edu), the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research (https://ki.mit.edu), and the Lisa T. Su Building (https://mitnano.mit.edu), the Institute’s nanotechnology and advanced imaging center. At its edges, the campus merges with vibrant Cambridge neighborhoods, including Kendall Square, where the close association of industry and research expertise has made this area the most innovative square mile on the planet. The MIT Welcome Center and MIT Admissions (https://mitadmissions.org) can be found at MIT’s new campus gateway at Kendall along with the MIT Museum (https://mitmuseum.mit.edu), and the MIT Press Bookstore (http://mitpressbookstore.mit.edu). A large, landscaped open space at the gateway hosts campus and community events year-round.

Committed to decreasing its carbon footprint (https://climate.mit.edu/climateaction), MIT encourages a multi-modal approach to transportation around campus. The campus is urban and walkable, with more than 40 gardens and greenspace areas and more than 60 publicly sited works of art to enjoy along the way. MIT offers free shuttles around campus, bicycle benefits including a bike-share program and fix-it stations, carpool and rideshare incentives, and public transportation subsidies.

As the campus continues to evolve, MIT actively pursues measures that improve sustainability and conservation. To date, three building projects on campus have achieved LEED-Platinum certification (the Morris and Sophie Chang Building, the Lisa T. Su Building, and New Vassar Residence Hall), and 20 building projects have achieved LEED-Gold certification. For existing buildings, MIT’s proactive Capital Renewal program (http://capitalprojects.mit.edu) is engaged in continuous renewal and renovation projects that promote energy efficiency while ensuring that the campus will support the community’s broad spectrum of educational, research, and student life activities.