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Graduate education at MIT is thriving as never before. Fellowships are essential in attracting the world's best graduate students to our campus and supporting them as they pursue their diverse passions.

## An Exemplary Community of Graduate Students

MIT's graduate students are central to the mission of MIT, a major force in the Institute's creative engine, and the foundation of MIT's productivity. Indeed, the 7,000-plus members of MIT's graduate student body—representing 60% of the total student population—help us recruit and retain top faculty who wish to work with them; drive research discovery and exploration forward in all disciplines; contribute to undergraduate teaching and mentoring; and deeply enhance campus life and community.

These students are the key to helping keep MIT's graduate programs ranked among the best in the nation and the world. Students acquire the knowledge, skills, and creativity to boost economic innovation and prosperity and to solve the world's most challenging problems.

### FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

MIT is committed to building a community of graduate students who bring to campus a vivid tapestry of experiences, backgrounds, and viewpoints. Significant challenges exist to recruiting top talent. Reduced federal funding, budget cuts, and policy changes are increasing the financial burden to support graduate education. Moreover, MIT competes for its graduate body against the wealthiest schools in the nation. Providing our students with robust financial support is increasingly important if we are to stay competitive relative to our peers.

Above: Graduate students are one of the key drivers of innovation and creativity at MIT. Fellowships provide the freedom and the fuel for their pathbreaking work.

## FUELING EXCEPTIONAL WORK

Today's graduate students are determined to make a positive impact on society. They are making new observations and uncovering new knowledge in a diverse range of fields and applying these insights to complex challenges. They are attracted to the possibilities of entrepreneurship. And they view their work in a broad global context. Fellowships provide them with the confidence and flexibility to tackle the most important problems and pursue their most daring dreams.

### Attracting the Best, Most Creative Graduate Students

Fellowships give MIT the capacity to retain its competitive edge in attracting the most talented, inventive, and diverse graduate students from around the world. They also make it easier for faculty to make room in their labs for promising but unproven students, without draining research funds. Such broader sources of assured funding also enable faculty to recruit students with wide-ranging, potentially interdisciplinary interests, which ultimately results in a student body of extraordinary range and depth.

### The Freedom to Focus

Because fellowships cover all expenses—including tuition, housing, and living costs—they free students to focus on their work instead of worrying about raising extra income. By removing financial stumbling blocks for students and their families, fellowships help students complete their degrees faster and make the most of their time at MIT.

### The Freedom to Explore

Fellowships enhance students' creativity and focus from their first day on campus to their vital dissertation year. While most first-year students must choose an advisor right away to secure funding, fellowship students can take time to explore new paths. Fellowships also remove the pressure to teach, allowing students in the throes of their dissertation to do their best work.

“MIT's graduate students are dedicated, focused, and creative, and they have extraordinary potential. Fellowships empower MIT with the ability to recruit the most talented graduates from around the world and give them the financial freedom to think big.”

Melissa Nobles

Chancellor and Professor  
of Political Science