



# PLACEMENTS REPORT 2022-23



# PLACEMENTS REPORT 2022-23

Produced by Ashoka University Designed by Vivan Kamath Infographics and charts by KNOLedge Corporate Services

No part of this book may be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of the producer.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### **About Ashoka University**

- 2 Note from the Chairman, Career Advisory Committee
- 3 From the Career Development Office
- 4 Placements 2022-23
- 8 Compensation
- 11 Recruiters
- 17 Placement process and timelines
- 18 Internships 2022-23
- 21 What makes Ashoka students unique

#### **Committed to Students' Success**

- 23 Preparing students for a successful career
- 25 Bridging the gap between academia and industry

- 26 Teaching writing and communication
- 27 Dynamic student clubs
- 28 More than just numbers: Diversity at Ashoka
- 30 On the fast track: The Class of 2022
- 32 Ashoka alumni: Making a mark

#### **Programmes and Academic Offerings**

- 34 Undergraduate Programme
- 36 Ashoka Scholars Programme
- 37 Master's Programme
- 38 Young India Fellowship
- 40 Afterword
- 41 Connect with us

# As phi

# ABOUT ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

Ashoka is the country's first Liberal Arts and Sciences university built on the bedrock of collective philanthropy and an unwavering commitment to ensuring equitable access to education.

Ashoka nurtures and mentors the next generation of responsible leaders for India and the world. With a multi and interdisciplinary curriculum, the pedagogy gives students the skills to see the big picture – to critically analyse, to question, to interpret, to craft compelling arguments and to find solutions.

In just a decade since its inception, the University has built an inclusive institution of teaching and research excellence. The corridors of Ashoka are home to a diverse set of people: scholars, artists, writers and thinkers. They come from not just every corner of India, but from countries across the world.

# NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, CAREER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Employers today prioritise holistic perspectives and diverse skillsets over narrow professional expertise. Ashoka's worldclass education equips students with cutting-edge skills through experiential learning modules, foundation courses, classes taught by industry stalwarts and mentorship programmes for fresh graduates.

The Liberal Arts and Sciences education at Ashoka shapes well-rounded individuals. They can think critically, are great problem solvers, possess a questioning mindset and bring empathy and inclusiveness to discussions. Employers appreciate these qualities, especially in today's fast-paced business landscape. Having worked with several students and taught leadership courses to some, I have witnessed these in Ashoka graduates first-hand.

Ashoka is committed to student success and has tailored its approach to ensure that recruiters discover top-notch talent. With sustained efforts, it will undoubtedly create a future filled with boundless possibilities for both students and recruiters.

#### Pramod Bhasin

Founder, Genpact and Asha Impact Chairman, ICRIER



# FROM THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (CDO)

I am pleased to share Ashoka's placements report for the academic year 2022-23. The report showcases the remarkable achievements of our young graduates and the unwavering support of our esteemed recruiters and alumni.

Our placements began with an extraordinary Day Zero Week where we witnessed an unprecedented milestone for the University. Over 100 offers were successfully made, exemplifying the calibre and potential of our students.

Over 350 students have been successfully placed, with an impressive 383 offers on the table. The best-performing sectors in terms of the number of students placed included consulting (18%), edtech/education (16%), BFSI (15%) and development (14%). This can be attributed to our commitment to preparing our students for their careers. The Career Preparatory Programme, with over 1,500 participants, has yielded great results. We also conducted leadership and knowledge sessions with CXOs, business heads and alumni across industries and functions.

As the University continues to grow rapidly, we are confident in our ability to deliver exceptional talent to meet the evolving needs of the industry.

We extend our gratitude to our recruiters who have consistently shown faith in our students and provided them with incredible opportunities. Developing strong relationships continues to be our priority and we look forward to your support and feedback on reinforcing these engagements.

#### Priyanka Chandhok

Vice-President Career Development Office



# PLACEMENTS 2022-23

From FMCG to consulting, banking & finance to IT, edtech to social enterprises, Ashoka graduates are getting recruited across industries and sectors.

100% placement\*

351 students placed

383 offers received

100 offers on Day Zero

146 recruiters

Rs 35 lakh highest salary offered

Rs 10.5 lakh average salary offered

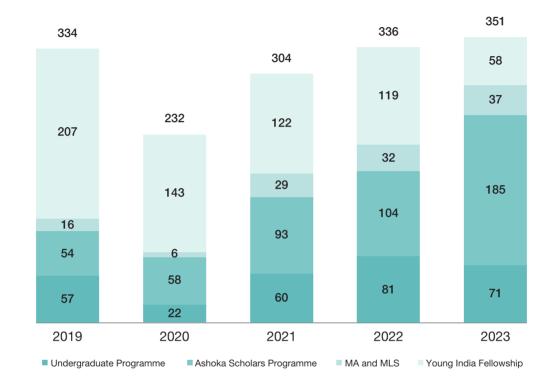
Number of students placed	
Undergraduate Programme (UG)	71
Ashoka Scholars Programme (ASP)	185
Master's Programme	37
Young India Fellowship (YIF)	58



Ashoka's graduate pool is among the best talent available in the country today. Not only do they add value to the organisations they join, but they also work towards taking those organisations a few notches higher through their efforts and contributions. They can wear different hats and multitask; they have the ability to take on significant tasks and challenges. They're at the same time, leaders and team players. That's what sets them apart.

