International Faculty Fellows at the MIT Sloan School of Management are faculty from universities in China, Korea, Portugal, and Russia who are working with MIT Sloan to strengthen graduate management education at their schools. The philosophy is that by teaching the teachers, knowledge spreads further.
The International Faculty Fellows (IFF) program at MIT Sloan, now in its sixteenth year, brings faculty from universities in China, Korea, Portugal, and Russia to MIT for training in teaching and course development. Many IFFs also spend some of their time at MIT Sloan identifying or continuing research projects.

The vision is to help the participating universities prepare graduate management students for careers in the global business arena by bringing their MBA programs up to world-class levels. Three universities in China—Tsinghua University in Beijing; Fudan University in Shanghai; and Lingnan (University) College, Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou—participate with International MBA (IMBA) programs. Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea, participates with an MBA program at its graduate school of business, SKK GSB. Two universities in Lisbon, Portugal—Universidade Católica Portuguesa and Universidade Nova de Lisboa—participate with a joint, internationally competitive program known as The Lisbon MBA. Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO participates with project-based learning and entrepreneurship curriculum design for its MBA program.

Most IFFs come to MIT Sloan to learn what the School’s faculty members teach, how they teach it, and how their students learn. They attend MBA classes and consult with their faculty advisers on ways to modify MIT Sloan course materials to their own unique academic and cultural environments. They attend workshops to learn how to teach cases in Western-style, participant-centered classes, often a stark contrast to the more traditional style of teaching with lectures and minimal class participation. Many IFFs also use their time at Sloan to learn Western research methodologies and identify research topics that they can continue at their own universities, often in collaboration with MIT Sloan faculty.

As the IFF program has grown, it has introduced initiatives that involve faculty, students, and staff who do not work with the IFF program directly. For example:

- For ten years, teams of MIT Sloan MBA students visited the Chinese campuses to teach IMBA students about aspects of the workplace not included in their curricula, such as interviewing, teamwork, leadership, and networking. Three years ago, MIT Sloan replaced these visits with China Lab, a deeper opportunity for collaborative student activity that includes classroom-based education, faculty mentoring, and real business experience. Each spring term, small teams of IMBA and MBA students partner with Chinese entrepreneurial firms to consult on the firms’ greatest challenges. Each team spends two weeks on-site at its firm’s headquarters in China, and as the projects conclude the IMBA-MBA teams spend time together at MIT Sloan. Students in China Lab are continually finding new ways to work together virtually and to bridge their linguistic gap. To date, 71 MIT Sloan MBAs and 81 Chinese IMBAs have participated. Faculty on all of the campuses are deepening their involvement.

- Independent of China Lab, study groups of MIT Sloan MBAs sometimes travel to China to meet with Chinese executives and tour their firms’ operations. They also meet with IMBA students and include them in these professional visits. For example, in 2007, MIT Sloan Professor Yasheng Huang took a team of MBAs to Yunnan province where they met with Chinese entrepreneurs and offered them on-the-spot consulting services about business opportunities in China and the United States.

- Most SKK GSB MBA students spend a semester of their second year attending MBA programs outside Korea; two spent their fall 2010 term at MIT Sloan. In June 2010, 29 Lisbon MBA students came to MIT Sloan for a three-week “summer immersion program” of courses and seminars. SKOLKOVO’s first class of 39 MBAs came to MIT Sloan in August 2010 for two weeks of courses on Innovation and Entrepreneurship followed by an eight-week program of Corporate Projects with local companies.

