Our Partners

The industrial organizations participating in the VI-A M.Eng Thesis Program cover a broad spectrum of technology, including electronics, communications, control, computation, computer science, electronic instrumentation, and biomedical devices. They provide opportunities for firsthand experience in manufacturing, testing, design, development, research, programming, technical planning, and administration.

Our Partner Companies for 2015-2016 include: Analog Devices, The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Linear Technology, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Mitre Corporation, NetApp, SanDisk and Silicon Laboratories. We are continuously adding new members, so please check our website for the most updated information.

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Master of Engineering Thesis Program with Industry

A Stepping Stone

In addition to opening doors to industry, the VI-A M.Eng Thesis Program can act as a stepping-stone to grad school. Indeed, some of our graduates have gone on to earn their PhDs, and some are even professors at America’s best universities, including MIT!

“As a course VI and VI-A graduate, I am very grateful for the unique opportunities that the VI-A program offered me. Through VI-A I continued my education and performed research in a context which allowed me to smoothly transition into industry. I found an academic home away from MIT at my host company (Analog Devices), and being able to perform my thesis work in an industrial setting allowed me unique opportunities: access to state of the art resources and a cutting-edge, commercially competitive project to work on. The multiple internships mirrored my coursework and allowed me to apply circuit design skills that I obtained from 6.012, 6.301, and 6.775. Additionally, it helped me find a great support structure both through mentors from industry as well as my MIT faculty advisor (Prof. Sodini) who helped guide my project and grant me a technical focus which made the experience very fruitful. VI-A is an exceptional opportunity which I would strongly recommend to any student in Course VI.”

Alec Poitzsch, SB ’13, M.Eng. ’14
VI-A Liaison at Analog Devices
Wilmington, MA
MIT's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) VI-A M.Eng Thesis Program matches industry mentors with course VI undergraduate students who have demonstrated excellent academic preparation and motivation. Not only is it a perfect opportunity to relate the scientific and engineering principles learned in the classroom to current engineering problems, but VI-A gives students the opportunity to do an industry-based Master of Engineering Thesis with full tuition funding for a calendar year and possibly a one-term teaching assistantship during the M.Eng. year providing an additional stipend and medical insurance.

Who We Are

VI-A Office forwards student applications to VI-A for top engineering talent and looks to the alumni of the VI-A program for technology leadership. — John Tilly, Design Engineering Manager

Linear Technology, Milpitas, CA

VI-A Alumnus

Think Globally

By offering internships abroad, the VI-A program ensures that our students are at the forefront of understanding both theoretical and practical engineering issues in a global environment. “Working at Microsoft Research Asia has been a tremendous learning experience for me. As a part of the Human-Computer Interaction Group, I was constantly being exposed to new research in the field. My mentors encouraged all of the interns in the group to discuss recent publications and advances, making the environment at MSRA educational and collaborative. While research was the focus, the project I worked on was always evaluated both as a research contribution and a product. Experiencing the best of both academia and industry was one of the most valuable aspects of being at MSRA. In addition to working at MSRA, living in Beijing has its perks. There are plenty of historical sites to see as well as a wide variety of nightlife to enjoy. Regardless of your fluency in the language, people are friendly, and MSRA is full of interns who are willing to help with all aspects of life.” — Kaijing Liao, M.Eng., '15

Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, China

Who can apply?

Any registered course VI junior or senior in good standing may apply to the VI-A M.Eng Thesis Program. If you apply as a senior, a previous internship in industry and/or SuperUROP will be very useful.

The Application Process

Anyone interested in joining VI-A must file a formal application in the Fall term including a resume, letter of recommendation, grade report, and interview preference list with the VI-A Office to be considered for the VI-A M.Eng Thesis Program. Check our web site (http://vi-a.mit.edu) for the most up-to-date list of specific due dates.

The Selection Process

The VI-A office forwards student applications to VI-A companies, based on the information provided on students’ interview preference lists. VI-A companies preview the applications and select the students they wish to interview. Company representatives visit MIT in the fall to interview prospective interns over a two-day period. Based on the formal interviews and applications, companies then submit a ranked list of students selected for consideration. Ranked students, in turn, rank their preferences for VI-A companies. The VI-A office then makes placements by matching company lists with student lists.

VI-A Opens Doors

Your VI-A internship is a great way to “get your foot in the door” at our VI-A partner corporations. In fact, some students are offered jobs upon completion of the program. Here’s what some of our VI-A graduates have to say about the program:

“5A has been a great way to experience what it is like to work in circuit design over a more extended time. I have enjoyed feeling more connected to the project and the people I am working with...” — Erin Main, Senior

Lincoln Laboratory, Lexington, MA

“VI-A is a great program for any electrical engineers because it’s truly a win-win for the students and their mentors.” — Eric Chang, Director of Technology Strategy

Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, China

VI-A Alumnus

“5A is hard to cross. VI-A undergraduate senior, you will already have a direction you can explore for your thesis. 2) Applicability. Too often, there is a line between research and application which is hard to cross. VI-A program bypasses this roadblock by rooting research in problems the corporate world is facing now. 3) Experience. Every VI-A student is marinated in the industry through the company of their choice for three quarters. During my very first month at NetApp, I met an amazing management team and with their help, applied concepts I learnt a couple of months back in 6.002 and 6.004 to design a solution to a company need. During the process, I also pin-pointed skills that I lacked and determined how I could use my next two semesters at MIT to fill those gaps. In short, this program shifts your educational gear.” — Rebecca Kekelishvili, M.Eng., '16

NetApp, Sunnyvale, CA

“6A has been a great way to experience what it is like to work in circuit design over a more extended time. I have enjoyed feeling more connected to the project and the people I am working with than a regular 3 month internship. The environment at Linear is very conducive for learning and exploring within and outside of your project. The engineers are very driven to design high quality electronics for specific applications which makes the work challenging. I do believe this a great program for any electrical engineers because you can get a lot of one-on-one attention from your advisor.” — Erik Johnson, M.Eng., '16

Linear Technology, North Chelmsford, MA

““I loved my first assignment at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. Not only was I able to apply the skills I learned in the classroom, but I was able to work with top-notch engineers in a fast paced environment. I gained a deeper understanding of how to successfully work on a team and contribute to an ongoing project.” — Erin Main, Senior