



FRESHMAN GUIDEBOOK 2017







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Greetings

Dear Freshie,

Firstly, congratulations on getting into one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world! It definitely would not be an exaggeration to say that you are now going to enter the most beautiful phase and place of your life, the memories of which will linger in your life forever.

Most of you, like any of us (your seniors), would be stepping into this esteemed institute without being quite sure as to how you would want see yourself a few years down the line. Be assured that IIT Madras is a place which gives you the exposure to multiple avenues related to academics, co-curricular and extracurricular activities thus giving you a chance for each one of you to identify your true interests and passion and pursue the same. The various activities and occasions associated with the institute not only aim to bring the dormant skills of the students to the surface but also to train and let them experience organisational and leadership attributes. And this, doubtlessly is the reason behind the success of the IITian and the peaks of excellence they often scale in any field of specialisation they choose to enter and explore, be it academics, industry, sports, arts, literature or politics.

Saathi is an initiative of IIT Madras to guide you through your days here.

As the name suggests, it is a body of senior student pals and friendly faculty who will always be willing to help you in ANY matter. Its objectives include achieving overall well-being of the entire student community by equipping and enhancing the all-round skills needed to succeed on campus and in life. The other important objective of Saathi is to break the stigma around various issues regarding mental health. You will be introduced to a Saathi mentor, a responsible senior student who will meet you soon after your arrival at IIT Madras. Besides being your first friend on campus who can clarify your doubts related to various aspects of institute life, he/she would advise you on how to balance academics and extracurricular activities.

Feel free to contact any of the Saathi or Mitr coordinators from the contact details provided on the pocket guide or on the website before/after reaching IIT Madras.

We wish that you have the most wonderful and fruitful years of your life in the institute and hope that you scale great heights in your career.

All the Best!
Saathi Core Team

Welcome

Well, hello there, new blood! Here you are, finally. After so long, all that work bears fruit and here you sit, reading this magazine. Proud of yourself? You should be. Cracking such an exam(s) and landing yourself such a coveted seat is no mean feat. Congratulations! Now that we've got that out of the way, let's start with introducing you to your new home. Yes, home. Because no matter what happens and what you go through here, you will very soon embrace this institute as your "home away from home" (tired of hearing this phrase yet?). You can come in fresh and dive into insti life without missing a beat. No matter what you do, there are always people to help you. No matter what mistake you make, there are people who've made it before. No matter where you come from, you belong here.

Everyone knows that the IITs are one of the best places to receive your education in India. However this begs the question, are academics all that IIT is good for? Surely maintaining such a high quality of education requires a compromise on extracurricular activities? Not at all. IIT-M asks you to compromise on nothing. You've sacrificed enough of your life to get in here, you deserve to have fun!

Are you a sports bum? We offer quality equipment, courts, stadiums, even top class training. Is this all? Hardly. The most important thing we offer is competition. Good, healthy competition to keep you on your



toes and looking to improve yourself. You'll love it. Do words hold a special place in your heart? Does quizzing? Do dancing and music fill you with a joy like no other? The numerous clubs at IIT-M give you all of these, and more. Feel like your ingenuity never has the encouragement it needs? Look no further than the CFI, the Centre for Innovation, for all your creative needs. Haven't attended your fair share of parties and festivals? Saarang will leave you spellbound and gleefully anticipating its return. Think your innovation and tech skills need a stage? Shaastra is your way to go. All of this IIT Madras gives you. And in return, all you need to do is: be yourself. That's right, neither we nor the institute expect anything from your side, besides to not waste the brilliance that brought you all together here: because, of course, giving a person space to work and experiment as they see fit is the only way to bring out the best in them, and IIT-M offers you full creative freedom.

IITM & I

Despite being a hosteller all through my schooling, I was gripped by homesickness on my very first day at IIT Madras, thanks to preconceived notions and the very real fear of '3 Idiots' coming to life in front of my eyes. The drive from the Main Gate to the iconic Gajendra Circle left me breathless. Like a kid on his first day at school, I had my head outside the window, looking forward to a new journey with new friends and a new place to call home for the next few years. It was not until a week later that my fear had been erased by warm interactions with seniors and an orientation day wherein extensive support was promised to every freshman.

Over the coming weeks, I saw the institute and its diaspora come to life. The place buzzed with activity all through day and night. The Freshers' Night, that usually happens around September, is probably the best thing that had happened to me in freshman year at Insti. More than being a mere talent show, the event really widened my horizon, introduced me to the various clubs in Insti and helped me make my first real friends. The icing on the cake was the special status accorded to the freshers in the first few weeks.

While most people would have you believe that this is a "temple of learning", it is not just that; IIT Madras is a vibrant platform for all- music, dance, theatre, you name it. The theatre club's script reading sessions and the music club's night JAM sessions are some cool things that

are unique to IIT Madras. If all of this wasn't already enough, the several hang out spots- the Café Coffee Day outlet, Gurunath Canteen- are the places where I have made some unforgettable memories. The several Samitis (regional clubs) have ensured that we celebrate every festival with great fanfare. I have come to learn after two eventful years, that in IITM's timeline this would form just the teaser. Saarang and Shaastra were much talked about during my first semester and quite honestly the euphoria was not shared by us until after the three day extravaganza began. As soon as the events unfurled one after the other, I felt as though I had been associated with them for several years, thanks to the several volunteering opportunities we received. Last year, the baton was passed on to us and a good majority of us was involved in organizing one event or the other.

These two years have also made me realize that I had several things that I could proudly say I had been a part of. I have stepped out of my comfort zone and surpassed benchmarks that I had previously set for myself. I have dabbled with several things before I finally could close down on something. The opportunity to do so is what makes the journey steeped in self-exploration. Like a friend of mine rightly said, "Insti is just a world in itself". With the first day of my third year around the corner, I'm only sure that I will learn and grow with everything that comes my way. I hope that each and every freshie has an amazing first year at IIT-M. It's best if you come here with a clean slate and soak in all that the place has to offer.

Mitr

Mitr is an institute body comprising faculty and senior students, functioning under the Dean of Students. The primary objective of Mitr is to provide emotional support to the students of the campus in the times of need. One could seek guidance regarding a plethora of issues including academic and peer pressures, extracurriculars, relationships and self-management. It is a completely confidential one to one support system

Being away from an accustomed environment always leads to a new set of experiences. You will be woven into a novel world of academics, relations, tastes, preferences and more. In this journey - where you witness yourself transform into an individual you will be proud of, an individual sometimes beyond the expectation of yourself right now - you will not be alone. Like every other journey, you will come across highs, lows, successes, failures and a variety of emotions. While you are capable of handling and managing everything, there is a slight chance that you may sometimes feel overwhelmed. It is completely normal to feel so. You can unburden yourselves by talking to us, Mitr. We are here to lend an empathetic ear to you. We, Mitr, are a team of 45 passionate, empathetic and trained individuals from varied academic and social backgrounds, who are available to you at any time of the day throughout the year.

Please go through the website for further information and the contact details of the Mitr team.

As long as Mitr is here, you are not alone!!



Indian Institute of Technology:

Welcome to Chennai, a fascinating blend of the old and the modern. Chennai is the third largest commercial and industrial centre in India, and is known for its cultural heritage and temple architecture. It is also a hub for South Indian classical music and dance performances. Chennai is also one of the rare cities to accommodate a national park, the Guindy National Park, within its city limits (in fact, next to IIT Madras!). This city has its old-world charm still intact.

Right in the heart of this metropolis is the sylvan campus of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. With 618 acres of wooded land, home to many endangered plants and animals and a beautiful lake, it is a welcome respite from the bustling city environment.

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras is one among the foremost Institutes of National importance in higher technological education as well as basic and applied research. It is ranked number one in India amongst Research and Teaching Institutions in Engineering by MHRD and is also among the top 50 in Asia. In 1956, the German Government offered technical assistance for establishing an institute of higher education in engineering in India and the Institute was formally inaugurated in 1959. It is an autonomous body under the

administrative control of a Board of Governors appointed by the Government of India. IIT Madras is a residential institute with nearly 460 faculty, 8000 students and 1250 administrative & supporting staff and is a self-contained campus located in a beautiful wooded land. It has established itself as a premier Centre for teaching, research and industrial consultancy in the country.

The Institute has sixteen academic departments and a few advanced research centres in various disciplines of engineering and pure sciences, with nearly 100 laboratories organised in a unique pattern of functioning. Faculties of international repute, a brilliant student community, excellent technical & supporting staff and an effective administration have all contributed to the pre-eminent status of IIT Madras.

IIT Madras offers B.Techs/Dual Degrees in twelve disciplines, M.Techs and M.Sc.s in numerous disciplines, MBAs and Integrated MAs, as well as as research degrees through the M.S. and Ph.D. programmes. Life at IIT Madras is a heady mix of academic, sporting and cultural activities. Our graduates have succeeded with brilliance all over the world, and leave a distinctive mark anywhere they go, giving IIT Madras its global reputation.



