

The background image shows a group of people on a wooden boat deck. In the foreground, several hands are clasped together in a huddle, suggesting teamwork or a group activity. Some individuals are wearing black braided wristbands, and one person has a black digital watch. In the background, a person is wearing a blue safety harness and a blue rope. The scene is brightly lit, indicating it is daytime.

MIT-WHOI Joint Program Information Session

Please Record!

Welcome



Ann Tarrant, WHOI Associate Dean

Kimberly Gniadek, WHOI Academic Affairs & Admissions Coordinator

Ted Maksym, Education Coordinator, AOSE

Neel Aluru, Education Coordinator, BO

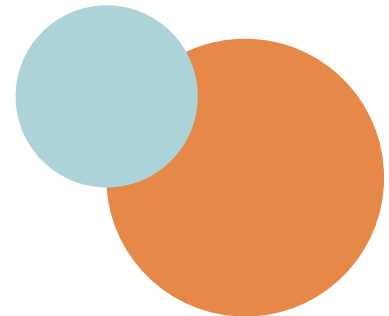
Liz Kujawinski, Education Coordinator, CO

Andrew Ashton, Education Coordinator, MGG

Robert Todd, Education Coordinator, PO

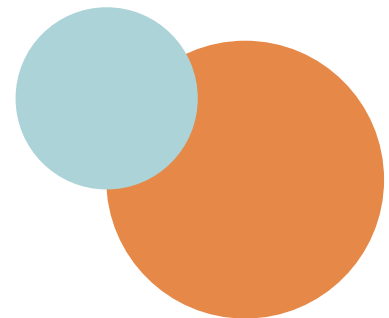
Izzie Wang, JP Student

Kelby Kramer, JP Student



Agenda

1. Overview of JP structure
2. Funding
3. Application materials
4. What makes a strong application?
5. Waivers
6. JP ASK program
7. Breakout room Q&A





MIT-WHOI Joint Program

One doctoral degree program composed of 5 disciplines:

1. Applied Ocean Sciences and Engineering (AOSE)
2. Biological Oceanography (BO)
3. Chemical Oceanography (CO)
4. Marine Geology and Geophysics (MGG)
5. Physical Oceanography (PO)

JP Disciplines/WHOI and MIT Department Organization

JP Discipline	WHOI Department	MIT Departments
AOSE: Applied Ocean Science and Engineering	AOP&E: Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering	CEE, MechE, EECS, AeroAstro
BO: Biological Oceanography	Biology	CEE, Biology, EAPS
CO: Chemical Oceanography	MCG: Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry	CEE, EAPS
MGG: Marine Geology and Geophysics	G&G: Geology and Geophysics	CEE, EAPS
PO: Physical Oceanography	PO: Physical Oceanography	EAPS

MIT Departments Affiliated with the JP:

(1) CEE: Civil and Environmental Engineering, (2) MechE: Mechanical Engineering, (6) EECS: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, (12) EAPS: Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Science, (16) AeroAstro: Aeronautics and Astronautics

