

MIT Skoltech Program

Under the [MIT Skoltech Program](#), MIT and the Skolkovo Foundation collaborated from 2011 to 2022 to develop the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech), a private graduate research university on the outskirts of Moscow, Russia. The collaboration evolved over a sequence of phases. In the first phase, the partners worked together to design and develop Skoltech as a unique world-class research university, embodying many of MIT's principles and values. In the second phase, which began in 2016, the MIT Skoltech Program worked collaboratively to continue to develop Skoltech and the Skolkovo ecosystem through a targeted set of joint activities. In the third phase, which started in March 2019, the program focused on joint research projects between individual faculty members at both institutions, new entrepreneurship and innovation programs, collaboration with MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) to connect MIT and Skoltech students, and a joint annual conference.

In light of the military actions against Ukraine by the Russian government, MIT exercised its right to terminate the program. The formal relationship between MIT and Skoltech therefore ended in 2022.

Research and Outreach Activities

While the program was active this year, collaborative research continued to be a core element of the relationship between MIT and Skoltech. Existing research projects in the MIT Skoltech Pilot Program and in the Next Generation Program proceeded in the five thematic program areas (life sciences and biomedicine, cutting-edge engineering and advanced materials, data science, energy efficiency, advanced studies), as well as in other strategic areas.

The MIT Skoltech Program Pilot Grants supported innovative research projects proposed by MIT principal investigators. This year, 10 pilot grants awarded in the previous year continued through to their normal completion.

The MIT Skoltech Next Generation Program (NGP) funded a range of academic and institutional development activities and sought to establish and promote mutually beneficial collaboration in research, education, and innovation between Skoltech faculty members and their MIT counterparts through largely research-driven projects. Nine NGP projects that were awarded in 2020 continued this year and were wound down due to program termination.

Last year saw the fourth call for proposals for the Next Generation Program and the second call for proposals for pilot grants. Applications submitted were withdrawn due to program termination and no awards were made.

As part of MIT's commitment to providing international education and experience, particularly for undergraduates, the MIT Skoltech Program continued to support the MISTI MIT-Russia Program. This year the program supported a global startup lab in which four MIT students taught tech entrepreneurship at Skoltech, as well as a global

teaching lab in which three MIT students taught at the International Gymnasium of the Skolkovo Innovation Center. In addition, the program supported the development of an advanced-level Russian language course at MIT to prepare students for internships and teaching activities in Russia, as well as an introduction into aspects of Russian science and culture through language. The language course virtually connected MIT and Skoltech students to work as language partners.

Program Governance

The MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee oversaw and facilitated MIT's planning and execution of the cooperative activities. Committee members included the following:

Richard Lester (chair), Japan Steel Industry Professor and associate provost for international activities

Bruce Tidor (vice chair), professor of biological engineering and computer science

Brian Anthony, program director for the Master of Engineering in Manufacturing Program

Munther Dahleh, William A. Coolidge Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and director of the Institute for Data, Systems and Society

Douglas Hart, professor of mechanical engineering

Phillip A. Sharp, Institute Professor and professor of biology

Carl V. Thompson, Stavros Salapatas Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Program staff consisted of Deliana Ernst, assistant director, Natalia Billings, administrative assistant, and Chrissy Mullin, financial administrator. The program was headquartered in the Ford Building (Building E19).

The program was responsible for managing MIT's activities with respect to the relationship with Skoltech and for managing grant processes, as well as organizing joint activities and advising Skoltech on matters related to administration and research. Further information is archived at the MIT Skoltech Program website.

Bruce Tidor

Faculty Lead, MIT Skoltech Program

Deliana Ernst

Assistant Director, MIT Skoltech Program