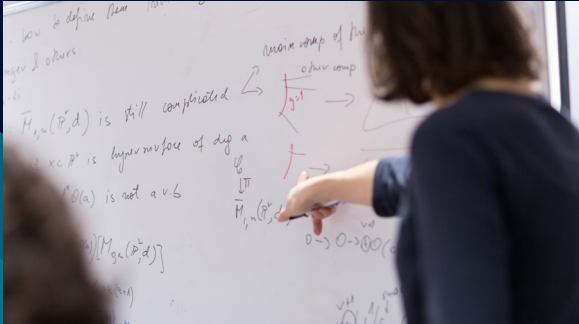


Imperial College  
London

# Department of Mathematics

New students' welcome pack 2021



# Welcome to the Department of Mathematics at Imperial College London

This Welcome booklet is for students starting in October 2021, under the codings of G100, G102, G103, G104, G125, G1F3, G1G3, GG31, G1GH. Students on the Joint Mathematics and Computing programme (JMC) will have different arrangements set up by the Computing department.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Department and hope you have a wonderful time studying with us! Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant person from the contact list given in this document prior to your arrival / any time you are with us with any questions you have.

For College-wide welcome activities, please see events for new students on:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/)

*Please note that the information in this welcome booklet is subject to change — please make sure to check emails and Blackboard Learn module “Maths Pre-Arrival Course” as noted below for any new information.*

## Things to do now!

[Register with the College on MyImperial \(starting in early September 2021\)](#)

### Do some MATHS!

Pre-arrival maths support and induction information will be posted on the Blackboard Learn VLE page “Maths Pre-Arrival Course”. You should have received information on how to access the page in an email from the Admissions Team. If not, please contact: [maths.admissions@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:maths.admissions@imperial.ac.uk).



## Table of contents

### Welcome from

Professor David van Dyk, Head of Department	04
Priscilla Yip and Desmond Lin, Departmental Student Representatives	05
Amir Rahman, MathSoc President	06

### General Information

Registration	07
Email Access and Microsoft Office 365	07

### Term Dates & Induction

Induction Week	08
ID Cards	08
Mathematics Department Induction	09

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Programme

1 <sup>st</sup> Year Modules	09
Learning at University	11
Imperial Horizons	12
Year Abroad (G104)	13
International Students	13

Contacts in the Department	14
----------------------------	----

### How to Prepare

What to review prior to arrival	16
Recommended reading	17

Getting Around the Campus	18
---------------------------	----

Social Activities in the Department	19
-------------------------------------	----

Where do I go to get help with...	20
-----------------------------------	----

## Welcome letter from Head of Department Professor David van Dyk



**Department of Mathematics  
Imperial College London**

644 Huxley Building  
180 Queens Gate  
South Kensington Campus  
London SW7 2AZ  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7594 8554

[math.hod@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:math.hod@imperial.ac.uk)  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/mathematics](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/mathematics)

**Professor David A van Dyk  
Head of Mathematics Department**

August 2021

Dear First Year Student,

It is my pleasure to formally welcome you to the Mathematics Department at Imperial College London!

Going to University is a big step and I am sure that you will remember your time at Imperial as a milestone in your life. Imperial College London is a fantastic place to study and it is highly competitive to get a place here. You have done well to gain entry! And, I am delighted that you decided to take up our offer of admission and join us.

I hope that you continue to excel, to enjoy Mathematics, and that you take advantage of the lectures, facilities and teaching support available. It is important to realise that College is very different from school and this time is a transition to a more mature style of education and learning. Of course, this will require a considerable commitment from you - it is a challenging course. I hope you enjoy it.

Again, welcome!

Best wishes for your first year with us.

Yours sincerely,



## Welcome letter from Departmental Student Representatives (Dep Reps), Priscilla Yip and Desmond Lin

Hello!

