

March 3, 2025

Dear MIT International Students,

Our Federal income tax filing resources (Sprintax Returns software) are now available at no cost to all MIT international students through a generous donation by the Kailath International Student Fund. For MIT tax resources for international students, please visit the **Vice President for Finance Office “Tax Guidance for Nonresident Aliens” page** (<https://vpf.mit.edu/tax-guidance-for-nonresident-aliens>), or via links on the MIT ISO Taxes page (<http://iso.mit.edu/students/taxes.shtml>).

Remember that **ALL F-1, F-2, J-1, and J-2 holders** (including dependents) **MUST file** U.S. Federal income tax return forms **whether or not** they received U.S.-based income in 2024. Students who earned U.S.-source income will file for their Federal income tax return which includes at least Form 1040NR and Form 8843. **All** international students and their dependents, even if they earned no U.S.-source income, must file at least the Form 8843 for Federal income tax return filing. Some students may also need to file State (such as Massachusetts) income tax return forms. All income tax return forms must be filed by **April 15, 2025**.

If you are unfamiliar with the U.S. Tax system, and have questions, please utilize the **How Can I Get Help** portion of the [Sprintax portal site](#) (requires Kerberos credentials).

Please **check that you have received all of your income-earning tax forms** (some possible forms include Form W-2, Form 1042-S, and Form 1099) before filing a federal income tax return. MIT fellowship, scholarship, and grant recipients, and those who already claimed a tax treaty benefit, should receive Form 1042-S this week from MIT. If you need replacement forms or are unsure if you should receive a form from MIT, please contact MIT Payroll (payroll@mit.edu) for more information. Please note that students who received no US-source income from MIT during the calendar year 2024 may not receive any forms from MIT.

If you pursued authorized off-campus employment, such as pursuing an internship, with a U.S. company, and received U.S.-source income for that experience, you will want to be sure you received appropriate income documents from your internship host organization/employer to include that income in your income tax return.

Sprintax Returns software is an Internet-based income tax return preparation system that will help F or J visa holders prepare their 2024 U.S. Federal income tax return forms if they are filing as a Nonresident for tax purposes. After going through Sprintax Returns, the program will verify your need to file as a Nonresident for tax purposes, prepare the appropriate tax forms for you to print out and sign, and will include an instruction sheet that will tell you where to send the forms. This software can be used by your F-2 or J-2 dependents as well (if they earned U.S.-source income, they will need to request their own Sprintax Returns access code from the MIT ISO). **The ISO covers the cost of using Sprintax Returns for your Federal income tax return**

filing but does not cover the cost of any required State income tax return filing—*more details can be found below in the "State Income Tax Return Filing" section.*

Tip: For Sprintax, where requested please note that the Designated School Official for MIT is the [ISO Advisor](#) who signs your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.

State Income Tax Return filing – Sprintax Returns software provided by the MIT ISO does NOT assist or fill out your Massachusetts State income tax return forms for free; but, for an additional fee, not covered by the ISO, you can have Sprintax Returns assist you in completing your State income tax return forms (for Massachusetts and other states where you lived during the 2024 calendar year). Please note: students can also go directly to a State’s tax/department of revenue website and use the information on their Federal forms to fill out State income tax return forms manually at no cost.

Sprintax Returns can be found at the following URL: <https://iso.mit.edu/maintaining-status/taxes/mit-sprintax/>

Students must log in with their Kerberos ID and Password using MIT Touchstone to access Sprintax. To do so, they must scroll to the bottom of the page and **click on the "Login to Sprintax" button**. If you need help using Touchstone, please call the MIT Computing Help Desk at 3-1101 or consult the IS&T website (<https://ist.mit.edu/touchstone>). If you do not access Sprintax Return via the MIT link above, you will be prompted to pay a fee for the Federal income tax return; so please use the link above to access Sprintax Returns for free for your Federal income tax return.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Alumni and students who attended MIT in the previous calendar/tax year (2024) and do not have an active Kerberos account should contact their ISO Advisor for a temporary access code.

Tax Information Workshops for International and US Students

The Office of the Vice President for Finance (VPF), the ISO, and the International Scholars Office (ISchO) have sponsored a series of Tax Workshops for MIT students and scholars for tax year 2024.

A listing of upcoming workshops is available here (<https://vpf.mit.edu/tax-workshops-for-tax-year-2024-dates-announced>), and can access recordings and materials from previously held sessions on the VPF website: <https://vpf.mit.edu/tax-guidance-for-nonresident-aliens>

Helpful Tax Resource Links

To access resource information, including links to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page,

please visit the MIT VPF “Tax Guidance for Nonresident Aliens” page: <https://vpf.mit.edu/tax-guidance-for-nonresident-aliens>

Unfortunately, the ISO advisors are not trained to give individual tax advice. We hope that all your questions will be answered by use of these resources. Remember, the majority of international students will need to file income tax return forms by April 15, 2025. **ALL F-1, F-2, J-1, and J-2 visa holders are required to file U.S. Federal income tax return forms regardless of income.**

****Special Note:** If you were not physically present in the United States at any time during the 2024 calendar year, you are not required to file tax forms for this tax season (by April 15, 2025). You will need to file next year the 2025 income tax return if you are physically present in the U.S. at any time during the 2025 calendar year. Students who complete their U.S. stay in 2025 and then leave the U.S., you will be able to access tax resources that are made available for next year’s income tax filing deadline.

Best regards,
The International Students Office

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ISO Walk-In/In-Person Hours – Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm,
Wednesdays: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm