

### 1. What's happening with financial aid, tuition, and dining and housing rates for Academic Year 2018-19?

On Wednesday, February 21, 2018, [MIT announced an increase](#) to undergraduate financial aid, tuition, [dining](#), [undergraduate housing](#), and [graduate housing](#) rates for Academic Year (AY) 2018-19. The Institute will commit \$129.9 million for financial aid next year, a 9.6 percent increase that will counterbalance a 3.9 percent increase in tuition and fees. The net cost for an average MIT student receiving need-based aid will be \$23,539 in 2018 — 10 percent higher than it was almost 20 years ago in 2000 (\$21,346).

MIT has a long-standing commitment to expanding financial aid resources so that exceptional students can attend MIT regardless of need. The actual cost of an MIT education is about twice the annual tuition, and even those students who pay full tuition do not pay the total cost. The estimated average MIT scholarship for students receiving financial aid next year is \$47,251. (Financial aid packages cover the cost of living in a Tier 1 residence hall and being enrolled in the most expensive meal plan.) More than 30 percent of MIT undergraduates receive aid sufficient to allow them to attend the Institute tuition-free.

For undergraduates who do not receive need-based financial aid, tuition and fees will be \$51,832 next year. With average housing and dining costs included, students not receiving financial aid will pay \$67,342. Rates for the most comprehensive dining plan will increase 6 percent next year—though some dining plans may go down in price—and housing costs will rise by 4 percent for graduate students and 5 percent for undergraduates. The new rates will help support enhancements to MIT's housing and dining programs that will benefit current and future students.

### 2. Who made these decisions?

The senior administration, based upon inputs from the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid and the Enrollment Management Group, makes recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Corporation for tuition and financial aid. The Executive Committee has to approve these recommendations as part of their approval of the Institute's overall budget.

### 3. What housing and dining improvements can students expect next year?

**Housing:** MIT is in the midst of a multi-year housing renewal program, starting with the [renovation of New House](#), which will be fully occupied in fall 2018. Additionally, the Institute is investing in new residence halls for both [undergraduates](#) and [graduate students](#). The Division of Student Life (DSL) has been making enhancements to residence halls in partnership with student residential government leaders and heads of house. Examples include:

- Common space upgrades in numerous communities
- IS&T network upgrades, with more planned in the coming year
- New kitchens in MacGregor
- Makerspace in East Campus
- Courtyard stage in Maseeh
- Tang first-floor enhancements

- Sidney-Pacific HVAC renovation
- Westgate playground upgrades
- Eastgate penthouse air conditioning and playground renovation

**Dining:** Responding to feedback from students involved in the food and dining review, the AY2018-19 dining plan structure will change to increase flexibility and give students more choice. For example, new plans will enable students to vary the number of meals they eat per week without penalty or loss of meals each semester, and voluntary, economical opt-in plans will be made available to residents of FSILGs and cook-for-yourself communities. The plans are all-you-care-to-eat, and subscribers have access to all five dining halls. The 6 percent increase applies to the Any 19 meal plan, the most comprehensive offered by MIT Dining. In a change this year, however, no student will be required to be on the Any 19 plan, and first-year students in Maseeh may sign up for a 14-meal-per-week plan instead. Also, some students will see their dining plan costs actually go down.

Dining dollars with a 5 percent bonus for every dollar spent will be a new dining plan feature so that students can apply a portion of their meal plan commitment to purchase food at retail locations such as Forbes Café in the Stata Center and Anna’s Taqueria in the Student Center. The dining program has also recently expanded meal service with the new late-night Rebecca’s Café in the Pritchett Dining Room in Building 50.

