New International Student Visa Processing

Fall 2021 GSC Webinar
Tuesday, May 25, 2021
9:00am-10:00am

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New Admit Visa Documents

- Newly Admitted Student Information – “Getting Started” (http://iso.mit.edu/students/getting_started.shtml)
- iMIT (http://imit.mit.edu)
  - MIT ISO Online Portal
  - “Admission” menu to request visa document
    - “New F-1 Student Application” (Form I-20)
    - “J-1 Application for New Student” (Form DS-2019)
    - Complete ALL eforms in the application menu
- International students will need MIT Kerberos ID before submitting their application for a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20 or DS-2019) on iMIT
New Admit Visa Documents

- Certificate of Eligibility processing time = 15 business days
- Students will be sent electronic copy of Form I-20 to students to download, sign, print and use to apply for entry visa and enter the U.S.
- J-1 visa applicants will be express mailed a paper original Form DS-2019
- Students can arrive to the U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to the Fall 2021 Registration Day on September 7, 2021 (arrive no earlier than August 8, 2021)
Student Visa Types
https://iso.mit.edu/visas-and-travel/visa-categories/

- All incoming students who are not legal US Permanent Residents (Green Card holders), or US citizens, are required to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to undertake a program of study in the US. Canadian citizens are exempt from having to apply for a visa at a US Consulate or Embassy abroad prior to entry to the US; however, they are required to enter the US on a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 form or DS 2019 and be granted the student visa status.

- F-1 student visa requirements to apply for an I-20 form (Certificate of Eligibility for an F-1 visa application)
  - Funding can be from any source.
  - No home residency requirement after graduation before being eligible for other visa statuses.
  - Dependents apply for F-2 visa [only spouses (with Marriage certificates) and dependent children are eligible].
  - Dependents (F-2) are ineligible to apply for any type of work permission.
  - Dependents (F-2) can study part-time in a degree program in the US.
  - F-1 may apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) upon completion of first two semesters (Fall + Spring) to pursue an academically approved internship during the summer semester (only); dates restricted to summer semester. Authorization is always required.
  - F-1 students may apply for 12 months Optional Practical Training (OPT) in their major field of study upon completion of degree program, to pursue an internship or work experience in their field of study, providing the student did not apply for OPT after completion of a former Master's degree. Please note that the MFin Program does not qualify as a STEM major.
Student Visa Types

https://iso.mit.edu/visas-and-travel/visa-categories/

- **J-1** student visa requirements to apply for a **DS-2019 form** (Certificate of Eligibility for J-1 visa application)
  - **Funding** must be substantially (51%) funded by non-personal/family funds (loans are considered personal funds and cannot be used to fulfill the J-1 funding requirement).
  - Dependents apply for J-2 visa [only spouses (with marriage certificates) and dependent children are eligible].
  - Dependents (J-2) are **eligible** to apply for work permission anywhere in the US. It takes approximately 3 months to obtain approval from USCIS (must have approval prior to beginning any employment activity).
  - Dependents (J-2) can study **part-time or full-time** in a degree program in the US.
  - J-1 students may apply for up to 18 months or length of academic program, whichever is shorter, of Academic Training work permission in their major field of study.
  - J-1 students may apply for Academic Training after one academic year in J-1 status to pursue a summer semester internship or work experience (any Academic Training time used is subtracted from the total months of Academic Training employment authorization allowed).
  - Potential restrictions after graduation – 212E (Two-year Home Residency requirement), that applies to some J visa holders, must be fulfilled or waived before being eligible for certain other visa statuses in the US.
Congratulations on your admittance to MIT!

As you begin to think about your trip to Cambridge, we would like to offer you some important information that will be helpful in your planning. This entire “Getting Started” section of our website, including “Requesting an I-20 or DS-2019,” “Obtaining a Visa,” and “Arrival at MIT Checklist,” will be useful to you. We hope that you will take the time to review this online guide carefully, as it should answer many of the questions that you may have.

