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 fifteenth year, brings faculty from universities in China, Korea, Portugal, and Russia to MIT for training in course development and teaching. Many IFFs also spend some of their time at MIT Sloan working on research projects.

The vision is to help the participating universities prepare graduate management students for careers in the global business arena by upgrading their MBA programs 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 degree program known as The Lisbon MBA. MIT Sloan and Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO have launched several joint programs aimed at strengthening SKOLKOVO’s management education programs at the international level.

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 join MBA classes and consult with their faculty advisers on ways to modify MIT Sloan course materials for their own, often very different, cultural and academic environments. They also attend workshops to learn how to teach cases and conduct Western-style participant-centered classes, a stark contrast with the more traditional style of teaching with lectures and minimal class participation. Many IFFs take further advantage of their time at MIT Sloan to learn Western research methodologies and to identify research topics 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 directly with the IFF program. For example:

- Many MIT Sloan faculty visit the Chinese, SKK GSB, Lisbon MBA, and SKOLKOVO campuses to give lectures and teach short courses. These experiences go far toward helping them understand more fully the dimensions of non-U.S. environments. They also enable the faculty to establish deep and lasting relationships with their colleagues abroad.

- For ten years, teams of MIT Sloan MBA students visited the Chinese campuses during spring break to teach IMBA students about aspects of the workplace not included in their curricula, such as interviewing, teamwork, leadership, and networking. Since spring 2008, these visits have been replaced with China Lab, a deeper opportunity for student exchange and collaboration. Working in small IMBA-MBA teams, students undertake three-month internships at Chinese entrepreneurial firms that integrate classroom-based education with consulting and business strategy projects. They all spend time together in both countries. Students in China Lab continually find better ways to work together virtually and to bridge their linguistic gap. Participating faculty on all of the campuses are deepening their involvement.

- Study groups of MIT Sloan MBAs sometimes travel to China to meet with Chinese executives and tour their firms’ operations. They meet with IMBA students as well and include them in these professional visits. In 2007, MIT Sloan Professor Yasheng Huang took a team of MBAs to Yunnan province where they observed the entrepreneurial environment and offered on-the-spot consulting services to entrepreneurs exploring opportunities in China and the United States.

- Most second-year SKK GSB MBA students spend a term in U.S. graduate business schools, many at MIT Sloan. Lisbon MBA students come to MIT Sloan in June for a customized three-week program of courses. SKOLKOVO MBA students plan to spend time at MIT during the MIT Sloan fall term.

- From time to time, administrators at the participating universities come to Cambridge to talk with their MIT Sloan counterparts about important functions such as marketing and communications, alumni relations, admissions, career development, resource development, finances, and technology services.
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Consumer Decision Making
Faculty Host: Birger Wernerfelt

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Marketing and International Business
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Financial Econometrics
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214 faculty from China, Korea, and Portugal have spent time at MIT Sloan as IFFs.

MIT Sloan faculty have made 179 visits to the Chinese, Seoul, and Lisbon campuses.

MIT Sloan faculty have had 267 opportunities to host IFFs in Cambridge.

148 MIT Sloan MBAs have visited the Chinese schools as members of Project Team (1998-2007).

48 MIT Sloan MBAs and 56 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-three Yunnan faculty members 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.

INTERNATIONAL MBA (IMBA) GRADUATES 1999-2009

- Fudan University: 28%
- Tsinghua University: 36%
- *Lingnan (University) College: 36%

Total: 3037

*graduates 2002-2009

* Lingnan (University) College: 36%

INTRODUCTION TO THE IFF PROGRAM
The International Faculty Fellowship (IFF) Program, established in 1993, is designed to strengthen management education and research globally by providing opportunities for faculty from top-tier business schools to exchange knowledge and ideas with their colleagues at MIT Sloan. The program is aimed at encouraging the development of innovative and market-driven management education and bringing new perspectives to the Sloan School.
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 program 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 has 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.

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 partnered with two premier business schools in Portugal to help those schools merge their MBA programs into an internationally competitive MBA program known as The Lisbon MBA. In 2008-2009, ten faculty from The Lisbon MBA Program spent semesters at MIT Sloan to develop MBA courses and conduct research.

In 2009, MIT Sloan began a major new initiative with Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO to launch a series of joint programs to strengthen SKOLKOVO’s capacity in business and management education at the international level, and at the same time expose MIT Sloan faculty and students to a new range of global developments and challenges. Each year one SKOLKOVO faculty member will spend some or all of a semester at MIT Sloan as an IFF. The collaboration will continue for up to three years.

For further information about the IFF program, please contact:

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