



Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT

The College Admissions Arab Mentorship Program

Rami ABI AKL

CAAMP - 2016



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY





Who are we?

Collaboration between MIT
Graduate Admission Office & MIT
Arab Students Organization

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Outline

- ☐ Why Graduate School?
- ☐ Graduate School Application
- ☐ Financial aspects
- ☐ Student life
- ☐ How CAAMP can help you
- ☐ Q&A



Why Grad School?



Questions

- **Is graduate school right for me? What are my career goals?**
 - Personal interests, goals, dreams, and abilities.
 - Skills, competencies, and weaknesses
 - Investment of time – 2 to 7 years of student/researcher life
 - Intense hardwork
 - Investment of money
 - Career goals: Academia, Research, Industry R&D



More Questions

- ☐ What will I specialize in? What are my interests?
- ☐ Do I want to go on the job market already? Or could I go for another two to seven years of school?
- ☐ Do I have the academic and personal qualities to succeed?



Graduate School Application



Graduate School Application

- ☐ Highly selective - 22,000 apply; 3,400 get accepted
 - ☐ Deadlines in November/December
 - ☐ Pick a Department: Mechanical, Civil, Computer&Electrical
 - ☐ Pick a degree
 - Masters – 2 years, courses + written thesis
 - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - 4-6 years, courses + written thesis + defense
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Graduate School Application Process

- ☐ TOEFL or IELTS (AMISEAST)
- ☐ GRE (AMISEAST)
- ☐ Academic Transcripts
- ☐ 3 Letters of recommendation
- ☐ 1 motivation letter (Statement of Purpose)
- ☐ Work and research experience



Requirements

- ☐ Solid science, math, and engineering course list
- ☐ High GPA
- ☐ GRE-Graduate Records Exam of 3 sections (math, vocabulary, writing)
 - Math requirement (goal score: 168-170/170)
- ☐ TOEFL (reading, listening, speaking, writing)



Statement of Purpose

- Why do I want to get a PhD?
- Why did I choose this specific field?
- Why do I want to go to this university?
 - ☐ Specific program, specific faculty or lab, etc.
- Which professors do I want to work with?
 - ☐ Look up specific professors and include their names in the essay
- What are my career goals?



Letters of Recommendation

- Usually need 3
 - Preferably should all be PhDs (maybe 1 max from industry)
 - Preferably research advisors
 - Other options: Deans/profs who you've worked with on extracurriculars, professors who have taught you a course that you did very well in (particularly if it's the area of focus for PhD)
- Faculty well-known in their field are a plus



Experience

- ☐ Teaching Assistant or Mentoring Experience
 - Subjects taught?
 - Class size?
- ☐ Research experience/projects
- ☐ Internships
 - Emphasize any R&D work
 - Overall technical skills gained
- ☐ Other activities may include leadership, international development, volunteering...



Financial aspects



Financial Aspects

(yearly)

☐ Tuition fees ~ \$ 50,000

☐ Housing ~ \$ 12,000

☐ Life expenses ~ \$ 12,000

~ \$ 75,000



Financial Aspects

NEVER an ISSUE

All expenses covered by either:

- ☐ Fellowship/Scholarship (less pressure from your advisor, but still work as an RA)
- ☐ Research Assistantship (RA)
- ☐ Teaching Assistantship (TA) (more time consuming)

Non cumulable



Assistantships

- Research Assistantship
 - Paid to work on the thesis/dissertation you are completing
 - This is why research is so important
- Teaching Assistantship
 - Assist faculty in teaching courses and labs
 - At least one semester of teaching is typically required



Fellowships

- Typically require essays and recommendation letters
 - But you're already getting these when applying to graduate school
- Special fellowships available based on country or region
 - Check with AMISEAST
 - Search online and talk to friends who have applied



Fulbright Foreign Student Program

- Conduct research and study in the United States
- Sent over 1,000 students to the U.S. since 1970s
- Many different options available
 - Can do one-year project or multi-year degree program
- More information available at:
<http://fulbright.state.gov/grants/student-program/non-us-citizen.html>
- Check with AMIDEAST





Resources

☐ Online Resources

- <http://educationusa.state.gov/graduate.htm>
(highly recommended)
- <http://gradschool.about.com>
- <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.htm>
(rankings)

☐ Other Resources

- U.S. educational/advising centers (e.g. EducationUSA)
- Your professors
- Your student colleagues
- CAAMP



Student life



Campus Life: Finding your niche?

