East Campus Room-Assignment Action Plan

Guide to the East Campus Housing Process

Hall exploration

On Wednesday evening, after all of the FYRE results are in and we have the final list of the new students living in East Campus, Hall Exploration will begin! All of the new students will meet in the EC courtyard to hear a short description about the different halls, and then you will have 5 hours to explore all 10 halls of EC. Each hall will have different events where you can meet upper-level students and learn a bit about the hall’s unique characteristics and traditions, so you can start to determine which ones would best suit your needs. After the 5 hours are over, the Room Assignment Chair (RAC) will send out the Hall Preference form, where you’ll rank your favorite halls and answer some questions about single/double preferences, if you want to be in a loud or quiet part of hall, and more.

If you have any questions or concerns during Hall Exploration, EC Exec and the House Team will be in Talbot Lounge (EC’s common lounge) throughout the evening. We can help out students who are feeling overwhelmed or confused about the process, whether by helping students narrow down their top choices, relieve some stress, or in some cases, to opt out of the hall exploration process altogether. Don’t be afraid to reach out beforehand, either – we’d be happy to answer any questions! See our contact info below.

Hall assignment and community matching

We use a variation of the Random Priority algorithm to maximize the number of students placed on their first-choice hall. Our version has a couple of added constraints to make sure that, say, no student with a cat allergy ends up on a cat hall. The algorithm generates 20 optimal results, which the halls then preference based on aspects such as gender balance and community cohesiveness (e.g. some halls have strong personality traits and attract a certain type of person – say, male mechanical engineers. We think that hall cultures are strongest when there is a good mix of personalities, academic interests, etc., so halls are encouraged to factor that into their decision-making). A final algorithm then decides the hall assignments of new students based on which set is optimal for all halls.

Resources for conflict resolution

Do you have questions about the Hall Exploration/room assignment process – or maybe your first few weeks at MIT aren’t going too well? Here are some contacts you can reach for support:

**ec-exec@mit.edu**: Use this email to reach the EC President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary. We can answer your questions about hall exploration and the room-assignment process!

**ec-team@mit.edu**: Use this email to reach the EC Head of House, Associate Heads of
House, Assistant Director/Area Director, and the GRAs. They are a good resource to turn to if you run into interpersonal conflict while at MIT, particularly as it relates to your time in EC.