

THE ASHOKAN STARTER PACK

Brought to you by
Computer Science Society
and Kalinga Magazine

HOW TO SPOT A FIRST-YEAR

WARNING: This list is not for the faint of heart.

Some revelations made here might be too big a reality check for just your second semester at Ashoka. If you wish to preserve your mental health and continue living in oblivion for as long as you can, skip skip skip. However, trust me, these bubbles will burst in due time. Proceed at your own risk.

- They have ✨ expectations ✨
- "I want to double major in Economics and Computer Science with a minor in Creative Writing and a concentration in Math. Which FCs do you think I should take?"
- They have elaborate, ambitious career plans
- "Yeah, so I have been coding since 8th grade and I want to work in FAANG for 2 years after graduating. Then I want to go to Stanford University for my Masters. I also plan on doing a semester abroad there. I also want to run for the Student Government and be a part of Kirdaar."
- Actually, they have future plans. Period. The rest of us are just trying to make it to the end of the week.
- They truly believe in the Ashokan vision
- "I got into Yale, Stanford and Brown University but decided to come to Ashoka because it is the closest thing to an Ivy League experience in India."
- They are good at everything
- "I specialise in python, game theory, machine learning, copywriting, US history, Japanese, and organic chemistry."
- "How!?"



HOW TO SPOT A FIRST-YEAR

- "I had a really productive summer. I took Coursera courses for all of these things."
- They have many questions. Hurtful ones.
- "What opportunities should I leverage at Ashoka? How many people got placed into FAANG last year? What is plagiarism? When will classes become offline? What FCs should I take?"
- They are aggressively enthusiastic about everything
- From actively participating in lectures, DSes, assignments and projects to joining every webinar, office hour, club, society, and event, first-years are most often the only people doing any of these things.
- Thank you all for displaying your will to 'live, laugh, learn' so we don't have to :)
- They are waiting for DU admissions/planning to transfer to a university abroad
- They socialise
- I mean, yeah, they actually socialise. Can you imagine? *shudders*



Making Friends online

As much as we hate human-contact, sometimes it's sorta necessary. So here's a guide for virtual human contact.

- If you get into a friends group within the first 15 days of the beginning of the Semester, YOU will never make friends
- Google "How to make friends online" just to be disappointed with the effort required
- Reply to EVERY text on ANY Whatsapp Group
- Join every club / society to "socialize"
- Comment aggressively on every Ashokan's Instagram post and reply to every story to get attention
- Change your interests to what the others are saying in hopes of them liking you
- Read "how to make friends and influence people" by Dale Carnegie (highly recommended for douchebags)

HOW TO ACADEMICS

Getting a Reply from the OAA

A 6-Step Guide to mastering the Art™

1. Once you've hit send for the email, immediately turn your laptop off and run away.
2. Sit down cross-legged in the middle of your room with only TikTok LED lights shining and 3 jasmine incense sticks lit, surround yourself with crystals.
3. Chant "The OAA will notice me" 20 times.
4. Practice early morning manifestation by visualizing DSA replying to you.
5. Complain about how hard it could be to give a timely reply.
6. Give up.

Dealing with Inbox Spam

1. <https://www.wikihow.com/Destroy-an-Old-Computer>
2. *distant screaming*



HOW TO ACADEMICS

Student to Professor Email Template

Dear Professor {Last Name},

I hope you are doing well, even though I'm not.

I'm writing this email to you because {cause goes here}.

I've already written to your TAs, the HOD, the Dean, and the VC, unfortunately they didn't reply because I don't have an email template for them.

Please don't give us more work. I'll actually cry and this time ACWB will block me from their portal. You hear those screams? That's me yo.

Anyway,
Your Name

Professor to Student Email Template

Ye okay

Sent from my iPhone.



HOW TO CLUBS AND SOCS

- Ashoka Debating Union: "Support group for mansplaining Pol Sci majors"
- Caperture: Photography Club: "Retrica fan club"
- Consulting Club: "Guerilla Marketing through Confessions Page"
- Cycling Club: "wind in your hair, sonipat sunsets in the sky, and scraped knees from falling on unpaved asawarpur road"
- Eeshto: Board Gaming Club: "they store their board games in a very safe place...they don't remember the safe place"
- Entrepreneurship Network of Ashoka (ENA): "probably more in love with Elon Musk than Grimes is"
- Ashoka Farm Fresh: "They remain in the shadows for three years, then send you a test tube of soil when you graduate"
- HerCampus Ashoka University: "The neglected, unloved third sister of Edict and Kalinga"
- Investments Club: "Do you have ten minutes to hear about our lord and saviour, crypto currency?" or "Eco-fin dude bros flexing papa ka paisa"
- Kalinga Magazine: if you tie four roombas to your hands and feet and then set them off in opposite directions, that's the level of coordination between their departments
- Kintsugi: Mental Health Club: "Therapy too expensive? Watch this reel instead"
- La Lumiere French Club: "Sciences Po aspirants"
- Lang-Up: Language-learning Club: "Duolingo: The Club"
- Mad Batter: Baking Club: "no, not that kind of baking."
- Ashoka MUN Club: The "I peaked in high school" club
- Navrang: Film Society: "Netflix and Chill: the club"
- Odyssey: Travel Society: "Top ten clubs that corona has made irrelevant"
- Orators: Public Speaking Club: "I've not heard them speak even once"
- Pawsitive: Animal Welfare Club: "their idea of a jashne-jazbaa is getting scratched by a mess cat"
- Ricochet: Yearbook Club: "unfortunately, the club in charge of the yearbook"
- Sckuro: Graphic Story Club: "we genuinely have no idea what they do"
- Sports Enthusiast Club (SEC): "If you say "SEC" three times in the mirror, an arsenal fan will appear to explain the offside rule to you"
- Vistaar: Music Society: "the Prateek Kuhad appreciation society"
- WireByte: Hardware Club: "unfortunately not a club dedicated to the now discontinued legendary Cadbury Bytes"
- Kirdaar: "in not-so-loving memory"

