

Special Ceremony to honor the graduates of 2020 and 2021

Instructions for participating alums



Before 8 am on Saturday, May 28

- Pick up your regalia if you ordered it via the MIT Coop (see hours and location below.)
- Review arrival information for alums (starting at 8 am in Johnson Athletics Center) and guests (doors open at 8 am in Killian Court)
- Talk with your guests about getting to and [around MIT](#), security in Killian Court (page 4), [health and safety](#), your plan for the day, and staying in touch with updates. The special ceremony will take place outdoors in Killian Court except in the case of severe weather. **Please communicate this to your family and friends: if it is rainy or cold, we recommend that guests remain in place indoors and watch the [webcast](#)**, which is open to all and does not require any log-in.

All alums who plan to walk in the Graduation Celebration and their guests need to be registered for Tech Reunions in advance of this event. Check in to Tech Reunions (see page 4 of this document) prior to the ceremony to collect your registration materials.

Regalia

Academic regalia is required for alums participating in the special ceremony. If you ordered regalia via the MIT Coop, you may pick it up in **Lobdell Dining Hall** in the Stratton Student Center ([W20](#)). If a representative is picking up your pre-reserved regalia, please provide them with identification or a receipt and make sure they know to go to W20. ***We urge you to pick up regalia as soon as you can: please do not wait until Saturday morning if you can get there earlier.*** If the line is long, you will be late for assembly. You are welcome to pick up regalia early!

Regalia pick-up schedule:

- May 23–25: 9 am–5 pm
- May 26: 7 am–5 pm
- May 27: 7 am–8 pm
- May 28: 6 am–10 am

PhD/ScD recipients who do not have a Doctoral hood in hand by May 28 may obtain the hood at the assembly area in the Johnson Athletics Center.

If you are on the MIT Coop's waitlist for regalia, please be in touch with them directly at mitregalia@thecoop.com.

Weather

The special ceremony will take place outdoors rain or shine, so please be prepared for the possibility of inclement weather and if it materializes, dress accordingly. If it is raining on the morning of the ceremony, we recommend **keeping your regalia wrapped and dry until you arrive at Johnson Athletics Center**. Ponchos will be available: you should wear one under your regalia. This is easier to accomplish if your regalia is clean and dry to start.

Photos

Participating alums will be able to order digital and print images of their moments on stage. If you would like to [pre-register for photos](#) (until May 27) for 20% off, you may do so directly via GradImages. You will receive a digital image of your moment on stage, compliments of MIT. This will be sent to you from GradImages, who will email attendees after the ceremony, along with the offer to purchase prints. All those who are registered to participate in the special ceremony will be included by default; you may opt out of the photo program by contacting [MIT Institute Events](#).

Diplomas

The Registrar's Office will distribute diplomas to any members of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who have not received them by mail. Hours are Saturday, May 28, from 12 noon to 3 pm in the Media Room of the [Zesiger Center](#) (W35). Please be prepared to present identification.

Arrival time

You must arrive at the time assigned to your cohort: Enter the Johnson Athletics Center ([W34](#)) at the doors to the Z Center and Ice Rink lobby. ***Metal detectors will be in place at the alums' entrance*** to the Johnson Athletics Center. Please remember the need to go through security when you are timing your trip to Johnson. It is crucial to arrive, check in, and proceed upstairs on time.

- Undergraduate alums in 2020 and 2021: arrive **8 am**
- Advanced degree alums in 2020 and 2021: arrive **8:15 am**

If you arrive too late to join the procession, you will be directed to meet a marshal in Killian Court to receive your name card and a seating assignment.

What to bring

At the special ceremony, alums need **only a personal electronic device (for check-in) and regalia**. **Note:** there is no food served in Johnson, but you may bring snacks and beverages (in non-glass containers) for consumption prior to assembly. A bottle of water will be under your chair in Killian Court.

What NOT to bring

The following items are not permitted in Johnson or on Killian Court: glass containers of any type, backpacks, selfie sticks, umbrellas, balloons, and drones of any size. Please arrive on time—divesting of items not permitted in the procession will delay your check-in. Remember to review all security information with your guests.

After the ceremony

At the conclusion of the special ceremony, all alums and guests are invited to adjourn for cold beverages and boxed lunches. [Shuttles](#) will be stopping at Killian Court and the lunch pick-up locations.

