Winter has arrived in London! Along with icy mornings and leafless trees in the parks, this means christmas lights brightening up the city, cosy fireplaces inside pubs, carol singers, markets, mulled wine and plenty of delicious food!

Staying in London this year over the Christmas break? Here are some of our ideas to soak up the London Christmas experience!

Markets!

Southbank - Until 8th Jan
Leicester Square - Until 8th Jan
London Bridge - Until 3rd Jan

Lights!

Carnaby Street - Until 6th Jan
Covent Garden - Until 6th Jan
Kew Gardens - Until 2nd Jan

Ice Skating!

Natural History Museum - Until 8th Jan
Somerset House - Until 15th Jan
Canary Wharf - Until 25th Feb

Other Events!

Victoria and Albert’s Christmas Carol
Free, but booking essential. Until 23rd Dec

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland - Entry free!
Until 2nd Jan

Real Food Christmas Market - Kings Cross.
14th - 23rd Dec.

Yule Jog - A Christmas jogging tour through London! Various dates. 6K= £13, 12K=£16

What is Christmas all about?
Check out Great British Mag’s article explaining Christmas and what is means in the UK
Travelling out of the UK? If you are travelling over the Christmas break, we recommend you take a **Statement of Attendance** with you in your hand luggage when you re-enter the UK, confirming your student status at Imperial. You can get this easily from the Student Hub.

**While you are away, here are some tips for keeping safe**

- keep your passport & BRP safe and carry photocopies with you. It is also a good idea to send scanned copies to yourself by email

- Be aware of pickpockets - try not to get into conversations with strangers

- Be extra careful when travelling overnight on public transport

- Lock your suitcases/bags, never leave your luggage unattended

- Buy travel insurance to cover travel, medical costs and replacement passport/visa costs

Don't forget, you can always contact us if you need help in the UK or abroad! international@imperial.ac.uk

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**What to do if.....**

### ...I lose my passport?

#### ...in the UK & Abroad:

1. Report this to the police and obtain a crime reference number/letter from the police.
2. Apply for a new passport through your country's Embassy or High Commission.

### ...I lose my BRP?

#### ...in the UK:

1. Report a lost or stolen BRP to the Home Office online
2. Wait for a response from the Home Office with instructions on applying for a replacement BRP
3. Contact the International Student Support team for an appointment to check and send your BRP(RC) application

#### ...outside the UK:

1. Report a lost or stolen BRP to the Home Office online
2. Apply for a replacement BRP (single entry) visa at the British Embassy to get back into the UK
3. Apply for a new BRP when you have returned to the UK within 1 month

### ...I lose my Police Registration Certificate?

1. Report it immediately to the nearest police station.
2. Complete a new Overseas Visitors Records Office registration proforma, prepare your supporting documents

### 3. Go to OVRO to apply for a new certificate.
You will have to pay the £34 fee again.

**BRP FAQ**

**What is my BRP?**

Your BRP (biometric residence permit) is your **student visa**!

**Should I carry my BRP with me every day?**

No, it is not a requirement to carry your BRP with you in the UK and we do not recommend you do this in case you lose it. You only need your BRP if you are traveling in and out of the UK.

**Can I use my BRP as a form of ID?**

We strongly advise you not to use your BRP as a form of ID, because you are at risk of losing it or having it stolen. Instead, we recommend you apply for a UK proof of age card through Pass-Scheme

**What if there is a mistake on my BRP?**

If there is a mistake on your BRP (e.g. your name is spelled incorrectly, the valid until date is wrong, your date of birth is wrong, etc.) you will need to get this corrected. Please **contact us** and we will assist you with this process.
Meet your new International Officer: Thisara Niriella

Where are you from?
I am from Sri Lanka.

What are you studying?
I follow the Biomedical Engineering course and I am currently in my 4th year!

How did you get to be the International Students Officer?
I campaigned for the post of International Officer during the leadership elections held earlier this year - (I was in my 3rd Year then).

My campaign revolved around providing a voice for international students at Imperial. Campaigning was great fun, my friends helped boost my social media campaign by liking and sharing my posts and some of my coursemates helped me distribute fliers and put up posters around campus.

What does your role entail?
I represent the needs of all students outside the United Kingdom. I monitor nationality-related equality on campus, resolving issues with the support of the Deputy President Welfare (DPW) and I represent this group at Community & Welfare Board and Union Council. I organise and support campaigns, conferences, summits and events to discuss the needs and issues facing international students here at Imperial.

Do you have any key concerns or projects you will be working on?
At the moment I am working with the Overseas Societies Committee in organizing the International Food Fair which will be held in January. It will be a fantastic event where Imperial will celebrate its cultural diversity with cultural clubs from Imperial selling food from their respective countries.

I also intend to follow up on an EU bursary issue which was brought to my attention recently. It was discussed at the Community and Welfare Board meeting and will be pursued further.

How can students contact you?
Students can contact me via email at intstude@ic.ac.uk or if they can find me on facebook (Thisa Niri) they can drop me a message! I am here to help :)

International Family Network · 2016 Christmas Party

Enjoy traditional mulled wine, mince pies and other wintery treats
- Make your own Christmas decorations and other craft making activities
- Meet other international students who have their families with them in the UK

Friday 16th December
4pm - 5:30pm
South Kensington Campus

If you would like to come to this free event, please email Shelagh: s.markey@imperial.ac.uk with your CID number and details of your family members who will be attending!

Join our International Family Network Facebook group
Join our mailing list
What’s on @ ISH
Imperial Students are automatically members of ISH, including ISH Travel Club!
Christmas Day Lunch!
Spend your Xmas Day celebrating with other international students at International Student’s House! Enjoy a traditional 3 course Xmas dinner, Xmas movie marathon and screening of the Queen's speech. Book your ticket before 16th Dec!

Travel Club: New Year Hogmanay Edinburgh!
New Year Hogmanay Edinburgh weekend 30th Dec 2016 – 02nd January 2017. Travel Club Price: £169 Per Student *
* Travel Club Prices may have limited availability

website: https://ish.org.uk/

Don’t use your BRP as a form of ID – apply for a PASS card
At times you may be required to show ID (eg going to a bar or a club). Forms of ID that are accepted are your passport, driver’s licence or BRP. However we do not recommend carrying your passport or BRP with you on a daily basis. If you do not have a driver’s licence there is an alternative form of ID that you can apply for that is recognised by the UK Government. This ID is called PASS and you can find more information about how to apply on their website: http://pass-scheme.org.uk/

Police Registration Reminder
Police registration is a requirement for some students under Tier 4.

After your initial registration at the OVRO, please remember that you must update your certificate every time you change your address by visiting your local police station.

If you get a new passport or replacement BRP, you need to visit OVRO again for an update.

This is a legal requirement and failure to do so can have serious consequences.

If you any queries or concerns about Police Registration, please contact us

WOW!
Want to say thanks to someone in the International Student Support team who’s helped you?
Send us a WOW to express your positive feedback :)

Lizzie                   Christian               Shelagh
Alison           Claudia                   Kaitlyn

International Student Support
Our Service: free UK student visa advice and support for Imperial Students
Where to find us: level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus
Opening Hours: 9:30 - 5 (Mon,Tues, Thurs,Fri), 10-4 (Wed)
Our Website: http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/
Email: international@imperial.ac.uk

Christmas Closure Reminder!
Our office will close at 12:30pm on 23rd Dec and re-open 9:30am on 3rd January!