

GSC's External Affairs Board (EAB) advocacy workshop!

Title IX... COVID-19... Travel Bans... Visas...

Does the current political climate leave you feeling powerless? Learn how to make change through the GSC's External Affairs Board (EAB) advocacy workshop! International students are welcome. Please [RSVP here](#), and email gsc-eab-development@mit.edu if you have questions!

The External Affairs Board has extensive experience advocating on behalf of graduate students on both state and federal levels. For example, the Board mobilized several student governments around the country to file an amicus brief supporting the MIT/Harvard lawsuit that challenged the July 6 2020 ICE ruling which, among other provisions, would have forced international students to leave the country. We have also worked with the MIT administration and the local Cambridge government on graduate housing.

This three-workshop course will give you the basic skills to effectively advocate for your opinions at the federal, state, and local levels. All of the workshops will be conducted virtually, and the corresponding Zoom links will be sent out closer to the dates.

Workshop 1 on Wednesday September 23, 6 - 7.30pm EDT: Overview of legislative structure and procedure. You will be supplied with resources to contact your representatives and track issues and policies that impact you. We will review approaches the MIT GSC has taken to advocacy.

Workshop 2 on Wednesday September 30, 6 - 7.30pm EDT: Preparing materials for meetings or calls with political offices, and what to expect during a meeting.

Workshop 3 on Wednesday October 7, 6 - 7.30pm EDT: Advice from a panel of policy-makers and staff. In the past, we've had State Representative Mike Connolly, and then-City Councillor Sumbul Siddiqui (current Cambridge Mayor).

Participants of all three courses will have the chance to apply what they've learned with the EAB in future phone calls or virtual meetings with staffers from the Massachusetts Statehouse or Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. These skills will also be transferrable to in-person meetings with legislative staffers in the future.