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.

Imperial College London and Europe

4,000
students from other European countries (20%).

2,000
staff from other European countries (25%).

60,000+
Research papers published with European partners, in the last decade alone.

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
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 STEMB 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 STEMB 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.

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

PRESIDENT ALICE GAST IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

• 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.