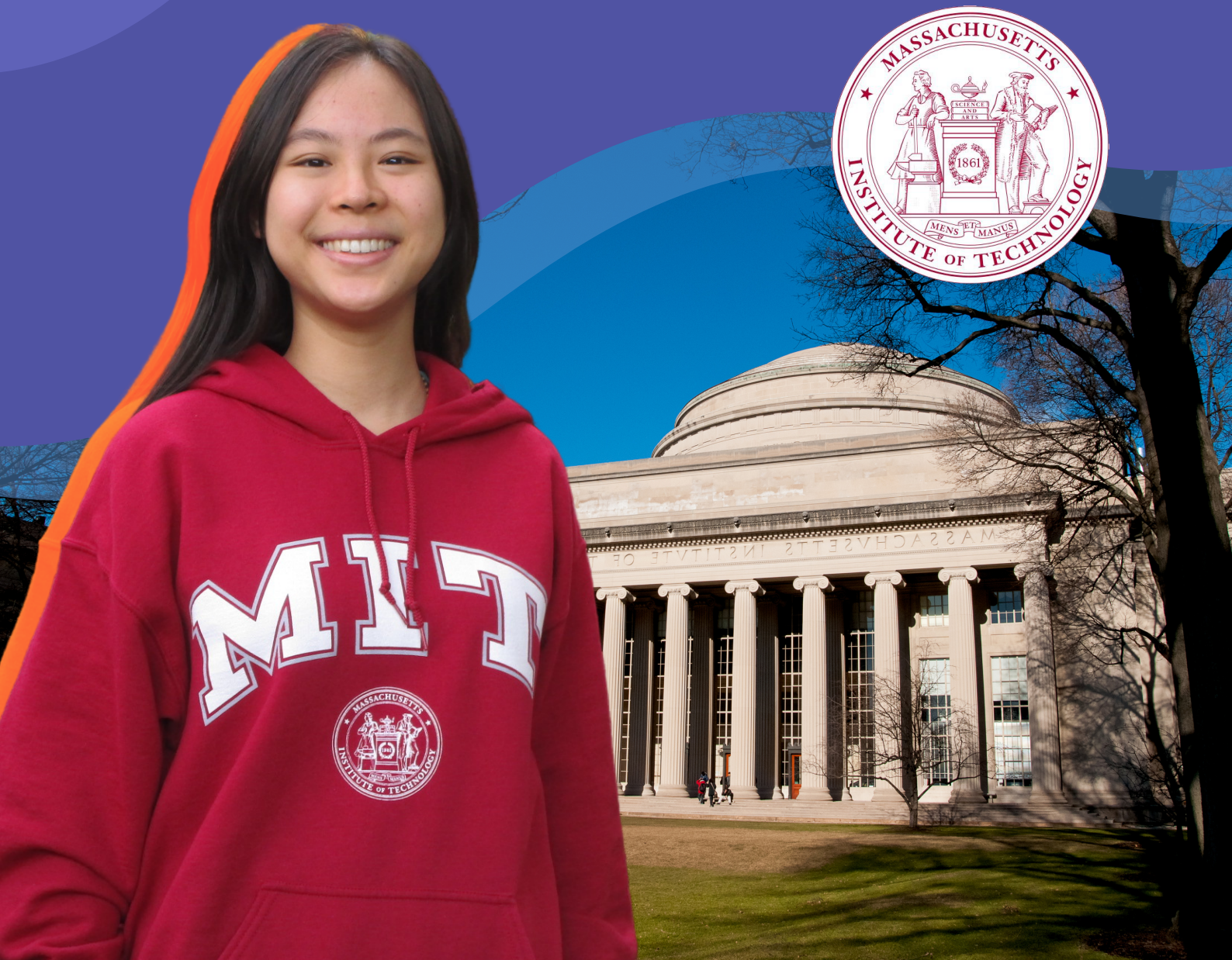
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Sophie's Journey to MIT





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Before her virtual interview for MIT, Sophie went to the woods in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and did her favorite thing to center herself: she sat down and meditated. She went into her interview feeling fully prepared for it by utilizing her centering practice in addition to Crimson's interview preparation — and after the interview, though she didn't know whether or not she would gain admission to MIT, she felt confident and proud of the way she showed up. In just one month's time, Sophie learned she had been admitted to the top university for engineering undergraduates.

