Industry Guide: Government

Government Industry Introduction
Students from all disciplines can find fulfilling and challenging careers in Federal, State or Local government. The roles and fields within the government are diverse and span areas of science, technology, engineering and policy. Whether you work in state government as a policy analyst for a local agency or in federal government as a cybersecurity analyst for the intelligence field – or anywhere in between – you will find that those in government are often committed to public service and the importance of their work.

Positions in Government
Regular and Student Hiring Programs
Students should consider different kinds of positions when looking into government. One program to be aware of is the Pathways Program. The Pathways Program is the Federal Government’s hiring program for current students and recent graduates. These positions are ideal for undergraduate students beginning their careers and for graduate students seeking roles directly aligned with their degrees.

Courses and Programs Typical for Government

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Not everyone employed in the Government Industry graduated with one of these majors, but many of the MIT graduates working in the government come from these courses and programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Major Employers
Full Time
GECĐ’s Graduating Student Survey suggests that the defense industry is a large employer of MIT graduates in the U.S. Federal Government. This includes the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Department of Defense, in addition to the Intelligence Community and other subsets. State/Local Governments employ graduates as well.

Internships
Government agencies often recruit interns throughout the year, so keep in mind that Summer Internships are often not posted until February or March. For positions requiring a security clearance, however, deadlines will be in October. Government agencies including NSA and CIA recruit MIT students every year for Summer internships.

Typical Position Titles:
- Senior Regional Planner
- Operations Research Analyst
- Transportation Research Analyst
- Policy Analyst
- City Director
- Mechanical Engineer
- Program Support Specialist
- Budget Analyst

Government Agencies that Hired MIT Students in 2013:
- City of Boston
- MTA New York City Transit
- NASA
- National Bureau of Economic Research
- New York City Department of City Planning
- North Carolina Department of Transportation
- Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- U.S. Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Defense

Internships
- Government Accountability Office
- MIT Lincoln Labs
- National Institutes of Health
- National Labs (Sandia, Oak Ridge)
- NASA
- Naval Research Laboratory
- U.S. Department of the Interior
Research is Great Experience

Valuable Experience can be Gained at MIT

UROPs and graduate research done at MIT can be very helpful to enhance your candidacy for a position in Government. Many departments and agencies partner with labs at MIT on projects and research. Here are a few examples of labs with research sponsored by the Government. The value in doing research isn’t strictly in the experience either. Many of the people you’ll meet here at MIT are well connected to important players in the major employers.

The Job Search and Interview Process

Formal Hiring Processes

Federal, State and Local governments recruit throughout the year. Special Student Programs like the Pathways Program are most closely aligned with the academic calendar. Students should expect to apply to jobs through formal portals, like USA Jobs, and communicate directly with a hiring manager about the interview process.

Salary Information

This salary information comes from the 2013 Graduating Student Survey, but only approximate as Government work crosses a wide range of courses, and salary can significantly differ depending upon type of placement.

Average SB Salary $45,000  Average SM Salary $60,000

Additional Resources

Public Service Careers Resources

Pathways Program Overview: https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads
GovLoop: Online community connecting students and employers: http://www.govloop.com/
Public Service Careers: Resource for students interested in policy: http://publicservicecareers.org/

Fellowships & Scholarships

There are many fellowships and scholarships available for students interested in working in Federal, State and Local government. Inquire with agencies and departments that interest you about what programs may be available. A list to get you started is available here:
http://gogovernment.org/government_careers/students_entry-level_talent.php

GECD Services

Drop-in Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-3pm

GECD Staff are available year round for appointments. To make an appointment, login to CareerBridge and select “Make Appointment” from the left side of the welcome page. You can also book by coming in to our office at E39-305 or by calling 617-715-5329

Check out our Calendar for Events and information on Employer Presentations!
http://gecd.mit.edu/calendar

MIT Collaborations with Government
Alliance for Research & Technology
Center for Energy & Environmental Policy
Research (CEEPR)
MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI)
MIT Lincoln Labs
SENSEable City Laboratory
SMART- Singapore-MIT