General Questions

(Q): What is involved in the check-in process when we show up on campus? Where do you report and what does our student receive at that time?

(A): When you arrive to Parents Orientation, you will check in to the Coffee House, located on the 3rd floor of the Stratton Student Center. You will receive a packet with your schedule, name badges, etc., and your student will check into Student Registration at the same time.

(Q): Are there on-campus apartments available at MIT?

(A): Not for undergraduate students, only graduate students.

(Q): What percent of MIT undergrads live in Greek housing?

(A): A number of our students living in Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups. Freshman are not allowed to live there, they must wait until their 2nd year to move there. For more information, please check out the FSILGs website.

(Q): Where can I find the mailing address for a specific dorm?

(A): Please go to housing.mit.edu and view the dorm’s web site for mailing instructions.

(Q): Is it a good idea for the student to bring his or her Passport or social security card?

(A): It depends on what the student’s needs are. I would suggest if you are sending originals with your student, to keep copies at home.

(Q): In the e-mail announcing the dorm assignment, students are asked to rate their experience in dorm selection. Assuming that answers correlate with the position number of their actual
selection (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), I wonder if you have any polls indicating overall student perception of this process when they graduate?

(A): Email residence@mit.edu with your question and our office can look into this and get back to you with an answer.

**Moving In**

(Q): Where is the check-in location for students arriving on Saturday the 25\textsuperscript{th}?

(A): Orientation Registration and Check-in are located in the Stratton Student Center on both the 25\textsuperscript{th} and 26\textsuperscript{th}. Students who have indicated that they will be arriving early on their Orientation form should check in at their Residence Hall. If you need to make alternate arrangements, or update your date of arrival, please email residence@mit.edu.

(Q): If my student is due to report to campus early for sports, where does he go?

(A): He should check in to his assigned dorm to obtain his ID card.

(Q): My daughter is arriving early on Saturday, August 25. Can she enter and live in her assigned dorm the same day?

(A): Yes. Once she checks in, she will stay in that room until the room change process takes place.

(Q): My daughter's flight from arrives at Logan airport on the 26th at 5:30 am. Will there be anyone at the Student Center at 6:00 am or will she need to wait?

(A): Please email residence@mit.edu with this information so we can make those arrangements.

(Q): What's the best way to get from the airport to the dorms?

(A): A cab or the subway (called the T in Boston) would be the best way to get from the airport to the dorms.

(Q): Are there any shuttles that go between the dorms and the major stores on August 25 and 26, or do we need a car?

(A): The only shuttle available is one that is provided by the Cambridge Side Galleria, which picks up at Kendall Square. Many parents will utilize a taxi to transport items or rent a car. Others may order from stores online and have items shipped directly to the dorms.

(Q): Can parents accompany their student when they check in to the dorms?

(A): Yes.
(Q): Do the dorms provide hand trucks for moving in heavy items?

(A): Each building has different resources. Please contact the House Manager for what the building has available.

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**FPOP**

(Q): My son will be arriving early for FPOP. Can he bring all of his belongings with him?

(A): Your son can bring all of his belongings with him. Depending on what building he is in, we recommend that he not completely unpack until he finds out his final room assignment during the In-House Rooming process.

(Q): Our son will also be @ FPOP. We're wondering if we should let him arrive August 21 alone, and we could come August 26 with his stuff. We would like to meet his roommates, or help set up his room for him while he's off on the FPOP. When is the optimal time for us to come?

(A): The parents coming on August 26 is probably your best option. However, depending on which building he is in, you may not meet his final roommate until after the In-House Rooming Process.

(Q): My son is participating in FPOP and is arriving on August 22. My husband and I are arriving the night of the 24th.... Is it possible to move his stuff in on the 25th at MacGregor Hall to avoid the massive move-in on the 26th?

(A): Yes, as long as your student has already checked in due to early arrival, you are able to help him move his things in on the 25th.

(Q): Will students who attend FPOP remain in the same room through orientation? Is it likely that he will have to move during the In-Hall Rooming process?