HOW TO ONLINE SHENANIGANS

Not embarrassing yourself (Things that are embarrassing for no reason)

- Do not speak in class if you have nothing new to say
- Do not ask a question to ‘test’ the professors’ knowledge or impress them. They know their stuff. You probably don’t yet.
- Do not use the vending machines if your 10 rupee note isn’t mint-quality
- Do not skip the queue at the mess
- Don’t suck up to profs or overpromise – they can clearly see through your BS
- Don’t expect yourself to get a meal at the mess in time for your 2:50 class, if you had a 11:50 right before
- Do not send emails to large mailing lists unless absolutely necessary.
- Please do Google and understand what the features “Reply” and “Reply All” mean. Right now.
- If you accidentally sent an email, GMail does give you a few seconds to undo that – use it wisely. If you miss those few seconds, the other alternative is to trace down every living soul in the said mailing list and hack their inbox. Your pick?
- Don’t fall asleep in the mess lawns – unless you want to be teleported to a different dimension
- Double-check a classroom before entering it
- If you’re caught plagiarizing, don’t try justifying yourself
- Alternatively, try not to get caught.



Ghosting People: Best Practices

- Just do NOT text them in the first place :)
- If they’re super excited and extroverted (barf), here are a few tips you can use to ghost them.
- How to reply to a question you don’t want to answer: Oh I’m sorry I don’t know. You might want to ask {person you hate’s name}. They’ll definitely know.
- Stick to DMs so you can just like their message
- Reply with an unrepliable emoji. My go-to is turkey, golf stick and statue of liberty. Ooo maybe the Swiss Flag.
- In my experience a “lol”, “lmao”, “haha” or “yea” is usually pretty good at killing a conversation.
- Say you’re taking a social media cleanse for your mental health. It worked for the SG members.

RESOURCES

Staying Organised

- Google Calendar – schedule everything (even your sleep hours) on Google Calendar. If something is not on your calendar, you WILL forget it.
- Keep the following tabs bookmarked on your browser:
 - Primary Ashoka Inbox
 - Google Classroom
 - Google Calendar
 - Google Drive
 - AMS
- If you want to maintain a to-do task list, the following apps may be useful:
 - Notion (recommended)
 - Apple Notes/ Google Notes
 - Obsidian/Evernote
- Use a sleep calculator (eg: <https://sleep-calculator.com>) to calculate the best time for you to go to sleep, given a fixed wakeup time.
 - Actually, who are we kidding? Ashokans don't sleep. It'd be easier to shift to another reality to catch up on your sleep than actually using a sleep calculator.
- Use a grade calculator like <https://gradecalculator.mes.fm/> obsessively each time you receive any grades and calculate your GPA. Then proceed to have a mental breakdown.
- Use a fitness tracker (Nike App or Google Fit) to track your fitness goals - a great supplement to your gym schedule.
- ALWAYS make sure to catch up on all lectures. If you slept through some (or all) lectures during the week (happens to the best of us, don't worry), make sure you cover up by that weekend itself. Otherwise, you will inevitably fall behind and will have to cram 13 weeks of lectures before the Midterm exams. Take it from me, that is not fun.



RESOURCES

Emails

- Try to maintain a 0-inbox (i.e having 0 unread emails). This will be hard but very rewarding in the long run. Here are a few tips:
 - Open every email and decide whether you want to (a) respond (b) ignore or (c) delete
 - If its an email from the SG and not important to you, delete it
 - If it's any email from anyone and it isn't important to you delete it
 - If you decide to respond to an email, start the response right away and save it as an incomplete draft. Then you can always come back to it later and finish your drafts. Unless you act on the emails you want to respond to, you will most probably forget about them very soon (although Gmail nudges may help at times)
 - Do not be afraid to follow-up on emails if they go unnoticed for over 3-5 days



FOMO

- It's important to remember that you aren't actually missing out, you're just having your own experience.
- While you should put yourself out of your comfort zone and try new things, don't overdo it for the sake of doing it: you'll burn out super fast.
- That being said, try out the things that truly interest you.
Take it easy, everyone is feeling the same way as you, even if they don't say it.

CS Student Resources

[GeeksforGeeks](#), [StackOverflow](#), [Leetcode](#), [Codewars](#), [W3Schools](#), [Programiz](#)

Thou Shall

The Ashokan Ta-Da List

- Take a selfie with the Cloud Statue
- Pull an all nighter
- Dance to 'Udd Gaye' in the atrium
- Miss an 8:30
- Book an empty classroom for non-academic work
- Feed the dogs outside Campus with Pawsitive
- Have Maggi after midnight in the SH2 commons
- Sneak into a construction site
- Steal an HDMI cable from a classroom
- Sneak into one of the terraces at night
- Draw a graffiti in the Smoking Room
- Have Oreo Shake from Fuel Zone

Thou Shall Not

The Ashokan Not To-Do List

- Quit Ashokan Politics
- Sign up for every club in your first semester
- Ask an Ashokan their GPA
- Ask an Ashokan their Major/Minor
- Declare your Major/Minor before entering campus
- Sleep before midnight
- Date/Bribe your TA/TF/Professor
- Take the lift to the first floor of your residence hall
- Flex on LinkedIn
- Entrepreneurship

