
MIT Resources Available to Graduate Student Families 05/2013

Graduate students' families (a spouse, partner and/or children) contribute to the rich diversity of the MIT community; 49% of graduate students report having a spouse or partner and 9% report having one or more children (2011 Enrolled Graduate Student Survey). For graduate student families with children, the dual role of parenting and being a graduate student is challenging, for example with regards to finances, childcare, and scheduling. Simultaneously, there is great opportunity for families of graduate students to share in the rich MIT culture. MIT is committed to supporting our graduate students with families; following is a list of available resources including various offices, services, groups and networks.

Useful Before You Arrive to MIT:

Division of Student Life On-Campus Housing For Graduate Students With Families:

<http://graduatehousing@mit.edu>

Eastgate Apartments: 201 unfurnished 1 & 2 bedroom units; family resources within the residence:

<http://eastgate.mit.edu/>; Westgate Apartments: 208 unfurnished efficiency, 1 & 2 bedroom units; family resources within the residence: http://housing.mit.edu/housing/graduate/westgate_apartments; Family – oriented programming is also offered within the graduate families residences.

MIT Technology Childcare Centers (TCC):

<http://hrweb.mit.edu/mitchildcare/centers/eastgate/>

TCC includes three child care centers in Cambridge, one in Lexington, and coming soon, The David H. Koch Childcare Center (see MIT News article: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2012/new-childcare-facility-0925.html>)

Full-time and part-time infant, toddler, and preschool care is available, with a limited number of slots for graduate student families.

MIT Work-Life Center

<http://hrweb.mit.edu/worklife/>

Room 16-151, Phone 617-253-1592, E-mail worklife@mit.edu

- **By phone: "Work-Life Resources 24/7":** Call toll-free phone number **1-877-847-4523**

Service offered free of charge to admitted MIT graduate students. Consultants can provide information about off-campus childcare and Boston/Cambridge area schools, elder/adult care, schools, legal/ financial concerns, relocation and daily living.

- **In person:** Services such as individual consultations and referrals on child care and parenting, elder care, balancing work and personal life, are available at no cost to MIT students, staff, and faculty, as well as to their partners and families. Also houses a lending library with more than 1,000 books for adults and children on a wide variety of work-life topics.

MIT Spouses& Partners Newcomers Guide: <http://spouses.mit.edu/newcomers>

Provides information on moving to and living in Boston/Cambridge; money and finances; bills and utilities; transportation; MIT ID cards for spouses and partners.

MIT FamilyNet Website: <https://familynet.mit.edu/>

Online community where members can network and share information via the searchable member database and member-initiated groups and forums on a variety of topics, which include parenting, child care, English language learning, housing, health and insurance, employment, and educational opportunities.

After You Arrive to MIT: In addition to the resources listed above, please also see below:

Office of the Dean for Graduate Education (ODGE):

<https://odge.mit.edu/>

Room 3-138, Phone 617-253-4860, E-mail odge@mit.edu

The ODGE comprises the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, the International Students Office, and the Graduate Student Council; together, they foster academic excellence and quality of life for MIT's community of graduate students.

The ODGE has focused areas of its current strategic plan on programs that effectively serve the identified needs of graduate student families.

- **Childbirth Accommodation** (Paid Maternity Leave):

<http://odge.mit.edu/gpp/registration/changes/childbirth-accommodation-maternity-leave/>

A student anticipating childbirth is eligible for Childbirth Accommodation, and may choose a period of one to two months. For students with RA appointments, the Fund will cover tuition and stipend. For TA appointments, the stipend component will be paid from the Fund, and the student will *not* be responsible for the TA tuition component.

- **Apply for a Graduate Student Life Grants (GSLGs) for Family-Focused Initiatives:**

<http://odge.mit.edu/community/gslg/>

Provide resources to families such as babysitting nights and social activities on campus for parents and children.

The deadline for 2013-2014 grant proposals is 11:59pm on Friday, October 18, 2013. Contact the Grants program with questions at gslg@mit.edu.

- **Apply for an out-of-cycle funding request for community-building activities and events:**

<http://odge.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/RequestForFunds.pdf>

- **Graduate Student Council (GSC):** <http://gsc.mit.edu/>

Family Activities are supported through the GSC Funding Board: <http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/fb/>

Past activities have included Eastgate Fall Orientation BBQ, Westgate Christmas Party, Families 101;

Join the GSC Housing and Community Affairs (HCA) Families Subcommittee:

<http://gsc.mit.edu/committees/hca/family/>; Currently working on increasing family housing options, advocating for more affordable on- and off-campus childcare options, maintaining high-quality and affordable health care, and improving campus safety for families.

Employment Opportunities at MIT for Spouses: <http://jobs.mit.edu/>

MIT Medical: <http://medweb.mit.edu/>; Pediatrics: <http://medweb.mit.edu/directory/services/pediatrics.html>

Community Wellness, Family Support: <http://medweb.mit.edu/wellness/programs/family.html>; Mental Health and

Counseling: http://medweb.mit.edu/directory/services/mental_health.html

Graduate Student Dental Plan: <http://graddental.mit.edu/graddental/>

MIT Spouses&Partners: <http://spouses.mit.edu/>

Provides information and referrals that connect spouses and partners with resources both at MIT and in the Boston area. Specific information on resources for international newcomers, work and volunteering, health care, groups and activities, parenting resources, childcare and schooling options in the Cambridge area. Organizes weekly meetings, interest groups, trips and annual events. Member-led parent-child groups: Moms to-be, New Moms Group, BabyNet Play Group.

Grad Moms: Group for graduate students and postdocs who are mothers. Monthly lunches. To subscribe to the email list, go to <http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/gradmoms>.

MIT Council on Family and Work: <http://hrweb.mit.edu/workfamily/index.html>; The Council on Family and Work monitors the quality of life at MIT and shares its impressions with senior administrators, key committees, and the larger community.