While you read, keep in mind that information often differs for undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree students. We will try to present procedures clearly for all groups of students. Upon arrival, you will receive much more information and have opportunities to attend orientation sessions. Best wishes as you plan your travel to MIT. We look forward to seeing you in Cambridge.
iMIT: ISO International Student Portal

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

- The "Save Draft" and "Cancel" options are currently out of service on most eForms. We kindly ask that you do not utilize these buttons. We will update you once they are fixed. Any questions or issues, please contact iso-help@mit.edu.
- Fall 2021 Applications will not be open in iMIT until April 15th, 2021.
Admission

Tasks

- J-1 Application for New Student
- New F-1 Student Application
- Visa Interview & Approval
Financial Support Documentation


- Costs of Attendance
  - Tuition
  - Student Activity Fee
  - Health Insurance
  - Living Expenses for Students
  - Additional Living Expenses and Health Insurance for dependent family members (required)

- Guidance on accepted documentation, for both I-20/DS-2019 issuance and to present to U.S. Embassy/Consulate at visa interview and to U.S. Customs and Border Protection upon entry to the U.S.

- Financial documentation must be submitted at time of Form I-20/DS-2019 request in iMIT
  - If financial support changes, students notify ISO in iMIT to request an updated Form I-20/DS-2019
New Admit Visa Documents

- Individuals already in the US
  - F-1: Coordinate process of SEVIS Transfer
  - J-1: Determine if SEVIS Transfer or Change of Exchange Visitor Category is necessary
  - H-1B or other status: Change of Status to F-1 application within U.S.
    - Certain statuses can start classes while COS application is pending, but cannot pursue any employment until COS is approved
    - B-1/B-2: may NOT begin classes until COS is approved
    - F-2 to F-1: may only pursue part-time study until F-1 is approved

- Please contact your ISO advisor to discuss options
SEVIS Transfers

- Only students currently in the U.S. on Student visas (F-1 and J-1 status, including ESL programs), and not planning to depart the U.S. before starting the MIT program of studies, are eligible to have their current school Transfer their SEVIS record to MIT (for same visa status to study at MIT).

- Start date at MIT must be within 5 months of end date of previous degree program completion or end date of approved F-1 OPT/J-1 Academic Training.

- “Other information for MIT” eform in iMIT Certificate of Eligibility Request must be completed; forwards electronic notification to current school.

- Students enrolled in student visa status prior to March 9, 2020, who have not left the U.S., and transfer to MIT, are eligible under current USDHS guidance to pursue more online coursework.

- Students who have already departed the US are not eligible for a SEVIS transfer.
Change of Status

- Students currently in the US may be eligible to apply for a Change of Status to a student visa type (F-1 or J-1), by filing application to USCIS (Form I-539)

- Change of Status applications with USCIS currently taking approximately 10-14 months for approval. On-campus work is not permitted until COS to F-1/J-1 status has been approved.

- Alternatively, an applicant can depart the US, apply for the student visa at the US Embassy/Consulate abroad, and enter the U.S. to have the student visa status granted upon entry

- H-1B, L-1A and L-1B visa holders who want to remain in this status are required to upload a letter from their employer stating that as part of the visa status a full-time course of study in the MIT is permitted. Consultation with the employer/employer’s immigration counsel is advised.

- Please go to https://imit.mit.edu and upload copies of Passport, US visa, most recent I-94 record, and letter confirming employment and eligibility to remain in your current visa status to engage in full-time course of study at the MIT Sloan School. Please remember that student visa benefits are not permitted for non-student visa holders (including on-campus/off-campus employment).
Visa Processing at U.S. Embassies/Consulates Abroad

- Instructions on scheduling visa interviews, and status updates, can be accessed on the US Embassy/Consulate website where you will apply (http://usembassy.gov)

- Consulates resuming visa services will depend on staffing levels and any COVID-19 stay-home regulations in the host country.

- Per U.S. Department of State, consulates will attempt to prioritize student visa applications based on resources and local conditions.
Visa Interview Guidance

- Once receive your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 from the ISO, you can then schedule your visa interview appointment (*I-20s sent electronically; DS-2019 express mailed)
- Schedule interview time for whatever time you can reserve
- Procedure to request earlier visa interview time only possible when have an initial time scheduled (no guarantee time can be changed)
  - Expedited appointments may not be available at all consulates based on staffing
Visa Processing at U.S.
Embassies/Consulates Abroad

