



**SUMMER
SPRINGBOARD**

Look Inward. Go Upward.

ENGINEERING, DESIGN AND GLOBAL INNOVATION INFOSHEET

**New student admissions for
Summer 2026 are open**

2-Week Course

This is a two-week program where you'll focus on one course for the entire duration.

Program Highlights

- Work with instructors and global partners on challenges that have tangible social and environmental impact
- Get hands-on experience tackling issues like clean water, energy access, agriculture, housing and mobility
- Collaborate across cultures and disciplines while designing for communities around the world
- Build real skills through prototyping and creative problem-solving
- Explore careers in design, engineering and social impact through mentorship and real-world projects
- Develop a creative, impact-driven approach to problem-solving through design and teamwork

2026 Dates

MIT Campus*

- Session 1: June 21 - July 03
- Session 2: July 05 - July 17
- Session 3: July 19 - July 31



Academic Program Overview

In this course, students will work with instructors and global community partners to design, prototype and test solutions to complex, real-world challenges. Class instructors Heewon Lee and Dr. Dan Sweeney will teach with support from university students. The course embraces the mens et manus (mind and hand) approach, combining daily lectures with hands-on making to build both practical skills and design thinking.

Students will choose a real-world challenge, form teams and work with global community partners on solutions. Projects focus on areas such as clean water, renewable energy, affordable housing and sustainable mobility, guiding students through research, ideation and prototyping. To maximize the hands-on experience of this academic course (9am - noon), it will be held off the campus of MIT, in the Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA area

* To maximize the hands-on experience of this academic course (9am - noon), it will be held off the campus of MIT, in the Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA area. Located next to the campus of MIT, Kendall Square is widely recognized as one of the world's leading hubs for technology, research and innovation.

➤ Excursions

Academic excursions will allow students to apply their coursework to real-world professional settings and leverage the resources of the Boston-Cambridge area. Potential excursions include site visits, mentorship opportunities and trips to Boston-based startups developing technology for underserved communities

Instructors

Heewon Lee and Dr. Dan Sweeney

Heewon Lee is an industrial designer and educator at MIT and RISD, focused on using design for humanitarian and developmental impact. At MIT D-Lab, he works on projects that build creative capacity among youth in low-resource settings. His current research explores repurposing electronic devices for sectors like agriculture, education, health, and energy, collaborating with communities in Uganda and Tanzania. Heewon holds a master's in Interaction Design from Umeå Institute of Design and has completed PhD coursework at KAIST.

Dr. Dan Sweeney is a mechanical engineer and research scientist at MIT D-Lab, where he designs and evaluates affordable products and scalable machines with global community partners. He teaches design and engineering in low-resource settings and has co-founded social businesses in Uganda and India. Dan holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University, a Ph.D. from the University of Utah, and was a Fulbright Fellow in Sweden.

Tuition Information:

Residential Students:

- **Includes:** all meals, lodging, excursions, academic course and weekend excursions
- **Excludes:** optional airport pickup and drop off service (available for an additional fee)
- **Price:** \$6,798

Commuter Students:

- **Includes:** lunch, academic course and excursions, programming from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday
- **Excludes:** lodging, breakfast, dinner, weekend excursions
 - Weekend excursions can be added on for \$125 per day
- **Price:** \$3,498

Supplements:

- **Application Fee:** Starting at \$99 (mandatory, non-refundable)
- **Engineering, Design and Global Innovation Course Supplement:** \$250 (mandatory)
- **Tuition Protection Plan:** Allows for cancellation for any reason up until the day of the program. Click [here](#) for more info.



Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am - 12pm, Monday through Friday. During week two students have class from 9am - 12pm, Monday through Thursday. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to additional academic time (excursions, speakers).



Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast	
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival	
12PM	Lunch	
1:30PM	Academic Excursions or Recreational Activity	
3:30PM	College Readiness Workshop or True You	
5PM- 6:30PM	Commuter Student Departure	
6PM	Dinner	
7PM	Clubs	
10:30PM	Night Checks	

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[More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service](#)

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