#### Sanjeev Bikhchandani

Founder and Executive Vice-Chairman Info Edge India



#### Students placed over the years



#### Stuti Ravikumar

#### YIF 2023 Management Trainee at Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)

An education at Ashoka has been the best investment I've made in myself. It has equipped me with multidisciplinary skills and instilled an ability to think critically, which I'm sure will be vital to my career at HUL.

The workshops on interviewing and resume-building helped me secure my footing in the placement process. Career discussions by Ashoka alums made me aware of various possibilities post-YIF. They helped me discover my unique strengths as a candidate. I am grateful to the CDO for helping me land my dream role.

Q

#### Students placed and CTC (industry-wise)

Industry	Percentage of students placed	Average CTC	Median CTC	Highest CTC
Consulting	17.7	14.2	11.6	23.6
EdTech/Education	15.7	9.5	9.0	23.0
Development Sector	14.0	8.7	9.0	13.5
BFSI	15.4	11.6	10.0	22.0
Media/Advertising/Publishing	8.8	8.0	8.0	14.8
Research & Analytics	6.6	11.5	10.0	22.9
Consulting (Others)	4.6	9.4	10.3	12.0
IT & ITES	4.6	10.1	10.0	13.0
BPO/KPO	4.3	10.5	10.9	10.9
FMCG	2.8	16.7	15.0	35.0
Others	5.7	9.4	8.0	14.5
				Rs lakl

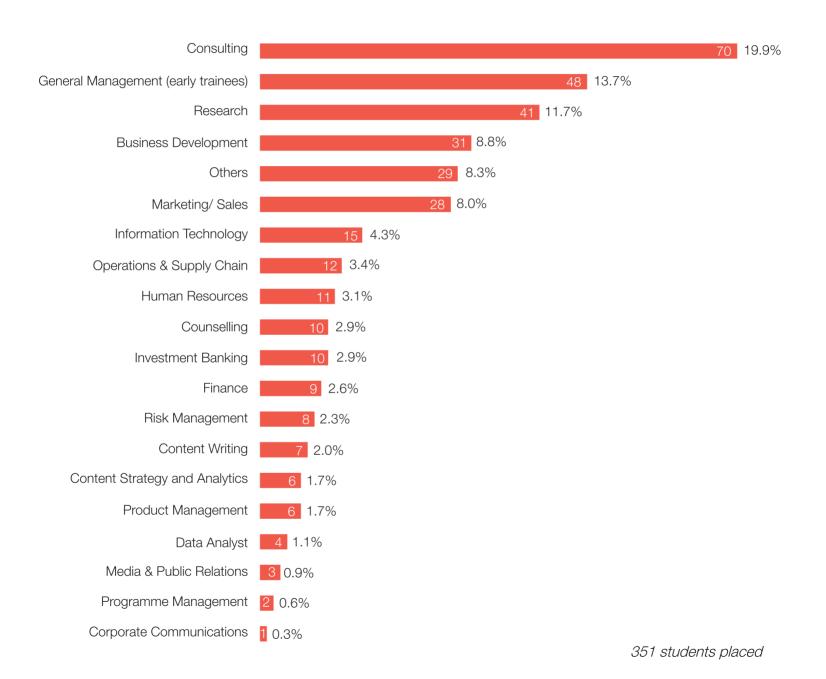


### Kavya Satish

ASP 2023 Major in Economics and Finance Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company

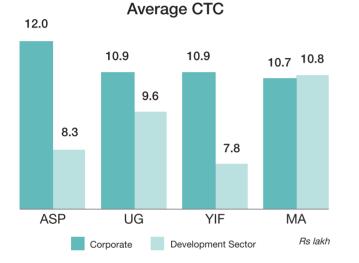
The Ashoka advantage is in its education that nurtures critical thinking, intellectual curiosity and social responsibility. The institution has been instrumental in my success by fostering a vibrant and inclusive community of scholars, where ideas are freely exchanged and diverse perspectives are celebrated. Ashoka University has truly empowered me to thrive intellectually!

0

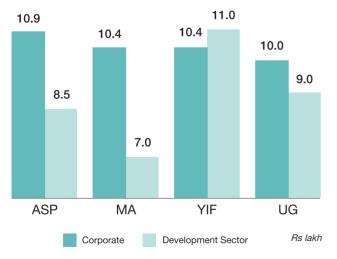


# COMPENSATION

The 2022-23 placement cycle saw a 17 per cent rise in the highest compensation offered. It rose from Rs 30 lakh per annum in 2021-22 to Rs 35 lakh in 2022-23.



#### Median CTC



#### **Top 10%**

students have received an average CTC of Rs 21.4 lakh per annum

#### **Top 25%**

students have received an average CTC of Rs 17.6 lakh per annum



Several cohorts of Ashoka graduates have joined Dr. Reddy's over the last few years. We find them refreshingly different and broad in their outlook. The Liberal Arts education provides them with an open mind and eagerness to learn and to look at problems from multiple dimensions. We also look forward to hiring the Science graduates coming out of Ashoka as part of our research and technical talent pools.