- **Undergraduate alums in both classes** and their guests proceed to the tent complex on [Briggs Field](#). Please escort your guests down Memorial Drive to enter Briggs Field via Amherst Alley.
- **Advanced degree alums in both classes** and their guests proceed to the [Johnson Athletics Center](#).

Special assistance

If you will require special assistance for the procession or crossing the stage, contact Dean Elizabeth Young (ecy@mit.edu or 617-253-6786).

There are multiple **electronic transactions** connected with participation in the special ceremony, in addition to **metal detectors** for alums and guests, and the potential for morning-of updates via email. If you (or your family) require assistance with electronic systems on Saturday, May 28, [please let us know as soon as possible](#).

MIT offers a captioned webcast and a text stream of the ceremony. Guests with mobility issues may be dropped off at the [entrance to Killian Court](#) on Memorial Drive. Student Disability Services will have ambassadors and wheelchairs available for guests who need assistance from the drop-off area to their seats. **NOTE: These chairs will be used solely for transport guests; they are not retained by individuals.**

Campus shuttles will make stops that include Killian Court, Briggs Field, Johnson Athletics Center, and Kendall Square. A map of the route will be posted next week, with copies available at the information tents in Killian Court.

Indoor viewing

For those with more family members than tickets, or those who prefer to watch the ceremony indoors, campus viewing locations will include selected rooms in Building 1, 2, 3, and 4; also in rooms 6-120, 10-250, 26-100, 32-123, and 34-101. Seating is open; no tickets are required to access the viewing rooms.

Health and safety

While [cases on MIT's campus](#) are currently decreasing, they are rising across the country and in Massachusetts. For these reasons, we strongly encourage graduates and guests to take precautions before the special ceremony on May 28.

To help stop the spread of Covid-19, everyone can test before traveling and they can wear a high-quality mask while traveling and/or indoors. Consistent with these safeguards, MIT is strongly encouraging all returning 2020 and 2021 alums and their guests—as well as ceremony participants, staff, and volunteers—to wear high-quality masks during indoor events. The Institute will make face coverings available for free at all indoor events.

The Institute expects that ceremony attendees who are eligible to be vaccinated will be [up-to-date](#) on their Covid vaccinations or have a medical or religious reason why they cannot receive the vaccine. We strongly encourage attendees who are unvaccinated or who have concerns to wear a well-fitting mask at all events.

Arrival at Johnson Athletics Center

Check in

- After passing through the metal detectors at the door, please proceed into the first-floor Ice Rink and find the table that reflects the alphabetical position of your last name. Provide your name to the staff at the table to obtain a card with a QR code: **DO NOT LOSE THIS CARD. IT WILL BE USED TO ANNOUNCE YOUR NAME DURING THE CEREMONY.**
- Once you have your QR-coded card in hand, proceed to the indoor track on the second floor and line up at a station. You do not have to be in alphabetical order—you may walk into the court and sit with your friends! **Names will not be announced alphabetically. As you approach the stage in Killian Court, you may use your personal electronic device to alert your guests that you are a few minutes away so they may listen for your name.**

Line up

- When you hear the announcement, “Graduates, line up at your stations”, report back to your station.

Procession

- The procession will be comprised of 4 parallel columns.
- Do not leave your station until you are instructed by a station aide or marshal.
- Follow the head in front of you and stay in a straight line.
- While en route, please stay to the center of the aisles and **do not reach over the rope line** to shake hands or greet spectators.

On stage

- You will be presented with a celebratory scroll by President Rafael Reif, Provost Cynthia Barnhart, Chancellor Melissa Nobles, or Chancellor for Academic Advancement Eric Grimson.
- As you approach the stage, you may signal to your guests via personal electronic devices that you are just a few minutes away.
- Be alert to the position of your tassel so it does not obscure your face in photographs.
- **HAVE YOUR QR-CODED CARD READY AS YOU APPROACH THE STAGE!** Present it at the card reader station and confirm that yours is the name that displays.
- When you arrive on stage, you will see a red line. Do not move beyond the red line until your name is read.
- If someone else's name is read, please tell the staff member your name and then move forward after you hear your name.
- Proceed across the stage and accept your scroll. ***Scroll presentation does not include a handshake: please accept your scroll with both hands.*** If you have difficulty with accepting your scroll, please advise Dean Elizabeth Young, ecy@mit.edu right away.
- Please stay in your seat throughout the ceremony except for scroll distribution or to use the restroom facilities for alums, which are at the side of Killian Court.