- ☐ Activities
- ☐ Advising and Counseling
- ☐ Athletics
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Medical Services



Campus Life

Activities

- More than 300 co-curricular activities and clubs at MIT
 - EXAMPLES
 - Outing Club, the Solar Car Club, the Debate Team, the FM local broadcasting station (WMBR), the Arab Students' Organization, Cultural Clubs, Engineering Clubs
 - Service work
 - About 30 active student religious organizations on campus
 - Over 30 international student groups



Campus Life

Advising and Counseling

- ❑ Variety of resources for advising, counseling, and personal support.
 - i.e. Faculty advisors, International Students Office





Campus Life

Athletics

- Approximately 900 men and women are active in more than 40 **varsity** sports
- We also have many participants in the **intramural** program, as well as over 40 club sports



Campus Life

Housing

- 5 Graduate Residences for Singles
 - Ashdown
 - Edgerton
 - Sidney Pacific
 - Tang
 - The Warehouse

- 2 Graduate Residences for Families
 - Eastgate
 - Westgate



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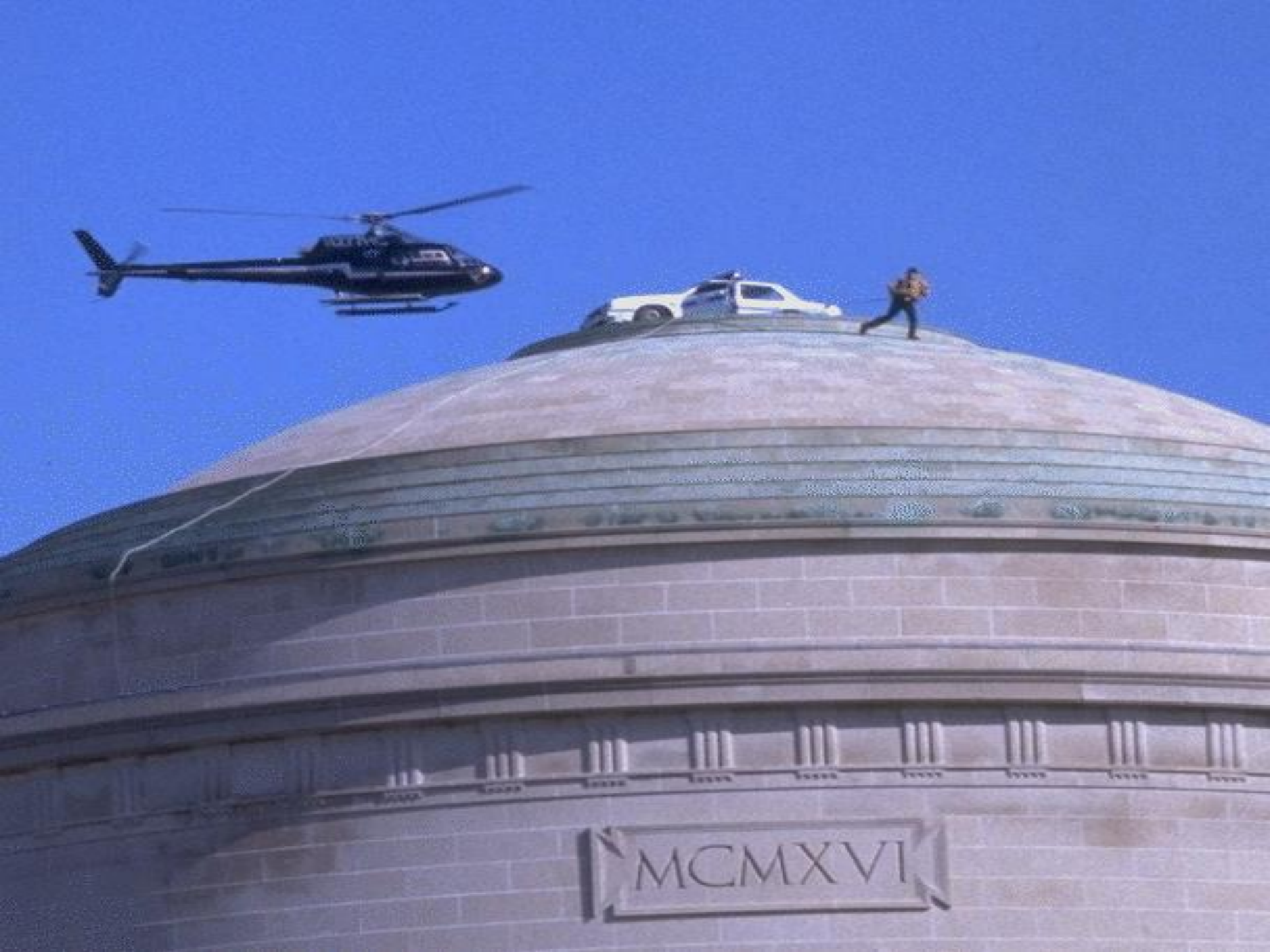












MCMXVI



How CAAMP can help you



What can we help you with?

- ☐ Answer your questions about American colleges, especially MIT
- ☐ Guide you through the application process
- ☐ Look over your resumes
- ☐ Offer interview tips
- ☐ Ongoing mentorship



How?

- Email: arab-comm@mit.edu
- Facebook: search for MIT CAAMP
- ASO Website: mit.edu/arab/www
- Contact us personally: abiakl@mit.edu



Thank You!

- ☐ MIT Office of Admission
- ☐ MIT Student Activities Office
- ☐ MIT Arab Alumni Association