#### **GV** Prasad

Co-Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Reddy's Laboratories

8

# CORPORATE SECTOR

86% students placed

**Rs 11.4 lakh** average salary

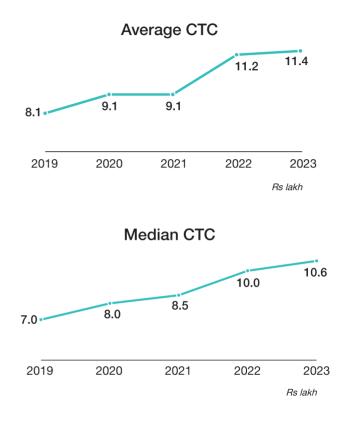
**Rs 10.6 lakh** median salary

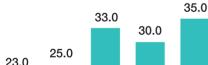
#### **Top 10%**

students have received an average corporate CTC of Rs 20.4 lakh per annum

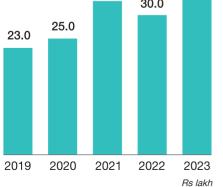
#### **Top 25%**

students have received an average corporate CTC of Rs 15.5 lakh per annum

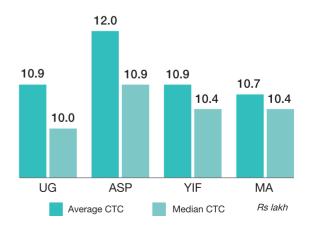




Highest CTC over the years



#### **Programme-wise CTC**



## DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

Average CTC 7.5 7.2 6.4 •\* 6.3 2019 2020 2021 2022 Median CTC 6.6 • 6.8 6.5 6.0 2019 2020 2021 2022

8.7

2023

9.0

2023 Rs lakh

Rs lakh



Rituj Sahu YIF 2018 Consultant, Food Systems Policy, Asia Regional Office The Rockefeller Foundation

Rituj worked in finance before joining the YIF and shifted to the development sector thereafter. He received the German Chancellor Fellowship for emerging leaders.

Raised in a low-income neighbourhood, I joined the corporate world to make a decent living. However, interactions with peers, professors and industry leaders at Ashoka made me think about enabling a better world for those on the fringes. The University helped me unpack complex issues of social, economic and political relevance, and forge informed opinions. I realised that working in development was more than "charity".

I have advised agricultural policies and farmer welfare programmes and also helped deliver primary healthcare to remote and tribal communities. I am presently leading the portfolio on food systems at The Rockefeller Foundation. I owe a lot to Ashoka for instilling critical thinking, empathy and the ability to reinvent myself – skills that I use immensely.

**14%** students placed

Rs 13.5 lakh highest salary offered

Rs 8.7 lakh average salary

Rs 9 lakh median salary Google. HUL. McKinsey & Company. Microsoft. Conde Nast. Ashoka is the preferred hiring destination for leading organisations.

269 organisations participated

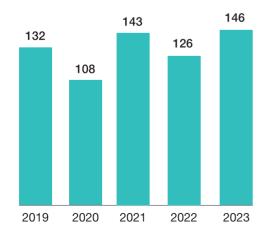
146 organisations have recruited

15% increase in the number of recruiters

48% returning recruiters

76 new recruiters

#### Number of recruiters over the years





The Ashoka student we recruited has truly been one of the best hires we have ever made. Part of the credit should go to the University. He was keen to learn and also contribute and make an impact on the organisation's goals. Over the last year or so, I am delighted to say that he has excelled at almost every new task and challenge, and has fit into our culture seamlessly.

> Deep Kalra Founder and Group Executive Chairman MakeMyTrip

#### Top 10 recruiters (students hired)

**Deloitte USI** 

Genpact

Indus Insights

Clix Capital

The Convergence Foundation

Samagra Governance

The Xander Group

The Tata Group

Ernst & Young

NIIT

Top 10 recruiters (compensation)

HUL

Boston Consulting Group (BCG)

McKinsey Knowledge Center

Bain & Company

**Capitel Partners** 

DE Shaw & Co

Arthur D. Little

McKinsey & Company

London Stock Exchange Group

Kearney



I've found Ashoka graduates curious, sharp and able to contribute distinctive value to the organisations they're a part of. Their critical thinking skills, ability to think outside-the-box, and innovatively problem solve make them a fantastic member to have on any team, regardless of industry or speciality.

#### Gautam Kumra

Senior Partner and Chairman – Asia McKinsey & Company

# WHAT RECRUITERS SAY



#### Amit Mehta Talent & Organisation Director and HR Head – Home Care HUL

We are delighted with the quality of engagement with Ashoka students and appreciate the perspective they bring with a background in Liberal Arts and Sciences. We look forward to a continued partnership.



#### Varun Hangloo Head – Scale-Up and New Initiatives Marico Innovation Foundation

Our experience of hiring from Ashoka has been stupendous. Right from the CDO's ability to drive a smooth and quick process to understanding the right fit based on our requirements. Ashoka University's team never disappoints, including their talent pool of graduates and current students.



Sowmya Head of Corporate Affairs The Takshashila Institution

A couple of years ago, I engaged a fresher from Ashoka for research. The output was very impressive and made it to the *Indian Public Policy Review Journal*. I have noticed that most of Ashoka students come with good analytical skills. This plays out well regardless of their role at Takshashila Institution.



Anand Mantri Principal Kearney

Students from Ashoka bring much-needed diversity. With their critical thinking skills and ability to apply interdisciplinary knowledge, they have shown an impressive ability to pace up their learning in a fastmoving industry like consulting. Universities like Ashoka can double down on the essential skills of building reasoning and logical capabilities in students.