How did Sophie get here? Her amazing commitment to her academics, extracurriculars, and self-improvement, coupled with Crimson's supportive approach, resulted in the acceptance letter she has been waiting on for as long as she can remember.

Sophie's Story

From a young age, Sophie was always interested in science, math, technology, and spirituality. While these interests don't typically end up together, Sophie's multidimensional and diverse background provided her with the mindset, experience, and thirst for knowledge that eventually allowed her to achieve her goal: admission to MIT!

Sophie has been involved with math and science competitions, olympiads, and fairs since she was in middle school and all the way through her high school career. Outside of academics, Sophie spent much of her free time volunteering, sharing meditation practices with her community, and tutoring Chinese students in English.

How Crimson Helped Sophie



Sophie came to Crimson specifically for strategic application support. In her Kick Start meeting, Sophie and her Education Coordinator, Drea, sat down to introduce themselves, go over broader goals, and familiarize Sophie with the Crimson App and services. Since each student's package is unique based on their needs, this meeting ensures the student, parent, and Crimson team are all aligned with exactly how Crimson will be involved in the application process.

In the Initial Strategy meeting with Martin, Sophie's strategist, they discussed her specific goals — which included getting into her dream university, MIT. "The first time I talked with him, I realized that we both had this very energetic vibe, which I really loved," Sophie recalls. In Martin's opinion, Sophie had a great chance of achieving acceptance to a top university, but he still recommended a few safety and target schools. Crimson strives to help students create school lists that are balanced with safeties, targets, and reach schools that would all be great options for them. The focus is more on matching a student with their best-fit university, not necessarily the top-rated one. In Sophie's case, these two aligned!

Since Sophie decided to apply to MIT early, and it was her top choice, she and her team focused all of their initial efforts on this application before working on the others.



01. Essay Writing

When Sophie first started drafting her MIT essays, she wasn't sure of how to begin. Sophie was paired with one of Crimson's app mentors, Ben, who helped her through the entire process from brainstorming and editing to making the final touches and clicking "submit". In their first meeting together, they discussed some of Sophie's experiences and contributions to the different communities she surrounded herself with.

Ben provided feedback on which of Sophie's essay ideas seemed most unique and told the best story about who she was as an individual outside of the classroom. "Ben helped me narrow down my ideas and get really specific about the most special parts of my story," Sophie says. I can tell my application is very well-rounded and it touches on the qualities that really capture me just right and really made me stand out."

Each time Sophie worked on her essays, both Ben and Martin would leave comments on how she could strengthen them. "They helped me a lot in the revision of the essays and really helped me portray clearly all of my ideas," Sophie says. "Ben just really gave me the push to continue and write all the way through the end."

Sophie adds that Ben and Martin helped her clarify what it was that she really wanted "to convey to admissions officers...or anybody else in that case. I wanted them to know about me and how I treat myself and others. I think my essays really gave light to this!"

"I felt like this entire application process was very eye-opening. You can be more attuned to yourselves and what you actually value in life," Sophie reflects. "I examined the motivation behind my activities and found out what was really important to me. In writing these essays I really found out I was genuinely passionate about two things: math and helping people."



MIT does not use the typical personal statement included in the Common Application, which applies to the majority of US schools. Instead, MIT has several shorter essay prompts. One particular essay asked about where the student comes from and the community they are surrounded by.

Sophie chose to write about her mom, a lifetime Buddhist practitioner: "Growing up, I was always really inspired by my mom with her meditation and volunteering. After the several earthquakes and natural disasters that rocked Puerto Rico, my island, I wanted to help people manage mental health issues and instability. I wanted to bring guidance, love, and compassion, so I formed these Zoom meeting meditations, even during the pandemic! It's been really impactful and I think writing this essay for MIT really showed how being part of a community is important to me. MIT fosters that community and I think my essay showed how I could contribute."

02. Interview Preparation

When MIT requested an interview with Sophie, she felt especially intimidated as she had never sat for an interview before. “I really appreciated seeing the message from Ben, my mentor, that said, ‘Sophie, let’s get to work.’”

Ben and Sophie met to go through questions that often come up in college interviews and brainstormed how to best answer them. Ben explained the motivation and purpose behind the interviews, which allowed Sophie to approach hers with more ease. From there, they had a full mock interview to ensure Sophie was prepared.

“I went to a nearby park and meditated for 15 minutes,” Sophie says of the day she had her interview. “I walked back to my house, turned on the computer, and when I arrived, I wasn’t nervous at all. It was all really natural and the conversation flowed so smoothly.”