- From time to time, administrators at the participating universities come to Cambridge to talk with their MIT Sloan counterparts about important non-academic functions such as marketing and communications, alumni relations, admissions, career development, resource development, finances, and technology services. In July 2010, members of the MIT Sloan Admissions, Career Development, and MBA Offices, together with their counterparts from SKK GSB and the Chinese partner schools, participated in a staff training workshop hosted by SKK GSB in Seoul.
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Human Resource Management/Leadership
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Dynamic Linkages between the China and US Stock Markets
Faculty Host: Jiang Wang
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, at MIT 9/1/10 – 6/30/11

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Context Interchange and Information Aggregation
Faculty Host: Stuart Madnick
At MIT 9/1/10 – 8/31/11

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Foreign Investment in China and China’s Overseas Investment
Faculty Host: Yasheng Huang
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At MIT 2/1/11 – 2/28/11

“At home I play a different role. I am the instructor. Here I am a student. I sit in the professors’ classrooms. I ask questions. I join the MBA students to discuss. I learned a lot through the group project. Sloan has very participant-centered learning. Students learn from each other. We play different roles, keep relationships with each other. I know what the students really care about. It has been an interesting experience. When I get back to China, I will encourage students to be more active, to participate more. This is more important than telling them what is right and what is wrong.”  
— Wei Xueqi, IFF Fudan Fall ’10
240 faculty from China, Korea, and Portugal have spent time at MIT Sloan as IFFs. MIT Sloan faculty have made 204 visits to the Chinese, Seoul, Lisbon, and Moscow campuses. MIT Sloan faculty have had 300 opportunities to host IFFs in Cambridge. 148 MIT Sloan MBAs have visited the Chinese schools as members of Project Team (1998-2007). 71 MIT Sloan MBAs and 81 Chinese IMBAs have participated in China Lab.

THE IFF PROGRAM HAS A GLOBAL REACH
In 2004 and 2005, MIT Sloan worked with Sistema Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) in Mexico to enhance the performance of ITESM faculty and launch a premier Mexican MBA program with a focus on innovation. Eleven ITESM IFFs spent terms at MIT Sloan. Also in 2004 and 2005, the International Finance Corporation sent three IFFs to MIT Sloan from the Graduate School of Business, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). From 2002 until 2008, the School of Business and Tourism Management at Yunnan University in Kunming, China, participated in the MIT-China Management Education Project through its Internationally Oriented MBA (IOMBA) program. Twenty-four Yunnan faculty came to MIT Sloan as IFFs and the School graduated 240 IOMBAs. In 2009, the School of Business and Finance, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, sent two faculty members to the IFF program as special visitors, one in the spring term and the other in the fall.
In 2009, MIT Sloan established a three-year collaboration with Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO to help SKOLKOVO design a Global MBA program, facilitate Executive MBA program activities, and develop a research-oriented faculty. Each year a SKOLKOVO faculty member will come to MIT Sloan as an IFF for up to a full semester. MIT Sloan also provides short courses at MIT for SKOLKOVO MBA students.

For further information about the IFF program, please get in touch with:

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The IFF program at MIT Sloan originated with the MIT-China Management Education Project, established in 1996 to strengthen graduate management education programs at selected Chinese universities. English is the official language for all teaching, homework, and examinations. The project initially supported International MBA (IMBA) programs at Tsinghua University in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai. Lingnan (University) College, Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou joined in 1999. Fudan and Tsinghua graduated their first IMBAs in 1999. Lingnan graduated its first IMBAs in 2002. The project worked so well that in 2001 its original time frame of five years was extended to ten, and in 2006 it was extended for another five. The Project is now in its sixteenth year and the schools are in discussion regarding the next phase.

In 2003, MIT Sloan and the Graduate School of Business (SKK GSB) at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to develop a new, world-class MBA program at SKK GSB. English is the program’s official and everyday language. SKK GSB graduated its first MBA class in 2006. In 2008, the collaboration was extended for another four years.

In 2008, MIT Sloan established a five-year collaboration with two universities in Portugal, Universidade Católica Portuguesa and Universidade Nova de Lisboa, to help them merge their MBA programs into an internationally competitive degree program known as The Lisbon MBA. Six faculty from The Lisbon MBA Program attend MIT Sloan each year as IFFs.