# **RECRUITERS BY INDUSTRY**

#### BFSI

Airtel Payments Bank Avendus Capital Axis Bank Barclays **Blume Ventures Capitel Partners** Client Associates Clix Capital DE Shaw & Co Deutsche Bank **Futures First** Go Digit General Insurance Home First Finance Company India HSBC India Infoline Finance Limited Kotak Mahindra Bank London Stock Exchange Group **Profectus Capital RBI** Bank Swiss Re The Tata Group The Xander Group **Turtlemint Insurance Services** White Oak Capital Management

#### **BPO/KPO**

Genpact WNS Global Services

#### Consulting

Accenture

Alvarez & Marsal Arthur D Little Bain & Company BCG Dalberg Deloitte USI Ernst & Young Kearney McKinsey & Company MXV Consulting RedSeer Management Consulting

#### Consulting (others)

1DigitalStack (EGrowth Technologies) Benori Knowledge Solutions Egon Zehnder Michael Page Positive Moves Consulting QAI Global The Edge Partnership Zinnov Consulting

#### **Development Sector**

Aarogya International Adam Smith International Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States Centre for Social and Economic Progress Clinton Health Access Initiative GDI Partners Good Business Labs Pratham Education Foundation Reliance Foundation Samagra Governance Samarth Life Management Samhita Sattva Consulting Save The Child Foundation, Texas TATA Trusts Teach for India Technoserve The Antara Foundation The Convergence Foundation Tony Blair Institute Ubuntoo Veddis Foundation

#### EdTech/Education

Ashoka University BYJU's Career Launcher Centre for Teacher Accreditation College Core Essai Feelledu Jamboree Education Jaro Education Kautilya School Leverage Edu McGraw Hill India Mentora Institute NIIT **OnCourse Global** Shikha Academy

STOA (Questo Wellbeing) UNext Learning WiT-Ace

#### **FMCG**

ABInBev BIRA DFM Foods HUL Pidilite Industries TooYumm (Guiltfree Industries)

#### Healthcare

Aknamed Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Mosaic Wellness PharmaACE Viscadia

#### **Heavy Industries**

Forbes Marshall

#### IT & ITES

Amazon Arbolus Bolt Cognizant Darwin Box EkAnek GoJek Goodera

Google Info Edge India Innoviti IBM Khatabook Leap.Club Microsoft Microsoft Research MyGlamm Prototyze Shopclues Skit Vayana Network Vicara Vinculum Zetwerk

#### Media/Advertising/ Publishing

ABP Network Business Standard Comms Credible Condé Nast Futureworks Consulting Leo Burnett LG Ads Solutions MSL Group ON PURPOSE Penguin Random House Publicis Group Ruder Finn TBWA Worldwide The Print The Womb Tulsea

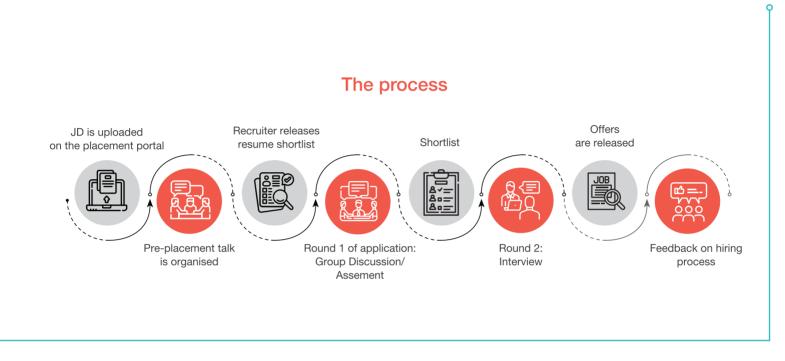
#### Others

AZB & Partners Bloom Climate Corp JSW Steel Kauntea Meraki Labs QAI RBI Innovation Hub ReNew Power Sterling House Tata Power

#### **Research & Analytics**

Fractal Analytics Gartner Great Place to Work Indus Insights J-PAL Kantar McKinsey & Company McKinsey Knowledge Center Mintz Group Quality Council of India Quantum CS

# PLACEMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINES





# **INTERNSHIPS 2022-23**

Each year Ashoka students intern at organisations across diverse sectors.

490 Internship offers by industry offers 15 FMCG 182 participating organisations 29 95 Consulting **Development Sector** 105 31 companies hired IT & ITES 490 81 32 EdTech/ Consulting Education (Others) pre-placement offers (PPOs) 68 34 Research & **Rs 15,000** BFSI Analytics per month median stipend 47 58 Media/Advertising Others\* Rs 1.5 lakh Publishing

> \*Includes, Automobiles, Banking, E-commerce & Retail, Energy & Renewables, Healthcare, Heavy Industries and IT Consulting



per month highest stipend

10

#### Gauri Dasgupta

UG 2022 Major in Mathematics and Computer Science Software Developer at IBM

Gauri interned at IBM in 2022. She subsequently received a PPO from the organisation.

During my third year, I was the only candidate selected from Ashoka for an internship with IBM. I pursued it for one-and-a-half years, while completing my education. Juggling the two was challenging, but I was able to manage because of the support provided by IBM and my professors at Ashoka. This is what the University stands for - learning beyond the classroom and through different modes.

#### Types of internships

Summer Duration: 3 months (Mid-May – mid-August)

Winter Duration: 1 month (Mid-December – mid-January)

Part-time (virtual) Duration: As agreed upon between the organisation and the student (September – May, during the semester) Of the **16** students hired by The World Bank for their prestigious Treasury Summer Internship, one is from India. He is an undergraduate student at Ashoka.