Quality Policy of IIT Madras

To pursue global standards of excellence in all our endeavours, namely teaching, research, consultancy, and continuing education and to remain accountable in our core and support functions, through processes of self-evaluation and continuous improvement.

Core Values

In pursuit of its mission IITM will:

1. Develop human resources to serve the nation
2. Recognize teaching as a unifying activity
3. Nurture integrity, creativity, and academic freedom
4. Retain a willingness to experiment with new paradigms

Vision

To be an academic institution in dynamic equilibrium with its social, ecological, and economic environment, striving continuously for excellence in the fields of education, research and technological service to the nation.

Mission

1. *To create and sustain a community of learning in which students acquire knowledge and learn to apply it professionally with due consideration for ethical, ecological, and economic issues.*
2. *To pursue research and disseminate research findings.*
3. *To provide knowledge-based technological services to satisfy the needs of society and the industry.*
4. *To help in building national capabilities in science, technology, humanities, management, education and research.*



Hostel Life

The hostels are located sufficiently far from the departments. There are around 20 hostels, out of which three are girls' hostels and all are named after various Indian rivers. In order not to disturb the greenery and to maintain the ecological balance, though we have a vast campus with places spread out, students are not allowed to drive powered vehicles in the campus. They can only use bicycles or walk. The institute operates buses and vans main-gate to different parts of the campus and also around Hostel and Academic zones at frequent intervals of time for easy travel.

The first year undergraduate students will

be accommodated in a double/triple occupancy style accommodation; in subsequent years single rooms are allotted. PG students are given single rooms. Internet and Local Area Network (LAN) facility is provided in every room and there is a computer room in hostels as well. You will also be given an email account on the institute server.

You can borrow novels and other reading materials from your hostel library. Most hostels also have a garden. Every hostel has facilities for sports with all equipment and gear. Every hostel has a music room and tech-room. Washing machines are

provided in the hostels. You can also avail the laundry facility in the campus. There is also a room with a television among other common rooms, where most of the hostel-level meetings take place. The students celebrate almost all the festivals like Holi, Diwali, New Year's eve etc. The hostel night is an occasion where the entire hostel meets, usually to commemorate the graduating seniors of that hostel.

Each hostel has a Warden, who is a faculty member, besides a resident Assistant Warden. The Warden and Asst. Warden, with the help of the office staff handle all

administrative work concerning the hostel. The Hostel Council consisting of the Warden and a number of elected student secretaries look into the issues related to the hostel.

It is expected that the residents of the hostels shall follow the rules and regulations, violation of which will lead to appropriate disciplinary action. A copy of the rules and regulations document is available at <http://ccw.iitm.ac.in/> . Please go through this important document carefully, especially the code of conduct.



Surviving Madras 101

Ragging

Ragging must be a word that is bothering you at the back of your mind. Well, at the outset, let us inform you that the practice of ragging is not condoned by the institute in any form. If you have any problems regarding this, please feel free to contact your Saathi UG student mentor or the hostel warden. Do not let this word alarm you. All you may have would be a small chat with a group of seniors, who would crack a joke or two, with the intention of easing the air around and to break the ice. This friendly conversation has always ended up in leaving both the parties close to each other. For the seniors it is the time to get rid of unwanted book. For the juniors it is an hour or two well spent getting to know the ropes. Nothing more, nothing less. We empathise in case you feel uncomfortable and are always free to let them know or leave the place. Also please let your mentor know if someone is not abiding by the above.

Gender Sensitisation

The campus has a gender ratio of 1:8, a trend that has set in most IITs now and has even been the subject of humour on several occasions. While the campus along with world is undergoing revolutionary changes in terms of gender based equality, we still have a long way to go. The government of India lays great emphasis on measures for gender sensitisation and enhancing the safety of women on university campuses. IIT Madras too strives to create an environ-

ment of freedom, autonomy and privacy with the help of its students, faculty and staff.

Everyone on campus is entitled to all legal and fundamental rights and a safe, dignified and conducive environment where they can be trained for their professional careers and to realise their full potential as individuals. While the campus tries to be the safest place possible, it's possible to face gender-based discrimination everywhere, and we at IITM recognise that the first step is to speak openly about such issues. It is everyone's duty to be aware of the rules and rights in such a scenario. Sexual harassment is NOT tolerated on campus, and every individual must be careful about not indulging in such behaviour. Sexual harassment is legally defined as:

- a) Physical contact and advances (so, you can't touch someone inappropriately and think I am innocent because, you know, I didn't rape)
- b) A demand or request for sexual favours
- c) Making sexually coloured remarks (so, no sexist jokes or misogynist humour)
- d) Showing pornography
- e) Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

Under the Act, the below five also count as sexual harassment:

- a) Implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in her employment.
- b) Implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in her employment
- c) Implied or explicit threat about her present or future employment status
- d) Interference with her work or creating an intimidating or offensive work environment for her
- e) Humiliating treatment likely to affect her

health or safety.

CCASH (Complaint Committee Against Sexual Harassment):

To promote gender equality and to provide redress to victims of sexual harassment, IITM has two bodies, the Women's Forum and the Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CCASH). The current Chairperson is Prof. (Ms.) Sujatha C.

For more information, visit <https://www.iitm.ac.in/complaintcommittee>.

The Role of the Committee is to:

- Act as Inquiry Authority on a complaint of sexual harassment.
- Ensure that victims and witnesses are not victimized or discriminated because of their complaint.
- Take proactive measures towards sensitization of the staff, students and faculty members of IIT Madras on gender issues.

In case of any such incident, you can approach:

1. CCASH Chairperson/Members (<https://www.iitm.ac.in/complaintcommittee>)
2. Direct email: ccash@iitm.ac.in
3. Faculty advisor
4. Head of the Department
5. Hostel Warden
6. Chief Security Officer
7. Dean (Students)

As legally mandated, the victim's identity will be protected and all possible help shall be provided.

Women's Forum:

Headed by Prof. Preethi Aghalayam, the Women's Forum with female faculty as members, works with CCASH to provide gender sensitisation and awareness through talks, events, discussions, etc.

Insti Lingo

A few minutes into the campus, you will encounter students conversing among themselves in a tongue which comes across as plain gibberish. Welcome to IIT Madras! The IIT Madras lingo has words extending beyond the realm of the bulkiest Oxford Dictionary or the most exhaustive Websters. Students at IITM, over the years, have developed their own indigenous vocabulary which symbolises the two traits of an IITian demarcating him from the average guy next door: Creativity and Brevity. Simple phrases like "I crashed da...", "Psued da.. ", "Don't put psued macha!" etc., will eventually come to make sense to you and you will marvel at the ingenuity of the lingo as you come to terms with it. In this age of time management gurus and their techniques, our lingo stands out as a wonderful example of concision. Infact, there is a thesis written on the lingo used at IIT Madras. (We kid you not!)

For more on Insti lingo, look out for T5E's web series dedicated to freshies!



Academics

The Central Library

The Central Library, a five-storeyed air-conditioned and WiFi enabled facility, is home to a large number of books and a wide range of journals and periodicals. The library is divided into different sections-Text-book/Reference, General Stacks, Reading Halls, Journals and Current Periodicals, Media Research Centre (which regularly screens educational and scientific videos), a Book Bank, among many others. This may be confusing to navigate at first but fear not the librarians at the front desk are more than willing to help out, and often teach freshers the book borrowing and returning process, the fine structure, and more. The library has subscriptions to most renowned research journals including e-subscriptions to a palette of journals. Being a member of our central Library by default, you can avail access to books/journals and reference material from other libraries in the city as well.

Your Institute ID card is a smart card that is provided to all students and will be used to borrow and return books, each for a period of one month for BTech students and one and a half months for all other students. Textbooks can be borrowed in an overnight loan process as well. The smart card is therefore very important as it also serves as your photo identity within the institute. The Library has an online renewal system available and one can also send requests for books they need. It also houses the Digital Knowledge Centre, which contains computers with broadband Internet connection.

Laboratories

In order to fulfill its teaching and research pursuits, IIT Madras has laboratory facilities ranging from simplistic to sophisticated. Each has its own cutting edge technolog-

ical resources built in collaboration with several industry partners. The central lab facilities include Sophisticated Analytical instruments Faculty (SAW), Material Science Research. Centre

(MSRC). Central Electronics Centre (CEC), Central Glass Blowing Section, and Central Workshop, A complete list of all the labs under each department is available at www.iitm.ac.in/info/dept.

Honours Programme

To obtain an honours degree, students will have to maintain a CPA greater than or equal to 8.5, complete a 27 credit project (wherein one is expected to put in 27 hours of work every week throughout the 16 week semester) and earn at least 18 of the free elective credits in their parent department. The programme, however, is open to only BTech and Dual Degree students.

Academic Schedule

The working hours of the Institute are between 8:00 A.M to 5:30 P.M on weekdays, with an hour's break usually at 12 P.M for lunch. Each class hour, or 'slot' (named according to the pattern of teaching hours of courses offered over a week), consists of 50 minutes allotted for the lecture and 10 minutes left free for moving from class to class, grabbing a quick bite, or just relaxing. Usually, a couple of slots will be left free every day, which doesn't make it a day of continuous classes. For a better understanding of the slots, please refer to the Institute Timetable.