- Tracking New Student Visa Processing
  - ISO developing two eforms for New Students to report status of visa processing:
    - Visa Interview Scheduled
      - Date of Visa Interview
      - Visa Status Requested
      - Consular Post City and Country
    - Visa Issued (visa and passport received from U.S. Embassy/Consulate)
      - Date visa granted / date visa and passport returned to student
      - Issue and expiration date of the visa
Visa Processing at U.S. Embassies/Consulates Abroad

- Visa Applications still subject to security check procedures (Administrative Processing)
  - NOT possible to request expedite of Administrative Processing (security checks)
  - Embassy/Consulate does NOT have control over Administrative Processing (U.S. State Department and other government agencies in the U.S. responsible for these security check procedures)

- Consulate cannot issue visa more than 120 days prior to program start date listed on Form I-20/DS-2019
Travel Restrictions to the U.S.

- COVID-19 Travel restrictions still in place:
  - Europe (most Schengen countries, including United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland)
  - National Interest Exemption for F-1 students
  - J-1 students must obtain NIE from U.S. Consulate
  - China
  - Iran
  - Brazil
  - South Africa
  - Return to U.S. through certain airports (including Boston-Logan)

- May not enter U.S. within 14 days since last physically present in one of the above countries

- ISO "Visas and Travel": [https://iso.mit.edu/visas-and-travel/](https://iso.mit.edu/visas-and-travel/)
Travel Restrictions to the U.S.

- National Interest Exemptions (NIE)
  - For F-1 and J-1 student visa holders, eligible for exemption to travel restriction from the following countries:
  - For entry to U.S. after August 1, 2021
    - China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, India
  - Currently eligible for entry
    - Schengen area, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland
Travel Restrictions to the U.S.

- For students applying for visas, NIE will be granted when U.S. Consulate issues your F-1 or J-1 visa.
- For students who already have a valid F-1 or J-1 entry visa in their passport:
  - F-1 visa holders can enter without additional documents.
  - J-1 visa holders must contact U.S. Consulate to obtain written NIE permission with each entry to the U.S.
- See ISO notice about NIE conditions from the U.S. Department of State.
Vaccine Information

- Please see the MIT Medical Vaccine Information Page and FAQ, which has specific information for international students: [https://covidapps.mit.edu/vaccine-information](https://covidapps.mit.edu/vaccine-information)

- If you are unable to be fully vaccinated before arrival, MIT will assist you after you arrive on campus.

- Please read all notifications from MIT regarding Vaccine and Campus Access in case there are any changes due to US Federal or Massachusetts State requirement.
New Student Eligibility for On-Campus Employment

- International students are eligible for on-campus employment after arrival to the U.S. and the start of their academic term as long as they are enrolled full-time
  - Work for MIT, at MIT, and paid by MIT

- Eligible for 20 hours per week maximum while school is in session (usually during fall and spring semesters)

- Eligible for more than 20 hours per week during Institute vacation periods (IAP, summer term)
  - For academic programs that have required coursework during vacation period, maximum on-campus employment is 20 hours per week

- See detailed info on [ISO Employment](#) webpage
New Student Eligibility for Off-Campus Internships/Employment

- To be eligible for F-1 CPT or OPT, students must first be enrolled as a full-time student in F-1 status for at least “one full academic year”
  - Must establish their F-1 student visa status by physically arriving to the U.S. and pursuing on-campus instruction
  - A remote instruction term abroad does NOT currently count towards eligibility
- J-1 visa holders must meet academic training eligibility requirements
- See detailed info on the ISO Employment webpage
ISO Online Resources

ISO Website:  https://iso.mit.edu

Getting Started:
https://iso.mit.edu/getting-started/

ISO "Visas and Travel":  https://iso.mit.edu/visas-and-travel/

MIT Immigration Alerts & Updates:

ISO Updates -Spring 2020/Fall 2020/Spring 2021:

ISO Advisor Point-of-Contact:
http://iso.mit.edu/about/student-advisor.shtml

- **Transitioning to MIT**
  - Connect with Student Cultural Groups
  - Obtain SIM card before arrival to US
  - Understanding Tipping

- **Cultural Adjustment**
  - Understand Culture Shock and the 4 adjustment phases
  - Americanisms (Hi, how are you?...and what it really means, etc.)
  - Idioms (The ball is in your court, etc.)

- **Programs & Events**
  - ISO Programs – “Navigating MIT” Series in fall
  - Partner Programs- [Language Conversation Exchange](https://iso.mit.edu/life-at-mit/) (LCE)
  - And more!

