

WELCOME TO ASHDOWN

2015 ORIENTATION BROCHURE

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Welcome to Ashdown House! We are so glad to have you join our community. As Housemasters we have the privilege of living with you here at Ashdown. Allow us to introduce ourselves: Adam, a professor in Political Science has been at MIT since 2003 and studies public opinion and political behavior. Deirdre is a licensed clinical psychologist who has worked at Boston Children's Hospital for over ten years. We have two children—Benjamin, 10, and Lila, 7. Also welcoming you to Ashdown House are our Associate Housemasters: Yuriy, an assistant professor in Chemical Engineering, who specializes in heterogeneous catalysis, and Katie, an MD who teaches at Bentley University. Yuriy and Katie have three young sons and three one-year old triplets: Max, age 8; Dante, age 6; and Apollo, age 4; and Stella, Bruno, Xander, 1 year. Again, we all wish you the warmest of welcomes both to Ashdown and to MIT!

Prof. Adam Berinsky, Dr. Deirdre Logan, Prof. Yuriy Roman and Dr. Katie Roman
ASHDOWN HOUSEMASTERS

Welcome to Ashdown House. I manage the operational side of Ashdown with an incredible staff of four housekeepers and one maintenance mechanic. I am a Boston Native and have managed Ashdown since 2003 when we were housed in W1. I love dogs!

Denise Lanfranchi
HOUSE MANAGER



Welcome to MIT and Ashdown House! We hope you will soon feel at home here at Ashdown, the second-oldest graduate community in the United States. As you settle in, you will notice that in addition to our fantastic facilities, we also have a very vibrant and diverse community. Our terrific team of officers plan all Ashdown events, curate the front desk inventory, and help maintain our common spaces. From BBQs to dance parties, paint nights to sports outings, coffee hours to brunches, you're sure to find the perfect break from research or classes, as well as new friends and free food.

AHEC members are elected by popular ballot every spring and serve as the governing body of Ashdown. AHEC's mission is to improve the quality of life in the House and keep everything running smoothly. We're here to serve you, so let us know if you have questions or suggestions, or want to get more involved in life at Ashdown. You can email us at ahec@mit.edu, find us at House events, or stop by our weekly meetings held on Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the Crafts Lounge. We look forward to meeting you and wish you a successful and rewarding year!

Lisa, Chris, Drew, Orpheus, and Calvin
THE ASHDOWN HOUSE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Lisa Guay
Chair



