MIT’s Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) VI-A M.Eng. Thesis Program matches VI-A mentors with EECS undergraduate students who demonstrate excellent academic preparation and motivation to provide an intensive, practical work experience, combined with a funded Master of Engineering thesis.

This unique opportunity gives students a chance to relate the scientific and engineering principles that they learn in the classroom to current engineering problems in industry.

Lincoln Laboratory is an MIT industry partner offering internships for VI-A students. There are several staff members at the Laboratory whose involvement in the VI-A Program led to a rewarding career.

Dr. Bryan Robinson

NOW: Technical Staff, Optical Communications Technology Group

THEN: VI-A internship in optical communications, 1996–98

“I wanted to gain experience, particularly in optics—an area in which I had no background experience. In spite of my complete lack of experience in the area, my Lincoln Laboratory mentor gave me the opportunity to work in an optics lab.”

“The VI-A Program at Lincoln Laboratory is a great opportunity for students to get involved with cutting-edge research and to apply that research to real-world national security problems.”

—Dr. Bryan Robinson
In addition to technical mentors, others at Lincoln Laboratory make this program successful for all interns, such as Gary Hackett in the Human Resources Department, who is the Lincoln Laboratory internship program coordinator, and Professor James Roberge, who is the VI-A faculty advisor for Lincoln Laboratory. Their combined experience ensures a successful internship, thesis research period, and entry into a possible career at Lincoln Laboratory.

When submitting your application to the VI-A Office, please be sure to list Lincoln Laboratory as your organization of choice. To learn more about Lincoln Laboratory and its student programs, U.S. citizenship requirement, or support for diversity in the workplace, visit www.LL.mit.edu.

Dr. Jade Wang

NOW: Technical Staff, Optical Communications Technology Group
THEN: VI-A internship in foliage penetration radar technology, 1999, and in optical communications, 2001–2002

“With the help of a Lincoln Laboratory mentor, I was assigned to a Lincoln Laboratory staff member and regarded the relationship as an apprenticeship in which I learned the core knowledge of my discipline through guidance and practice. I knew that guidance from my mentors would be important to my career.”

Dr. Shelby Savage

NOW: Technical Staff, Optical Communications Technology Group
THEN: VI-A internship in optical communications, 1996–2001

“My VI-A internship was definitely a learning experience. I had no idea it would turn out to be a stepping-stone to a lifelong career at Lincoln Laboratory.”

Mr. Lawrence Candell

NOW: Assistant Division Head, Aerospace Division
THEN: VI-A internship in digital processing applied to RF countermeasure design, 1986–89

“At the time, I viewed the VI-A Program as a great way to get a summer job and a master’s degree. I thought it would be a good opportunity to apply skills learned in class. My VI-A internship was definitely a learning experience. I had no idea it would turn out to be a stepping-stone to a lifelong career at Lincoln Laboratory.”

Dr. Marc Zissman

NOW: Assistant Division Head, Communications and Information Technology Division
THEN: VI-A internship in digital speech processing technology, 1983–86

“I would have been surprised as a sophomore if someone had told me that I’d spend the next 25 years at Lincoln Laboratory. But I did know that the experience I was getting would prove very valuable.”

Dr. Jeffrey Roth

NOW: Technical Staff, Advanced Lasercom Systems and Operations Group
THEN: VI-A internship in analog fiber-optic communications, 1994–97

“Lincoln Laboratory was one of the few interviewers that asked technical questions and wanted to place the student in the right field—not just fill a vacant co-op position. The Laboratory offered practical work experience through immersion. The Lincoln Laboratory culture helped me understand topics from a systems view, which was especially helpful in my graduate work.”

Dr. Robert Atkins

NOW: Assistant Division Head, Homeland Protection and Tactical Systems Division
THEN: VI-A internship in electromagnetics, 1985–87

“Lincoln Laboratory was one of the few interviewers that asked technical questions and wanted to place the student in the right field—not just fill a vacant co-op position. The Laboratory offered practical work experience through immersion. The Lincoln Laboratory culture helped me understand topics from a systems view, which was especially helpful in my graduate work.”