By Stephen Keith

As the Admissions Office sifts through approximately 3,600 applications each year, it comes across students who are definitely MIT material, but may have transferred to classmates as new freshmen. Possessing the intellectual and personal attributes necessary for admission to MIT, they may lack some of the academic background simply because such preparation was unavailable to them in high school.

Project Interphase is a seven-week academic "summer school" designed for such students who are offered admission, to ease their transition into college.

James J. Bishop, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, is director of Project Interphase. He makes it clear that Interphase attendance is not required for the students' admission. "All of these people can make it on their own at MIT; Admissions does not admit anyone who will flunk out," he comments.

Bishop explains that the program is only offered to those students to help them with special problems they might have. Goals of Project Interphase are:

- To augment the academic background, particularly the verbal, mathematical, and scientific skills, of students with personal and intellectual qualifications for MIT.
- To give these students a chance to adjust to life in the MIT community.
- To acclimate them to the non-academic resources of the Institute and the metropolitan Boston area.
- To let the people who will be working with them get to know them and help with any problems they may have.

Every summer since 1969, students invited to participate in Project Interphase have come to Cambridge to live and study at MIT.

Bishop explains that they attend classes in Calculus, Physics and other core courses for 30 contact hours. Those courses, covering chemistry-related careers, may take on an optional chemistry course. Interphase classes cover the first sections of 18.31, 8.01, and 8.41, plus a review and strengthening of skills already learned. The two Humanities options offered this summer were photography and art.

Students are assigned homeroom and take tests, and receive up to 18 elective credits for satisfactory work, according to Bishop. Augmenting their academic load, Interphase students take part in a variety of cultural, social, and recreational activities, including parties, swimming, ball games, and tours around the Boston area.

Response to Project Interphase from students and staff has been enthusiastic. "Faculty members feel that everyone who has gone through the program has benefited from it, and students remark that Interphase was worthwhile and valuable in their transition into MIT," says Bishop.

Cost for Project Interphase is borne entirely by MIT. The Institute covers staff costs, room and board for the students, their transportation to and from Boston for Interphase, plus financial aid for their full term equal to the earnings they lose while attending the program. The figures run to about $1,400 per student plus the summer earnings compensation.

This year 27 students from around the nation participated in Project Interphase, bringing the total since the program's beginning to 168. Bishop states that the inspiration for Project Interphase derived from part of a ten-point program for minority educational opportunity proposed by the MIT Black Student Union in 1968.