Christopher Foy
Vice Chair



Won Kyu Calvin
Sun
Officer
Coordinator



Alkiviadis
Orpheus
Chatzivasileiou
Secretary



Andrew Rzeznik
Treasurer



Orientation Calendar

Date	Day	Event Name	Time	Location	Event Description	Open to:	Sign Up Required?
Sept 1st	Tues	Speed Friending	5-6pm	Hulsizer Room	Meet people and make friends in a speedy way at this event. Get to know other Ashdown residents who have similar interests than you, be sports, hobbies, music, movies, etc.	All residents	No
Sept. 2nd	Wed	IKEA Trip	TBD	TBD	Come to this shopping trip to the IKEA store and check out the items they have – if you like them you can bring them home with you.	All residents	Yes
Sept. 4th	Fri	Ashdown Dance Party	8PM-12AM	Ashdown	Ashdown Dance Party is one of the biggest grad dorm events during the orientation season for new students to bond with their new news friends and familiarize themselves with the MIT community.	All MIT	No
Sept. 6th	Sun	Open Doors and Roommate Night	6-8PM	Ashdown	Participate in the first ever Ashdown Open Doors with your roommates by making dishes to share with ~20 people. You will be reimbursed up to \$25 if you participate in showcasing your apartment and making food.	All Residents	Yes
Sept. 7th	Mon	Ashdown and Sid Pac Dessert Night	7-9pm	Ashdown Hulsizer room and SidPac Multipurpose	Because there is always room for desserts, we are bringing tasty desserts from different parts of the world, including cannolis, eclairs, Chinese pastries and more. Come and meet new people while enjoying delicious desserts.	All Residents	No
Sept. 8th	Tues	3rd Floor Registration Day Breakfast	8-10AM	3rd Floor Kitchen	If you have a spare moment on Reg Day, drop by for pancakes, juices, yogurt and granola, fresh fruits, and other snacks to wake you up! It's also a great opportunity to make new friends before classes get started.	3rd Floor Residents	No
Sept. 8th	Tues	Housemaster Dinner	6:30-8PM	Housemaster Apartment 5047	Enjoy dinner and dessert while meeting the Housemasters and making new friends.	New Residents	Yes
Sept. 9th	Wed	Housemaster Dinner	6:30-8PM	Housemaster Apartment 5047	Enjoy dinner and dessert while meeting the Housemasters and making new friends.	New Residents	Yes
Sept. 10th	Thurs	5th Floor PHO-NOMENON	7:30-9PM	5th Floor Kitchen	Come to the fifth floor to make your own bowl of Vietnamese pho! Pho broth, noodles, toppings and ingredients will be provided by your lovely floor officer as well as Vietnamese desserts!	5th Floor Residents	Yes
Sept. 10th	Thurs	Orientation Coffee Hour	9PM	Hulsizer Room	Come to the Ashdown Orientation Coffee Hour to meet people, and enjoy the free food and drinks, including fruits, snacks, chips with guacamole, and of course, coffee!	All Graduate Students	No
Sept. 12th	Sat	Ashdown Potluck	12-2PM	Hulsizer Room	Bring your own food sharing with others and socialize with the fellow neighbors. We will also provide different kinds of free food according to the signup sheet to make the food more diverse and enough for everyone.	All Residents	Yes
Sept. 12th	Sat	Art Unveiling Reception	8-10PM	Ashdown Atrium	Come out with your friends to Ashdown's Art Unveiling. Come be part of celebrating the addition of these new Art Pieces to Ashdown and hear from the artist himself. Light snacks will be provided!	All Residents	No
Sept. 13th	Sun	Orientation Brunch	12PM	Hulsizer Room	Meet new friends over a free brunch (eggs, pancake, salmon, fruit, pastry, and more).	All Graduate Students	No
Sept. 13th	Sun	Games and Karaoke	8:30-10PM	Hulsizer Room	Kick back and relax with some snacks and games from cards and other party games to more advanced strategy games. Also, we will have music and karaoke, so come and invite your friends to have a fun time.	All Residents	No
Sept. 13th	Sun	Housemaster Dinner	6:30-8PM	Housemaster Apartment 5047	Enjoy dinner and dessert while meeting the Housemasters and making new friends.	New Residents	Yes
Sept. 14th	Mon	Housemaster Dinner	6:30-8PM	Housemaster Apartment 5047	Enjoy dinner and dessert while meeting the Housemasters and making new friends.	New Residents	Yes
Sept. 15th	Tues	Housemaster Dinner	6:30-8PM	Housemaster Apartment 5047	Enjoy dinner and dessert while meeting the Housemasters and making new friends.	New Residents	Yes
Sept. 17th	Sun	2nd Floor Dinner	7PM	2nd Floor Kitchen	What's better than a free dinner? A whole month of free dinners! Come join your Ashdown Second Floorians in trying to go the whole month without cooking for yet another free meal on MIT!	2nd Floor Residents	Yes
Sept. 19th	Sat	1st Floor Coffee Hour	9PM	2nd Floor Kitchen	Come to get some fresh fruits, juice and snacks! It is a good chance to get familiar with your neighbor residents, of course, as well as your floor officer!	1st Floor Residents	Yes
Sept. 20th	Sun	4th Floor Brownie Night	7-9PM	4th Floor Kitchen	The fourth floor will together to make brownies! Come at 7pm if you want to help make brownies, or come at 8pm if you just want to eat them. Supplies provided.	4th Floor Residents	Yes
Sept. 21st	Mon	3rd Floor Panini Night	8-9PM	3rd Floor Kitchen	Meet fellow Third Floorians and enjoy some delicious, freshly-made paninis with all of the trimmings. Also take the opportunity to decorate our floor with window and whiteboard markers and origami paper.	3rd Floor Residents	Yes

Ashdown FUN

Coffee Hour

Sept. 10rd | 9PM

Come to the Ashdown Orientation Coffee Hour to meet your fellow residents, chat with friends, and enjoy the free food and drinks. We will provide fruits, cheese, sausage, chips, guacamole (the crowd favorite), hummus and salsa, cake, ice cream, juice, tea, and of course, coffee. Doors open at 9 pm, and we provide food and drinks for the whole hour. All Ashdown residents welcome!



