Visiting Student Applicant Information

Thank you for your interest in joining the DiCarlo Lab as a Visiting Student (or perhaps Summer Student via MSRP programs, see below)! To assess whether you qualify as a Visiting Student candidate it is imperative to you fulfill all MIT administrative/funding requirements. If you indeed meet these requirements you are eligible to apply to the lab. Please email the DiCarlo Lab Manager with detailed acknowledgement/confirmation that each requirement below is fulfilled, describe your interest in the lab, and attach a CV/resume.

First, Visiting Student candidates are students who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree at an institution of higher education in the US (other than MIT) or abroad; are in good academic standing and enrolled at that institution for the duration of the appointment; and have been invited by an MIT department or laboratory to do research in their field of studies.

FUNDING/VISA QUALIFICATIONS
It is important for us to know your funding sources (i.e. fellowships, scholarships, personal funds, etc.). MIT has a number of financial requirements that must be met for all Visiting Students:

1. There is a monthly Visiting Student Fee of $600 for each month that you would be here. This fee includes research, required enrollment in the student MIT SEIP (see below), and student life fees paid in full for the entire appointment, prior to the student’s arrival.

2. International students who will need a J-1 visa must meet the living expenses requirements set forth by MIT and US government. The living expense rate for FY22 is $3,024/month. Critically, 51% of these total costs must come from non-personal funding sources (scholarships, awards, university support, etc.). Proof of funding will be required (see here for more info). It is possible to get paid up to 20hrs/week (as long as you are cleared on your J1 visa) from the lab, but that depends on the funding in the lab at the time of your application. Potential funding from the lab is typically insufficient to cover the entire 51% non-personal funding requirement.

3. The cost of the J1 visa must be paid by you. International students who plan to visit MIT through the Visiting Student appointment should not apply for a J-1 visa on their own. Students should wait for assistance from MIT ISO, who will automatically reach out to those who have been approved by VPR for their appointments. Additionally, students must wait to arrive to the U.S. until their visa has been granted, as they cannot obtain a J-1 visa while traveling here.

Please confirm you are aware of these costs and provide details on your funding sources. We highly recommend obtaining funding from your home institution and or outside scholarships.
HEALTH INSURANCE
Required enrollment in the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan (MIT SEIP). Students may elect to enroll in additional coverage for their dependent(s) and/or partners. For students wishing to enroll family members the cost includes not only the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan (MIT SEIP) but also the MIT Student Medical Plan. (Please note exceptions may be made for students enrolled at universities and colleges in Massachusetts if they can provide documentation showing that they are enrolled in their home institution’s health insurance plan.)

OTHER DETAILS
1. Standardized start and end dates (e.g., appointments beginning on 1st & 15th of a month and ending on 30th or 31st of a month). Visit start dates should coincide with business days.

2. In our lab, VS Appointments must be at MINIMUM 6 months, and a MAXIMUM of 12 months. To date all of our Visiting Students’ duration have been between 9 months - 1 year. This duration is strongly preferred as it enables productive progress on a project.

For a shorter summer stay please see the MSRP and Bernard S. and Sophie G. Gould MIT Summer Research Program in Biology (BSG-MSRP-Bio) programs.

3. A faculty-created mentoring plan is now required for visits longer than 5 weeks and all Visiting Students and host faculty must complete a final evaluation form at the conclusion of the student’s appointment, even if shorter than five weeks for visa compliance issues.

4. Visiting Students cannot take courses (for credit).

5. ***All Visiting Students are required to be vaccinated before their start date***, or to have an approved medical or religious exemption as part of MIT’s return to campus plan. For more details on vaccination see this FAQ.

Please refer to this FAQ for additional useful information regarding VS Appointments.