- Subscribe to [ISO Newsletter](https://iso.mit.edu/life-at-mit/) (you will automatically be subscribed in Fall 2021, but you can subscribe for summer)
Pre-Submitted Questions
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there any entry requirements for international students before arriving to campus? I read something about a medical checkup, would you be so kind to provide more information?

Airlines requiring proof of negative COVID-19 test; check airline for specific requirements as you make travel arrangements

- MIT will notify students of any updates issued by the U.S. Federal Government or from the Commonwealth (State) of Massachusetts
- ISO ”Visas and Travel” webpage
Pre-Submitted Questions

A. What is the general timeline for Visa application, processing and receipt based on previous experience? (from applying on documents from MIT to receiving the visa from the US Embassy)?

B. Can we receive SEVIS no. ahead of I-20 document delivery (which would take time due to shipping) in order to obtain an appointment ahead of time? As US embassy is providing interviews 2 weeks min after booking.

C. How can I request the tracking number for my I20 document?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Must I arrive in the US within the 30 days before the start of the program even if I have a valid B1/B2 visa?

- Do NOT enter the U.S. in tourist (B-1/B-2/Tourist Visa Waiver) status — would need to leave the U.S. and make new entry in your student status before start of academic term

- F-1 and J-1 visa holders may enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to program start date (for Fall 2021, may enter no earlier than August 8, 2021)
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will students who are unable to get a visa due to the limited operating capacity of US Embassies be able to start at MIT remotely?

- Please notify ISO and your academic department if you are not able to arrive by the start of the Fall 2021 semester.
- Latest arrival date for Fall 2021, for visa purposes, is 30 days after start of Fall term (arrive to campus no later than October 4, 2021).
- Consult your academic program if you can begin coursework remotely prior to arrival.
I just completed my undergraduate studies at a US university and my F-1 visa is expiring this summer. What are the steps for transferring my I-20 and obtaining another F-1 visa (I am currently residing in my home country)? I’ve completed the ‘Other Information for MIT 2021’ ('Transfer-In') e-form and my designated school official has submitted the required documents/requests as well. Are there any other forms I need to submit?

☐ See slide on Transfer processing
I have been outside the US for more than 3 months, however, if I have a valid F-1 from my previous school can I use it to enter the US with my new I-20 from MIT? The SEVIS ID on my valid F-1 does not match that on my new I-20, however, other institutions have stated this is possible. Is it possible to request an I-20 with a specific SEVIS ID?

Yes, you can use a previously valid visa, for the same status, to enter the U.S. to begin your program of study at MIT.

Pre-Submitted Questions

A. Consulates are currently accepting Visa appointments only after Jan 2022 in my country (India). Will I be eligible for an emergency appointment, and will I need any documentation from MIT?

B. Appointments are generally unavailable in my country and it is very much a trial-and-error process to get an appointment? Is there something MIT can do to facilitate appointments?
Pre-Submitted Questions

If we are unable to secure a visa (owing to the consulates being closed due to covid lockdown restrictions) can we defer our admission?

☐ Please contact your academic department (and the ISO) if you will not be able to arrive for the Fall 2021 semester to determine options for deferring your program start date.
Pre-Submitted Questions

U.S. Embassy Moscow no longer offer any non-diplomatic nonimmigrant visa services. Thus, I consider the possibility to apply for F-1 visa type in other countries. Unfortunately, the situation is complicated by covid, applications only for residents. Additionally, the closest dates of the interview are mostly in Fall. Will it be possible to study online/get a deferral? How will this deferral may affect the scholarship (RA) and place in the dorm?

☐ As indicated earlier, please speak with your academic department about possible deferral. MIT will work with you regarding housing and related issues for when you will arrive to MIT (if deferring to a future academic term start date)
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can I apply for the I-20 before my company approves my trip? Because of the pandemic, my company does not decide whether I can come to the US or not, so I may defer my admission depending on the situation. The admission office accepts my offer if I want.

- You can request your visa document from the MIT ISO as soon as you have been admitted and complete the document request in iMIT and provide all required documentation (including proof of financial support guarantee)

- If you decide you will not start at MIT in Fall, you can always cancel your visa document with the MIT ISO
If we wish to enter the US before 30 days to start date on a B1/B2 visa, can we get our F1 in the US or a neighboring country?