Ashdown Dance Party

Sept. 4th | 8PM-12AM

Ashdown Dance Party is one of the biggest dorm orientation events and it is a great on campus party before the semester starts getting tough. The dance party provides a great opportunity for new students to bond with their new friends and familiarize themselves with the MIT community. The event will offer free food, a cash-bar, and two dance floors and DJs and provides the perfect setting for students to interact with each other.

Ashdown Open Doors

Sept. 6th | 6-8PM

Participate in the first ever Ashdown Open Doors with your roommates by making dishes to share with ~20 people. For the first hour, half of participating rooms will be open and people will come and drop by your awesome apartment to chat and try your food. For the next hour, the other half will be open so you too can participate in running around and exploring Ashdown. You will be reimbursed up to \$25 if you participate in showcasing your apartment and making food.





THIRSTY EAR PUB



Congratulations to all you incoming graduate students! Over the course of the coming months and years you will experience many challenges, some will be tangible obstacles that can be relatively easily dealt with: qualification exams, thesis and classes. However, perhaps the biggest challenge will be personal. The self doubt, the constant overwhelming feeling that you are underperforming, bad days in lab turning into slow months into stagnant years. Thus, as we kick off a new academic year, I'd like to bring something to your attention. Something that brings us up when we get down. Something that fuels and drives so much of the work we do here at MIT. That's right - I'm talking about FRIENDSHIP and there is no place that does friendship better than the Thirsty Ear at Ashdown House.

At the Thirsty Ear you will find a fun, safe, intellectually stimulating environment where you, as a new grad student, can hang out with your friends or make new ones. At the Thirsty Ear we have a variety of programming to get you through the week. Whether it is Sports Night on Mondays with our infamous 10 wings for 2 dollars, our Tuesday special programming (Comedy Nights, Open Mic Nights, Spelling Bee's), Wednesday's Trivia Night and of course Thursday Karaoke Sessions. We also have a kitchen that serves some of the cheapest and most delicious eats this side of the river paired with cheap alcohol.

Some come out to the Thirsty and make friends and memories. As a student run bar we are always looking for good help so if your interested in helping run the bar contact teec@mit.edu.

Don't forget you need your 21+ ID to enter and enjoy beer and wine at grad-friendly prices! Stay Thirsty my friends.

Sincerely,
Thirsty Ear Executive Council (TEEC)

VOLUNTEERING @ ASHDOWN

Do you want to be a bigger part of what makes Ashdown great? Are you looking to make new friends and give back to the community? Do you like getting preference when the free food comes rolling out? Then consider becoming an Ashdown Volunteer!

While Ashdown has a strong officer corps, we rely on volunteers to make sure our many social offerings go off without a hitch. You'll find requests to volunteer in various emails sent out during the year. If you are interested in volunteering more regularly, you can sign up to our lists through the website. Even if you don't join, you can still volunteer! Volunteering will get you perks, including entries in a prize raffle, special volunteer-only appreciation events, and other bonuses! So join up and take the first step in becoming a bigger part of the Ashdown community!



Saving the world **together**

Ashdown isn't just a dorm. It's the home of **500+ future scholars and world leaders** like you, and our influences travel well beyond this building. Conserving resources is part of our culture, and we hope you will **join us** in **setting a good example** for everyone around us. **Your children** will thank you!

Switching off

lights and **air conditioning** if you're the last one to leave **any** room, whether it's your bedroom or a common room.

Bring Plates

and utensils to coffee hour, brunch, and all other events serving free food.



▲ Cutting down on waste at events by bringing your own plates. Doesn't it just look and feel more nice and homey this way, too?

Please Recycle

Recycling at MIT is **easy**. We have **single-stream recycling**, so almost all recyclable items can go into the same blue recycle bin in your apartment, or any recycle bin in the common areas. Please **do NOT abuse the recycle bins** by putting trash in them, as this will cause everything to be thrown away and hamper the good efforts of others. **If you host parties**, please **inform your guests** about what is recyclable as well so that they sort their trash correctly!