#### Nishant Kumar

UG 2024 Major in Politics, Philosophy & Economics Associate Internship Programme 2024, BCG

Nishant secured a place in the highly competitive Associate Internship Programme, a crosscampus ideathon organised by BCG. He was chosen from among 1,700 students. He will be interning with the organisation in 2024.

Competitions like these sharpen your analytical skills and allow you to interact with experienced professionals. The Ashoka advantage – inculcating critical and logical thinking through a transformative curriculum – helps you make the most of them. This is supplemented by a robust alum network that fosters personal and professional growth through connections, opportunities and support.

# INTERN RECRUITERS

#### Automobile

Hyundai Motor India Maruti Suzuki India

#### BFSI

Axis Bank Central Bank of India Punjab National Bank The World Bank

#### Consulting

The Dalberg Group DE Shaw & Co Deloitte EY Grant Thornton Indus Insights KPMG India Spencer Stuart

#### **Development Sector**

Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation Lotus Petal Foundation Milaan Foundation People's Archive of Rural India Tech Mahindra Foundation The Practice Udayan Care WWF India

#### **E-commerce/Retail/ Healthcare** Reliance Brands Titan

### Energy and Renewables

Ather Energy Forbes Marshall ReNew Power

Apollo Hospitals

#### FMCG

HUL Nestle Nykaa

### Heavy Industries

Havells India Tata Steel

#### IT/ ITES

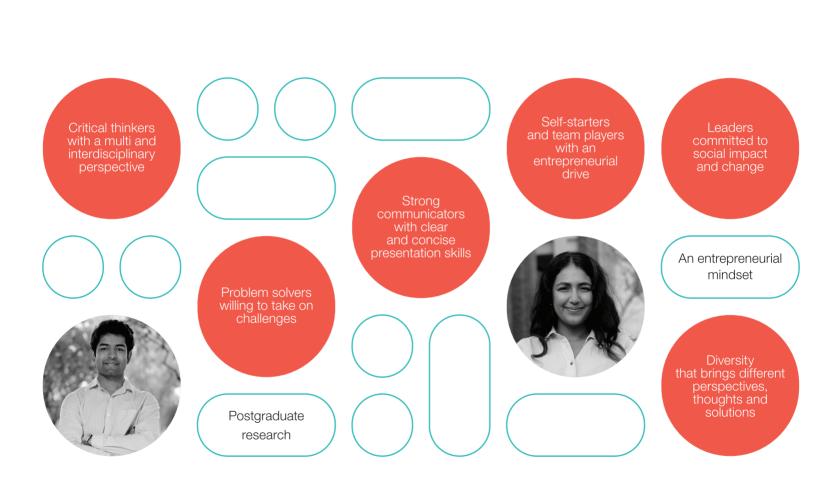
Adobe Good Business Lab Hallo App MakeMyTrip Zomato

#### Media/PR/Advertising

CondeNast Hindustan Times Ogilvy and Mather Publicis Groupe Reliance Jio Creative Labs The Print

#### **Research & Analytics**

Clinton Healthcare Access Initiatives Invest India QAI Global



# 02

# COMMITTED TO STUDENTS' SUCCESS

At Ashoka learning outside the classroom is as important as inside it. The University's various Departments and Centres work around the clock to provide a comprehensive learning experience to students.



The CDO curates and conducts rigorous training programmes from the beginning of the academic programmes to help students get career ready.

#### **Career Preparatory Programme (CPP)**

The CPP is a unique and comprehensive training programme. It provides mentoring and career guidance to students from year one.

A distinguishing feature of the programme is the opportunity it provides students to learn from industry stalwarts, Ashoka founders and alumni. The Office has collaborated with training organisations to deliver a curriculum employing global best practices.

> Over **1,500** students participated in the Career Preparatory Programme this year.

The CPP comprises of two key components:

#### Internship Prep Programme

Prepares students for their first internship.

Impactful resume writing and interviews Business ethics and time management Skill tracking across domains

#### **Placements Prep Programme**

Prepares students for placements in specific sectors or roles.

Comprehensive bootcamps tailored for sectors and roles

Case practice, MS Excel, leveraging LinkedIn for professional growth, decoding job descriptions, guesstimates, case studies and effective communication techniques

Insights into successful internships, including PPOs



Anjana Ramesh ASP 2023 Major in Economics and Finance Business Analyst at Kearney

Getting access to case workshops by industry professionals, from companies I aspired to be at, was very insightful. But most importantly, attending the CPP helped me build resilience to deal with anxiety, rejection and even success during the placement process.



Rahul Bhasin teaching a class

The Info Edge Centre for Entrepreneurship (CfE) offers business, leadership and strategy courses that can be pursued by undergraduate students.

Diverse range of 35–40 courses ranging from entrepreneurship, finance and marketing to creativity, design thinking, leadership and social entrepreneurship

Courses adapted from teaching materials from Harvard Business School

Faculty from IIM Ahmedabad and other eminent business schools

Faculty and guest speakers from across the industry including Pramod Bhasin, Rahul Bhasin, Raman Roy, Rashmi Bansal, Ajay Bahl and Jaspreet Bindra

Incubator to mentor startups, student competitions and networking events

It is fabulous to see a self-actualising professionally created institution like Ashoka which has crafted an Ivy League standard educational platform accessible to a wider student community.

The University's initiative to keep the education current and germane by engaging with industry practitioners systematically is streets ahead of significantly older well-established premier institutes.