Tourist visa holders may NOT pursue study related to a degree program in the U.S. ISO advises that students NOT enter the U.S. in another visa status before beginning their degree program. If students enter the U.S in another visa status, they will need to depart the U.S., obtain the appropriate student entry visa from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate, and make a new entry in the correct student (F-1, J-1) visa status. Visa regulations also do not allow student visa holders to enter the U.S. to pursue study that is offered fully remote/online. We do NOT recommend obtaining a visa in another country other than your home country unless there is no other choice.
Pre-Submitted Questions

If I have a US tourist visa can I come to the US (Cambridge or a different city) from July itself and take the courses online. Will I have to go back to my home country and fly back after the F-1 visa is effective?

Tourist visa holders may NOT pursue study related to a degree program in the U.S.
ISO advises that students NOT enter the U.S. in another visa status before beginning their MFin degree program. If students enter the U.S in another visa status, they will need to depart the U.S., obtain the appropriate student entry visa from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate, and make a new entry in the correct student (F-1, J-1) visa status.
Visa regulations also do not allow student visa holders to enter the U.S. to pursue study that is offered fully remote/online.
Pre-Submitted Questions

I’m currently an F-1 Student on OPT, after the SEVIS transfer date would be possible for MIT to send the new I-20 to my home address in another country? Or do I have to wait for the document in the US before flying back home?

ISO will provide students with their new visa document either electronically (Form I-20) or via express mail (Form DS-2019). Transfer students who are outside the U.S. will want to speak with their ISO Advisor with any questions, and are advised they cannot re-enter the U.S. any earlier than 30 days prior to their Fall 2021 start date (no earlier than August 8, 2021).
Pre-Submitted Questions

If I'm transferring my F-1 SEVIS instead of applying for a new one do I still have to complete the New F-1 Student Application? Or do I only need to submit the SEVIS Transfer In form?

- You must complete the New F-1 (or J-1) Student Application in iMIT. If you are a transfer student there is a eform to complete to notify of the release of your SEVIS record from previous school to MIT (“Other Information for MIT 2021” eform)
I was a special undergraduate student during Feb 2020-May 2020. My I-20 for it expired at May 2020, but my F-1 for it will not expire until 2025. Now, I have a new I-20 for PhD with new SEVIS number. Do I have to apply to a new F-1? I want to avoid the new F-1 application if possible.

If your F-1 entry visa in your passport from your previous U.S. F-1 stay is still valid, you can use that entry visa. Please see the ISO Knowledge Base article on this issue.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do I need to arrive directly at the Boston airport or can I go through the immigration at any US city? (I plan to stop over in Honolulu for several days before travel to Boston)

- You can enter the U.S. at any port-of-entry where you will present your documents for proof of your intended student visa status in the U.S.

- Be sure to check your I-94 arrival record after arrival to be sure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) processed your entry as a student (F-1 or J-1) visa holder rather than another status.
Pre-Submitted Questions

**Do I have to attend another ISO info session after arriving on campus in addition to this webinar?**

- Students must attend an ISO International Student Immigration Information Session either before or after arrival to the U.S. These sessions will be posted in iMIT to sign up for offerings beginning in August 2021 for Fall 2021 admits.

Please see the ISO “Orientation Program” page for details about Fall 2021 sessions that will be posted in July 2021.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can F-1 Students have (unpaid) academic collaborations with folks outside MIT?

- Students would, in almost all situations, require off-campus employment authorization. First year students are not eligible for off-campus employment until after completing “one full academic year” (combination of Fall + Spring semesters)
Pre-Submitted Questions

Tax Law Questions for F-1 Visa Students:

a. 30% Federal Capital Income Tax: What does it include and exclude? Does it include profit made on stocks or digital assets due to buying/selling or only dividends received? Does it include income made outside of the US (even if person is within US?)

b. What are the applicable Massachusetts taxes on F-1 visa holders?

c. How do the Federal & Local taxes combine together? e.g. is there a cap for maximum combined tax?

d. What is the sales tax in Massachusetts? Does it apply to MIT Fees?

e. Are stipends paid by MIT taxable?

f. If under TA/RA and tuition is fully or partially paid, is that amount taxable?