Welcome and congratulations on making it to Imperial! We are Priscilla and Desmond, your Departmental Representatives for the year, and we will be leading the incoming team of year representatives.

We're here to direct and amplify your voice on all kinds of issues: from your student experience to your courses. You can always contact us if you have any issues or questions! Desmond for the wellbeing matters (such as mental health and diversity) and Priscilla for the academic ones. Feel free to approach either of us if you're not sure who to contact.

University may be daunting with the many changes to adapt to when you're first starting out. In order to stay on top of your work, it's important for you to be attending your tutorials, watching your lectures and doing the problem sheets. We hope that you can also take this chance to work with other like-minded individuals in the department as collaborating with others will allow you to understand different perspectives and have a positive influence on your learning experience. Don't be shy to seek help or ask questions when in doubt, the lecturers and seniors are all really helpful and we're all here to learn!

And of course, in addition to diving deep into your studies, do remember to hit the brakes once in a while and explore Imperial beyond Mathematics. Our college is much more than just classrooms and lecture theatres. We have over 340 societies waiting for you to uncover with your future friends from diverse cultural backgrounds. Both the wellbeing team and MathSoc will be organising many events throughout the year to help forge friendships and create a sense of belonging. Our mathematics course is intellectually stimulating. During the pandemic, it could be challenging, but fret not, because we are here to support you! Let us know if there are any events you wish to partake or you have any suggestions.

Look out for emails about our upcoming elections if you would like to become part of the student representative team!

Priscilla, Academic Dep Rep, [hui.yip19@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:hui.yip19@imperial.ac.uk)  
Desmond, Wellbeing Dep Rep, [desmond.lin20@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:desmond.lin20@imperial.ac.uk)





# Welcome letter from MathSoc President, Amir Rahman

Hi everyone!

I'd like to start by saying a massive congratulations on getting into Imperial! It's a brilliant achievement, especially with so much uncertainty over the last 18 months. My name is Amir, and I'm the MathSoc President this year. The MathSoc is a student-led society that's here to represent all Maths and JMC students at Imperial. We host a variety of events all through the year, from socials and competitions both on and off-campus to several opportunities to get your career off to a flying start, supported by our sponsors.

You'll be thrown straight into the mix with MathSoc from the start of the year, where we introduce you to your Mums and Dads, students from older year groups who are here to support you, answer any questions you have and just be a familiar face in the department while you settle in. We hope to be holding Family events during the year, so be sure to stay in touch with your Parents!

Once term gets in full swing, we'll be hoping to host events at least once a fortnight. There will be several in-person events to get stuck into, such as game nights, museum trips, casino nights and other big events. Safety is always important at everything we host, and we will be taking measures to ensure everyone feels welcome and safe at our events. We're always open to new ideas, so you're always welcome to contact me, or our social events officers, Salvi and Ameena, who are in second and third year respectively.

There are several ways to keep up to date with what the society is doing. You can find information through our newly revamped website, our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. Here you'll also be able to find out more about some of the events we've held in the past and hope to hold this year, including our highly anticipated Christmas Dinner and our End of Year Ball.

We always love to hear from you, so if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or just want to say hi, you can always contact us through Facebook, Instagram or via email at [rclu.maths@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rclu.maths@ic.ac.uk). If you see myself or any other members of the committee on or around campus, come and say hello! We want to get to know as many of you as possible!

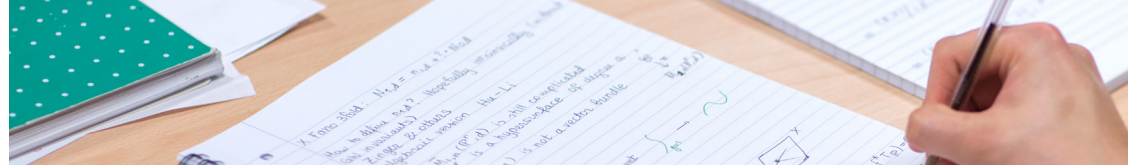
We hope you're able to make the most of Freshers week, so be sure to check out everything MathSoc and other societies have on offer, both during your first week and throughout the first term. There's no end to the events the union has to offer.