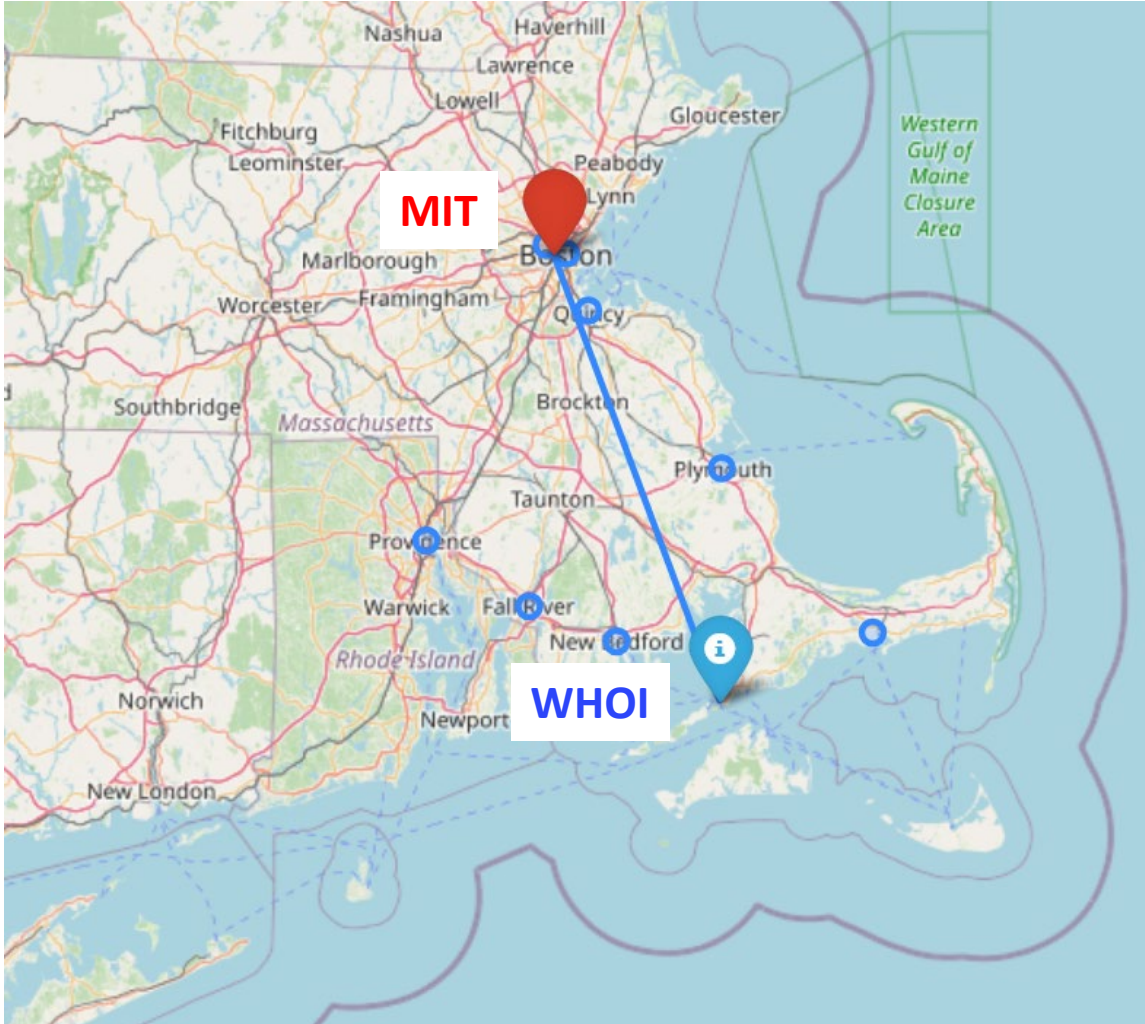
MIT-WHOI Joint Program Students

are enrolled at **both** institutions,
and have access to courses,
programs and resources at both
institutions.

Leads to a doctoral degree awarded
by both MIT and WHOI.



Supporting commuting logistics across two institutions

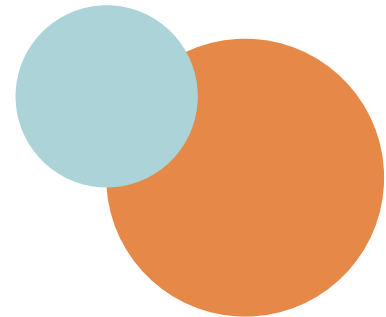


- MIT and WHOI are about 75 miles apart (driving distance)
- A chartered bus runs from MIT to WHOI and back twice a week during academic year
- JP bus available from MIT
- Other reimbursable transportation
- Student apartment for short-term stays at MIT, transient housing at WHOI

Funding



- **Commitment of financial support** for 5 years of full-time study given satisfactory academic progress
- Admitted with full funding
- Consists of tuition, a stipend (at least \$52,311/yr), and health insurance for a single person
- Support may come from a Graduate Research Assistantship or fellowships
- **Encouraged to apply for external fellowships.



For students applying to NSF GRFP



Your major field of study must align with the proposed graduate program of study. If you have questions, ASK!

JP Discipline	MIT Department	Major Field of Study
AOSE	Civil Eng, Mech E, or Aero Astro	Engineering or Geosciences
AOSE	EECS	Engineering, Comp/IS/Eng, or Geosciences
Biol Oce, Chem Oc, MGG	Civil Eng	Geosciences or Engineering
Biol Oce, Chem Oc, MGG, PO	EAPS	Geosciences
Bio Oce	Biology	Geosciences or Life Sciences

Application Materials

JP students come from various STEM majors, and many are new to ocean science/engineering.

1. Undergrad degree
2. Unofficial transcript(s)
3. Describe grading system
4. English Language Proficiency exam *Required for applicants for whom English is not their first language.*
 - *Minimum scores:*
 - *TOEFL 100*
 - *IELTS 7.0*
 - *Cambridge English (C1 or C2) 185*
 - *Duolingo English Test 130*

5. Statement of objectives
 - 1.5-2.5 pages single-spaced
 - Why you are a good candidate
 - What you would like to study and how your previous training and experiences have prepared you for that work
 - Specific faculty whose research most interests you
 - Factors that may have impacted your performance or opportunities to gain experience

6. Resume
7. Three letters of recommendation
 - Letters should be from people who are familiar with your academic and/or research capabilities
8. Optional GRE scores (*not required*)

***APPLICATION CLOSES DECEMBER 1, 2026**

What Makes a Strong Application?