**Figure 1 – Updated Dining Plans and Rates for AY2018-19**

**Meal Plans for Dining Dorm Residents**

	Annual Cost 2018-19	Annual # of Meals	Annual Dining Dollars	Minimum Commitment
Any 19 Per Week + \$50 Dining Dollars & 8 Guest Passes per semester	\$5,620	597 *	\$100	
Any 14 Per Week + \$175 Dining Dollars & 6 Guest Passes per semester	\$5,360	440 *	\$350	First Years
260 Meals + \$225 Dining Dollars per semester	\$5,620	520	\$450	
190 Meals + \$250 Dining Dollars per semester	\$5,360	380	\$500	First Years
125 Meals + \$290 Dining Dollars per semester	\$3,900	250	\$580	All Upperclass

\*based on 15.71 weeks/semester

- First year students have the choice of two plans
- To suit their own dietary needs students may choose plans above the minimum commitment
- Students may choose between weekly or semester plans
- All meal plans can be used for breakfast, lunch, dinner, late-night or weekend brunch
- Dining dollars are accepted at most on-campus retail cafe's and come with a 5% bonus (each \$1.00 in dining dollars is worth \$1.05)

**Voluntary Plans**

	Annual Cost 2018-19	Annual # of Meals	Annual Dining Dollars
90 Meals + \$225 Dining Dollars per semester	\$2,880	180	\$450
60 Meals + \$310 Dining Dollars per semester	\$2,260	120	\$620
30 Meals + \$407 Dining Dollars per semester	\$1,670	60	\$814
45 Meals + \$215 Dining Dollars per semester	\$1,670	90	\$430

- Students living in residences without dining halls have the option to purchase voluntary plans or any of the meal plans designed for dining dorm residents
- All meal plans can be used for breakfast, lunch, dinner, late-night or weekend brunch

**Social Awareness:** The Division of Student Life is taking steps to reinforce MIT's values in its dining program, and the new dining rates will support these efforts. This past fall, DSL worked closely with students and staff to address food insecurity on campus. A short-term solution is SwipeShare, a pool of meal swipes donated by students on dining plans for use by other students in need. A longer-term solution to food insecurity currently under consideration is the creation of a low-cost market on campus where students will be able to obtain food staples. MIT's dining contract is up for bid, and fulfilling DSL's new vision for dining is an important selection criteria, as are the contractor's sustainability initiatives, its organizational stance on social responsibility, and its ability to introduce programs to help all students learn about wellness, nutrition, cooking skills, and sustainability.

#### 4. Aren't costs for MIT housing and dining already high?

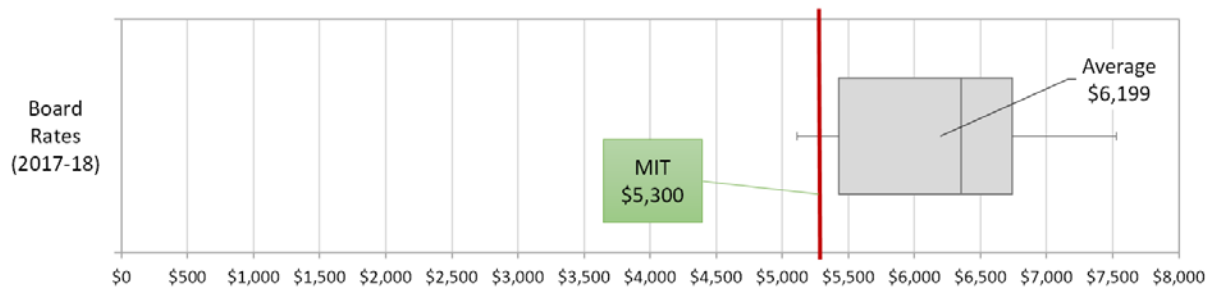
The Institute believes that housing and dining need to improve to better serve current and future students, and those enhancements require additional investment. In recent years, housing rate increases have ranged from 4-7 percent, and dining rates have increased about 3 percent. In comparison with peers and other institutions, MIT's dining rates are low (Figures 2 and 3), and housing rates are competitive in the context of the Boston and Cambridge collegiate residential and rental housing market (Figures 4 and 5).

