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SUBJ/ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027 MIT SEMINAR XXI CALL FOR APPLICATIONS//

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN is the call for applications for the Academic Year (AY) 2026-2027 Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Seminar XXI. A separate call for applications for the 2026-27 Dark Trident program will follow.

2. Program Information. Seminar XXI represents a unique opportunity for future policy leaders to share perspectives, while cultivating their understanding of the intricate relationships among economy, society, and culture in the international environment. Seminar XXI Fellows develop broad perspectives and analytical skills that enable them to evaluate and formulate national policy. Seminar XXI is an educational development program for current and future leaders in the U.S. national security and foreign policy communities.

Administered by MIT's Center for International Studies, the program is intended for professionals with significant potential to move into key decision-making roles in the next 5-10 years. Program participants, known as Fellows, come from a wide range of sponsoring organizations including the armed forces, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private companies. The goal of Seminar XXI is to equip rising military officials and civilian executives with the multi-dimensional analytic skills needed to understand foreign relations and shape effective policy options for the United States.

3. Course Schedule. Participants will meet for a total of nine sessions during the 2026-27 academic year, beginning in September 2026 and ending in May 2027. Sessions will include one (1) introductory session; three (3) weekend sessions in Warrenton, VA; and five (5) weeknight sessions in Washington, D.C.

4. Eligibility. Navy Seminar XXI Fellows will be Navy officers (O5-O7) and civilians (GS14-15, SES, or equivalent) with clear promotion potential, and opportunity to apply these skills in their future assignments in the Navy. This application process is open only to individuals serving in Navy organizations, on the Joint Staff, or in the Office of the Secretary of War (OSW), or other offices without dedicated Seminar XXI quotas who are attached to commands located within a 225-mile driving distance from the National Capital Region for the entire period of September 2026 through May 2027. Navy personnel in agencies with MIT Seminar XXI programs must apply through

their parent organizations. Please contact the Navy Fellowship Office at: navy.fellowships@us.navy.mil for questions on eligibility.

5. Program Specifics. For AY26-27, MIT will select a total of 80 personnel across the Federal Government. Of these, 12 will be Navy nominees. A total of twelve (12) Navy officers and Civilians will be selected for the AY26-27 Seminar XXI fellowships. Selectees must meet minimum attendance requirements and are encouraged to attend every class with the full support of their command. There is no tuition cost to the participants or their individual commands, regardless of duty station. However, participants or their commands are responsible for all non-tuition expenses, including travel, for Seminar XXI meetings and activities.

6. Admission Process. A Navy selection panel will choose from all Navy applicants those 12 individuals with the best combination of experience, accomplishments, and clear potential for significant future advancement and leadership positions. MIT Seminar XXI nominees will be notified upon completion of panel deliberations by early April 2026. OPNAV N3N5N7 will provide the list of the 12 Navy nominees selected by the panel to the MIT Seminar XXI Admissions Board by early April 2026. Navy nominees accepted by MIT will be notified by mid-June 2026.

7. Service Obligation. Active-duty MIT Seminar XXI Fellows incur a service obligation of one year upon completion.

8. Application Package. Each nomination package must include the following: an application form, a curriculum vitae (CV), and two letters of recommendation (one of which must be from the first Flag officer or SES in the applicant's chain of command). Applicants outside the National Capitol Region must also include a command endorsement letter acknowledging individual/command responsibilities. The deadline for submission of all individual application materials to the Navy Fellowship Office is 23 February 2026. Please visit the MIT Seminar Information Request Portal (see link below) for additional information on MIT Seminar XXI and the application process, and to request application templates. For issues accessing the portal, please contact the Navy Fellowship Office at:  
navy.fellowships@us.navy.mil MIT Seminar XXI Information Request Portal:  
<https://play.apps.platform.us/play/e/d7f9e96a-011c-4baf-80c5-c5e4831ecebe/a/3ee70929-a39b-49d1-a5aa-afbd52f38407?tenantId=e3333e00-c877-4b87-b6ad-45e942de1750&hint=51ffef8c-ea0a-4845-af10-d860e478c903>  
Intelink Short URL: <https://go.intelink.gov/-DXsUiz>

9. Organization Rankings. Organizations with more than one applicant should rank all candidates who are submitting application packages within their command. Military and civilian applicants should be ranked separately. A template for the ranking memorandum is available upon request from the Navy Fellowship Office at: navy.fellowships(at)us.navy.mil  
The deadline to provide rankings is 02 March 2026.

10. Released by VADM Y. M. Davids, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, Strategy, and Warfighting Development (N3N5N7).//

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