Notes

- Only graduates and designated faculty and staff will be allowed into the Johnson Athletics Center. PARENTS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS MAY NOT ENTER THE JOHNSON ATHLETICS CENTER.
- TURN CELL PHONES OFF UNTIL YOU ARE SEATED! DO NOT TALK ON PHONES WHILE MARCHING INTO KILLIAN; KEEP IN VIBRATE MODE.
- Please direct your attention to the stage—and not to your phone—during the ceremony.
- Undergraduate (Bachelor of Science) degree recipients may wear the tassel to the left side: you have graduated already.
- Advanced degree recipients wear the tassel on the left side.
- Out of respect for all graduates and their guests, please return to your assigned seating area after you have received your scroll and remain seated until the end of the ceremony.
- Do not bring your children to the stage. They will be stopped and not allowed to cross with you. There is no exception to NO CHILDREN ON STAGE.
- The ceremony will end at approximately 2 pm. After the stage principals and marshals of the graduates recess from the court, alums may join their guests in the audience and escort them to the lunch pick-up locations.
- We recommend discussing plans and expectations for the day with your families ahead of time. You may want to review the [campus map](#) with them, pointing out the location of the ceremony and lunch. Please ensure that they know what security measures and restrictions to expect (see page 4).

Tech Reunions Check-in

Tech Reunions registration and check-in will take place in the [Building W98](#) (600 Memorial Drive) Lobby, where you can collect your registration materials and/or add tickets for any events with remaining availability. While checking in, 15-minute parking is available in Bldg. W98 parking lots.

Thursday, May 26, 1–6 pm

W98, 600 Memorial Drive, Lobby

Friday, May 27, 8 am–7 pm

W98, 600 Memorial Drive, Lobby

Saturday, May 28, 7:30 am–8 am

Satellite Check-in, Tech Reunions Breakfast, Kresge Oval

Please note: check in for the ceremony will be available via a QR code issued on all registration name badges (including guests), or through the Tech Reunions app. App details are being sent to all registered attendees and guests the week of Tech Reunions.

Guest arrival for the Special Ceremony on Saturday, May 28

- Killian Court doors open for guests at 8 am.
- Please approach Killian Court from Memorial Drive: the doors from the Main Group will be locked.
- Guests will present electronic tickets (see your Tech Reunions registration) and pass through **metal detectors**. Please be sure to share this information with your guests ahead of time so everyone knows what to expect.

Security at Killian Court

There will be *metal detectors in place* at Killian Court and a number of items are prohibited; please discuss these measures with your family so everyone knows what to expect. Attendees are advised to pack lightly for the day because all items taken into all ceremony venues are subject to search—the less they are carrying, the more quickly the party will be able to proceed through security.

The following items are **PERMITTED** in ceremony venues:

- Snacks and beverages in plastic or paper/cardboard packaging. Plastic bottles, juice boxes, and disposable coffee cups are all ok.
- Cameras
- Phones
- Diaper bags and related items (formula, juice boxes, wipes, creams, diapers, toys, etc)
- Purses or similar, personal small bags, including tote bags and briefcases. Personal bags of this nature should be no larger than 16x16x6 inches (or approximately 40x40x15 centimeters)
- Reading material, whether printed or electronic (Nook, Kindle, iPad, etc)
- Laptops and tablets
- Keys
- Personal medical supplies

The following items are **PROHIBITED** in ceremony venues:

- Bags with wheels
- Bags whose size exceeds 16x16x6 inches (or approximately 40x40x15 centimeters)
- Wrapped gifts
- Glass bottles and containers
- Firearms, knives (including pocketknives), and other weapons
- Scissors and other sharp objects
- Mace, pepper spray, or similar substances
- Selfie sticks
- Drones
- Large objects

Guests are asked to consider the appearance of some objects, such as key ring tools/accessories, and leave anything that could be perceived as dangerous at home or in the hotel room. Service animals are welcome at the special ceremony, but no other pets of any size will be permitted inside ceremony venues. Further, we discourage balloons or anything else that would block others' view of the ceremony. Attendees may carry an umbrella to outdoor ceremonies, but open umbrellas are not permitted while seated. Please note that prohibited items will be confiscated and not returned.

Guests are advised to carry government-issued ID (such as driver's licenses, state ID cards, or passports).