**Figure 2 - 2017-18 Collegiate Board Rates\***

<b>Bowdoin</b>	\$ 7,528.00	#2 Princeton Review
<b>Princeton</b>	\$ 6,840.00	
<b>Yale</b>	\$ 6,800.00	
<b>Cornell</b>	\$ 6,738.00	#7 Princeton Review
<b>Stanford</b>	\$ 6,518.00	
<b>Harvard</b>	\$ 6,360.00	
<b>Washington U, St Louis</b>	\$ 6,356.00	#3 Princeton Review
<b>UMass</b>	\$ 6,348.00	#1 Princeton Review, public institution
<b>Dartmouth</b>	\$ 6,015.00	
<b>Penn</b>	\$ 5,428.00	
<b>MIT</b>	\$ 5,300.00	<i>Even with the increase, MIT's would rank slightly ahead of Penn's AY17-18 plan cost.</i>
<b>Brown</b>	\$ 5,236.00	
<b>James Madison</b>	\$ 5,114.00	#5 Princeton Review, public institution

*\*All rates are based on the most comprehensive meal plan available.*

Figure 3 – Collegiate Board Rates Box Plot



For housing, MIT is competitive considering the more than 7 percent increase in aggregate apartment rent trends in Cambridge over three years, from January 2015 to February 2018, according to a [rentcafe.com/Yardi Matrix study](http://rentcafe.com/Yardi Matrix study).

Figure 4 - Undergraduate 2 Bedroom Housing Rate (Tier 1)

