

Last Updated: Summer 2022

East Campus Action Plan First-Year Room Assignments

Guide to the East Campus Housing Process

Hall exploration

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 Chairs (RACs) 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.

EC as a whole is easy to generalize by our culture of building events, craft smashing, and projects. This isn't representative of all of East Campus, but rather a small handful of halls. This is why it is very important that all freshmen go through hall exploration, as its a process that helps demystify the broad spectrum of individual hall cultures that exist within the larger East Campus community, and is crucial to the process of making sure each individual that comes to EC can live in a place that feels like home to them.

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 support students who are feeling overwhelmed or confused about the process, whether by helping students narrow down their top choices, offering up Talbot as a sort of rest stop for hall explorers seeking a few minutes of downtime or for students with questions in general, or in some cases, assuring those who want to opt out of the hall exploration process altogether that they are at liberty to do so. 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, in the form of sets, which the halls then preference based on aspects such as gender balance, diversity of academic interests, representation from all four class years, and community cohesiveness (e.g. some halls have strong personality traits and attract a certain type of person – say, loud hands-on creatives. We think that hall cultures are strongest when these criteria are factored into hall decision making processes, so halls are encouraged to prioritize hall-assignment permutations which offer the opportunity to create and sustain as healthy a community as possible.) Hall set preferences are then input into a final algorithm which

determines the optimal set of hall assignments for new students based on which set is optimal for all halls.

Resources for conflict resolution

Because we at EC understand the importance of having a place at MIT, away from the classroom, to truly call home, we try to place each resident on one of their top three halls. We can't guarantee 100% satisfaction with the process, but we can guarantee that we do our very best to try to ensure that everyone is optimally placed. If you have any questions about the process, or if your first few weeks at MIT aren't going too well and you'd like to talk to someone, here are some contacts you can reach out to for support:

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

ec-hohad@mit.edu: Use this email to reach the EC Head of House, Associate Heads of House, and Assistant Director/Area Director. 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.