

MIT GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Privacy Statement

Introduction

The mission of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century. To help recruit, evaluate, admit and enroll such qualified candidates, it is necessary to collect and process certain personal information about perspective students and their families.

This Privacy Statement explains how MIT Graduate Admissions, through its GradApply online application system, collects, uses, and processes personal information about prospective students and their families for purposes of recruitment, admissions and enrollment. The GradApply online application system is unlike any other graduate application system. No two departments at MIT are exactly alike; as such, there is no single application that fits all departments. The information provided below is intended to speak broadly as to the application process and the information you are asked to submit as part of your application may not be exhaustive as the list below.

What personal information we collect¹

We collect, use, store and transfer different kinds of personal information about you, which we have grouped together as follows:

- Biographic information – name, gender, marital status, citizenship, photograph, video, race*, ethnicity*, sexual orientation,* visa status, and passport numbers and/or photos
- Contact information – home and business addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and social media information
- Education and test scores – previous educational institutions, standardized test scores, school activities, prior disciplinary history
- Employment history – employer, address, job title, employment history, salary, and work experience
- Financial Information – tax identification numbers, wages, scholarship, grants and family support
- Family financial information – family member names, employment history, education, and MIT affiliation (if any)

* These categories of personal information are only collected with your explicit consent. The provision of such information is entirely optional and voluntary. Whether you consent to provide such information has no bearing on the admissions decision or any other action MIT takes with respect to your application.

¹ The enumerated list of types of personal information collected is intended to be exhaustive. Certain programs for admissions may only collect a subset of this information. The personal information we collect about you is guided by the application process for your specific program of study.

How we collect personal information about you

We collect information about you from a variety of sources. A significant portion of the information we maintain is that which you have provided to us. We may also augment the information we collect about you from other sources, such as third party testing services, recommenders, alumni and current students with whom you may have a personal connection.

How we use your personal information

We collect, use and process your personal information (1) to process transactions requested by you and meet our contractual obligations; (2) to facilitate MIT's legitimate interests, and/or (3) with your explicit consent, where applicable.

If you have concerns about any of these purposes, or how we communicate with you, please contact us at dataprotection@mit.edu. We will always respect a request by you to stop processing your personal information (subject to our legal obligations).

When we share your personal information

To perform the functions listed above, it may be necessary to share your personal information with other MIT offices, such as the Registrar, Resource Development, Student Affairs, MIT Alumni Association, Financial Aid, International Students, Career Development, and Academic Programs. We may also share your personal information with third parties performing services under contract with us.

How your information is stored and secured

The security of your Personal Information is important to us, but remember that no method of transmission over the Internet, or method of electronic storage, is 100% secure. While we strive to use risk-assessed administrative, technical and physical security measures to protect your personal information, we cannot guarantee its complete security.

How long we keep your personal information

We consider our relationship with the MIT community to be lifelong. This means that we will maintain a record for you until such time as you tell us that you no longer wish us to keep in touch. After such time, we will retain a core set of information for MIT's legitimate purposes, such as archival, scientific and historical research and for the defense of potential legal claims.

Rights for Individuals in the European Economic Area

You may have the right in certain circumstances to (1) access your personal information; (2) to correct or erase information; (3) restrict processing; and (4) object to communications, direct marketing, or profiling. To the extent applicable, the EU's General Data Protection Regulation provides further information about your rights. You also have the right to lodge complaints with your national or regional data protection authority.

If you are inclined to exercise these rights, we request an opportunity to discuss with you any concerns you may have. To protect the personal information we hold, we may also request further information to verify your identity when exercising these rights. Upon a request to erase information, we will maintain a core set of personal data to ensure we do not contact you inadvertently in the future, as well as any information necessary for MIT archival purposes. We may also need to retain some financial information for legal purposes, including US IRS compliance. In the event of an actual or threatened

legal claim, we may retain your information for purposes of establishing, defending against or exercising our rights with respect to such claim.

By providing information directly to MIT, you consent to the transfer of your personal information outside of the European Economic Area to the United States. You understand that the current laws and regulations of the United States may not provide the same level of protection as the data and privacy laws and regulations of the EEA.

Additional Information

We may change this Privacy Statement from time to time. If we make any significant changes in the way we treat your personal information we will make this clear on our website or by contacting you directly.

The controller for your personal information is MIT. We can be contacted at dataprotection@mit.edu.

This policy was last updated in July 2019.