(A): Students who are participating in FPOPs will stay in those rooms for Orientation. They might have to move in the in-hall process. It all depends on the outcomes of the process.

(Q): Can packages be sent to the dorm during FPOP if my student is on a program that takes him off campus and he is not in the dorm to receive it?

(A): Yes, the dorm staff will hold it for him.

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Additional accommodations for students arriving early can be made on a case-by-case basis. Please email residence@mit.edu to make further arrangements.
Furnishings & Accommodations

(Q): Are there any general floor plans available for the rooms?

(A): Students will be able to use their online certificates to go to http://web.mit.edu/facilities/ and check out the floor plan of their room. The furniture is placed in the room as we feel optimal, but students may re-arrange the layout as they feel would work best for them.

(Q): Which dorms have private restrooms?

(A): Most of the dorms have community restrooms, some have private ones. It all depends on which building.

(Q): Does the cleaning staff clean students rooms and restrooms?

(A): The cleaning staff will clean the common areas in all residence halls, but students are responsible to clean their individual spaces.

(Q): Do the dorms have any capacity to store student belongings over the summer?

(A): No, the dorms do not have capacity to store student belongings. However, Metropolitan Storage and Student Logistics Storage – both highlighted on the Resources page of the http://parents.mit.edu website – are wonderful options that many students use during the summer.

(Q): What can students attach to the walls, specifically curtains?

(A): Students can put up pictures and posters. They cannot put up anything that will damage the walls.

(Q): How heavy of a comforter should my student get? Do students control temperatures in their own rooms at Baker?

(A): It truly depends on the preferences of your student. The students do not control the temperatures of their individual rooms at Baker.

(Q): Do the rooms at Simmons Hall have AC? If not, is it advisable to bring one?

(A): Simmons Hall does not have central air, but there is air conditioning in the common room. The windows in Simmons are not compatible for AC window units, so do not bring them.

(Q): Is temperature control available in MacGregor Hall?

(A): No, it is not.

(Q): How is the heating/AC in Next House? Do we need to buy fans and warmer units?
(A): All of our buildings have heating systems, and some have air conditioning. Students cannot bring warmer systems into the buildings. If they would like to have a fan, they can bring one.

(Q): Can each student bring a small refrigerator in a double? What is the best size, 1.7 or 2.7 cu feet or other?

(A): We tell students to bring a small, dorm sized refrigerator. There are so many varieties out there; it depends on what your student needs. Please keep in mind that some of the rooms are small, and refrigerators do take up valuable space.

(Q): My daughter is going to be living in East Campus and cooking her own meals. She will need a refrigerator for her room. What are her options for obtaining one?

(A): Your daughter would need to purchase a refrigerator, or utilize one of the common fridges in the common area/kitchen. She can also look into the resources on the Parents Association site for rentals.

(Q): Why are microwaves prohibited? Can my student bring a toaster?

(A): With the abundance of technologies our students bring to campus, some buildings cannot handle the power demand, and microwaves take up a lot of power. Students may not bring toasters, toaster ovens, or popcorn makers with open heating coils, as they are a fire hazard. There is generally a microwave available in each building. For building specifics, visit the Housing Website for more information. Each building has an area where students will have access to a microwave.

(Q): Should students bring a TV?

(A): It is not necessary to bring a TV as the common areas of the dorms do have them. For students who choose to bring their own TV, we recommend bringing a TV stand, as hanging racks are not available and may damage the walls, resulting in a charge on your student’s bill. All of the residence halls have regular cable access.

(Q): Do the dorms have Wi-Fi?

(A): All of the dorms have wired as well as wireless internet access.

(Q): Are all outlets 3-pronged and grounded?

(A): Yes

(Q): Should my student bring a desk lamp?

(A): That's up to the student if they feel they'll need it.

(Q): Do the rooms still have telephones?
(A): No. These have been removed as nearly all students have personal cell phones.

(Q): Is power turned off in the residence halls over winter break?

(A): No it is not.

(Q): How does a student hang dry laundry? In the laundry room or their own room?

(A): In the student’s room.

**Changing Rooms**

(Q): This is probably a stupid question, but what exactly is FYRE and when is it?