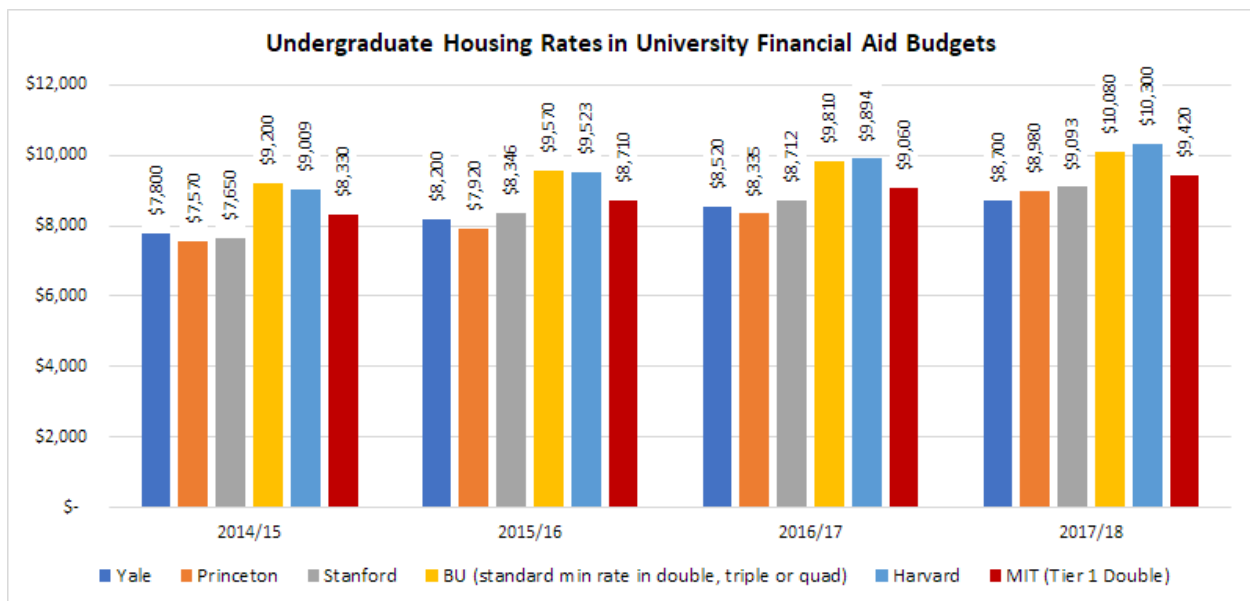
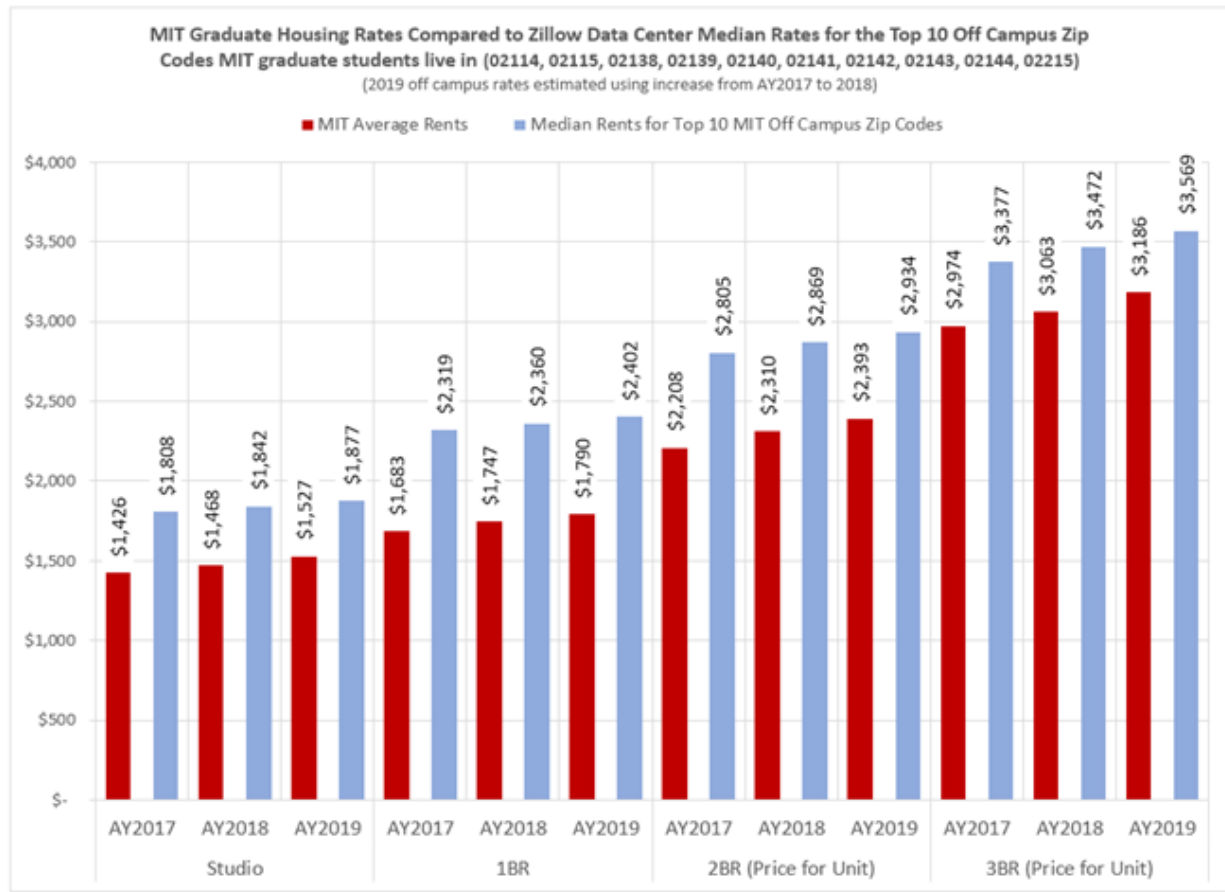


Figure 5 – Graduate Housing Rates Compared to Median Rates



5. **Why announce this now?**

MIT’s housing and dining plans are built around choice, offering a range of pricing and amenity options. Rate decisions are made and announced early in the spring semester so students have ample time to consider housing and dining options for the fall before the confirmation deadline.

Students with questions about how the new housing and dining rates will affect their financial aid package can contact [their Student Financial Services counselor](#). [MIT Housing](#) and the [Dining Office](#) are also available to help answer questions.