Attendance

Being a residential institute, students are expected to attend all classes/Labs, with 15% leave allowed on medical or family grounds. Failing to obtain the required 85% attendance results in mandatory repetition of the course whose attendance requirement has not been satisfied.





NCC, NSO and NSS

Undergraduate students in all the IITs have to compulsorily choose among National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Sports Organization (NSO) in their first year. The selections for the same usually happen during the first month of your stay in the institute. So please watch out on your hostel notice boards for the selection announcements.

NCC

The National Cadet Corps is a tri-service organisation comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force that engages in grooming the youth, The Leaders of Tomorrow into disciplined and patriotic citizens. Students enrolled as part of the NCC stay back in December for a camp as part of the curriculum. The aim of the NCC is to:

1. Develop character, comradeship, discipline, leadership, secular outlook, spirit of adventure, and ideals of selfless service amongst the youth of the country.
2. To create a human resource of organized, trained and motivated youth, to provide leadership in all walks of life and be always available for the service of the nation.
3. To provide a suitable environment to motivate the youth to take up a career in the armed forces.

NSO

The Government of India, through its National Sports Organization, provides a scheme in all IITs, to sign up for a particular sport, and undergo training in that sport. Students enrolled under this scheme are required to attend the coaching sessions regularly over a period of two semesters as part of the prescribed curriculum. The selections for the same will happen usually during the initial days of your stay at the campus by the respective institute team captains and coaches. Keep watch on your hostel notice boards.

NSS

The NSS or National Social Service at IIT Madras provides each student with a significant context in which he/she can arrive at a deeper understanding of social reality in India today. The NSS encourages approaching the meaning of the life through service. The National Service Scheme of IIT Madras looks forward for socially relevant initiatives, taken up as individual projects to create an impact on NSS volunteers as well as on the society. For more details log onto : <http://www.nss.iitm.ac.in>

Training & Placements

The Placement Office is involved in securing placements for students graduating from the institute. The office maintains a close liaison with various industrial establishments (both private and public sector), which conduct campus interviews and select graduate and postgraduate students from all disciplines. The Placement Cell provides the infrastructural facilities to conduct group discussions, placements and interviews. The office interacts with over 800 industries in the country, of which nearly 300 companies visit the campus for holding campus interviews. The institute provides internship placements for students - who wish to intern in an Indian Industrial core company for a minimum of 6 weeks, over the summer following third year - to give students an exposure to the application of technology in the industry and hands-on work experience. This internship is included in the curriculum carries credits.

Many well known companies visit our campus. You may go through www.placement.iitm.ac.in and <http://www.t5eitm.org/2016/03/placements-2015-2016-trends-statistics-2/> for more details.

IITM Research Park

IIT Madras Research Park aims at bringing together companies which are research oriented to leverage the expertise of IIT Madras. It is modelled along the lines of successful Research Parks such as Stanford, MIT, and Harvard. These technology parks have been known to add value and impetus to industry and business enterprises. The macro guiding principles behind the park are:

- Creating a collaborative environment between industry and academia through joint research projects and consulting assignments
- Creating a self-sustaining and technologically fertile environment
- Encouraging and enabling R&D activities that are aligned towards potential needs of the industry by providing world class infrastructure
- Enabling development of high quality personnel and motivating professional growth for researchers in the companies through part time Masters and PhD programmes.

Further, many students intern in the companies associated with the research park.



LANDMARKS

The first landmark that greets every visitor is GC or Gajendra Circle, which is about 2.5 km from the gate. The area from the main gate to GC is the residential zone of our campus where faculty and staff live. After GC you'll enter the academic zone with various departments, laboratories, workshops and the computer centre, spread over a large area in a big array of buildings. Further into the campus towards the end, you will find the hostel zone with various facilities for students.

Hospital

We have an Institute hospital with facilities to take care of general health problems faced by the students. The hospital is located near the central workshop. Apart from regular doctors, there are a set of visiting specialists including a general surgeon, ENT surgeon, ophthalmologist, orthopedician, cardiologist and psychiatrist. Well equipped laboratories for all tests, X-Ray and in-patient ward are also present. Ambulance facility is also available. Apollo hospital runs the pharmacy in our hospital. All students are covered under medical insurance by paying a premium and additional medical fee every semester.

OAT

In between the GC and the hostel zone, you will spot a large arena called the Open Air Theatre, where the weekend movies are screened by the Film Club. Here, the best of the latest movies in English, Hindi, Tamil and other regional languages are screened. OAT is also the venue where the Saarang Pro-shows are held.

CLT

The Central Lecture Theatre is just opposite to the OAT in the middle of the Humanities and Sciences Block (HSB). This is an auditorium with a capacity of about 400, which is used for almost every in-house activity in the Institute. The Lit-Soc Schedule uses only this venue, not to mention the associations of the Institute which use this place all the time.

CRC, Raman and Ramanujan blocks

These are the places where most of your common classes take place. These are the places you would want to memorise in and out as this is where you would be headed to, most mornings, half- awake. The ground floor of the Class Room Complex is air-conditioned and is open for the use of students till 1 AM during the quiz weeks to serve as hangout spots for the muggu junta apart from the library.

Other Important Places

Very close to the GC is the administrative block (Admin-block), a place you will have to visit quite often the seat of the administration. Just opposite to the Admin Block is the Central Library. The campus also has a Post Office with telecom facility. A Shopping centre that includes a book shop, grocery shop etc. is located in the residential zone which is used mostly by the staff of IITM. State Bank of India has a branch just down the road from the GC. Canara Bank has a branch in the Shopping Centre. The Institute has two State Bank of India ATMs - one at the Bank and the other at the Taramani Guest house located in the hostel zone and two Canara Bank ATMs: one at the Shopping Centre and the other one at SFC. The SBI ATMs can be used to make all payments to the Institute. There is also an ICICI bank ATM in the Office of Hostel Management (OHM). The OHM is located in the hostel zone and is the centre for all the student hostel procedures and you will be visiting it often. Down the road from the OHM, you will be finding the Students Activities Centre (SAC). SAC is a fully air conditioned auditorium with a capacity close to 2500 and is mostly used for huge gatherings.

The Institute has two guest houses within the campus. The guest house near the GC is called the Bose-Einstein Guest House and the guest house in the hostel zone is called the Taramani Guest House (TGH). VIPs, Institute Guests and invited guests are usually accommodated in the Bose-Einstein Guest House. Housed in a double storeyed building and located at a central place, TGH provides boarding and lodging facilities for the Institute guests and visitors. If you want to book a room for your parents who will be visiting you, you need to do it well in advance as TGH will be running full because of the various activities happening every day. The hostels also have guest rooms that can be booked for parents through OHM.

There are two schools located inside the campus viz Kendriya Vidyalaya IIT, located between GC and the IITM Post Office and Vanavani Matriculation Higher Secondary School, located within the residential zone.

If you are thinking of how you would be commuting to places in IITM, we would suggest cycling is the best option. You can buy a cycle once you come here. Apart from that, IITM also provides bus facility from 6 AM to 9:30 PM at frequent intervals.

Students Facility Centre

Students Facility Centre (SFC) is a shopping centre in the hostel zone opposite to the Narmada hostel where items of daily use can be purchased. Other shops include a hair cutting saloon, PCOs, travel agency, printing and photocopying shop and a Canara BANK ATM. Also, a fruit shop is present in SFC. It is a nice place to spend your evenings as it is also a place for people to chat with their friends.

Bite 'Em Up! *A Guide to Insti Eateries*

Like Bernard Shaw once said, "There is no sincerer love than love for food". There is nothing better than being a foodie without a weight obsession (Unless you can be Batman: if you can be Batman, then always be Batman). We feel you, and that is exactly why we are bringing you the list of the top places in insti where you can kick back and get stuffed.

Eatreries	Open timing	Closing timing
Gurunath Pasetteries	7:00	0:00
Leo Fortune Confectionaries	11:00	23:00
Suprabha canteen	Open all the time	
Cafe Coffee Day	8:00	0:00
HUL (in Himalaya)	14:00	2:00
Ramu tea stall (near Himalaya)	12:00	4:00
Campus café	10:00	20:00
Andavar juice shop	9:00	0:00
Ramu tea stall in girls SFC	12:00	4:00
Zaitoon	12:00	2:00
Zea Gourmet	14:00	1:00
Put peace	12:00	0:00
Eateries in Shopping complex	10:00	7:00

Student Activities

The Fifth Estate

The Fifth Estate, or T5E as it is popularly known, is IIT Madras' official magazine and news body. It covers events and news in the institute and brings its audience the latest buzz on campus. Its audience consists of both students and faculty, and on occasion, outsiders as well. T5E also publishes op-eds, editorials, interviews, infographics, reports and investigative pieces. Apart from this, they bring out several photo-series and other popular features such as Humans of Insti and Made in Insti. Usually, they have something to say about everything that happens on campus, and never fail to cover important news and updates. Finally, they also function as a forum where campus inhabitants can voice their opinions on institute events. You can check out their website, t5e.iitm.org, to get a flavour of campus life in all its dimensions!

