

# Imperial College London and Europe

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4,000

students from other European countries (20%).

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2,000

staff from other European countries (25%).

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60,000+

Research papers published with European partners,  
in the last decade alone.

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Collaborations include Europe-wide projects to tackle **meningitis, dementia, cancer** and **HIV**, efforts to remove **mobile phone roaming charges** within the EU, and the development of **next generation electronics**.

“Our doors remain open  
to talented international  
students.”

**PRESIDENT ALICE GAST IN *LE FIGARO***

## BREXIT

**Since the EU referendum, Imperial has intensified its European collaborations.**

- In autumn 2016, Imperial launched a **European Partners Fund** to help **seed and develop new collaborations** with European colleagues.
- Imperial has won a **new €15 million grant from the European Commission** to collaborate with the University of Cyprus to develop more efficient and resilient infrastructure.
- **Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation**, visited Imperial to discuss practical ways of strengthening Imperial and the UK’s European research ties.
- Imperial researchers are **applying for new Horizon 2020 and other EU grants**. The UK government will underwrite these projects, even if they extend beyond Brexit.
- Imperial has provided **free legal support to European staff** and their families.
- Imperial’s **European and international student numbers remain strong and on target**: since the Brexit vote EU student numbers have remained the same with an increase in non-EU students. We are benefiting from a **global ‘flight to quality’**. Our doors remain open to talented international students and we are repeating that message around the world.

## POLICY PROPOSALS

Imperial is offering **pragmatic solutions to Brexit** and engaging with government to help implement them. This is not just about mitigating damage, but about seizing **new opportunities**. These solutions include:

- Easing the **tier 1 visa route** for workers with exceptional talent like top academics.
- Expanding the **Doctorate Extension Scheme for STEM PhD students** from one year to three, matching new US reforms.
- Reforming **tier 1 graduate entrepreneur visas** to make it easier for the brightest foreign students at UK universities to stay in the country, start businesses and create jobs.
- Expanding the Home Office's **tier 4 pilot scheme for Masters students**, which gives international students who win places on Imperial Masters courses a streamlined visa process and the chance to stay in the UK for six months after their studies. A reformed system could cover undergraduates and other postgraduates at highly trusted institutions.
- Introducing a **new post-study work visa for top STEM graduates**.
- Linking **scientific mobility** with **research funding** after Brexit, to guarantee free movement for researchers.
- Imperial is ready to contribute to the government's **Industrial Strategy** and to make a success of its **new R&D investment**. Our experts can help the government to **name, refine and manage its priority R&D areas** for Industrial Strategy – from robotics and artificial intelligence to biotechnology and advanced materials.
- Whether the UK remains a European Research Council (ERC) member or not, it is vital that **UK-European collaboration and competition is sustained**. The government's underwriting of new and existing Horizon 2020 projects is a welcome step in the right direction.

“The UK needs to welcome more entrepreneurial immigrants and give them the freedom to innovate.”

**PRESIDENT ALICE GAST IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**



*Student Luca Alessandrini (Italy) has made an award-winning violin which uses the vibrating qualities of spiders' silk to create a richer, superior sound*



*Dr Zita Martins (Portugal) is one of the world's leading astrobiologists, examining meteorites to discover the secrets of the first life on Earth.*

“We can disentangle science from the wider immigration debate and allow researchers to focus on what they do best.”

**PRESIDENT ALICE GAST IN THE ECONOMIST**

- The government should forge **new global research networks** and co-fund more ambitious programmes to support collaboration with international partners like the US and China. Imperial is ready to advise and help utilise our vast international research networks.
- We need to acknowledge the gulf between those who thrive in today's Britain, including within top universities, and those who have been left behind. Imperial has a duty to **reach out and widen participation**: that is why we are determined to spend more time **inspiring and encouraging young people from all backgrounds**.
- We support the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary's **Global Britain** campaign and are backing the Mayor's **London is Open** campaign.