> Rahul Bhasin Managing Partner Baring Private Equity Partners



The Centre for Writing and Communication (CWC) works closely with the University's academic community to develop critical thinking, writing and communication skills across disciplines.

Organises programmes like creative writing, research practices, communication, music, computer programming, journalism, cinema, law and photography Works with the Office of Admissions to provide English language support to students of the incoming undergraduate class who are relatively unfamiliar with the language

#### Ashoka Consulting Club

Brings together students to develop a problem-solving mindset, compete in case study competitions, crack consulting interviews and hone skills like logical reasoning.

#### Ashoka Product Management Club

Harnesses the power of product management in the Liberal Arts. The club is mentored by Deep Kalra (Founder, MakeMyTrip) and provides industry experience.

#### Ashoka Women in Business and Leadership

Aims to strengthen an ever-growing community of women leaders across industries and in academic domains.

#### **Business Club**

Serves as a bridge between academia and industry. The club has also been able to invite internships for students.

#### Entrepreneurship Club

Encourage skills that entrepreneurs need to be successful and turn ideas into business plans.

#### **Fintech Club**

Demystifies the fintech industry and bridges the gap between classroom lessons and this sector.

#### **Investments Club**

Provides students a window into the world of investing through company analysis, stock presentations and industry expert meetings.

#### **Negotiations Club**

Develops a culture of ownership in placement preparation and helps students learn the science of negotiation. Workshops conducted include fundamentals of negotiation, grooming the professional self and job applications.



#### Mehak Puri

ASP 2023 Major in Political Science and Government Associate at BCG

Extracurriculars at Ashoka gave me extensive experience to work on live projects that provided an insight into the corporate world. In my third year, I led Enactus, a social entrepreneurship club. It exposed me to the world of social impact and problem solving that led me to apply to BCG.



2,700 students

Students from 21 countries

Faculty from **11** countries

6% international students 36 neurodiverse learners

51% students on need-based financial aid

**186** full scholarships awarded to undergraduate students in AY 2022-23

**1,700** students have received a tuition-free education at Ashoka since its inception

18 students with physical disabilities

# ASHOKA WOMEN

Ashoka is committed to nurturing the next generation of women leaders.

57% women students

40% women are recipients of the top 20 CTCs

54% students placed are women

38% women have received a compensation package of over Rs 10 lakh per annum

45% of Ashoka-incubated startups are led by women





MaryAnne Rodrigues ASP 2023 Advanced major in Philosophy Analyst at Deloitte USI

A career in consulting is an unusual choice for a Philosophy graduate. However, throughout my undergraduate journey, I've had the opportunity to delve into diverse disciplines. Ashoka provided me with an education that was both intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding. It encouraged me to seek out a similarly challenging and meaningful career at Deloitte with an exposure to a diverse set of clients, industries and projects.

# ON THE FAST TRACK: THE CLASS OF 2022



Ridhima Manocha Area Sales Manager HUL

In nine months of joining HUL as a Management Trainee, Ridhima was selected to lead Digital Communications for Kwality Wall's from The Netherlands. She orchestrated synchronised marketing campaigns across eight countries.

"Fortunately, my time at Ashoka had instilled in me a sensitivity and understanding of diverse cultural perspectives, honed through engaging with people from various backgrounds. This proved invaluable as I navigated the intricacies of working in a foreign country," she says.

Drawing upon her interdisciplinary knowledge, she seamlessly integrated her understanding of Literature, Psychology and Entrepreneurship to craft compelling campaigns that resonated with each unique culture. She currently works as an Area Sales Manager in the company's food and refreshment vertical in Kerala, leading a team of 13 and managing a turnover of over Rs 300 crore.



#### Umashankar

Associate BCG

Umashankar's first assignment at BCG was on a capital expenditure project with an industrial goods manufacturer in Western Africa. His second project was with the Government of India.

"These experiences reflect Ashoka's influence on my growth," he says. "Moreover, the analytical skills developed at the University were indispensable when BCG partnered with India Energy Week during India's G20 presidency. It highlighted the utility of academic research skills in strategic implementation, endowed by Ashoka," he says.

Umashankar is currently completing a project for a global FMCG company. He says he owes his success to Ashoka. "The University and its Career Development Office have been instrumental in shaping my young career, demonstrating a commitment to nurture future leaders," he adds.



#### Sanah Bhabha

Business Analyst Monitor Deloitte

"Choosing to pursue an Advanced Economics degree with Anthropology and Environmental Studies was not a conventional path, but it has proven to be immensely rewarding," says Sanah, a newly-minted business analyst. "My diverse education has provided me with a distinct advantage, particularly in the field of consulting."

Over the past year, Sanah has worked on three international projects in financial services and consumer sectors. More recently, she has been involved in the fast-growing sustainability practice at Deloitte. She drives its operation management and capability building.

"Transitioning into the professional world immediately after college has been challenging, but I am certain that Ashoka has equipped me with the skills to excel in my role and beyond," she says.



#### Sandhya Nair

Director of Strategic Initiatives Save the Child Foundation

Growing up in a red-light district, Sandhya had a rough childhood. "I've been told from a young age that I didn't deserve certain opportunities. Today, I give back to build a better society," she says.

At Save the Child, Sandhya works with eight non-profits across India, Uganda, Nepal and the United States. She works across gender equality, sanitation, healthcare, safe spaces for children and young adults suffering from domestic violence and sexual abuse and education. In under a year, her role has grown manifold and she has introduced several new initiatives that tackle critical social issues.