Lit Soc: Lit Soc is an epic year long inter-hostel battle royale. All the hostels go head to head over the course of the academic year and battle it out with each other trying to win different competitions in an effort to get the necessary points to take the Lit Soc cup home at the end of the year and be crowned champions. The various events have different points and special points are awarded to enthusiastic and talented freshers! Freshie events will also be held towards the beginning of the odd semester to initiate them into Lit Soc and give them a feel how intense and enjoyable Lit Soc events can be. It is a matter of great pride for a hostel to win Lit Soc and as a resident of your hostel; it will be up to you to help your hostel win it.

Tech Soc: Very simply put, Tech-Soc was first born as a tournament where hostels could compete against each other in all tech related events for points, power and glory. Tech-Soc was first born, very recently in 2005 and has since then grown steadily adding events to its repertoire every year. Together with Schroeter and Lit Soc, it forms the three independent "Big" trophies that hostels battle for every year. Tech Soc is being re-envisioned as forum with a much wider reach than just inter-hostel events. It has now become the umbrella under which all tech-related student initiatives will be encouraged and nurtured. In the odd semester, various informal sessions like "Fundae" sessions, Tech interaction sessions will also be organized so that the freshmen can learn about the tech world they are about to step into. Apart from these, there are various clubs related to the technical world which one can join.

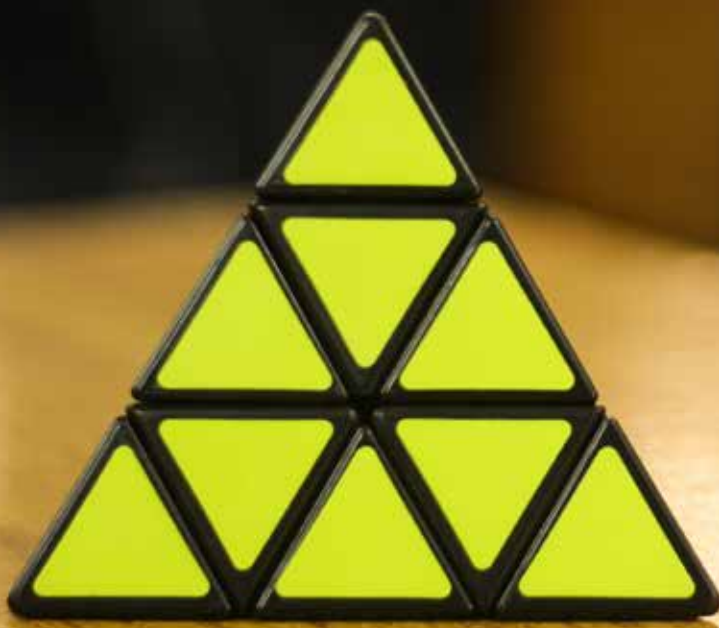
For the tech-savvy we always have something or the other thing going on. You get to dirty your hands and build stuff on your own or participate in tech quizzes or watch the spectacle as the different hostels battle it out in tech soc.

EML (Extra Mural Lectures): As a child, we admire; as adolescents, we aspire; as adults we perspire; and as responsible, successful citizens, we inspire. It is this inspiration that one gets in these lectures. One cannot achieve big without listening to people who have done it before. It is as they say; we shall not live long enough to learn from our own mistakes. We shall have to learn from others' too. The Extra Mural Lectures in IITM, cover diverse topics, and bring in people from across the globe; those people, who have been pioneers and who have received the highest honours in their fields. Where else do you get to interact with people so knowledgeable, so experienced and so successful? The faces that you see on a television screen are brought before you to talk. These lectures unfold tales of unfathomable perseverance and unmatched genius. It is said that we cannot discover new continents with the fear of losing sight of the shore. We provide you the tale of those conquests.

Student Clubs: A large number of student managed clubs exist here in the Institute. It is strongly encouraged that the students actively take part in at least a few of them. They play a key role in all round development as well as honing skill set. Further no prior knowledge is required and enthusiasm is all that is necessary to participate and excel. These clubs act as very important pathways in developing hobbies to a higher level.

Colloquium: The Colloquium is an informal student discussion forum that conducts open discussions on current affairs and topics of social relevance. The forum seeks active engagement from its participants and promotes debates and exchange of ideas through weekly discussions. The forum maintains an active online presence in the form of a facebook page which serves as a hub for sharing interesting thoughts and articles, initiating and scheduling discussions.

L-TAP: Hasn't it been a long time since you pursued an interest during your leisure time for its own sake? The Leisure Time Activity Program (L-TAP) aims to enrich the personality of the students by giving opportunities to learn various skills during their leisure time. L-TAP courses are designed for beginners and expect no prior knowledge in the corresponding subject. It is the best place for those of you who are yet to discover your own interests and hobbies by getting an opportunity to taste many. After you identify your interest of calling, you can enhance those skills in the various clubs in the Institute. With professional instruction and classes outside the regular hours and topics, ranging from Filmmaking, Terracotta crafts, and self-defence art Krav Maga, Meditation, Western Classical music, Bharatnatyam, Personality Development, Spoken English, Web Programming, Android, Swimming, Tennis, the courses are meant to provide a beyond-cursory introduction so that you can decide on what interests you in order to pursue it further. More than 30 courses are on offer in 2016-2017. Starting this year, we will also be having L-TAP courses in Short Weekend/Extended weekend workshop modes. The students will also be given a certificate for satisfactory participation. Please check out further details at the following link: http://www.iitmstact.org/ltap_faq.html.



Club and Literary Activities

Let's be honest Getting here wasn't a walk in the park, Those long study sessions, practice tests and whatever else it was that you used to do have finally paid off. And they're now done. You have a whole new life ahead of you, A fun, exciting one mind you. You're going to have loads of opportunities to achieve the age old dream of gaming for fifteen straight hours or for sleeping for fifteen straight. Sounds fun, eh? But life at IITM has more in store for you than just basal somnial pleasures. A lot more in fact. One of the highlights of your stay here will most wide range of clubs that the institute has to offer. Clubs that pander to the irrational painting obsession you had as a kid to those that will give you a jumpstart on learning how to play that guitar in the corner that's starting to accumulate dust, Simply put, these clubs are great places to continue passions or to start going after something completely new. Completely student run, you will find that you can become a part of a club and make an impact in no time. Some of the popular student run clubs are:

Quiz Club

At the IITMQC, you're going to find a group of people who are interested in, well, everything. Want to put your deep knowledge of Game of Thrones to good use? Or maybe world politics? Regardless, there's a place for everyone in the IITM Quiz Club. Throughout the year you'll experience some amazingly varied quizzes, ranging from the fun and wacky Fandom Quiz to the classic Sports and Entertainment quiz. One thing's for sure. You'll definitely discover an inordinate amount of interesting things that'll come in handy to flaunt at your next dinner party or date.

Word Games Club

Oxyphenbutazone. That light there is not only the name of some random chemical, but is also the highest scoring word in Scrabble. If that fact excites you, you're going to have a blast at the IITM-WGC. Crosswords, Scrabble, Spelling Bees and basically everything else to do with playing around with English language is what club does. (it's an urban legend that you can get free chocolates at WGC events. That should provide extra incentive right?)

Music Club

Ah, musk. Transcending all barriers. So dive's Our music club embodies the very spirit of celebrating the language of no words- For you performers out there, the Music club offers you a plethora of opportunities to grind out the furiously technical death metal solo or lose yourself, on stage with a

heart rending Bollywood number. You can learn a lot here whether it be about sound mixing to creating your own music using Garageband. Hosting a variety of events like music competitions (solo and group), DJ workshops and improve music writing events, the music club holds great appeal to all regardless of one's exposure.

Oratory Club

Chatterboxes, your time has come! Your incessant need to hear your own voice will finally be put to good use. All levity aside, the Oratory Club is a pretty great place to exercise your speaking skills. Throughout the year, you'll have formal as well as informal debate sessions, elocutions, JAM and loads of events that'll give you the chance to discover speaking in a new and innovative way.

Thespian Club

Understanding the true meaning behind the cliched "Lights, Camera, Action!" is no easy feat, The IITM Thespian Club portrays their enthusiasm towards dramatics through numerous events such as Street Plays, Mono Acting, scenes from a Hat and their reputed annual event Stagecoach. Through the course of the club organised workshops such as stage positioning and lighting you will be able to evolve not only as an actor but as a director and producer as well.

Writing Club

"There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down

at a typewriter, and bleed.' Hemingway's immortal quote pretty much embodies the guiding principle of the Writing Club at IIT Madras. With sessions on poetry writing, character building, or just expressing whatever it is that you have to say, the writing club allows you to set your thoughts free and lose yourself in creative expression. Sessions range from 'inklings', to workshops by established authors, to slam poetry competitions; the opportunities are limitless.