Last but not least, be sure to ask questions! Whether it's about maths, student life or anything else, we'll be sure to help. There is no question too big or too small for us.

Hope to meet you all very soon!

Amir Rahman

[amir.rahman19@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:amir.rahman19@imperial.ac.uk)



## General Information

### Registration:

Please make sure you officially REGISTER online on MyImperial as soon as possible (from the start of September) as per the instructions College will send you via email. For more information, look on:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/undergraduates/before-you-arrive/registration/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/undergraduates/before-you-arrive/registration/)

### Email access and Microsoft Office 365:

For information about computing facilities in the College and software go to [www.imperial.ac.uk/ict](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/ict). College will send you details of how to activate your College Computer Account before you arrive.

All communications from the Department will be sent to your College email address from the end of September onwards. Please check this daily.

Once you have completed Imperial's online registration process, you can use your College credentials to get Microsoft Office 365 software for free. This allows you to install the latest version of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and much more on compatible, personally-owned devices.

We encourage you to download MS Teams and OneNote Apps to your computers so that you can start getting used to how they work.

Read more and access training on:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/connect-communicate/office-365/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/connect-communicate/office-365/)

## Computer/Digital Tablet?

To access the content of the programme online you will be expected to have

- access to a computer (comparable to the laptop we offer for loan; HP EliteBook 840 G7, i5-10310U processor, 16Gb RAM, 256Gb solid state disk, 14" HD screen, Windows 10 Pro 64, webcam; see <https://www8.hp.com/h20195/v2/GetDocument.aspx?docname=4AA7-6811ENUC>)
- reliable internet connection with a minimum of sustained 10 MBps down/upload speed
- and be able to use Microsoft Teams (requiring access to a webcam and microphone).\*

Your College IT account will provide you with free access to the Office365 suite of tools, and further information about how to use Microsoft Teams is available at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/connect-communicate/office-365/apps/microsoft-teams/>.

Students may also benefit from equipment for digital writing and annotation. This could be a graphics tablet with stylus plugged into your computer such as a Wacom tablet, an iPad or Android tablet, or it could be that your computer can be written on directly as with the Microsoft Surface.

Coursework and any remotely conducted tests/examinations will need to be scanned (using a scanner, document camera or smartphone).

\*If you have any concerns around requirements, please contact Inkeri Hibbins at [i.hibbins@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:i.hibbins@imperial.ac.uk)



## Term dates

The dates of term for the 2021-2022 session are:

<b>Autumn term (Term 1):</b>	Saturday 2 October- Friday 17 December 2021
<b>Spring term (Term 2):</b>	Saturday 8 January - Friday 25 March 2022
<b>Summer term (Term 3):</b>	Saturday 30 April - Friday 1 July 2022

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/registry/term-dates/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/registry/term-dates/)

## Welcome Season and Induction week

For all students living in Halls, please see the Accommodation website: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/undergraduates/arrivals-and-induction/moving-into-halls/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/undergraduates/arrivals-and-induction/moving-into-halls/) for information on your move in option, or email the office for more information: [accommodation@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@imperial.ac.uk).

Please see all College level information for all new students on: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/)

Please also make sure to download the Welcome to Imperial App with all College level welcome season information. [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/welcome-season/welcome-to-imperial-app/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/welcome-season/welcome-to-imperial-app/)

Campus Health and Safety information specific to Covid-19 can be found online on [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/covid-19-status/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/covid-19-status/).

## ID cards

If you are living in the Halls, your ID card will normally be sent there for you. If you are not living in the Halls, you will need to pick it up from the Department; more information will be sent out at the start of the term.

