



## Physics PhD at a Glance

### Academic requirements

- 4 Core Courses (option to test out)
- 2-3 Specialty Courses
- 2 Breadth Courses
- Oral Exam in your research area
- Write a thesis!

### Add-on programs

- Interdisciplinary [PhD in Physics, Statistics, and Data Science](#)
- Certificate in [Biophysics](#)
- Certificate in [Science, Technology, and Policy](#)

### Funding and appointments

- 2020-21 physics stipend:  
\$3,458/month + [Student Extended Insurance Plan](#)
- Information about [TA allocation](#)
- [Childbirth accommodation policy](#)
- [Grant for students with children](#)
- [Incentive for external fellowships](#)

### Career guidance

- MIT [Career Advising Office](#) (CAPD)
- Physics Department careers [resources and newsletter](#)
- MIT [Doctoral Exit Survey](#) results and [salary data](#) by department

### Daily life at MIT

Check out recent newsletters to get a feel daily life in our department:

- [GSC Events Calendar](#)
- [Physics Student Newsletter](#)
- [Physics Department News](#)
- [physics@mit journal](#)

### Moving to Cambridge

- MIT [Housing information](#)
- Info for new [international students](#)



### Advising and support

- Every student is assigned an **academic advisor** in addition to their **research advisor**
- The Physics [Academic Programs Office](#) staff and their dogs advise and support students
- Prof. [Claude Canizares](#), our **Graduate Student Advocate**, is a third party physics prof that students can go to with problems
- [GradSupport](#) in the Office of Graduate Education provides an external support resource

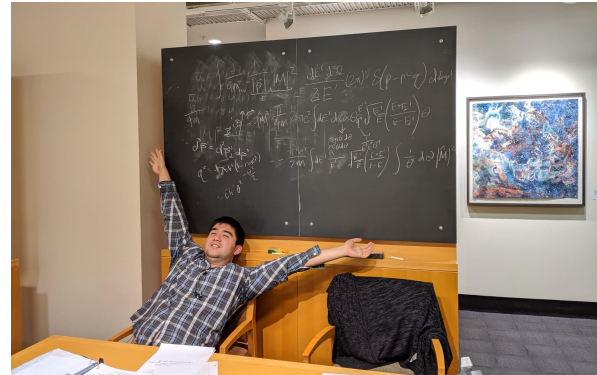


## Physics Organizations

### Social events

The Physics Graduate Student Council runs a number of regular events, such as:

- ★ Monthly pizza and beer social
- ★ Biweekly “cookie” socials (we buy ~20 cakes and pies each time!)
- ★ Monthly faculty breakfasts
- ★ Barbecues
- ★ Free massages before finals
- ★ Special first year-only events



### Physics Resources for Easing Friction & Stress (PhysREFS)

<http://physrefs.mit.edu/>

We know that graduate school can be stressful at times! PhysREFS are peer physics graduate students who have undergone extensive training in conflict management and can be a confidential sounding board to talk through situations, come up with potential resolutions, and connect you to key resources on campus.

### Grad Womxn in Physics (GWIP)

<https://web.mit.edu/physics/wphys/>

GWIP aims to build community and support gender diversity among physics graduate students at MIT through biweekly dinners, social and outreach events, and career development workshops throughout the year.

### Student governance

Our department has a strong component of graduate student governance, as reflected by the many opportunities grad students have to take part in department decision-making, such as:

- Physics Graduate Student Council (PGSC) - <http://pgsc.mit.edu/>
- [Grads Advising Grad Admissions \(GAGA\)](#)
- Physics Values Committee (4 reps) - <http://physvals.mit.edu/>
- Admissions Committee (3 reps)
- Colloquium Committee (2 reps)
- Education Committee (1 rep)
- Graduate student search committees during faculty searches (ad hoc)
- MKI and LNS anti-racism task forces

### National Society of Black Physicists Chapter (NSBP)

MIT and Harvard are teaming up to form a new organization for Black physics students in the Cambridge area. Black undergraduate and graduate students support each other and build community through monthly meetings, workshops, and professional/social meetings.



