



## Research Funding Details for HST MEMP PhD Students Admitted thru MIT

Our expectation is that every MEMP student will receive full financial support throughout their academic career. Your offer letter identified the source of your first-year funding; please see the section below on **Funding Mechanisms** for detailed information about funding sources in year 2 and beyond.

### Finding a Research Mentor

During the first year, you will take classes, build community with your peers, and explore research opportunities with the goal of identifying the research topic that will become the focus of your doctoral studies. All three of these activities are essential to gaining the fullest benefit from the graduate experience. Coursework is time consuming at the outset, tapering in subsequent years. Fostering community with HST MD and PhD classmates will continue to be a vital part of your experience throughout your time in HST and beyond, when you become part of HST's alumni network.

Your PhD thesis will be a focused piece of original, scholarly research that advances scientific knowledge related to human health. A necessary first step toward achieving this goal is to identify a mentor and lab whose expertise and resources will support your thesis research. The sooner that you settle in a lab, the better. That said, students reach this goal via a variety of different paths. Some incoming students identify a research mentor and lab before they matriculate into the program. Others explore potential mentors during their first semester and perhaps even the beginning of their second semester. We provide many resources – including your academic advisor, a core HST faculty member who will track with you throughout your doctoral studies – to help guide you through this process.

Regardless of the specific path, matching with a research mentor should be one of your top priorities during the first academic year. This is an exciting time! As you settle into the lab of your choice, your passion for your research topic will begin to unfold; over time you will be increasingly absorbed and focused in this work. Identifying a lab, mentor, and research area is a major milestone in your graduate school experience. It may also have implications for how your remaining years in graduate school are funded.

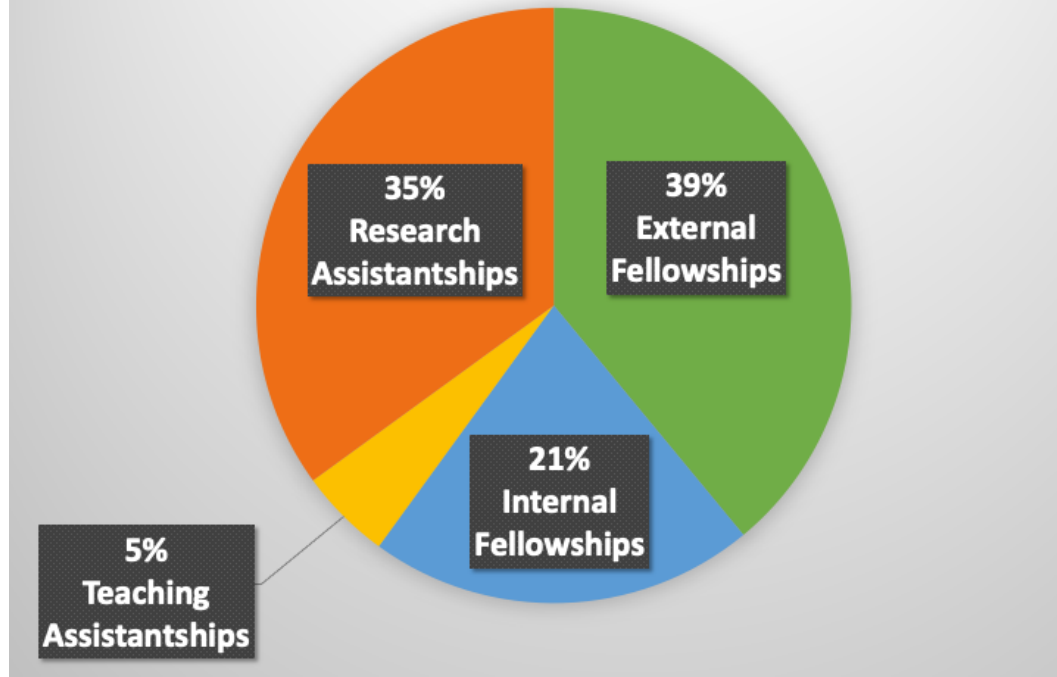
### Funding Mechanisms

MEMP PhD students enrolled at MIT receive financial support throughout their graduate school careers from a variety of sources: research assistantships (RAs) from their mentors, internal fellowships from a variety of sources within MIT, and external fellowships from public and private agencies.

In addition, HST maintains a special pool of funds to support a limited number of students in year 2 and beyond who do not obtain full funding through traditional mechanisms. *For the past six years, all MEMP PhD students have been fully funded through a combination of sources.*

HST makes every effort to encourage, mentor, and support MEMP students as they apply for both internal and external fellowships, and we are particularly proud of the outstanding track record that current students have achieved, as illustrated in the following figure.

### Source of Primary Financial Support HST MEMP PhD Students Academic Year 2020-2021



External fellowships commonly awarded to MEMP students include: NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowships, Hertz Foundation Fellowships, NASA Space Technology Graduate Research Fellowships, NIH Training Grant Fellowships, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research Fellowships.

Internal fellowships are awarded by IMES/HST, MIT's School of Engineering, and MIT's Office of Graduate Education thru a variety of opportunities advertised throughout the year to enrolled students.

Research assistantships are provided from funds awarded to faculty at MIT, Harvard, and local hospitals.

**Note regarding teaching assistantships:**

MEMP does not have a teaching requirement. Teaching assistantships (TAs) are another funding option for students who want to gain teaching experience during their time in graduate school. While the chart above indicates that twelve (5%) MEMP students had a TA as their primary means of support in academic year 2020-2021, eight MEMP students (7%) held partial TAs in addition to their primary funding from RAs or fellowships.

## Rates

Full funding consists of a monthly stipend to cover living expenses, full tuition, and individual health insurance. Current rates are shown in the following table.

HST MEMP PhD at MIT - Rates January 2022 to May 2022	
Pre-qual stipend (monthly)	\$3,445
Post-qual stipend (monthly)	\$3,772
Teaching Assistantship stipend (monthly)	\$3,861
Tuition (academic year)	\$55,510
Health Insurance (annual)	\$3,089
Student Life Fee* (annual)	\$368
HST Preclinical Materials Fee** (select classes)	\$210

- Tuition and stipend rates are determined centrally at MIT and announced each year in May.
- Stipend rates typically increase by 3-4% annually.
- Incoming MIT MEMP students initially receive the pre-qual stipend rate, increasing to the post-qual stipend rate after passing the oral qualifying exam, usually at the end of the second year in the program.
- MIT MEMP students awarded external fellowships in excess of \$10K per year, receive a stipend of \$300/month above the rates listed above for the duration of the external award.

\* Students are responsible for paying the MIT Student Life Fee. This can be done after receiving their graduate stipend.

\*\* Students are responsible for paying HST Preclinical Materials Fees only during terms in which they enroll in HST030: Pathology (required), HST010: Anatomy (elective), HST040: Microbial Pathogenesis (elective).

## Health Insurance

All MIT students are automatically enrolled in the MIT Student Medical Plan, included with tuition, which covers most services at MIT Medical in full. Additionally, full funding (RA, TA, or fellowship) includes the cost of the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan, which provides comprehensive coverage and meets state health insurance requirements. More information at <https://medical.mit.edu/mit-health-plans/student-health-plans> and <https://medical.mit.edu/my-mit/new-students>.