03. The Crimson App

Students at Crimson all have their own personalized accounts on the Crimson app where they are able to connect with all members of their team and access top-notch resources. For Sophie, the app was an essential tool.

“Coordinating meetings and speaking with my team through the app was just super fast and easy,” she says. “I loved the biography part where you could introduce yourself. It made all of my encounters with my team members that much easier.”

After sessions with people on her team, Sophie and her mom always received notes from the team member in the meeting so everyone could stay on the same page. “I really loved that after each meeting I could reference the notes. It really made everything so much clearer,” Sophie says.

Sophie also really appreciated the app’s psychometrics quiz, which acts as an aid in pairing Crimson students with their mentors. “I love my team. I sincerely would have never thought I would have such a great connection with each team member,” Sophie says. “But it all really worked. The personality test at the beginning really helped set us up for success!”

The Crimson Effect

While Sophie’s extracurricular and academic profiles were extremely impressive, Crimson gave her the confidence she needed to succeed. Especially coming from Puerto Rico, her school’s college counselor had more knowledge about applications in their region rather than on the mainland of the United States. Sophie notes Crimson’s essay assistance was especially valuable to her:

“I didn’t really know how to approach the personal statement writing and my team’s experience just really helped me tremendously with navigating this process.”

For Sophie, the best part was seeing all of her work over the past few years “finally coming to fruition and seeing that result. I never gave up on what truly mattered to me. The college application process shouldn’t be seen as tedious, but a process of self-discovery.”

Sophie's Advice & Future Plans

For students hoping to follow in her footsteps to the university of their dreams, Sophie recommends staying true to themselves and their passions through the process.

"Continue to do the things that you're absolutely passionate about," she says. "If you really want to go to a particular university, that's a place where you fit in, it will come off authentically through your extracurriculars and your essays. All that demonstrated interest will come off."

Sophie is excited to embark on the journey to her dream university and explore internships and career opportunities at tech companies. She aims to bring her future research projects and technological experience to countries and communities in need and plans to pursue a graduate degree and maybe eventually help with teaching.

Sophie even hopes to be an Extracurricular and Leadership mentor or application mentor with Crimson while she studies as an undergraduate student.

"Sophie is a creative individual who will overcome any challenge placed in her path. She is kind, bright, and, most importantly, she displays admirable humility," remarked Ben, Sophie's application mentor.

Crimson is thrilled to see how Sophie continues to blossom and share her unique perspective with the collaborative community at MIT and beyond!



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Make your dream possible with

Crimson Education



Who We Are

Crimson Education is an education consulting company that helps students around the world get into their best-fit universities by creating personalized teams comprised of the top tutors, mentors, and admissions experts.

Our one-on-one sessions ensure that Crimson students get the support they need to stand out in today's highly competitive college admissions race.

Our Services

Crimson's bespoke services help you to achieve your educational aims.

- Admissions Consulting
- Career and Mentoring
- Standardized Test Tutoring
- Extracurricular and Leadership
- Merit & Need Based Scholarships
- Sports Recruitment

Our Results

292
Offers to the Ivy league

119
Offers to Oxford and Cambridge

1,500+
Offers to US Top 50 universities

800+
Offers to the UK Top 10 universities

Get in touch to learn more about our services:

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Why Crimson?



Our Network

2400+

2,400 expert tutors, mentors, and strategists located around the world

The Crimson Team includes alumni from top 25 US & UK universities in over 20 offices around the world

Our elite board of advisors and sponsors include prestigious influencers at the top of their chosen industry

Our Methodology

One-On-One Mentoring

We provide our students with personalized one-on-one programs, with the best tutors and mentors from around the world. Our advice is tailored for each individual student!

Roadmaps

Each student will receive a fully-personalized program with a roadmap that outlines every detail of the college admission process.

Resources

We believe in giving students and parents around the world access to vital information. We have the largest YouTube channel of any educational company that depicts college life and answers all of your big questions!

Our Technology

Crimson App

Each Crimson student is onboarded to our mobile & web app, where students can book sessions and view their tailored timetable of customized tasks.

Video Based

Crimson students are able to connect anywhere in the world with their team through our video-based mentoring.

Personality Test

We utilize psychometrics to pair each student with a team that is optimized to his/her interests and learning style! Our test was developed from one of the most well-known data scientists in the world, Galen Buckwalter.