(A): FYRE is the First Year Residence Exchange. It is the process by which students who want to move buildings can request to transfer to another building if a space is open. This process takes place on August 26th at noon to the 29th at 2am. We will post the results on the 30th at 6pm. Freshmen who live in all buildings except Maseeh and McCormick can participate.

(Q): What is the logic behind the In-Hall Rooming process?

(A): The logic is that we would like our students to be able to pick which area of the building they want to live in. Each area has a different community/lifestyle and we want our students to live in an area they feel most comfortable in. Most upperclassmen appreciate this process because they have a choice in their living arrangements.

(Q): My son is in a quad at Baker. If he finds someone else he wants to room with, how likely is it he can move out of a quad and into a double or a triple? Is the process harder because he is in a quad?

(A): Baker has an In-house Rooming process that will happen on the evening of August 29th. At that time, he will be able to pick which room he wants to live in and who he wants his roommate to be.

(Q): If a student likes his first room and roommate assignment what are the chances that he/she will be moved?

(A): Each building handles rooming differently, and the rooming processes take place on August 29th. If a student likes his roommate they can stay together as a pair but may be moved to a new room.

(Q): When will be the best time to send students their things? When they first move in, or after the room exchange?
(A): You can send items directly to the dorm after the student has checked in. However, permanent moves will happen on August 30. Students can bring all of their things after they check in, but they may have to move them depending on where they end up. Please note, dorms will not accept packages before students arrive.

(Q): Is it possible for two students who requested singles to be assigned to a double together, even if they were not compatible as roommates?

(A): For students who are in Maseeh or McCormick the assignments are done based on what was submitted in the Lottery Application. Each building allocates their single rooms differently. Students should contact their Room Assignment Chair after they arrive on campus for details. We try to work with our students to make sure they are in the best roommate pair possible. If things do not work out, we will try to mediate or move them to another room.

(Q): If my son participates in the FYRE, does he have to accept it?

(A): Yes. He can opt out of the process before the registration closes; however, if he participates he will have to accept the outcome.

(Q): At Simmons Hall, what are the chances of my son be assigned a different room other than the one he has now?

(A): Simmons has an In-Hall Rooming process that will take place on the 29th. At that time, all students are "taken out" of their rooms and they reselect based on their own preferences.

(Q): My daughter has been assigned to Random Hall during orientation, which is her first choice. Does this mean her final assignment will also be that dorm?

(A): Yes, your daughter's final room will be in Random Hall.

(Q): My daughter has been assigned to a single in Next House. It wasn’t her first choice, but she is happy. What are the chances that she ends up in a double? She is very concerned about it.

(A): It's all dependent on how the Next House rooming process turns out. There is always a chance she could stay in a single, or that she could end up in a double. She will have to wait and see.

(Q): My son heard that he might be bumped from his assigned room without requesting such. Is that possible?

(A): Usually, we do not move students from their assigned room until they arrive on campus. However, sometimes circumstances are such that we have to move students temporarily to another room.
(Q): How well does the readjustment lottery work? My son got his fourth choice and is hoping to switch dorms. What is the percentage of students that get their first FYRE choice? Second? Third?

(A): The FYRE process is dependent on how many students participate. The more students that participate, the more spaces we have available to work with. If your son does not get his move through FYRE, he can always put himself on the waitlist. When a space opens up, we will let him know.

(Q): If my son participates in the FYRE, does he need to pick 4 choices? Or can he pick just one?

(A): He can pick one choice if he wants to.

(Q): Do most students stay in the same dorm all 4 years? Is it easier their sophomore year to change to their first choice dorm?

(A): Most students do stay in the same residence hall for their four years. Moving buildings depends on how far along the waitlist they are located. The waitlist is ordered by the date a student applied, not by class standing.

(Q): If my student would like to live in a different dorm after his freshman year, how easy is it to transfer later?

(A): He can apply for the April lottery, and we can move him over then.

(Q): If a student does move to a different dorm on August 30, does MIT provide any moving assistance for them to transport their things?