Choreo Club

Dance is one of the purest forms of expression. Converting raw emotions, pure intellect and sheer creativity into a graceful art form is what the Choreo club brings to the table. With numerous events such as the Hostel Choreo night and the Freestyle Dance Solo competition, the Choreo Club gives dancers ample opportunities to seize the stage. The Choreo Club endorses further technical learning by holding workshops on a diverse set of dance forms ranging from Salsa to Bollywood. Furthermore the institute Choreo team annually performs at the OAT during Saarang's Choreo night to an audience 8,000 strong.

Fine Arts Club

The Fine Arts Club of IITM operates on similar grounds as Chef Gusteau from Pixar's Ratatouille. "Anyone can be an artist: The diversity events that the club holds makes it one of the most popular institute clubs, especially during Saarang. With events like Speed painting, speed Sculpting and Fruit Carving, all one needs to be a part of the Fine Arts Club is a dollop of creativity and they'll be able to get their hands dirty (in some cases, quite literally) with what the club has to offer.

Media Club

Media Club of IIT-Madras is one of the largest clubs of IIT-Madras which captures memories, making

the best moments happening in the insti "last forever". The club comprises of all students interested in photography, videography and short film enthusiasts.

Gaming - E-Sports, FPS, MMORPG, Strategy, Mobile(?) - You name it and we have it. GGWP

Comedy Club

Whether you perform stand up, tell jokes at the chai shop, make memes, view memes, eat memes, or do anything else with memes, Comedy Club is the place to go. From beginner stand up workshops, to sketch writing sessions, you'll always find something here to satisfy your creative urges.

Sabhas and Samitis

There are a lot of regional clubs in campus which organize cultural events, get together and meals throughout the year. Regional club members include not only students but also faculty and staff. In your first year, they are a great way to make new friends and keep home sickness at bay, so watch out for notices on campus announcing their events for freshers especially. The regional clubs on campus include:

- Marathi Mitra Mandal
- Hindi Mitra Mandal
- Kannada Sangh
- Telugu Samskrita Samiti
- SADINER (Student Association for the SocioEconomic Development of India's North Eastern regions)
- Kerala Kala Samiti.



Centre for innovation(CFI)

The Centre for Innovation was founded with the belief that innovation is born out of community interaction and the freedom to learn and explore. That every student should be given the opportunity to find their passion and build something of their own, in a like-minded environment.

This unique and one of India's biggest 24/7 student lab was set up in 2008 with funds donated by the batch of 1981 and is located in the building that houses the Central Workshop, at the heart of the campus. A comprehensive inventory, great workspace, ample guidance from faculty & students and the zeal and passion of the CFI family make it a gifted asset for the IITM community.

Almost a decade since its inception, CFI is now home to 14 clubs. The primary interest of these clubs fall on a wide spectrum and members of the clubs strive to make a positive impact through projects supported by CFI. Team Sahaay, which focusses on accessibility developed a low-cost Electrolarynx, to aid those who have lost their voice box due to illness. On the other hand, a team came up with a design for foldable houses, which can be quickly ported and set up in remote areas. Multiple projects in CFI have been patented and also recognised at the national level with achievements such as the GYTI award. CFI was also invited to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, for the President's Festival of Innovation.

Members of CFI represent IIT Madras in

national and international competitions. Raftar, our formula racing team came second in Formula Bharat and represented IITM in FS-Italy. Team Abhiyaan takes part in the Intelligent Ground Vehicle Challenge, they were one of the two teams that represented India at the challenge in Michigan, USA in June 2017. Team Anveshak debuted in University Rover Challenge, in Utah, USA in 2017 as well.

CFI is also integral to the entrepreneurial culture of IITM, with many projects taking off as startups. Hyperverge, Planys Technologies and Ather Energy are a few examples of many more startups founded by members in the past. A pre-incubation cell under CFI, the Nirmaan program, was set up to provide financial support and mentorship to budding startups ideas from the IIT Madras student community, enabling any student to "walk in with an idea, and walk out with a product". Other institutions routinely look to CFI to create or improve their ecosystem. The Vistaar program was envisioned to set up similar bodies in IIT Palakkad and IIT Tirupati.

Adding to these, CFI frequently collaborates with the government and companies. The most recent Government collaboration involved a pan India Hackathon, aimed at strengthening the 108-Ambulance system.

There is something for everyone here.

Find us at <http://cfi.iitm.ac.in/main/> or at CFI, redefining the impossible.

Inter IIT Tech Meet

Inter IIT Tech Meet is the annual technological competition organised by the Indian Institutes of Technology and qualifies as the only technical event wherein all the IITs participate. The forte of this meet lies not only in its spectacular display of technical acumen but also in its wide platform for entrepreneurial undertakings and social initiatives. We believe in fostering the spirit of innovation and igniting young minds towards a more technologically and economically viable future. It sets an ideal platform for collaboration among the students to create impactful technology and knowledge transfer across the student community.

Inter IIT Tech Meet comprises of ardent competitions, exhibitions, illuminating talks and exhilarating pro-nights that inspire, enthrall and mesmerise the massive hordes that attend. The IITs battle it out to lay their hands on the overall champion's trophy and the glory that comes along.



Sports

'Sporting' at IIT Madras is not merely an activity. It has over the years gained so much ground, as to find itself ingrained in the IITM Culture. The level of enthusiasm this sporting culture generates, does not confine itself to the walls of the campus alone – it's a source of ADRENALINE RUSH to the other colleges in the city and the country as well. The academic calendar is crowded with sporting events, be it the intra-hostel and inter-hostel events, or the inter-collegiate and inter-IIT tournaments. All the hostels actively compete to win the coveted Schroeter Cup which is the Inter-Hostel Sports Championship. In addition to all these, we've packed-in a couple of surprises for you this year!

The institute has excellent sporting facilities in the campus which include:

1. K.S Narayanan Centre for Cricketing Excellence
2. A perfect Athletics stadium
3. Four synthetic floored Tennis & wood floored Badminton courts
4. A Swimming pool of Olympic standards
5. Hockey & Football fields with flood-lights
6. Two Basketball and two Volleyball courts
7. A well-equipped Gymnasium with professional instructors
8. Two world class Squash courts
9. Weightlifting Arena
10. Table Tennis facility
11. A skating ring around Sangam ground

The resolute commitment and enthusiasm of the student community combined with the unfailing encouragement and guidance from the faculty has created tremendous opportunities for students to hone their tal-

ents. For information on sports and related activities, visit the Sports portal at <https://students.iitm.ac.in/iitmsports/>

The first 'Sporting' surprise of the year awaits you in the form of 'Sporting Clubs'. For all those CRAZY about sports, we are forming Sporting Clubs this year – a whole new initiative – to give you an unparalleled premier sporting experience, all-round the year! The currently planned Sporting Clubs are:

1. Aquatics Club
2. Athletics Club
3. Badminton Club
4. Bridge Club
5. Cricket Club
6. Football Club
8. Hockey Club
9. Squash Club
10. Table Tennis Club
11. Tennis Club
12. Volleyball Club
13. Weightlifting Club

Didn't find your club? Fret not! We assure you, that more clubs will be formed in the future.

Blessed with the most spacious of all campuses, IITM has just the perfect match for the wants of the most avid amongst sportsmen. During the course of the year, all the hostels compete for the 'Schroeter' (pronounced as "shroy-eter"... read more about it on the IITM sports website) – a trophy for the best hostel in sports. So fierce is the competition, that you might just be reminded of an Indo-Pak Cricket match! Now that's not simply mincing words – You have to witness it to believe it!

In September, every year, the Institute hosts the Sports Fest, an Inter Collegiate meet for local colleges in Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey, Football, Table Tennis, weightlifting and Badminton.

IIT Madras stands host to two major All India Inter Collegiate Tournaments for Boys and Girls, namely the GF&KR Tournament for Basketball and the Jimmy George Tournament for Volleyball. The Sanmar Tournament for Cricket, where the Institute cricket team plays with different clubs, is yet another prestigious event, the Institute boasts hosting.

The even semester arrives and serves you

Inter IIT Sports

Now, for the biggest 'Sporting' surprise of the year!

Inter IIT Sports Meet is the annual sports tournament of the IITs. With over 3000 athletes participating from all 23 IITs, the Inter IIT Sports Meet is the biggest and the oldest pan IIT event. The Meet encompasses two colossal events:

1. Aquatics Meet in October
2. Main Meet in December

A General Championship (GC) is awarded to the team with the best performance in both the events. The seven old IITs take turns, hosting the Meet in all splendor. This time, the honor falls to IIT Madras!

The levels of enthusiasm and excitement are already running high, with IIT Madras taking pride as the official host of the 52nd

with quite a feast of another set of boisterous sporting events – The Dean's Trophy. With events like six-a-side footer, bridge, chess, cycling etc., the Deans Trophy sees just the same amount of fierce competition as in the Schroeter. For those wanting more, the various departments have their own sporting events, all played at Sangam under floodlights!