## Mathematics Department Induction

Induction for all first year maths students will start on:

### Monday 4 October 2021

The induction programme will be posted on the Blackboard module “Pre-Arrival Maths Course” at the end of September. **You will have in-person welcome talks on the first day in our main lecture hall, Clore, in the Huxley Building on the South Kensington Campus at 180 Queen’s Gate.**

The first week will include welcome talks, important information on the degree programme, meeting your Personal Tutor in addition to social activities.

### Your first module, Introduction to University Mathematics, will start on Wednesday 6 October.

We understand that due to the current limitations in travel, some international students may have challenges in arriving for the start of term due to visa delays and flight issues. If you are facing issues around this, please review guidance on: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/students/arriving-in-the-uk/>

Please contact [maths-student-office@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:maths-student-office@imperial.ac.uk) with any concerns regarding the start of year.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Year Programme

### 1st Year Modules

The first year of all Imperial maths degrees, regardless of the coding, is the same. We want you to have a good foundation of knowledge enabling you to study more advanced maths in the later years.

Your first year programme will start with the module “Introduction to University Mathematics”. This intensive 4-week module will introduce you to the foundations of higher level mathematics. After this introduction, you will study the following core modules throughout the rest of the Autumn Term to the end of the Spring Term:

Core/compulsory topics (for all students):

- Analysis I
- Linear Algebra and Group Theory
- Calculus and Applications
- Probability and Statistics
- Introduction to Computing

In the Spring Term, you will also study the shorter module:

- Introduction to Applied Mathematics

Throughout the two Terms, you will have tests and assignments to help you gain feedback on your understanding. Final exams on all core modules will take place in the Summer Term. After exams, the Year 1 culminates in the “Individual Research Project”, a chance for you to delve deeper into a specific area of mathematics based on your interests and options from the project supervisors.

## 1st Year Modules continued...

In 2021-22, we will be delivering the programme of studies in multi-mode format. [See information in letter sent to students in July and also available online on the College pages.](#)

**Lectures:** Most lecture content will be delivered on-line. This will include high-quality, pre-recorded lecture segments, accompanied by typed notes or a suitable text, mixed with short quizzes and other exercises. These activities may be 'scheduled' to provide structure to your learning.

**Introduction to University Mathematics:** This module occupies the first four weeks of term 1. It is an intensive introduction to the ways in which you will be thinking about Mathematics at Imperial. Alongside the lectures for the module, there will be around 6 hours of on-campus problem classes per week. The classes will typically be in groups of around 40 students; during the classes you will work in smaller groups with other students developing your understanding of the material from the lectures.

**Overview lectures:** In order to provide some experience of being together with a large part of your cohort, we will schedule 'whole class' overview lectures for all core modules apart from Introduction to Computation, which runs remotely. In these lectures, a (changing) part of your cohort can be on-campus together and the rest of the cohort can join in remotely. These sessions will be staff-led and can be used for review of lecture material, questions and answers, or additional problem sessions.

**Problems classes:** From week 5 of term 1 onwards, you will have problems classes in each of your core modules, apart from Introduction to Computation. In term 1, these will meet each week as 75-minute sessions, so that there will be six or seven meetings for each module. Problem classes will typically consist of about half of your cohort, split across several rooms. If conditions allow, different activities may take place in each room and you may be able to choose which activity to follow. Otherwise, the rooms will have the same activities and you will be assigned to one. The precise format of the class will depend on the module. The support classes for Introduction to Computation will be online.

**Peer tutorials:** Along with module-specific support, you will have weekly peer tutorials starting from week 5 (in term 1), where you will meet with a smaller group of students from your cohort and an older-year student to work together on your mathematics in a more informal environment, learning from each other and from the older student. These peer tutorials may be on-line or on-campus.

**Other support:** Each module lecturer will offer an online 'office hour', where you can ask individual questions. In addition, all modules will be supported by a monitored discussion forum.

