

MIT Architecture

2020-2021 FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION FOR SMACT CANDIDATES

Note: programmatically the Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT) falls under the larger umbrella of the Department of Architecture at MIT, although it operates independently. Thus, the use of the terminology “Department of Architecture” in this document is interchangeable with the “ACT Program.”

The philosophy of the Department of Architecture is based upon a desire to maintain a diverse student body and encourage those who have the interest and ability to succeed in their chosen profession, regardless of their financial resources. Secondly, the Department wants to make it possible for all of our students to graduate with a debt no larger than they can reasonably expect to repay while working in their profession.

Financial aid from ACT is in the form of tuition or tuition plus fellowship stipend awards made at the time of admission, and departmental employment opportunities. Each part is separate from the other and operates independently.

The Program expects to maintain its current level of financial aid resources. This means that the responsibility for funding a portion of one’s graduate education at MIT lies with the student. Many students rely on a combination of personal or family resources, educational loans, external Fellowship support, and the opportunity to compete for departmentally funded work opportunities, to supplement ACT Program tuition support.

Students are eligible for financial support from the Program, both tuition and/or departmental work opportunities, for the standard residency requirement of four semesters.

TUITION AND TUITION PLUS STIPEND GRANTS

The Program offers a limited number of partial tuition support grants. Some of these awards are coupled with a fellowship stipend for year one in the program. If you have been selected to receive a tuition or tuition plus stipend grant, the details have been noted in the letter of admission.

Tuition awards are divided equally between the Fall and Spring semesters and credited directly to the student’s Bursar’s account to reduce the cost of tuition. Fellowship stipend awards are paid directly to the student on a bi-monthly basis, from September through May, and are taxable by United States tax law.

After year one, awards are contingent upon maintaining satisfactory academic standing in the program. Students must be registered full-time, hold a 4.0 (on a 5.0 scale) cumulative grade point average, and fulfill the Department’s English as a Second Language requirement in year one.

Note: Full tuition in 2020-2021 is \$53,450. The 2021-2022 stipend rate has not yet been announced, but is likely to be 2-4% higher than this year’s stipend rate of \$13,887 per semester. Tuition and stipend rates increase approximately 2-4% per year, and awards are adjusted accordingly.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Departmentally funded positions

The Department of Architecture views student employment as a source of financial aid; however, students are selected for Departmental positions without regard to financial status. Employment is possible through Teaching Assistantships, hourly positions, and Research Assistantships.

Departmental Teaching Assistantship positions are allocated to subjects that require additional help beyond the instructor. A full-time Teaching Assistantship pays \$13,887 per semester and requires approximately 15-20 hours of work per week. Half-time Teaching Assistantships are also available, with a corresponding rate of pay of \$6,943 per semester and 8-10 hours of work per week.

The Department also has a number of hourly positions that carry a salary of \$20/hr. These positions can be both short-term or a full semester in length, and are advertised as the need arises.

Students may be hired for more than one position, but will be limited to an average of 20 hours of work per week. The likelihood of obtaining these positions increases after year one.

The application process for Fall 2021 positions begins in August. Information on the application process will be sent to all students via e-mail at that time. Note that those who have received tuition plus stipend grants are not eligible for Teaching Assistantship (TA) opportunities in year one, but are eligible to compete for hourly positions, or faculty-supported Research Assistantships. The TA restriction does not apply after year one.

Research Assistantships

Research Assistantships contribute directly to the work of a sponsored research contract and are available through individual faculty members who have research grants. Research Assistantships are typically full-time, require 15-20 hours of work per week, and pay a salary rate of \$13,887, plus full tuition, per semester. Half-time RAs, with a prorated work requirement and financial support, are also possible.

All graduate students may apply for these positions. Research Assistantship positions may become available at any time during the academic year. We make every effort to advertise these positions as opportunities arise. Research Assistantships sometimes require specific skills, and faculty are free to choose the most qualified student(s).

FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Department of Architecture Merit Fellowship Awards for Continuing Students

The Department of Architecture sponsors two additional opportunities for continuing students. At the end of year one, students admitted without any guarantee of departmental tuition support may apply for a limited number of half-tuition grants for the remaining semesters of residency in the degree program.

The Department also sponsors a limited number of one-year, full tuition, awards for continuing students. All master's degree students are eligible to apply for these awards at the end of each academic year, irrespective of any tuition support offered upon admission.

MIT Fellowships

There are a number of fellowship programs administered by offices or departments at the Institute. Usually these grants take the form of fellowship tuition and/or fellowship stipend awards. Most notable are those administered by the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education. Please refer to the following website for specific details: <https://oge.mit.edu/finances/fellowships/odgefellowships/>.

External Fellowships

Many students seek funding from external sources and have the best success at finding opportunities. As a starting point, however, the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education maintains information on the following website: <https://oge.mit.edu/finances/fellowships/external-fellowships/>.

LOANS

Many students rely on educational loans to fund a portion of their graduate education. MIT's Student Financial Services Office handles the loan process for all academic departments, and as such, details about loan eligibility are not included in the letter of admission.

Procedures, eligibility requirements, and application forms may be obtained from the MIT Student Financial Services web site: sfs.mit.edu. Alternatively, you may contact them by telephone at 1-258-8600, by email at getaloan@mit.edu, or by mail at 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 11-120, Cambridge, MA 02139. If you intend to apply for a loan, be sure to complete the necessary forms well in advance of arriving at MIT.

Note: MIT has a limit on the total amount of financial support a student may receive from/through MIT. All master's degree students are limited to a maximum of 20 hours of work/week, a stipend of \$13,887 in any combination of teaching/research assistantship salaries/fellowship stipends, and full tuition, per semester. If obtaining a Research Assistantship or a Fellowship results in exceeding these limits, it will supplant the tuition and/or fellowship stipend award from the department. The student will not forfeit eligibility for tuition support in other terms for which aid has been promised.

Questions concerning financial aid for graduate students should be addressed to Marion Cunningham, Administrative Officer, Program in Art, Culture and Technology, Room E15-209, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, via telephone (617)-324-6076 or email marionoc@mit.edu.