The Gymkhana Day, in all due honor and glory, finally marks the culmination of all the sports activities for the academic year. With glory in the air, the winning hostels are sure to make some REAL celebration cries.

Inter IIT Sports Meet and looking forward to hosting the grandest one ever.

This fierce competition for pride, prestige and glory, equally embraces a great spirit of sportsmanship, which mark these moments as the most cherishing memories of an IITian's life. The Meet is perhaps the only event, which provides an opportunity to meet and interact with students from the other IITs.

IIT Madras has had its major share of glory, excelling continually at these games and winning the General Championship (GC) eleven times in a row in the past. With over 19 wins in 51 Inter IIT Sports Meets so far, IIT Madras has propounded itself as an unstoppable force in the history of the games, thanks to the brilliant performance from the students.

Places of Worship



The lush IIT Madras campus is dotted with a myriad things fulfill nearly all the lifestyle requirements of students, and this includes a number of places of worship.

There are three temples on campus, namely:

The Shree Durga Pelli Amman Temple:(Delhi Avenue; site of processions during Navaratri)

The Jalakanteswarar Temple: (near the Adyar Gate; site of Mahashivaratri and other festivals, occasional classical artiste performances)

The Vinayagar Temple: (behind Taramani Guest House;site of ganesh chaturthi and saraswati pooja celebration)

There exists a chapel behind the Department of Biotechnology, which can be locat-

ed easiest on a sunday morning by following the music of the choir emanating from it. Having recently turned six years old, the chaeal conducts Mass and other activities like 'intercession of prayers' where handwritten, anonymous prayers are distributed among members, then who pray for the prayer they have received.

Besides the chapel, Catholic Mass is conducted every Sunday at 8:30am in the NCC building; whilst the community also regularly engages in charity work, orphanage visits, and more.

There is prayer hall for Islamic Students, located behind the Students Facilities Centre, near Himalaya Mess where people offer prayers regularly. The Friday sermon is conducted in English. Besides this, other activities and classes for the benefit of members regarding the Islamic faith such as the recitation of the Quran and much more, are organised by the community here.

Student Governance in IIT Madras

“... and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from earth.”

Very few colleges in India provide a healthy and constructive atmosphere for students to raise their concerns and voice their opinions. IIT Madras however, is unlike other colleges. One distinctive aspect of our institute that sets it apart from other colleges is the respect that is accorded to students' voices, and this respect has been institutionalized in the form of the Students Constitution. Given here, in a nutshell, is an overview of student governance as a whole; its components and its functions.

The Student Legislative Council And the Executive Council

The student legislative council is IIT Madras apex student representative body, established by the senate of IIT Madras in accordance to the student constitution. The student legislative council consists of nearly 60 student legislators elected from various hostels and departments. The student legislative council has jurisdiction over all student related matters and acts as an advisory body to the institute senate on student related matters through the board of students, a subcommittee of senate.

Furthermore, the student legislative council, through the Executive wing, is responsible for helping the offices of the Dean (Students), the Dean (Academic Courses), the Dean (Academic Research) and the Dean (International and Alumni affairs) in managing day to day student affairs. The Executive Wing consists of student representatives who are directly elected by General Student Body and is the most visible face of the Student Governance process of our Institute. There are nine executive wing positions in our Institute. They are

1. The Student General Secretary
2. The Hostel Affairs Secretary
3. The Sports Secretary
4. The Cocurricular Affairs Secretary
5. The Academic Affairs Secretary
6. The Research Affairs Secretary
7. The International and Alumni Affairs Secretary
8. The Cultural Affairs Secretary (Literary)
9. The Cultural Affairs Secretary (Arts)
10. Speaker, Students Legislative Committee

In addition to these nine members, the Student Legislative Council elects a Speaker who acts as the presiding officer in its meetings and manages the day to day affairs of the Student Legislative

Council, in addition to acting as a bridge between the Student Legislative Council and the Executive Wing.

The Hostel Council

Every hostel has its particular needs and needs students who shall take care of its day to day functioning. For this purpose, every hostel elects student representative who manage different aspects of hostel life. These student representatives along with the Hostel warden and Assistant Warden, constitute the Hostel council. The student representatives in the Hostel Council are as follows

1. Hostel General Secretary
2. Hostel Legislator
3. Sports Secretary
4. Social Secretary
5. Literary Secretary
6. Technical Affairs Secretary
7. Health and Hygiene Secretary

The Department Council

Departments area amongst the most important if not the most important, hubs of our institute life. Ranging from freshie orientation to placements, some of the most important events of student life happen through our departments, and to facilitate these processes, every department elects its own set of student representatives. They are-

1. Department Legislator
2. Research Councillor
3. Research Legislator

In addition to these some departments have departments associations and department. Secretaries are selected elected to conduct Department Fests.

Institute Festivals

Shaastra

Shaastra is the annual technical festival of IIT Madras. True to its name, the Sanskrit equivalent of science, Shaastra is a celebration of unconstrained thinking and love for the spirit of engineering. A cauldron of diverse disciplines in science, it provides the opportunity to catch a glimpse at the latest technology that is trending worldwide.

Having been established in 2000, Shaastra is back with its 18th edition this year. A complete student-run techno-managerial festival, Shaastra stretches over four nights and days in the first week of January. The fest holds the distinction of being the first student-managed event in the world to implement a Quality Management System and earn the ISO 9001:2000 certification. This has further been upgraded twice to ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 9001:2015 certifications. This stands as a testament to the impeccable standards of the festival over the years.

Shaastra has always been a tremendous learning experience for the organisers, participants and visitors alike. The fest attracts an immense number of participants from diverse technical, scientific and managerial backgrounds. School students to graduates, academicians to professionals, engineers to entrepreneurs, there is something for everybody! Shaastra has something to offer to those who aren't hard-core techies either. Drone Wars, Laser Shows, Firework displays, etc that are a part of the Shows and Exhibitions every year prove that one doesn't always need the know-how to ap-

preciate what science can do.

Shaastra's intense competitions, lectures and a variety of informative workshops all form a platform to showcase one's knowledge and enthusiasm. Envisage 6.0 is one-of-its-kind techno-entertainment show and showcases several new exciting acts, crafted completely by students of IIT Madras. Watch out for Fire and Ice, Shaastra Junior Quiz, RoboWars, BrandWars, Hackathons and several other techno-managerial competitions that test the mettle of the participants to the extreme. One can see some of the pioneers of technology across the globe share their views on the latest happenings of the world in the Spotlight Lecture Series.

The Research Expo is a great stage for students and researchers across the nation to showcase their ground-breaking research. The Summit at Shaastra gives an opportunity for students to give solutions to some of the society's pressing problems. Shaastra Solutions is an initiative which aims at bridging the gap between universities and industries by outsourcing problems/assignments faced by companies to undergraduate students all across India.

This is just a glimpse of what Shaastra has in store!

So welcome, feel free to make yourselves at home, and remember to never shy away from revealing the geek inside of you.

Wear your science proud!

Saarang

IIT Madras has seen 56 year journey, punctuated by many milestones one of which was the advent of Mardi Gras, a pioneer student cultural extravaganza. Mardi Gras has the distinction of having hosted Uriah Heep, in one of their rare world tours, Buddha's Babies and even A R Rehman as a college student. Almost forty one years late, the legacy lives on, albeit in a new avatar as Saarang.

Saarang has always made heads turn. It is one of the largest cultural festivals in India attracting over 50,000 people from around the country. Held in the month of January every year, Saarang is commonly acknowledged as the mother of all cultural festivals, a reputation that we soon you are honour bound to uphold.

This five-day festival is the traditional meeting place for the young and those young at heart. Saarang is characterized by days jam-packed with enough events and competitions to make your head and your heart do cartwheels. Be it the theatre arts, musical displays such as Decibels or the laugh out loud wackiness of extempore and Just-A-minute, Saarang always has the crowds screaming for more.

The main stay at Saarang had always been the 5 professional Shows, with past editions having seen performances by prominent classical artists such as BalamurliKrishna, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia's a performance by international bands such as Opeth, Anathema, Architects and Skidrow; as well as light music shows by Shaan, S.P.Balasubramanian, Shankar Ehsaan Loy, Karthik, KK, Benny Dayal, Lucky Ali, Udit Narayan, Sonu Nigam, Sunidhi Chauhan and Vishal-Shekhar.

Be it Acoustics, Sound Systems, Stage or Seating capacity, Saarang promises a memorable experience for everyone. A large fraction of the student community works round the clock for months to ensure a better Saarang each time around. Cherishing the support of a bevy of sponsors throughout previous years, Saarang has always manages to strike a chord with with the people who flock to see it all happen.

On the events front, we cater to all genres. We have quizzes on all topics. We also have other exciting events like WTGW, Picto and Tinto blend into Pot Pourie along with DumbCs, painting and modelling apart from theatre, speaking events, creative writings, music and so on. So just turn up, let oose and figure out what floats your boat because this truly is the place to be!