Please see the links on the ISO "Taxes" page to the MIT Vice President for Finance Office (VPF) on tax and payroll related issues:
https://iso.mit.edu/maintaining-status/taxes/
Pre-Submitted Questions

Canadian citizen here. Is it possible that I could travel to the US during the Summer and take the summer term online there?

Canadians entering the U.S. as tourist visa holders are NOT allowed to pursue study related to a degree program in the U.S.

Currently there is also a travel restriction between the U.S.-Canada-Mexico at land ports that prevents entry for “non-essential” purposes (including tourism).

Visa regulations also do not allow student visa holders to enter the U.S. to pursue study that is offered fully remote/online.
Pre-Submitted Questions

For on-campus teaching assistantship (TA), research assistantship (RA), or fellowship with service, how many hours can F-1 or J-1 student work per week?

International students, enrolled full-time in the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 visa status, are allowed to work on-campus (for MIT, at MIT, paid by MIT) up to a total 20 hours per week maximum during Fall and Spring terms, and can work more than 20 hours per week during IAP or during summer vacation period (if the academic program does not require students to take coursework during the summer vacation period). This includes any combination of on-campus employment positions including RA/TA/Fellowship with service requirement.

Students with a full RA/TA/Fellowship with Service are not allowed to work additional on-campus hours.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Does MIT consider potential currency fluctuations? i.e., should we add a currency risk buffer to our proof of funds amount to allow for currency fluctuations?

If a student submits a financial statement that is not in U.S. dollars, the conversation rate should appear on the statement or the conversation will be made at the time the Form I-20/Form DS-2019 is generated by the ISO.

Even if the currency conversion is sufficient at time of issuance of the Form I-20/DS-2019, students should keep an eye on the exchange rates prior to their visa interview to be sure that the financial statement will still convert to the needed amount (or carry additional financial documentation to prove sufficient funds).
Visa Validity

I’m currently in the U.S. My F-1 visa expires in June 2022, should I do anything about it now? I plan to come back home in the winter break, could I renew my new F-1 visa with the consulate then?

Your entry visa is like a ticket to get into the U.S., you only need to have a valid visa in your passport to enter the U.S. from abroad.

Once you are inside the U.S., your entry visa can expire and you can remain in the U.S. as long as you continue to be enrolled as a full-time student pursuing your degree program or authorized post-degree employment authorization, have a valid Form I-20/Form DS-2019, valid passport, and a valid I-94 record verifying your U.S. visa status. After your entry visa expires, the next time you leave the U.S. you would need to plan to apply for and obtain a new entry visa at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate while abroad in order to re-enter the U.S. [ISO Knowledge Base article]
Visa Validity

I have a valid F-1 visa in my passport from a previous academic degree program at a different school. The visa has listed on it the name of the previous school. The visa will also be valid for when I plan to enter the U.S. to begin my MIT degree program. Do I need to apply for a new visa at the U.S. Embassy/Consulate abroad before entering the U.S. to start at MIT this Fall?

If the entry visa is still valid for when you will be entering the U.S. to begin at MIT, you can still use that visa to enter in the same visa status for entry purposes until it expires. Students are advised they must carry with them all previously issued Forms I-20 to show that the previous visa was used for study at the previous institution. It is also fine to use even if the SEVIS ID number will change on your MIT Form I-20. A previous J-1 entry visa could also be used to make a new entry in J-1 status. [ISO Knowledge Base article]
SEVIS I-20/DS-2019 Transfer

My undergrad I20 ends in May 2021 and MIT I20 starts in September 2021. Can I stay in the US between May and September?

Yes, as long as your MIT program will start within 5 months of your previous program end date you can request the SEVIS Transfer after completion of your previous program/post-completion OPT and remain in the U.S. until your MIT program start date.

If you wish to work in the U.S. during that period, students are advised to apply for post-completion F-1 OPT for after completion of the previous program of study.

Should I ask our undergraduate institution to transfer my I20 or SEVIS to MIT?

Yes, you will request your previous institution to transfer release your SEVIS record (F-1 or J-1) to MIT after completion of your degree program or after your post-completion OPT period based on that previous degree. Once MIT receives your SEVIS record, MIT ISO can issue you a new Form I-20 for your new program of study.
Questions?