

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

HST MEMP is a fully funded program. Students in good academic standing receive financial support – consisting of living expenses, tuition, and health insurance – for the duration of their graduate studies. 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.

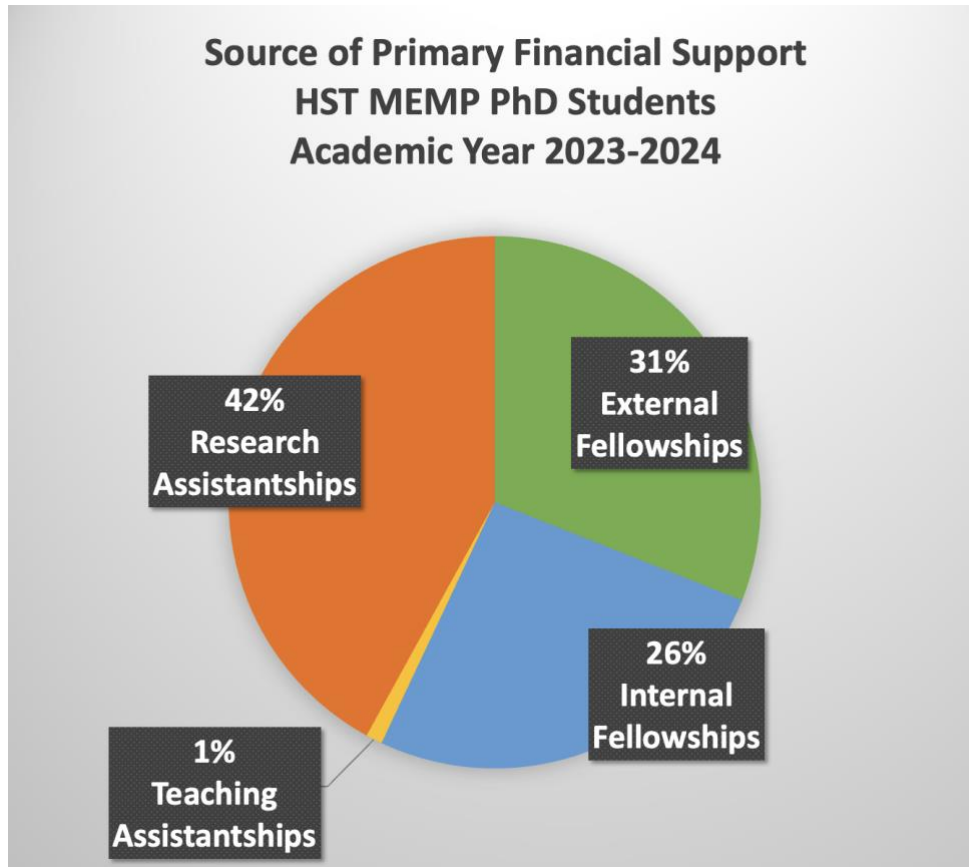
Regardless of the specific path, matching with a research mentor should be one of your top priorities during the first academic year. This is an exciting time! As you settle into the lab of your choice, your passion for your research topic will begin to unfold; over time you will be increasingly absorbed 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 pool of internal funds to support the small number of students in year 2 and beyond who do not obtain full funding through traditional mechanisms. *All MEMP PhD students in good academic standing are fully funded through a combination of the sources described above.*

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.



External fellowships commonly awarded to MEMP students includes: NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (NSF GRFP), National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowships, Hertz Foundation Fellowships, NASA Space Technology Graduate Research Fellowships, and NIH National Service Research Award (NRSA) 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 three (1%) MEMP students had a TA as their primary means of support in the academic year 2023-2024, an additional two MEMP students (less than 1%) held partial TAs that supplemented their primary funding from RAs or fellowships.

## Rates

Full funding consists of a monthly salary/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 June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024	
Salary/Stipend rate (monthly)	\$4,194
Teaching Assistantship rate (monthly)	\$4,292
Tuition (academic year)	\$59,750
Health Insurance (annual)	\$3,237
Student Life Fee* (annual)	\$406
HST Preclinical Materials Fee** (select classes)	\$210

- Tuition and salary/stipend rates are determined centrally at MIT and historically, are announced each year in May.
- HST sets our rates 5% above the MIT monthly salary/stipend rates, which are determined by the MIT and Graduate Student Union Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- MIT MEMP students awarded external fellowships more than \$10K per year, receive a salary/stipend increase of \$400/month above the rates listed above for the active duration of the external award.

For more detailed information regarding the cost of attendance, including specific costs for tuition and fees, books and supplies, housing and food as well as transportation, please visit the MIT Student Financial Services website at <https://sfs.mit.edu/graduate-students/guide/grad-cost-of-attendance/>.

*\* 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 Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). The cost is covered by the student's graduate support (RA, TA, or fellowship.) It provides comprehensive coverage that meets Massachusetts health insurance requirements. Independent of whether or not you are enrolled in MIT SHIP, you are eligible to get medical care on campus. The cost of most services offered by MIT Medical is included with your tuition. You do not need MIT SHIP to get care at MIT Medical. More information at <https://medical.mit.edu/health-plans/ship> and <https://medical.mit.edu/my-mit/new-students>.