E-Cell IIT Madras

The Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Madras is an organization which provides the right guidance, fosters an entrepreneurial spirit among its target community, and facilitates startups in the institute. Initially known as C-TIDES, established in 1998, E-Cell is has evolved over the years into one of the most active and impactful student organisations in the institute.

Near the end of every academic year we have a three day entrepreneurial festival our flagship event, the E-Summit. Each of our Summits is a confluence of industry veterans, business leaders, and visionary youngsters – everyone who can, did or does make the world a better place.

E-SUMMIT 2017

The last edition of the summit enjoyed an extremely positive reception. The four major events we arranged were collectively designed to cater to four specific segments of the masses – People with little or no knowledge of entrepreneurship. The Lecture Series, Panel Discussion and Internship Fair were targeted to wards this segment of the audience. People with just an idea they dreamt up last night! The “Startup Bootcamp” is for these folks, which takes them on a journey from their “just an idea” stage, to its execution. People who are already entrepreneurs Can’t leave them out, can we? For these guys we have “Pitch-fest”. Another new event, Pitchfest was also extremely popular among its participants. On the fun side, we had a Comedy show towards the end of the Summit.

But the highlight of E-Summit 2017 was, without a doubt, the Lecture Series, and the exalted individuals that have come down to Chennai to deliver their talks. Among them we’re proud to include names like Nandini Vaidyanathan, Aditya Agarwalla, Ranjan Malik, Saket Modi, and even Ritesh Agarwal, CEO of OYO Rooms - one of India’s fastest growing startups.

I&AR Student Council

The I&AR Student Council plays a vital role in bridging the gap between the institute and its alumni and promotes international relations for the benefit of institute students. Right from organizing interactive sessions with alumni to facilitating student exchange programs, I&AR Student Council strives to make insti a much more joyful place for the visiting students and alumni.

Career Development Cell

This team organizes events throughout the year to acquaint students to various career options they might be interested in. The team's main aim is to make them aware of the choices they have. They formulate a very well structured calendar full of sessions, events, interactive as well as closed-door gatherings and even 'webinars'. Moreover, they even invite alumni to be a part of these events. Currently, three clubs are affiliated to the Career Development Cell – Finance Club, Analytics Club and Consulting Club.

Alumni Relations Cell

This team is responsible for carrying out all the activities related to alumni relations for students. They conduct events throughout the year in association with Office of Alumni Affairs and IIT Madras Alumni Association, such as Reunions, Willkommen, etc. They are also responsible for executing the famous Leadership Lecture Series.

International Relations Cell

International Relations Cell is the first point of contact between the student community and the exchange students. Entrusted with the duty to reduce the hassles faced by the visiting students, this team assists all the incoming students to solve all their queries. Along with this, the team facilitates outgoing students and is also responsible to run the InstiSpice - a Facebook page that showcases the life of exchange students.

Associations and Sponsorship Cell

This team endeavors to add prestige to the 'IITM tag' by getting special discounts for the IITM family (students, faculty and alumni). Currently they are associated with New York Times, Amazon, Croma, and etcetera.

Institute Branding Cell

As the name suggests, the team takes up the task of boosting institute's brand image in the global community. This is implemented by publicizing the life as well as achievements of the IITM community. Furthermore, the team also disseminates information regarding the overall life.

DEPARTMENT FESTS

Apart from those mentioned above, some departments also conduct special fests at different times in the year. Given here are some of the prominent ones.

ELEC FEST: The youngest and latest department fest to join the crew is the Elec Fest which will be taking off this year - 2016 - under EEA a.k.a. The Electrical Engineering Association. The first edition of Elec Fest, the department fest of Electrical Engineering department, IIT Madras, is a 3-day gala which holds many surprises and mind blowing events, lectures, workshops and much more.

CHEMCLAVE: Chemclave is the annual celebration of the Spirit of Chemical Engineering rather than just some annual technical fest. Born in 2008, with the motto of promoting technology, scientific thinking and innovation in the field of Chemical Engineering, ChemClave has passed 9 golden editions. It provides an opportunity to all the budding Chemical Engineers to compete, exchange ideas, collaborate, learn and of course have fun all under the same roof.

CEA FEST: Held around the first week of March every year, CEA Fest is the annual technical festival of the Civil Engineering Department of IIT Madras. Stretching over three days, CEA Fest sees students pouring in from all parts of India, thronging to participate in the various events conducted. The events test the skills vital for the civil engineer of today, right from technical aptitude to managerial skills.

EXEBIT: Exebit is the annual festival of the Computer Science & Engineering department Madras. It offers a plethora of events ranging from hard-core programming contests, nerve-wracking puzzles and games to enriching workshops and presentations. The fest is conducted in two phases, the online and the on-site.

MECHANICA: Mechanica, the annual research and technology extravaganza of the department of mechanical engineering is the biggest event of the Mechanical Engineering Association (MEA) of IIT Madras. Over the years, it has built its own legacy and reputation of being a platform for bringing the entire Mechanical engineering family across the nation under one roof.

SAMANVAY: Samanvay is the annual National Level Business fest organized by the Department of Management Studies. Every year, Samanvay brings together the best brains from the top business schools all over the country, and experienced personalities from corporates, academia, media etc. onto a single platform. The business fest acts as a forum for management students across the country to showcase their managerial skills and also focuses on the contemporary issues faced by Indian businesses and economy.

AMALGAM: Amalgam is a celebration of science, a convergence of mind, a melting pot of diverse cutting edge materials technology. This annual technical festival of the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering affords the chance to let loose the engineer and the scientist within you, providing glimpses of the elegance and the scope of technology. Spread over a period of three days, Amalgam is a veritable engineer's paradise where fervent enthusiasts participate in intense contests, witness spectacular demonstrations, assimilate mind boggling lectures, avail of informative workshops and do much more.

FORAYS: Forays, the annual mathematics festival at IIT Madras, is a celebration of mathematical thinking, techniques and creativity. In true keeping with its name, Forays strives to juggle the challenging, the brain teasing, the rigorously academic and the purely frivolous so as best to savour the subject. The Department of Mathematics has been successful so far in bringing together the brightest young minds in the country each year for a mathematical fiesta. Bursting with vigour and innovation, Forays 2017 aspires to take this success to new heights!

WAVEZ: Wavez is the annual techno-cultural festival of the Department of Ocean Engineering. It involves both Technical and Cultural events and is aimed at increasing the intra & inter departmental interactions. The festival provides a solid platform for people to learn about our work and develop an interest.

BHOUTICS: Bhoutics, the first ever technical fest of physics department held this year is a huge success. With various fascinating events like quantum chess, live demonstrations, quizzes, lectures and workshops, this fest develops your lateral thinking and changes the perception of things. Aimed at all the physics enthusiasts, this fest aspires to come bigger and better the next year.

The HSS DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE: The Humanities and Social Sciences Department Conference is different from other departmental fests as such because of one fundamental feature - it is an academic conference as opposed to a festival! This unique event features eminent academics from all over the country coming in and discussing their work and research on the year's given theme. For example, the 2015 theme was 'Grappling With the Sacred', where academics gathered round for an enriching discussion, and produced their papers, journal articles, and research on the same.

PRIZES & RECOGNITION

No competent and deserving candidate goes unrecognized at IIT-M! They are honoured with prizes ranging from those for commendable academic performance to those crediting all round feats. The highest honour is the President's Gold Medal, followed by the Governor's Gold Medal. All round meritorious performance by students can win them the prestigious Institute 'Blues' awards.

Research Scholar's Day

It is that time of the year when the scholars who spend day and night immersed in decrypting algorithms and papers can show themselves off and unleash their hitherto dormant skills.

Research Scholars day is “an event aimed at providing a nurturing platform for research scholars to develop and enhance technical skills with the help of technical workshops, seminal lectures and co curricular events in the different fields of expertise,” as quoted from RSD official website. It also aims to bring together the research scholars spread across various departments and cultures.

Even though the event is primarily meant for M.S and PhD students, RSD often witnesses active participation from Undergrads and Postgrads from other verticals. Started off as a half day long event in 2013, Research Scholar's Day soon became a premier event in IIT Madras, spanning over a week with pre-RSD lectures, workshops, seminars, panel discussions and cultural.

RSD showcases lectures and talks by leading researchers and eminent personalities from the industry. Over the years, RSD has served as a portal for scholars to interact with accomplished scientists like Dr. K. Radhakrishnan and Dr. G. Madhavan Nair, ex Chairmen ISRO, Directors from various IITs, DRDO and premier institutes, Mr. Aravind Gupta Indian ,toy inventor, among others.

Workshops that aim at developing the technical skills of the participants are held as part of the event. Scholars get to exhibit their research findings at the Research Expo where they are subjected to valuable inputs and suggestions from faculties and other scholars, and the best works are recognized with awards. Panel discussions in RSD are often based on research relevant topics like 'Career goals, plans and advancements', 'Bridging gap between research and industry', 'R&D in India: A glorified clerical job?' and 'Future of basic scientific research and its challenges' with panelists from various realms of public and private sector, academia and entrepreneur. Workshops on presentation skills and balancing research life are organized, as soft skills are also vital in a scholar's career.