The teaching day for UGs runs weekdays from 9AM to 6PM UK time (except Wednesdays where no teaching is scheduled for after 12noon to allow you time to take part in extra-curricular programmes). You could have classes or meetings scheduled at any time between these times.

In multi-mode delivery, you will be able to manage your time and when you watch lectures/work on material on your own. You will be required to attend the overview lectures, problems classes and tutorials which will take place at set times and will be in your timetable, and you may wish to attend some office hours, but otherwise you will be able to create your own schedule. You are encouraged to think carefully about this and review your schedule regularly taking into consideration deadlines and assessed work.

In addition, numerous activities/specialty lectures/careers events are scheduled throughout the year and you are encouraged to take full advantage of everything Imperial has to offer. **One thing you will quickly learn is that time management is the key to everything!**



## Learning at University

One thing you will quickly notice once you start at College is how different learning at university is to school.

In your lectures/watching lectures remotely you will need to be taking good notes so that you can review these and identify questions you want to ask on material you don't fully understand.

Each module will give you a number of problem sheets to tackle. It is very important to spend adequate time on these. You will probably have found Mathematics relatively easy at school or college. Don't be surprised if you find that you need to work much harder at Mathematics at university, where the subject is more about problem solving and rigorous proof than about tackling routine exercises and calculations. **You should expect to be challenged.** You will also find that you will need to work hard throughout the year and that last minute revision before the examinations will not be a recipe for success even if this was your strategy at school.

The main purpose of the weekly problems classes is to discuss the lecture material and to sort out any difficulties arising from question sheets set by the lecturers. These sessions allow you to engage in group work or other interactive work, investigating the maths and working on questions together.

To help you with the transition from school to university level Mathematics, we try to give you as much support as possible in the first year.

Many of your lecturers will use a Blackboard Learn page (the College VLE system) to display module information (eg. notes, problem sheets, recommended reading or pre-lecture reading material, links to video recordings), but some will use separate websites. Information will be given at the start of year lectures.

In addition to the problems classes and question and answer sessions, you will have an extra tutorial with a peer tutor, in which to go over questions in more depth. Most modules will also have





online discussion forums (many run via a platform called Ed Discussion) in which you can ask (and answer) questions. The best way to get the most out of your time at Imperial is to make sure you attempted problem sheets and questions from lectures before coming to these classes so that you can get the help you need, engage with the extra questions being asked, and know what to ask yourself. You may need to rethink how you plan your week and ensure that you work “backwards” from set deadlines in order to allow you time to work on problem sheets and assessments both prior to the deadline as well as prior to the times set in your schedule to ask questions and get help (such as problems classes).

In the module “Introduction to Computing” you will learn to programme using Python. No previous computing experience is necessary. Programming is a useful tool for mathematics and you will use it in assignments in later years.

Typically, you will need to spend around 40 hours per week on Mathematics (including lectures and tutorials). You will find, however, that solving problems and understanding concepts is more satisfying and productive without time constraints. As a previous student has said—first year is all about learning how to “struggle” with a question, to really understand how to break it down and solve it. We expect you to spend as much time as necessary to understand Mathematics. The hour guideline is set for the typical student, you may need less or more time to understand the material depending on your personal background, knowledge and engagement. The first year is as much about learning about yourself, the way you study, as well as it is about the Mathematics!

You will also be assigned a member of staff as your Personal Tutor. You will meet with your tutor at set points in the term and he/she is there as your first point of call with any questions or concerns you may have around your studies.

## Imperial Horizons

The optional Imperial Horizons programme allows you to take a non-maths module from a number of different options, including modules such as: Global Challenges: Innovating for Change, History of Modern Medicine & the Body, Sound Technology, or Korean, amongst many others as an additional module during your year. The programme has been designed to broaden students’ education and enhance their career prospects. It is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge (and CV!) and to meet new people. The modules run on Tuesdays from 4-6 PM and do not interfere with your maths lectures. Please read more about the programme on: [www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons). You need to apply to the programme separately, registration will open in September. In Year 1 Horizons modules are not for credit; in Year 2, you will take one I-Explore module (Horizons are included in these) for credit as part of your degree. [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/i-explore](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/i-explore).