Sandhya has recently been admitted to the prestigious University of Peace (UN), for a Master's in Gender Studies and Peacebuilding.

"Ashoka has been a key factor in my professional success. Its exceptional education has prepared me for the workplace. It has shaped me as a leader and a changemaker," she says.

## ASHOKA ALUMNI: MAKING A MARK

More than 5,000 alumni are pursuing careers at leading companies, including Fortune 500s, or higher education in leading universities.



Sriharsha Masabathula YIF 2014 Specialist, Economic Growth and Transformation World Economic Forum

Ashoka and the YIF enabled me to imbibe a multidisciplinary approach in my professional life. I was able to navigate an international career with the United Nations and the World Economic Forum, bringing in unique perspectives from India to the world. Having studied and worked across multiple countries, the Ashoka network has been invaluable as a support system, with alumni across the globe.



Antara Raychaudhury YIF 2015 Associate Vice President Spring Marketing Capital

My year at the YIF was truly transformational and defined my professional journey. When I joined the programme, I was determined to pursue a life in academia. Meeting Fellows from different walks of life, and being mentored by Ashoka founders, changed my view. I worked with BCG and Sequoia Capital. I have recently joined Spring Marketing Capital to lead the early stage investment arm. Today I get inspired by young entrepreneurs.



Anirban Kundu ASP 2018 Associate McKinsey & Company

Joining Ashoka in its founding UG batch was one of my best life decisions. It's been transformational! The Ashoka experience has provided me with a solid foundation in first principles thinking, ability to thrive in ambiguous situations and the confidence to figure out most things. Ashoka is like a swiss knife – it won't tell you where to go, but will equip you with the critical tools to navigate life, no matter what path(s) you venture out on.



Ayushi Gupta MA 2019 Consultant, Social Sustainability & Inclusion The World Bank

The dynamic and quantitatively geared coursework at Ashoka helped me set apart my profile and take on extremely challenging research roles. Not only the coursework, but the top-notch faculty at the University provided an extremely enabling environment for my all-round development. The MA Economics programme truly paved the way for me to realise my professional and academic aspirations.

# 03

## PROGRAMMES AND ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

Ashoka offers Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral Programmes. The Ashoka pedagogy provides students with foundational knowledge and disciplinary depth while encouraging them to find connections across disciplines.

The Humanities and Social Sciences encompass 15 departments – ranging from History to Political Science, Performing Arts to Environmental Studies – serving as the cornerstone of the Liberal Arts programme.

The University's Science programme is unique. It is concept-based and enquiry-driven. Students stand out because of their interdisciplinary training, where the Natural Sciences integrate effortlessly with the Social Sciences.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME

Ashoka offers a multidisciplinary Undergraduate Programme that allows its students exposure across disciplines. Students declare their major in the second year and can choose from 21 pure or interdisciplinary courses. They may also pick from 18 minors, while pursuing the nine mandatory foundation courses and two co-curriculars.

Class of 2023

481 students

281 women



124 Indian cities

**11** countries



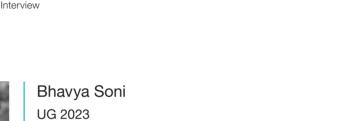
#### Admissions process

Online

Applications

Written Assessment

Personal



Major in Psychology Strategy & Consulting Delivery Associate at Accenture

I'm thrilled about having made it to Accenture on Day Zero. The CDO has been working to ensure that we facilitate a system wherein all students get an equal platform. No merit goes unacknowledged because of disability, gender or socio-economic background. This includes bringing in recruiters who are committed to making their workplaces and hiring process as inclusive as possible.



#### Mantegh Singh Anand UG 2023 Major in Economics and Finance Associate at Reserve Bank Innovation Hub

I have always been keen on working in fintech. Ashoka's interdisciplinary education allowed me to explore courses in Computer Science alongside Economics and Finance. I also pursued a semester at LSE which helped expand my horizons. This not only enhanced my passion for the field but also gave me the confidence and the necessary skills to pursue it as a career.

#### **Programme Structure**

#### Foundation courses

- Economy, Politics and Society
- Environmental Studies
- Great Books
- Indian Civilisations
- Literature and the World
- Principles of Science
- Mind and Behaviour
- Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematical Thinking

#### Pure majors

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English
- History
- Mathematics
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology and Anthropology

## Interdisciplinary majors

- Computer Science and Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Economics and Finance
- Economics and History
- English and Creative Writing

- English and Media Studies
- English and Performing Arts
- History and International Relations
- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Politics, Philosophy and Economics

#### Minors

- Biology
- Chemistry
- China Studies
- Computer Science
- Creative Writing
- Economics
- English
- Entrepreneurial Leadership and Strategy
- Environmental Studies
- History
- International Relations
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sanskrit Studies
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Visual Arts

# ASHOKA SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

The Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies and Research (DipASR), or ASP, is the optional fourth undergraduate year. Students can complete an advanced major, a minor or a previously taken elective into a second major.

Students can pursue an independent capstone project in the University's majors or minors under the guidance of a faculty advisor. This gives them the opportunity to carry out a substantial thesis project.

Class of 2023

346 students



151 men



#### K Nitya Devayya ASP 2023 Major in History Project Assistant at Wipro

I join Wipro in the archives team to help establish a museum on the company's rich history. This will expose me to different aspects of museum development while working with archival material to curate a narrative. The idea of corporations and their history really excites me and this is the perfect opportunity to explore a subject close to my heart.

