Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professors and Scholars Program

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Program enables visiting professors and scholars to enrich the intellectual life of MIT with their participation in MIT research academic programs. Since the first appointments in 1995, 67 visiting professors and 21 visiting scholars have been named. Appointment criteria and the nomination procedure can be found on the program website: web.mit.edu/mlking/visiting/.

Office of the Provost

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the Provost, established the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor and Scholar Program to enhance and recognize the contributions of outstanding professors and scholars.

The program honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by increasing the presence of scholars at MIT.

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Program Review

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professors enhance their scholarship through intellectual interactions with MIT peers, and enrich the intellectual life of MIT with their participation in research and academic programs. They are expected to be deeply engaged in the life of the Institute through teaching, research and other scholarly interactions with the MIT community. Their presence gives them the opportunity to make a significant impact on the growth and awareness of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the MIT community as a whole. Appointments as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professors have been in all of MIT’s academic areas of Architecture, Engineering, Humanities, Management and Science. Appointments will also be considered in the fields of medicine, law and public service, where individuals of high distinction can add significantly to the intellectual life of the Institute through special subject offerings and interactions with students interested in pursuing such professions. While most Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professors are from colleges and universities, appointments will also be considered from individuals from public and private organizations outside of academia.

Appointment Criteria

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professors are chosen for their contributions to their professions, and their potential contributions to the intellectual life of MIT. The Program is open to individuals of any minority group, with an emphasis on the appointment of African Americans.

Appointments are for no less than one academic term and no longer than two academic years. Appointments can be made at the Assistant, Associate and Full Professor levels in any department. These departments are located in the schools of Science, Engineering, Architecture and Planning, Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and the Sloan School of Management.

Nominations are made by the academic departments, and applications, including a nomination letter, a plan of engagement, and a curriculum vitae of the nominee, should be directed to the Department or Section Head of the appropriate department. The Associate Provost of Faculty Equity, Professor Wesley Harris, approves the appointments.