## Year Abroad students (G104 coding)

Students taking the Year Abroad course G104 intending to go to one of our European partner universities need to have at least a GCSE (or equivalent) in their chosen language and they MUST register for classes in their chosen language as soon as possible after registration opens. More information can be found on: [www.imperial.ac.uk/languages/year-in-europe](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/languages/year-in-europe)

The enrolment form is through the Horizons page, on [www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons/enrolment](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons/enrolment). You will need your CID number which is on the email you receive from College once you have accepted your offer of admission. Make sure you indicate that you are a Year Abroad Student on enrolment form.

Note that while in general you have to pass the language examinations at the end of Years 1 and 2 in order to stay on G104, your language examination results do not count towards the Honours Marks of your Mathematics degree.

Our current Year Abroad programme options also include a year at MIT. Students interested in MIT will be asked to apply separately in Year 2 to be accepted. Currently only one place is available for this exchange. Please do not transfer into the G104 if you are only interested in the MIT option.

Please note that the European exchanges will be moving to the Turing Scheme. Further information on this will be provided as soon as it is available.

## International Students

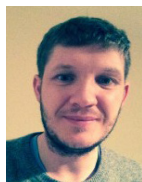
If you are an international student and your first language is not English, studying mathematics in English, especially if doing so for the first time, can be a challenge.

To support you, special English language classes are offered to students in Term 1. Students will be selected to attend based on a language test. You may also wish to request to join the classes.

The Centre for Academic English also offers extra classes to support students. These are free to attend and are an excellent way to hone your language skills. [www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english)



## Contacts in the Department



### Director of Undergraduate Studies: Dr Chris Hallsworth

Dr Hallsworth oversees the academic side of the undergraduate experience. He can be emailed at [maths.dugs@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:maths.dugs@imperial.ac.uk).



### Senior Tutor: Dr Chris Ford

The Senior Tutor oversees student welfare and student progression, including mitigating circumstances and interruptions of study. He is also the Disabilities Officer in the Department. Dr Ford can be emailed at: [c.ford@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:c.ford@imperial.ac.uk)



### Year 1 Tutor: Dr Ajay Chandra

The Year 1 Tutor works with the Senior Tutor to oversee their year. You should contact the Year Tutor with any concerns about absences, missing tests/courseworks due to illness, and personal academic progression. Dr Chandra can be emailed at [ma.vrenty21@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ma.vrenty21@imperial.ac.uk).



### UG Liaison Officer: Inkeri Hibbins (she/her/hers)

The UG Liaison Officer oversees the undergraduate student experience in the Department, supporting students throughout their academic journey. You can see Inkeri at any point for either welfare or academic issues. She can be emailed at [i.hibbins@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:i.hibbins@imperial.ac.uk).



### Student Experience Coordinator: Sai Nathan (she/her/hers)

The Student Experience Coordinator works closely with the Student Wellbeing Reps and student leadership activities. She can be emailed at [sai.nathan@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sai.nathan@imperial.ac.uk). Sai is also the Departmental Disabilities Officer. If you have had special exam arrangements in the past or need support around your study, please contact her for a discussion.



## Undergraduate Office

The UG Office is the student hub for all UG students studying in the Maths Department. The staff in the office deal with a range of student enquiries which include:

- General enquiries relating to student studies and the Department
- Module and programme registrations
- Information on examinations
- Coursework submission/return support
- Help with College IT systems such as Blackboard, MyImperial, Outlook Calendar
- Requests for important letters such as reference requests
- Mitigation requests
- Timetabling and room bookings
- Student record enquiries/changes such as change of degree code applications

All enquiries to the UG Office can be made by email at [maths-student-office@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:maths-student-office@imperial.ac.uk).



