

Summary

Immigrants and the children of immigrants have studied at MIT since its earliest days. The [first Chinese national enrolled at MIT in 1877](#) and [the first Indian national in 1882](#); even now, a significant number of MIT undergraduates are either immigrants or the children of immigrants themselves.

While this history is broadly sensed, and in limited cases deeply probed, the overall history of a group of people we might call “new Americans” at MIT has not been comprehensively studied. The primary duties of this UROP will be to review, and begin to make sense of, what has already been written about the history of New Americans at MIT, and to identify where the literature is well-developed and where there are gaps. Additionally, the UROP will work with MIT Institutional Research and Archives to understand what kind of data MIT has about these kinds of students, as well as policies and procedures (e.g. institutional quotas, national laws, etc) that may have governed their ability to study at MIT.

The UROP will produce a report on the findings of their research, which will lay the groundwork for an academic book project, to be written by one or more MIT faculty, on the history of New Americans at MIT. If the UROP goes well, we expect that there will be the opportunity for continued research contributing to the book.