(A): We will have free moving vans available to move items, and students to help the freshman move.

(Q): Is the In-house rooming process optional or mandatory?

(A): It is a process all students in each building participate in.

(Q): Do students participating in the room exchange move around with their belongings? Or do they stay in the temporary room while checking out the others?

(A): They stay in temporary rooms.

**Life on Campus and Campus Safety**

(Q): What is their residence hall policy on an overnight stay from a guest or family member?
(A): There is a guest policy specific to each building. The student will learn all of this information when they arrive to campus.

(Q): How often can parents visit their kids once the semester starts? Are parents allowed to go to their dorms?

(A): Parents are allowed to visit as often as they would like; however, they must be signed in when they visit the dorms.

(Q): My son will live at Simmons Hall. Will a bike help him to move around? Also, how often are bikes reported stolen at MIT?

(A): If your son would like to bring a bike to campus that would be his choice. The Cambridge/Boston area is very friendly to bikes. We have bike racks all across campus for students to secure their bikes. As a campus, MIT is very secure. We have MIT Police Department presence here every day. Also, MITPD has a bike registration program to help keep bicycles secure.

(Q): My student will arrive on campus early for athletics. How secure are dorms during this period before other students arrive? Also, because she is in a suite, will there be other student athletes there, or is it possible she is isolated in the suite?

(A): The buildings are all secure, and only those with ID card access can enter the buildings. There may be other students in her suite, which just depends on who is assigned to her suite.

(Q): My son will leave his belongings in his room while he goes off camping for his FPOP. How can he be assured that his stuff will be safe in his absence?

(A): His room will be locked and secured while he is gone. No one will be entering his room after he checks in.

(Q): Where should a student store his or her musical instrument?

(A): Students can store instruments in their rooms.

(Q): How do students keep their personal property like laptops safe?

(A): Many students utilize laptop locks if they are concerned about theft. Students should also lock the doors of their room when they are not present.

(Q): Random Hall is in Central Square. Is it safe to walk back to the dorm at night or is there a campus shuttle?

(A): The campus is heavily lit and Campus Police is available at all times. There is also a shuttle to the dorms that runs every 20 minutes on campus.
(Q): Is there a bank on campus?
(A): Yes, there is the MIT Federal Credit Union and a Bank of America in the Student Center.

(Q): How do students pay for doing laundry? Coins, MIT Card, credit card?
(A): They can use Tech Cash.

(Q): Is there a barbershop on MIT’s campus?
(A): Yes, in the basement of the Student Center.

**Tech Cash**

(Q): My son is arriving this Saturday for football. Will he be able to activate his Tech Cash card right away? If so, what does he need to do?
(A): Yes, he should receive his MIT ID right away, and he can make sure it is activated by checking in at the Tech Cash Office in the basement of the Student Center.

(Q): What are the hours the Tech Cash office in the Student Center is open on Sunday for students to check in?
(A): The MIT Card Office is open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday except on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month when the hours of operation are 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

(Q): How do you put money onto the Tech Cash card?
(A): You can either do it online through the Card Services office: [http://web.mit.edu/mitcard/](http://web.mit.edu/mitcard/) or you can do it in person when you attend Orientation in the Card Services Office in the basement of the Stratton Student Center.

(Q): Is the Tech Cash card separate from the MIT ID?
(A): No, the Tech Cash account is connected to the MIT ID card, and your student will use that to swipe like a credit card when they use their Tech Cash. The Dining plan is also on a student’s MIT ID card.

(Q): What are the advantages of Tech Cash over a charge card or debit card? Other than laundry, are there other items for which Tech Cash is required rather than a charge or debit card?
(A): Tech Cash can also be used at venues all across campus. Not all venues accept credit or debit cards. You can see more information about this at the Tech Cash Website.
If any other questions come up, we do encourage our parents to email mykidis@mit.edu or log onto our website, http://www.alum.mit.edu/parents, where plenty of information is stored. Our parent connectors have also started a group on Facebook that we encourage you to join. From there, you are able to talk to other parents regarding your experiences and share firsthand knowledge!