112 Indian cities



#### Sahil Balmiki

ASP 2023 Major in Political Science and Government Fellow at The Antara Foundation

I am a first-generation learner for whom navigating a landscape where opportunities were scarce and resources limited, was challenging. Ashoka equipped me with the tools to critically analyse societal dynamics, particularly caste struggles. It was this transformative experience that led me to choose The Antara Foundation. Their mission aligns with my goal of creating positive change at the grassroots level.

## MASTER'S PROGRAMME

Class of 2023 (combined)

55 students

33 women

**22** men

40 Indian cities





#### Maneet Singh MA Economics 2023 Risk Enterprise Consultant at EY

The unwavering support and opportunities provided by Ashoka have been instrumental in my success. Right from the financial aid, which covered my entire education, to the interdisciplinary curriculum which broadened my understanding, the Ashoka experience has been phenomenal! As I embark on a new journey, I carry with me the values of integrity, empathy, innovation and continuous learning that Ashoka has imparted.

#### **MA in Economics**

MA in English

MA in Liberal Studies

MSc in Biology



#### Simran Singh

MA Economics 2023 Associate at Samagra Governance

The data-driven research work during group projects in MA got me interested in public policy. I realised the importance of measuring its impact on development goals. Joining Samagra was the perfect fit as it will allow me to use my problem-solving skills to help design and implement largescale, impact-oriented programmes.

## YOUNG INDIA FELLOWSHIP

The Young India Fellowship is offered as a year-long postgraduate diploma in Liberal Studies. Fellows come from diverse academic, professional, socio-economic and geographical backgrounds.

#### Class of 2023

#### Admissions process

100 students



The YIF has two core modules:

**38** men

60

62

women

## The Experiential Learning Module (ELM)

Allows Fellows to work on real-world projects from diverse sectors in collaboration with organisations and institutions.

#### The Critical Writing Programme

The programme is geared towards building critical reading, writing and thinking skills.



Indian cities

45% freshers

55% with work experience (one-year average)



## Mohammad Ayesha

YIF 2023 Assistant Manager at Genpact

From living in a remote town in Telangana to experiencing mini India at the YIF, I have come a long way. I am a first-generation learner who has received the opportunity to work at Genpact, that too within three months of the Fellowship. I am grateful to Ashoka for the knowledge and confidence, and to the CDO for the help in becoming job-ready. I hope many more women like me will get similar opportunities.



Prerna Saharan YIF 2023

Assistant Manager at Nuvoretail

I was a Science graduate hoping to find my calling. An encounter with Pramath Sinha, Ashoka's Chairperson, proved to be a turning point. "There is no perfect passion out there. Try new things out," he said. This stayed with me and I got out of my comfort zone. A few months later, I interviewed with an e-commerce startup and secured the job.

#### Courses

- Art Appreciation
- Behavioural Science in Development
- Building Habits, Careers and Institutions
- Crowds of Occupation, Crowds of Protest
- Deconstructing Select Indian Foreign Policy Challenges and Responses: A Practitioner's Perspective
- Design Thinking and Innovation
- Economics and Public Policy: An Introduction to Applied Microeconomics
- Foundations of Leadership
- Global Ecosophy
- Heart of Leadership and Group Dynamics
- India and the World: A History Since 1945
- Indian Financial Regulation and Policy
- Issues in Social Democracy and Social
  Justice in India

- Kabir: The Poet of Vernacular Modernity
- Leadership Lessons from the Road
  Less Travelled
- Morality and the Good Life
- Philosophy and Cognitive Science
- Problem-Solving and Statistical Thinking
  in Modern Life
- Reason and the Making of Modern India
- Shakespeare and the World
- Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) as Power: The Case of China
- The New Geography of the Information Age
- Trade, Trust, and Peace in South Asia
- Understanding Pandemics
- Women, Society and Changing India

As workplaces are getting increasingly disrupted and competitive, employers are placing a premium on a broad education rather than students who possess narrow skills.

Ashoka's high-impact learning opportunities engage every student in solving unscripted and real-world problems. Employers are valuing the problem-solving and critical thinking skills that Ashoka graduates bring to their respective organisations. Additionally, our students are equipped with a global perspective, are well-rounded and have been immensely successful across a range of sectors.

Ashoka University's Careers Office ensures that recruiters find the highest quality talent for their organisations – be it in the corporate or social sectors. And this report captures the various initiatives and investments that Ashoka is continuously making to address that commitment.

We look forward to deepening and expanding the initiatives in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Venkat Eshwara Pro Vice-Chancellor Development, Placements and Alumni Relations



# CONNECT WITH US

#### Priyanka Chandhok

Vice-President

priyanka.chandhok@ashoka.edu.in

#### Neena Goel

Senior Director neena.goel@ashoka.edu.in

## Urmi Singh

Senior Director urmi.singh@ashoka.edu.in

#### Anubhav Sharma

Associate Director

anubhav.sharma@ashoka.edu.in

connect.cdo@ashoka.edu.in



#### Campus

Plot No. 2, Rajiv Gandhi Education City, P. O. Rai, Sonepat, Haryana – 131 029

#### **Delhi Office**

No. 222, Second Floor, Trimaster Building, Okhla Industrial Estate – Phase III, New Delhi – 110 020