1. No single factor, holistic admissions process
2. Clear statement of the type of research the student envisions doing and how their background provides a foundation
3. Potential match with a research advisor
4. External fellowships
5. Highlights the applicant's strengths and potentially describes challenges that have been overcome



Application Fee Waivers

<https://oge.mit.edu/graduate-admissions/applications/application-fee-waiver/>

For U.S. Citizens and U.S. Permanent Residents

- (1) who demonstrate financial hardship,
- (2) are current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, or
- (3) who have participated in special graduate research preparation programs

Eligible applicants should submit the fee waiver form

ELP Waivers

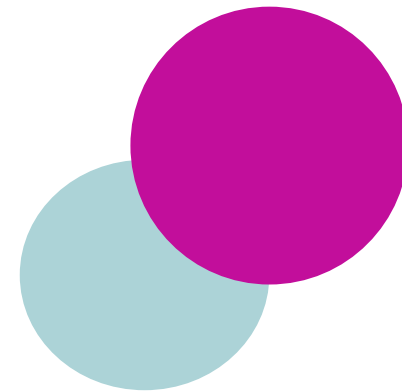
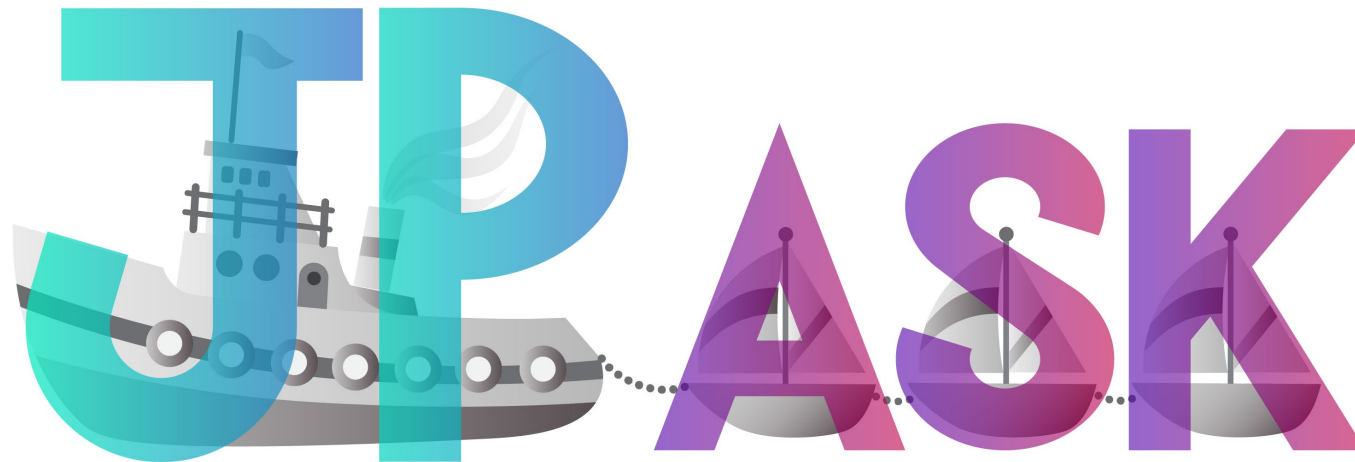
<https://oge.mit.edu/graduate-admissions/admissions-policies/elp-test-requirement/departments-elp-waivers/>

You may be eligible if

- Primary language was English during primary and secondary schooling or
- You attended a 4-year English-speaking college/university in an English-speaking country and graduated with a bachelor's degree

A two-year Master's degree in a U.S. or English-speaking university is not considered sufficient to qualify for a waiver.

Submit the request through the online application system.



MIT-WHOI JOINT PROGRAM APPLICANT SUPPORT & KNOWLEDGEBASE



Advise and support prospective students through the graduate application process by pairing prospective applicant mentees with current graduate student mentors



PROGRAM RUNS:
LATE AUGUST/EARLY
SEPTEMBER TO MID
NOVEMBER



WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://MIT.WHOI.EDU/
ADMISSIONS/APPLY/JP-
APPLICANT-SERVICE-
KNOWLEDGEBASE-JP-
ASK/](https://mit.whoi.edu/admissions/apply/jp-applicant-service-knowledgebase-jp-ask/)



**QUESTIONS
CONTACT:**
JP-ASK@MIT.EDU

Thank you for joining us!

Questions:

Try our FAQ page:

<https://mit.whoi.edu/admissions/faqs/>

Or email: jp-info@mit.edu

Application Opens: October 2, 2026

Application Closes: December 1, 2026

