

SUMMER SPRINGBOARD
Look Inward. Go Upward.

Engineering, Design and Global Innovation Infosheet

New student admissions for Summer 2027 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

2027 Dates

MIT Campus

- Session 2: July 05 - July 17*
- Session 3: July 18 - July 30

*Sessions starting July 5th will start on Monday, not Sunday (due to the holiday). During the first week, classes meet Tuesday through Friday, followed by Monday through Friday in week two.

Academic Program Overview

As part of the overall Summer Springboard experience on the campus of MIT, this course takes place in Kendall Square.
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.

Academics in Action

Explore engineering through afternoon activities, guest speakers, and educational excursions in the Cambridge and Boston areas. In prior summers students have had hands-on experiences visiting various science and technology labs. Through instructor-led activities and independent study, students will connect classroom concepts to real-world practices and explore careers in the field.

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.

Course Structure

There are nine 3-hour class sessions over the two-week course. During week one, students have class from 9am-12pm Monday - Friday. During week two, students have class from 9am-12pm Monday through Thursday. Afternoons in both weeks are dedicated to students' preferred College Readiness Workshops (CRW), True You, and Academics in Action, with Academics in Action including academic excursions, guest speakers, and course-related activities, such as an instructor-led project or student-led, independent study.

Tuition Information:

Apply by November 30 to lock in the lowest prices of the year. Tuition increases on December 1

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**: $3,298

Typical Schedule

8AM	Breakfast
9AM	Academic Course / Commuter Student Arrival
12PM	Lunch
1:30PM	Academics in Action or Recreational Activity
3:30PM	CRWs, True You, or Academics in Action
5-5:15PM	Commuter Student Departure
6PM	Dinner
7PM	Clubs
10:30PM	Night Checks

Schedule above is a sampler; real schedules may vary based on program and academic track.

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.

More info on Airport Transfer

More info on Unaccompanied Minor Service

Apply Now!

Summer Springboard programs are not run by our campus locations. Universities and their affiliated departments are not responsible for the Summer Springboard program in any way. This program is not sponsored by MIT.