

Candidate FAQ (ML/AI)

Take-Home Assessment & Internship Process

This FAQ is designed to answer common questions upfront and avoid back-and-forth. Please read it fully before starting the assessment.

1. Is the take-home assessment really only 90 minutes?

Yes, **the assessment itself is designed to be solvable in ~90 minutes.**

However, this is **not a measure of how much time you'll spend overall**. The purpose of the take-home is to evaluate:

- How you think
 - How you structure solutions
 - How you reason about tradeoffs
 - How you communicate clearly under constraints
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2. Why is there a high weekly time commitment for an internship?

This is **real, production-adjacent work**, not a sandbox exercise.

Interns:

- Work on real problems
- Contribute to active projects
- Participate in sprint planning, reviews, and feedback cycles
- Are expected to deliver against timelines

If you're looking for a light, exploratory, or resume-only internship, this will **not** be a good fit.

3. Can I work mostly on weekends?

No.

While occasional weekend work is fine, **the majority of your working hours must be on weekdays.**

Reason:

- Regular sync-ups
- Review cycles
- Status updates
- Fast feedback loops

Weekend-only or weekend-heavy availability will affect collaboration and is not compatible with how we work.

4. Can I submit the assessment even if I'm unsure about availability?

Please **do not submit** unless you are confident you can:

- Commit **35–40 hours per week**
- Be available for daily standup meeting, reviews, planning meetings - primarily scheduled on weekdays
- Start on **January 12** if selected

Submitting without availability alignment will affect your work productivity and might jeopardize the deadlines within Ashwam.

5. What exactly should I submit?

Your submission should include:

- The completed assessment (as instructed in the brief)
- Any supporting files or notes (if applicable)

- A short note listing **dates you will be unavailable** (during Jan 12th - Jul 30th timeframe) due to school or other commitments

Please submit everything as **one clean, organized package**.

6. Is collaboration or help from others allowed?

No.

This assessment must reflect **your own thinking and work**.

You may:

- Use standard documentation or references
- Use AI tools **only as you would in real work**

You may **not**:

- Have someone else solve or co-solve the problem
- Submit copied or heavily derived solutions

We care more about reasoning and clarity than "perfect" answers.

7. What happens after submission?

Timeline:

- **Assessment deadline:** January 2
- **Interview invites sent by:** January 6
- **Final video interviews:** January 7 or January 8
- **Selection decisions:** January 9
- **Internship start date:** January 12
- **First sprint begins:** Day 1 on Jan 12th

8. What will the final interview focus on?

The interview will primarily cover:

- Your submitted assessment
- Your reasoning and decisions
- How you think about edge cases and tradeoffs
- How you communicate and respond to feedback

There are **no trick questions**.

9. What does success in this internship look like?

Successful interns:

- Take ownership
- Communicate clearly
- Ask good questions
- Can move from ambiguity → structure → execution
- Respect deadlines and feedback

This internship is demanding and intentionally so.

10. Who should NOT proceed?

You should not proceed if:

- You cannot commit 35–40 hours/week
- You are available mostly on weekends
- You're looking for a passive or observational internship
- You cannot start on January 12
- You cannot commit for min 4 months of internship.

We value transparency more than volume.

If everything above aligns, we look forward to reviewing your submission.

— **The Ashwam Team**