

How to Incubate a Club in Manipal

MIT is one of those colleges where every individual finds himself, and the catalyst to this self-discovery has to be the vast plethora of clubs that the institute boasts. The 50-odd clubs, teams and organizations are student-run, and cater to almost every possible interest. Clubs here are technical and nontechnical, some require membership while others let you walk in whenever you want. Time working with your club is always well spent, and is a great way to socialize while you learn valuable skills and pursue interests. However, there are always fresh ideas and concepts, and the college lets you make your own club without much hassle. To give you an idea of how the process works, we at the MIT Post have decided to lay it out for you.



Step 1. The Concept

Before you decide to go through the whole ordeal, it's best to have a clear idea of what you want to do. You need to be sure of the direction your club is to take, and the purpose and function of the club must be well defined in your mind. The

internet can be a really useful tool in such situations, and inspiration strikes from the strangest of sources. Friends, seniors and teachers will also be instrumental, as their experience will help you shape your ideas.

Step 2. Creating a Team

A club is nothing without its members, quite literally. You'll need a hardworking team around you as you try to build something from scratch, and it's of the utmost importance that the founding members fit the bill. For new clubs, another parameter to judge members on is their ability to contribute immediately, like with the roles of Public Relations and Treasurer. Finding people who share your enthusiasm and are willing to put in the effort can be a daunting task, and you'll be inclined to ask your close friends to fill in spots. It's best to be cautious when dealing with your best buds, you don't want to end up with disputes within the clubs that affect relationships outside of work.

Step 3. Finding a Mentor

The faculty advisers are the most underrated individuals of a club. They link the college authorities and the executive board of the club. So, it's a good idea to rope in a teacher who will share your vision and ideologies. He/she will help you lay down the foundations, and will guide you through administrative gibberish.

Step 4. Getting the Process Started

Filling out the form is the first actual step you will take towards giving birth to your club. The form available at the Department of Student Welfare require your basic details, the purpose of the club/team and its hierarchy to be elaborately enlisted. The important part is the presentation, which will be judged by the Associate Director of Student Welfare, Dr. Narayana Shenoy, impressing whom will be your first hurdle. Make sure that you know what you are doing, and have

everything planned out.

Step 5. Finishing Touches

The final step of the process is to take your teacher in-charge along, and present your idea to the Joint Director of MIT. After his approval, you will be granted permission to create your own college club, and go down in the history books of MIT as part of a very exclusive group of club founders. This presentation should be crisp and precise, and if you do your homework, you could be the president of your very own club by the end of the day.

What now?

Now's the time to recruit students into your club, for which you will need a solid marketing and advertising strategy. Every club hosts general body meetings, which are open to prospective members. The Student Council oversees all club-related activities, it's best to be in constant touch with them. Also, depending on whether your club being technical or non-technical, your club will be expected to contribute during TechTatva or Revels respectively. With the college already fostering half a hundred clubs, you may face difficulty establishing a foothold early on, but persistent hard work and self-belief will lead eventually lead you to success. Best of luck!