RECYCLABLE

- Plastic cups
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic containers (#1-7)
- Paper, magazines, envelopes
- Cardboard boxes
- Glass bottles
- Metal cans
- Aluminum trays, if clean

NOT RECYCLABLE

- Food-soiled and dirty paper
- Paper plates
- Paper cups
- Napkins
- Food waste
- Wood, cloth, other materials
- Styrofoam

SPECIAL ITEMS

- Plastic grocery bags, batteries, broken electronics can be recycled at the front desk.
- Compost bins can be found in all common kitchens, and the Hulsizer room during events.

Please **empty any food waste** and briefly rinse off any sauce or grease before recycling.

your first day

Welcome to MIT! As you live in the heart of the city of Cambridge, and only a short walk away from historic Boston, rest assured that there is plenty to explore, eat, and enjoy in this city. However, you've probably just arrived, and might need some quick food, snacks, drinks, or other basic materials, so we've listed just a few local options to get you started. And feel free to ask fellow residents or the Front Desk if you need help finding anything.

Grocery stores

Shaw's (Star Market)

20 Sidney St. / Daily 7a - midnight
General grocery store with just about everything you might need to get started. 6-minute walk.

LaVerde's

First floor of building W20 (Student Center) / Daily 24 hours
On-campus convenience store. More expensive but useful if you need quick food late at night.

H-Mart

581 Massachusetts Ave / Daily 9a - 9p
Korean supermarket which carries most Asian food materials and spices. 10-minute walk.

Fast Food and Bars

The Thirsty Ear

Ashdown House floor 1 / Monday-Thursday 7:30p-1a

Anna's Tacqueria, Dunkin' Donuts, Sepal, Shinkansen, Subway, Café Spice

Building W20 (Student Center) / Hours vary; Anna's Tacqueria is open latest (7a-11p)

Pacific Street Café

70 Pacific Street / Mon-Fri 7a-6p

Transportation

The nearest **MBTA subway** (known as "the T") stops are the Central and Kendall stations on the Red Line. Both are approximately a 15-minute walk from Ashdown. Refer to MIT campus map for directions. On weekdays the EZride shuttle (see below) connects Ashdown with Kendall station.

EZride shuttles provide service from Ashdown to campus every 10-20 minutes on weekdays from 6:20a to 8:00p. The route varies slightly depending on the time of day; see mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles for details. At rush hours you will generally see many students waiting outside for the shuttle, but inquire at Front Desk if you are uncertain.

MIT SafeRide shuttles provide service to/from campus and various nearby locations nightly from 6pm to 2am (Sun-Wed) and to 3pm (Thu-Sat). See mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles for detailed route maps and schedules.

MBTA #1 buses ply up and down Massachusetts Avenue, connecting Harvard Square and Boston every 10-20 minutes. These buses (in both directions) stop at the intersection of Albany St. and Massachusetts Avenue, a 5-minute walk from Ashdown House.

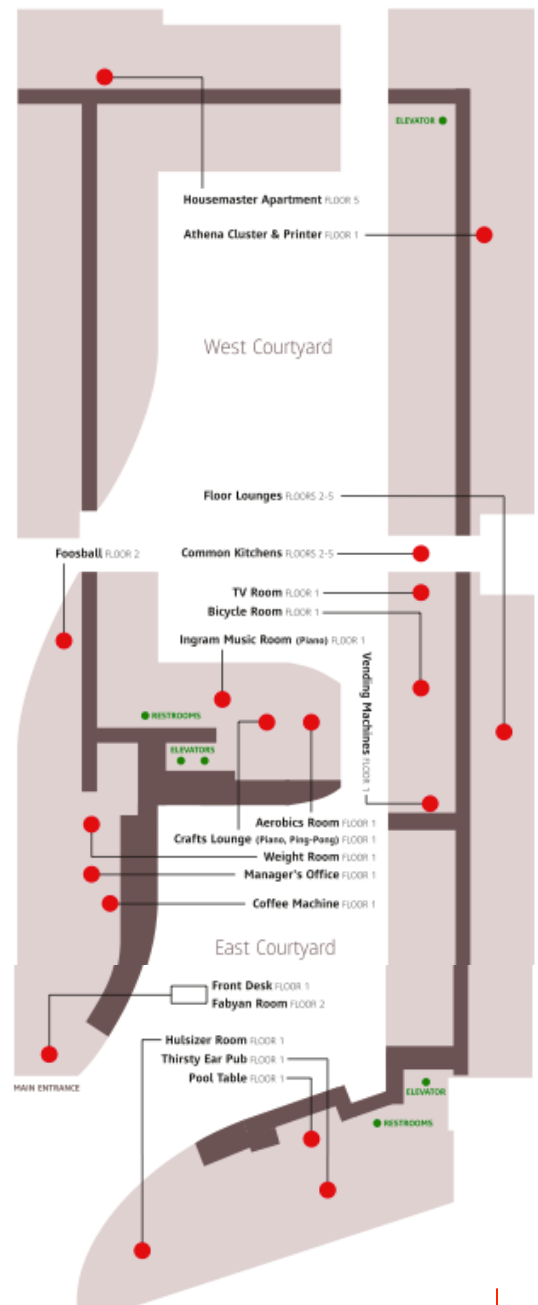
Bicycling is a very popular method of transportation among students in Boston. However, unlike many localities where bicycles are widespread, it can often be dangerous in the Boston area, due to extremely narrow or nonexistent bicycle lanes, fast traffic, and drivers not being used to cyclists on the road in general. Life-threatening accidents have occurred even near the MIT campus. Cycling is fun, but remember to get a **helmet** and **lights** to **protect your life** first!