RSD Cultural Night is another highlight of the event, where you can flaunt your talents and be a Pop star, a Dancer or even a Fashionista. Performances by Insti band and renowned artists from various spheres are often met with a huge audience every year. Oratory skills are put to test where the target is to explain your research in less than two minutes.

In addition to these lineups, last year RSD took one more step towards distinguishing itself by screening a PhD movie, which was a hilarious take on the life of a PhD student and was received by a fully packed Amphitheatre, a hefty proportion of which were PhD scholars.

Overall, RSD is an event with a promise to carry a scholar out of the confined walls of his/her laboratory and show to him/her Research in its full splendor.

TO-DO LIST

To all newcomers, IITM, or as students call it, insti, can seem a little overwhelming. Unrelated with the city it is in, infused with a culture of its own and situated in a vast and shady (pun intended) campus, there's plenty one can do to discover this place one calls home for four or five years. Here's a to-do list for any over enthusiastic freshie with an organizing streak, with some useful and some fun tips.

1. Set up the room. Clean out your room thoroughly; you'll be removing about three months of grime and dust probably even last semester's occupant's dirt. Wipe down everything the door, windows, shelves and cupboard, otherwise you will have a mini snowstorm of grey when you put on the fan. This will probably be the last time in the semester you will even be motivated to clean. Make the most of it.

2. Take a walk around this campus. Insti is fairly easy to get lost in, for the uninitiated. In those first few free days, grab a few fellow freshies and wander the streets of insti. Locate the gates, SAC (Student Activity Centre), CRC (classroom complex), the various departments and the sports centre. When done, go air your newfound knowledge to other freshies with the appropriate level of smugness.

3. Locate the nearest watering hole. Sample the different eating joints in insti; Zaitoon, Campus Cafe, Gurunath, Suprabha and so on. You'll appreciate this venture in about two weeks, when your stomach protests after eating mess food three times a day.

4. Contact your Saathi mentor. The first few weeks in insti, one tends to be a little lost. In this time it is very



important to get in touch with your Saathi mentor. The first senior you're likely to meet, your mentor will clear all your doubts, give you an idea of how things work and get you in the loop of things in insti.

5. **Familiarize** yourself with insti lingo such as 'put', 'pack', 'cup' and all the rest of it, to understand anything your seniors say. It is advisable to get used to this seemingly strange new language fast. Practicing in a mirror or by talking to oneself is accepted and surprisingly not unheard of.

6. **Attend all events.** The defining feature of a freshie, as you will soon find out, is 'enthu'. For the first few months of your semester, attend every event you possibly can. Choreo workshops, even though you have two left feet, speaking events although you stammer with nervousness and acting sessions, even though you couldn't even lie successfully to your teacher about homework. Do it all there's No real downside to it. You'll never have that much time again. Either you will discover hitherto unsuspected talent, or at least meet a lot of new people.

7. **Put your first nightout;** Lapsing entirely into insti lingo, this describes spending an entire night outside the hostel in campus. Till at least 4 am, but ideally till dawn breaks. Wait for your first month curfew to end, though.

8. **Visit** the insti 'secret spots' Not really a secret to any student, find these places with appropriate guidance from seniors the railway track, Aero well and so on.

9. **Last but not the least,** study, because unfortunately this has to be on a list of things to do at any point of time in your years here. Don't let anything distract you too much.

TIP-OFFS FROM THE EXPERIENCED

Any fresher's 'guide' will be incomplete without a few insider tips from Seniors. When we approached the current Undergrads and Postgrads, the faces lit up and we had difficulty keeping up with the endless gush of advice. Listed below is a non-exhaustive list of valuable heart-felt advice and tips our seniors have for the freshies.

1. Just because you are 'in' IIT doesn't mean that you have achieved something great. Now is the real struggle- to find what you really want to achieve.
2. During your M.S/M.Tech term, you will often encounter a golden word termed 'PhD' (depending on your grades, a Master degree can be upgraded to a Doctoral degree at the end of first year). Decide early on whether you want to convert to PhD, as that decision can make/break you later. (No offense to PhD freshers)
3. Treat your guide as human, because he is indeed human. If you are stuck somewhere in your work, let him know. NEVER EVER unnecessarily lie to them. No guide wants you to suffer intentionally.
4. Having said that, knowingly or unknowingly, you and your guide will suffer because of each other. Accept it.
5. Research scholars have limited course work. While it is important to go deep into your research topic, it is equally important to have breadth and explore other fields. Continue taking courses (one per semester will do) even after the course requirement is over. Along with learning new things, it also helps in staying disciplined.
6. Incredible things might be happening in labs next door. Drop in and interact with fellow research scholars. You might find inspiration for your next research work. Maintain contacts across labs/departments.
7. Attend talks regularly. Not only does this expose one to the latest works, ideas may spark "out of the blue". It also creates an opportunity to interact with more experienced researchers in your field.
8. Know your guide's vehicle and registration number, so that you can appear when you want and disappear when you must. This information often comes in handy in more ways that you contemplate.
9. Campus life is more than just plain research. There is so much to do for that painter/writer/artist/techie in you. Join clubs that tickle your interest. Don't

procrastinate by saying “I’ll finish off this work and then join”. That most certainly won’t happen.

Shaastra and Saarang: the seniors greatly urge freshies to be uninhibited and be a part of all the activities of these two fests as much as they can, as it not only gives one ample learning opportunities, but also an unparalleled experience. Most importantly, they say, the fests go a long way in helping you find your niche.

The seniors have reiterated that all insti clubs are always on the lookout for the enthusiasm that the freshies offer. They conduct events throughout the year and actively participating in them will be of great help as they give you much needed exposure and also helps you meet like minded people.

12. Some life advice the seniors offered was to emphasise on the need to keep things simple, to do the things because you like, and most importantly, to gain perspective of things. Other tidbits that they offer are as simple as: keep checking your smail so as to keep abreast of things, don’t ever let the enthusiasm die out and most importantly, meet new people, go out of your comfort zone, and explore because this is the place to do so!

13. Study. All things aside, your grade card also holds an undeniably important place in your life here. Mind the first quiz; do not slack, as tempting as it may be to relax after two years of grueling cramming. However, do not lose heart if you do not do your quizzes to your satisfaction, the end semesters hold the maximum weight and have a big say in the grade points.

14. To students who are looking to change or slide their branch: for the first semester, study well and leave out anything else you are hard pressed to find time for. If you find yourselves in a branch which is not to your best interest, have no fear. It must also be noted that all the branches in the institute, despite the way they might be perceived by people outside, are equal.

15. Volunteer for the different student bodies to get to know them; interested people will be roped in to various positions at the end of the first year. Sit in for the meetings of the Student Legislative Council to know more about how the institute works. Attend EMLs: they are rare opportunities to listen to lectures from extremely distinguished people and make value additions to your knowledge and perspective.

Explore, pitch in where you can, find what you are enthusiastic about, be it becoming a mentor in Avanti, a volunteer for I&AR, a regular in Finance Club, an amateur photographer, or just about anything. Remember, enthu is all you need to work anywhere you want in insti!

FACULTY ADVISORS

Faculty advisors are professors assigned to a group of students, often by roll number basis, whose task is to assist one throughout their stay in IIT Madras with any academic or other help they may require. Whether it entails settling in hostel, feeling homesick, having concerns about certain procedures, or needing academic advice, there is nothing that isn't within the spectrum of acceptable issues to approach your faculty advisor with: they will simply refer you to the concerned person/body if they feel that the matter is out of their jurisdiction to solve.

Most professors ensure regular meetings with their assigned students to stay in the loop; others may not. It is therefore important to make yourself known to your respective advisors, in order to avoid being stared at dubiously and then asked who you are if on the off chance you decide to finally approach them for help after two years of never having met them. In some cases, there is a round of introduction of faculty advisors during the respective department orientations, so it is advisable to pay attention.

AN INTRODUCTION TO S-MAIL

S-Mail, or Student Email, is the primary mode of official communication between the institute administration, faculty and students. In your SMail account, you will receive details of every kind of relevant event, news or update related to the institute and pertinent to you. These can include announcements about new courses, warnings about caring for the wildlife, reminders for concert dates or lecture schedules, details of competitions, offers or discounts as an IITM student, official circulars and announcements, course registrations, workshops, and much, much more. SMail ID will also help you avail academic discounts and access to databases of research papers.

As a student of the institute, one of the first things you will be provided with is an SMail ID. The format usually goes <rollnumber>@smail.iitm.ac.in. Your institute roll number, consisting of 8 characters, will uniquely identify you through your department, year of enrolment, program and class roll number. Many students regard SMail as spam, because of the sheer volume of emails, but it is well worth your time to read your mail regularly, especially in your first year, so as to not miss out on anything.





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