

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT]**

Motto: Mens et Manus [Mind and Hand]

Founded: 1861

Number of employees: 10,700

Number of students: 10,253

Percentage of foreign students: 27%

Ratio male / female students: 64% / 36%

Number of faculties: 32

Largest faculty: Engineering

Number of Nobel Prizes: 62

Annual budget: 1,602 m EUR [2006]

**MIT Campus / University Park at MIT**

Motto: Reinventing MIT

Founded: 1916, 1996 extension / 1982

Campus area: 680,000 / ~109,300 sqm

Floor space: 1,013,000 + 149,000 planned / ~213,700 sqm

Number of employees: 10,700 / ~3,500

Number of students: 10,253

Number of residents: 5,213 + 1,000 planned / ~800

Number of companies: 0 / ~15

Number of institutes: 32 MIT

Investments: 1,470 m EUR [1996–open] / 365 m EUR

**Location:** MIT is a private university located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The campus, situated in close proximity to Boston's Logan International Airport, profits from Boston's excellent public transportation system and the on-campus Tech Shuttle. The closest subway station is Kendall Square, which acts as a commercial centre for MIT and the local community.

**Development:** The original master plan for the MIT campus, designed by William Welles Bosworth, was inspired in part by MIT's founding philosophy of 'learning by



doing'. The central group of interconnecting buildings built in 1916 has withstood the test of time and continues to encourage interaction between departments and schools. The two most striking parts of the original Beaux-Arts complex are Killian Court in front of the Great Dome and the imposing entrance building facing Massachusetts Avenue. After World War II, a number of landmark buildings were constructed by renowned architects including Alvar Aalto, Eero Saarinen, and I. M. Pei. The 1960 Campus Master Plan, developed under the direction of Robert O. Simha, established the ground rules for the campus's coordinated future development. Key was the decision to develop a 'complete campus community' with academic, research, residential and recreational areas. MIT was in a favourable position because it was surrounded by former industrial land. New campus areas such as the East Campus and Sloan Campus were conceived and projects actively pursued by the university, such as Technology Square and University Park at MIT, provided a new identity for Cambridge's abandoned industrial sites. MIT's extensive resources and potential for drawing the best talent worldwide have attracted many other research institutes, including the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, and businesses such as Novartis. MIT has actively promoted this kind of development, although no companies may reside directly on campus grounds, because this would endanger MIT's tax-exempt status.



MIT showing the Main and East Campus with Gehry's Strata Centre, Correa's Brain and Cognitive Sciences Complex and I.M. Pei's Media Lab.

**Programme:** The campus is roughly divided in half by Massachusetts Avenue, with academic buildings to the east and most residential, athletic and community facilities to the west. Mixed-use developments and research institutes such as Technology Square and University Park at MIT occupy the blocks located just northeast and northwest of the campus. With MIT's Evolving Campus initiative, more than 15 new buildings and major renovations are now under way, transforming the area to the north and east ends of the main campus to support key areas of MIT research. For example, MIT's legendary Media Lab is to be expanded to facilitate increased interaction between the Lab and the School of Architecture and Planning, and new facilities for cancer research and the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Complex reflect the growing interest in life sciences and engineering on campus. Designed by Fumihiko Maki, Frank Gehry, and Charles Correa, these new buildings also clearly reflect an effort to invest in contemporary architecture as a means to continue to add to the campus's distinctive appeal. A new residential building has been designed by Stephen Holl and a splendid, architecturally sensitive new sports facility known as the Z Centre has been designed by Kevin Rotch.



**Morphology:** MIT's built environment is extremely diverse and characterised by individual structures in progressive architectural styles. The backbone consists of the original main campus structures from 1916. However, the strengthening of academic and residential campus life has also required substantial renovation and infrastructure renewal to ensure that historic structures meet the challenges of new ways of learning, working and living. New buildings reflecting the avant-garde in contemporary architecture present an added complexity within the rational classical framework of the original campus plan. Finally, a continuous focus on pedestrian circulation routes and public gathering places attempts to integrate new and existing buildings into a coherent urban fabric for an interactive and interdisciplinary community.

**The City of Cambridge:** Cambridge, named after its illustrious English forerunner, is home to two of the world's most famous universities, MIT and Harvard. Once a part of the industrial hinterland of Boston, it has grown to form a single urban conglomeration intersected by the Charles River. With a population of around 101,000, the city is characterised by the peaceful intermingling of residential districts and commercial squares with university structures and high-tech zones.

Simmons Hall by Stephen Holl (2002), Kresge Auditorium by Eero Saarinen (1954), Stata Center by Frank O. Gehry (2004), and Baker House by Alvar Aalto (1946).