

**Mailed to all first-year students on July 24, 2019**

Dear students,

Can you believe that move-in at MIT is just a few weeks away? This summer is going by fast, but we are looking forward to what promises to be an exciting year at MIT. We hope you are, too!

As a new student to campus, you probably have many questions. We're writing to share helpful information about some of the first steps you'll take at MIT: moving into your residential community and getting settled in your new home-away-from-home.

You know each residential community here does things a little bit differently. Over the last academic year, [we worked](#) with student leaders, faculty heads of house, and area directors from each residence hall to uphold each house's approach to room-assignments and move-in, while also making sure every community has two things in common:

- **First-year students' preferences will be used to make room assignments.** This means that, when placing you on a floor or in an entryway, upper-level students will weigh your preferences and non-personal factors such as available space, gender balance, sleep schedules, study habits, and preferences for quiet/social floors and cooking commitments.
- **For those houses that expect students to participate in floor exploration before final room assignments are made, you can opt-out of that process at any point if you find it to be unduly stressful or overwhelming.** Many student leaders have worked hard to make sure exploration in your house is a positive, easy way for you to get to know your community, to meet new people, and to build lasting friendships. **As a part of that work, we are making sure students assigned to houses with floor exploration know not to unpack all of your belongings in the first few days because you might change rooms after participating in exploration.** We still understand, though, that the exploration process might be really stressful for some. If you find yourself struggling, all you have to do is ask the student leaders, heads of house, or area director in your community for help in thinking through your housing options and/or for opting-out of exploration.

We believe these modifications to our housing move-in process will have a positive impact on your early days on campus while also celebrating all that is special about house life at MIT. You will be receiving more details about your house- and room-assignment soon. If you want to learn more about MIT living communities, [check out the Guide to Residences online](#).

If you have any questions, please email [residence@mit.edu](mailto:residence@mit.edu). I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Sincerely,

Suzy Nelson  
Vice President & Dean for Student Life

Aiyedun Uzamere  
President, Dormitory Council

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