

From: Suzy M. Nelson nelsonsm@mit.edu
Subject: FYI: Supporting Ukrainian students
Date: March 3, 2022 at 4:10 PM
To:
Cc: David Warren Randall drandall@mit.edu

Dear Department Heads,

I am writing to let you know that, in addition to the [community-wide message from President Reif sent on Sunday, February 27](#), the message below was sent to Ukrainian students yesterday afternoon with details on supports aligned to help them. Support staff have also reached out to Russian students directing them to resources. Faculty advisors of both Russian and Ukrainian students were informed of our outreach.

In recent years, students have told me how much it means to them when faculty and departments reach out in addition to MIT leaders during difficult times in their lives. Faculty shape so much of their MIT experience -- contact from a trusted faculty member or their academic department can have a profound, positive impact. By the same token, students have said that silence can have the opposite effect. I know many of you have reached out to students during this and other crises, and I deeply appreciate the humanity and care you've shown. Knowing that each of us may have varying levels of comfort reaching out to students outside of their academics, I encourage you to consult [these resources at doingwell.mit.edu](#), which are designed specifically to help faculty and staff identify and be there for students during difficult times.

David Randall knows the most about these resources, so please feel free to reach out to him at drandall@mit.edu. And you can always contact me if you have additional questions.

Best,
Suzy

From: Suzy Nelson
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Subject: Support for you during this difficult time



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dear [STUDENT NAME],

As unthinkable violence unfolds in your homeland, our thoughts are with you, your loved ones, and the Ukrainian people. Over the past few days, Ukrainian students told us that

you need to access support as easily as possible. To that end, we write to share some updates.

1. All Ukrainian students should have been contacted by a dean in Student Support Services (S3) or GradSupport. Your dean is your main point of contact for support of all kinds. They are coordinating closely with the International Student Office (ISO) and Student Financial Services (SFS). **If for some reason you have not heard from your dean or if you are having trouble connecting with them, please email ukrainehelp@mit.edu as soon as possible. Please reach out to your dean for help** – they want to talk with you individually to better understand your particular situation and needs.
2. Given these extraordinarily difficult circumstances, we are offering financial support to students in need:
 - **If you are an undergraduate Ukrainian national**, SFS will waive your spring term work contribution and replace it with an MIT Scholarship. This will be credited to your student account. Please connect with your S3 dean to discuss this, and any other support you may need.
 - **If you are a graduate student Ukrainian national**, GradSupport will provide you with similar financial support. Please reach out to your GradSupport dean to initiate this process. Again, if there are other financial needs, work with your GradSupport dean to determine the best ways MIT can help.
3. If you need meal swipes over and above what you may have already received, please email ukrainehelp@mit.edu.
4. If you need to lighten your academic load, please work with your S3 or GradSupport dean who will coordinate with MIT Medical and ISO to ensure you remain in compliance with the terms of your student visa. Your dean in S3 or GradSupport can help with other academic concerns as well.
5. David Elwell from ISO will be in touch about other specific ways his office can assist with legal questions. You should also be aware of information recently [posted on the U.S. Embassy-Poland website](#) regarding assistance to Ukrainians in Poland.
6. Chaplain to the Institute Thea Keith-Lucas is partnering with some of you on a candlelight rally. This is being planned for tomorrow, March 2, from 7:30 – 9 pm on

candlelight rally. This is being planned for tomorrow, March 5, from 7:30 - 9 pm on the W20 plaza, and more details will follow.

7. [Staff dedicated to supporting students](#) are standing by ready to help.

We cannot begin to understand what you are going through, but we are here to offer support and let you know that MIT cares very deeply for you.

Sincerely,

Melissa Nobles, Chancellor

Suzy Nelson, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Student Life

Ian Waitz, Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate and Graduate Education

David Elwell, Associate Dean and Director, International Students Office

Blanche Staton, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Education

Stu Schmill, Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services

David Randall, Senior Associate Dean, Student Support and Wellbeing