## Get Involved in Outreach & Advocacy!

The MIT Department of Physics strives to prepare its graduate students to drive forward their fields as future researchers and teachers in academia and as leaders in industry, as well as to make contributions to and be upstanding members of society. We pride our students' engagement in the broader community, whether through volunteer mentoring and science outreach work, involvement in advocacy and public policy, and other forms of service. Below please find a partial list of ways you can get involved at MIT!

### Physics outreach + mentoring:

- ★ [PhysGAAP](#) - help prospective students write their grad applications!
- ★ [Astrogazers](#) - take telescopes around town and share astrophysics with the public.
- ★ [Astronomy on Tap](#) - Beer. Astronomy outreach. Need we say more?
- ★ **First-year buddy program** - new students are paired up with senior grads
- ★ [GWIP-UWIP mentoring program](#) - grad womxn mentor womxn physics majors
- ★ **8.01-8.04 mentor program** - get paid to mentor students in intro physics through QM
- ★ **MSRP ARC** - review physics applications for the [MIT Summer Research Program](#) geared towards URM and underserved undergrads
- ★ [Directed Reading Program](#) - grads and undergrads learn a topic together over IAP

### CUA service requirement

The Center for Ultracold Atoms (CUA) encourages grad students to spend 1 hr/month on outreach and other service efforts. The committee Engage CUA ([engagecua@mit.edu](mailto:engagecua@mit.edu)) is the grad-student- and postdoc-run committee managing the new program; contact them to learn more!

### MIT governance

- ★ [Graduate Student Council](#)
- ★ [Institute Committees](#)
- ★ [Science Graduate Student Council](#)

### Public Policy

- ★ [Graduate certificate in Science, Technology, and Policy](#) - add to your PhD!
- ★ [GSC External Affairs Board](#) - coordinates grad student political advocacy
- ★ [Science Policy Initiative](#) - student group centered on science-related political advocacy
- ★ [GSC Sustainability Subcommittee](#) - part of grad student council
- ★ [Sustainability](#) student groups
- ★ [MITVote](#) - student volunteers who promote civic participation

### Community building

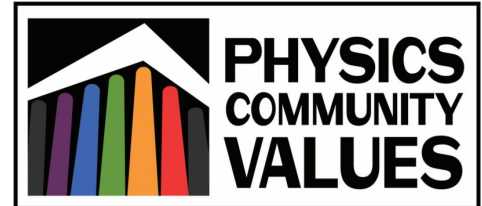
- ★ [Physics and Institute Resources for Easing Friction and Stress \(REFS\)](#)
- ★ [Graduate community fellows](#)
- ★ **Grad dorm governments** - many grad events at MIT are hosted at or by dorms, like [Ashdown](#), [SidPac](#), & [Westgate](#)



## Cultural and social identity resources

### Physics Values Committee (PVC)

The Physics Values Committee consists of students, staff, and faculty who work to help our Department better uphold our core Physics Community Values of **well-being, respect, inclusion, collaboration, and mentoring** through our policies, procedures, and practices.



### A (Non-Exhaustive) List of Student Affinity Groups

- AISES** - American Indian Science & Engineering Society
  - BGSA** - Black Grad Students Association
  - GWAMIT** - Graduate Womxn at MIT
  - ISA** - International Students' Association
  - LGSA** - Latinx Grad Student Association
  - LGBT Grad** - For students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender + allies
  - LGBT Grad QPoC** - For queer graduate students of color
  - SPC** - Spouses and Partners Connect\*\*
- ...and [so many more!](#)

\*\* [Resources for Grad Families](#), and a [Guide for Students with Children](#)

*Your notes go here!*

### Offices and resources

- [OME](#) - Office of Minority Education
- [ORSEL](#) - Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life, including over two dozen [student groups](#)
- [LBGTQ+ Services](#) - Run LGBTQ+ programs
- [OMP](#) - Office of Multicultural Programs
- [SPXCE](#) - Social Justice Programming and Cross-Cultural Engagement
- [LCC](#) - Latino Cultural Center
- [ICEO](#) - Institute Community & Equity Office



A meeting in GWIP's lounge, the Wong Room

<http://engage.mit.edu/>