Cell phones

There are **four major carriers** each with their own separate networks: T-mobile, AT&T, Verizon, and Metro PCS. All four carriers can be found in the **Cambridgeside Galleria** mall, where you will also find other shopping outlets as well. To get to the Galleria, take the shuttle departing every 20 minutes from in front of the COOP bookstore at Kendall station. Note that the shuttle only runs till about 7pm.



The Thirsty Ear Pub is located on the first floor of Ashdown House and serves food and drinks on Monday-Thursday nights, in addition to a wealth of programming including weekly Trivia and Karaoke nights. Stop by the Thirsty Ear barbecue during orientation for some free food! ▲



We hate rules

... but we **do** want to keep this place cozy and comfortable for your fellow friends, too.



Quiet hours are 23:00 – 08:00

Please keep all noise to a minimum during these hours.



No unattended cooking

If any heating device is on, you must be present. Rice cookers, toasters, microwaves, and ovens are no exception.



No smoking including in the courtyards

Smoking is permitted only outside the gates of Ashdown. Please be mindful that some residents have serious allergies.



No alcohol in common spaces

Please enjoy alcoholic drinks in your own private suite/bedroom, or alternatively, visit the Thirsty Ear.



Keep common spaces clean and do not borrow any common space furniture

Please show respect to your friends, who may be using these common spaces after you.



No pets

... except fish.



Trash bags

should be tied and placed outside your door between 9pm–7:30am only. Your recycling bin may be kept outside, if you wish.

Need help?

Police and medical emergencies

Dial 100 from a hallway phone, or (617) 253-1 212 from your cell phone. As long as you are near campus, calling the MIT Police directly at this number will be faster than calling 911. Program this number into your phone—you never know when you might need it.

Room issues and repairs

Please contact our house manager, Denise Lanfranchi (dlan@mit.edu).

Community, common space, and event questions

Please e-mail AHEC at ahec@mit.edu.

Lock-outs

Visit the front desk to get a spare key. If locked out late at night and the nightwatch is not at desk, call MIT Facilities 24 hours at (617) 253-1500 from a cell phone or x31500 from a hallway phone to page the nightwatch. You will be asked to go to the front desk lobby to meet the nightwatch.

Housemasters

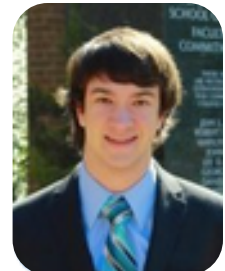
Adam Berkinsky (berinsky@mit.edu) & Deirdre Logan (delogan@mit.edu)
Yuriy Roman (yroman@mit.edu) & Katie Roman (kroman@mit.edu)

About this newsletter

The Orientation Brochure is brought to you by Ashdown's Communications Officers, **Tram Nguyen** and **Cody Karcher**. We look forward to bringing you Ashdown news all year long! If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, we would love to hear from you. Please email Ashdown-comms@mit.edu.



Tuyet Tram T
Nguyen



Cody Jacob
Karcher