The **MIT Innovation Initiative** collaborates with all five schools at MIT to strengthen the vibrant culture and programming of innovation and principled entrepreneurship.

> Our mission is to connect the varied pathways and networks in this domain to equip the MIT community and its partners to move powerful ideas from conception to impact.

We combine opportunities for hands-on innovation and entrepreneurship education, building a dynamic innovation infrastructure across campus, and fostering a connected community of innovation science researchers focused on global relevance and impact. We are committed to strengthening MIT’s innovation and entrepreneurship landscape by:

- **Serving as a connector** across the wide range of student groups, programs, and campus centers dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Supporting MIT’s most successful innovation and entrepreneurship programs** to reach more students and external partners.
- **Filling gaps in the landscape** through the creation of new educational programs, research efforts, and physical infrastructure that will position MIT to thrive for years to come.

“Our students are driven to make a positive difference in the world. We need to enable them to hone their skills in translating ideas to innovations, so they can go on to provide solutions that scale rapidly and achieve broad impact. We must also connect that work of MIT to the global innovation economy. That’s exactly what the MIT Innovation Initiative is designed to do.”

**Vladimir Bulović**, Associate Dean for Innovation, Co-Director of the MIT Innovation Initiative, Fariborz Maseeh (1990) Professor of Emerging Technology, MacVicar Faculty Fellow
Education & Practice

The Innovation Initiative supports a number of existing programs across MIT in an effort to expand capacity to reach more students and partners. In addition, we create new educational offerings that fill key gaps in the innovation and entrepreneurship curriculum.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation Minor

The Entrepreneurship & Innovation Minor educates students to serve as leaders in the innovation economy with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to develop, scale, and deliver breakthrough solutions to real-world problems. They will be prepared to do so within a range of organizational contexts: an entrepreneurial startup of their own, as key members of a founding team, or as an entrepreneurial member of a large organization.

Launched in fall 2016 by the MIT Innovation Initiative and jointly offered through the School of Engineering and Sloan School of Management, the minor is designed as an interdisciplinary program with a coherent combination of conceptual and practical elements that draws on a wealth of prior educational activities in this domain.

MIT Community Resources

Entrepreneurship & Innovation on MITx

In partnership with MIT’s Office of Digital Learning, the Innovation Initiative is creating an integrated set of online graduate-level courses that can be utilized by a variety of programs across campus and around the world.

I&E Resource Guide
An interactive, online guide of over 80 resources for innovation and entrepreneurship on campus.

I&E Landscape Annual Report
A publication of the MIT innovation and entrepreneurship year in review, highlighting center and program activities, achievements, and featured student profiles.

I&E Community Forum
An annual gathering of MIT’s innovation and entrepreneurship faculty and staff, meant to foster communication and collaboration across campus.
Research & Policy

Drawing from many intellectual frameworks and academic disciplines, the Innovation Initiative aims to provide a clear and useful vision of today’s innovation economy while exploring its future potential for a greater diversity of participants, ideas, and outcomes.

MIT Lab for Innovation Science and Policy

The MIT Lab for Innovation Science and Policy is an MIT-wide laboratory established to help develop the field of innovation science, an emerging area that systematically studies the practice of innovation—moving ideas from inception to impact.

Engaging experts from across MIT and partner institutions in cross-disciplinary research, the lab develops innovation science using an evidence-based, scientific approach drawing on diverse methodologies. Results contribute to fundamental knowledge of the innovation process and aid decision-makers as they face an ever more complex innovation landscape.

The Lab for Innovation Science and Policy strives to become the place that policy makers, senior executives, and entrepreneurial leaders turn to for evidence-based guidance on the design of innovation-focused policies and programs in their organizations, local regions, and nations. The lab’s overall program of research takes an evidence-based approach to understanding:

- **Policies** that shape innovation at the national and ecosystem level.
- **Programs** used to promote innovation.
- **People** driving innovation within large companies and startups.

**Areas of Focus**

- **Innovation Metrics**
  - The measurement, evaluation, and visualization of metrics for innovation, including those that trace the linkages among key ecosystem stakeholders.

- **Innovation Policies**
  - Exploration of the impact of policies on innovation-driven entrepreneurship and ecosystems.

- **Innovation Programs**
  - Exploration of the impact of programs on innovation-driven entrepreneurship.

- **Innovation Boundaries**
  - Defining and understanding the factors that enable innovation practitioners to work most effectively across boundaries.

- **Innovation Scale-Up**
  - Working collaboratively to understand the role of manufacturing and production in the innovation process.

“Our goal for the Lab for Innovation Science and Policy is that it will become the place that policy makers, senior executives, and entrepreneurial leaders turn to for evidence-based guidance on the design of innovation-focused policies and programs in their organizations, local regions, and nations.”

Fiona E. Murray, Associate Dean for Innovation, Co-Director of the MIT Innovation Initiative, and William Porter (1967) Professor of Entrepreneurship
Innovation & Entrepreneurship

36% of MIT alumni are named as an inventor on a patent.

45% of MIT alumni have launched 2+ companies.

31% of MIT alumni founded firms outside the US.

15% of MIT students join startup companies (10 years ago it was 6%).

As a whole, MIT alumni-founded companies exhibit strong performance in comparison with baseline US statistics. While roughly 50% of US newly formed businesses survive for five years or more and 35% last for 10 years, approximately 80% of new companies founded by MIT alumni survive for five years or more and 70% last for 10 years, according to our results.

30,000 currently active companies founded by MIT alumni.

4.6 million employees

$1.9 trillion in annual revenue

the GDP of the 10th largest economy in the world

All data from Entrepreneurship and Innovation at MIT: Continuing Global Growth and Impact, 2014
Project Manus is expanding MIT’s network of makerspaces into a comprehensive maker system to meet the needs of a new generation and set the gold standard in academic maker systems worldwide.

MIT has long been a leading example of how to integrate making into education—a process in which theory and knowledge are transformed into practical experience and real-world problem-solving skills. Maintaining this leadership requires adaptation of new technology, tools, training, and means of improving access for students. Project Manus’ goal is to maximize the impact of making upon academic and extracurricular life, to foster student communities around maker-based learning, and to provide a maker ecosystem wherein student ideas become world-changing technologies.

**Mobius**
A system designed to help the MIT community navigate the vast array of resources used to make or measure available on campus. Mobius also enables facility and equipment managers to manage their spaces, equipment, and user training. MIT community members have access to this system via the Mobius iOS or Android app.

**MakerLodge**
A program to train every incoming freshman in the use of maker tools. Once a student has completed their introductory training and successfully built their project, they will be eligible to join one of 10 makerspaces on campus. In addition, they will be matched with communities of other students who have shared interests.

The MIT Hong Kong Innovation Node is a collaborative space that connects the MIT community with unique resources—including advanced manufacturing capabilities—and other opportunities and local stakeholders in Hong Kong and the neighboring Pearl River Delta.

By convening students, faculty, and researchers from MIT to work on entrepreneurial and research-based projects alongside students, faculty, alumni, entrepreneurs, and businesses based in Hong Kong, the Innovation Node is combining resources and talent to help the MIT community learn how to move ideas more rapidly from the lab to market.

The programs and physical space of the Node will enhance the campus landscape and provide unique points of view and context for understanding global problems and developing solutions at scale.