### Education Office Manager: Helen Haines

The Education Office Manager manages the Undergraduate Office, and is also responsible for the academic timetabling, running of the examinations, and the student record keeping for the Department. If you have any enquiries on these areas of work please email Helen on [h.haines@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:h.haines@imperial.ac.uk) or one of the Undergraduate Office Team below:

### Undergraduate Teaching Administrator: Valerie Nicol

The Undergraduate Teaching Administrator deals with student queries for all UG Programmes. Valerie can be emailed on [v.nicol@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:v.nicol@imperial.ac.uk)

### Undergraduate Data and Teaching Administrator: Ben Cave

The Undergraduate Teaching and Data Administrator deals with student queries for all UG Programmes and looks after student record keeping. Ben can be emailed on [b.cave@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:b.cave@imperial.ac.uk).

### Timetabling Officer: Antoine Kaiserman

The Timetabling Officer deals with teaching and exam timetables and student queries on module selections and registrations. Antoine can be emailed on [a.kaiserman@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.kaiserman@imperial.ac.uk).

### Admissions and Exams Administrator: Gertrud Levit

The Exams Officer looks after the running of the yearly examinations in May/June and during that period can be emailed on [g.levit@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:g.levit@imperial.ac.uk)





## Getting ready for independent work

One of the biggest changes from school to university is the amount of independence you have around your learning - you will need to manage your time, your work and consolidating and practicing your knowledge and skills. The work at Imperial is demanding and fast-paced. Even in topics you are already familiar with, you may be presented with very challenging problems. So it is very important that you consolidate and practice your knowledge of mathematics before you arrive. This is particularly important if you have had a gap year. Students also find that university-level mathematics involves a different way of thinking about the subject.

When you come to university, be prepared to challenge yourself and your thinking. You are here to learn and learning often comes from learning from your mistakes.

The College has an online resource for learning and study skills support - take a look on: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/ug/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/ug/), including remote study tips: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/remote-learning/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/remote-learning/).

## What to review prior to arrival

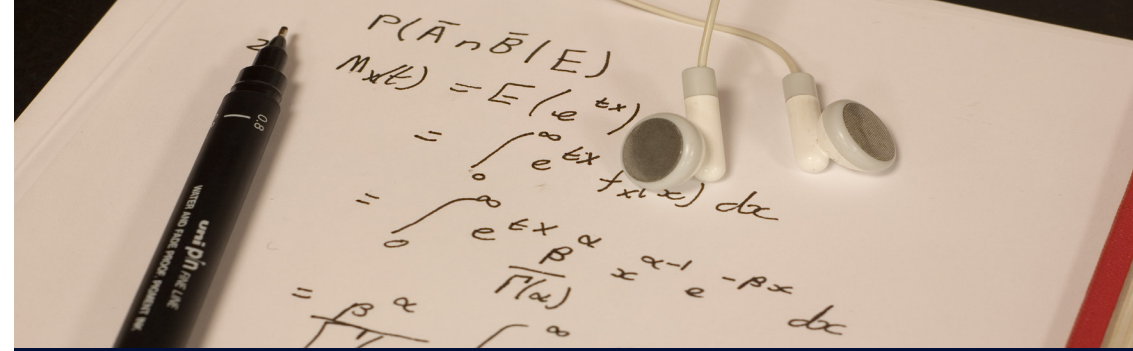
We expect you to have a very good understanding of school mathematics when you start at Imperial. The Pre-Arrival Maths Course you will have been given access to on Blackboard, will allow you to refresh your memory on a number of important topics prior to the start of term.

Most will hopefully be very familiar, however, some may even be new to you. Students come to Imperial with different educational qualifications and we know that certain topics are not covered by everybody at school, so some of these topics may be revised briefly in lectures during the first few weeks. We also understand that many of you will have had your studies unexpectedly disrupted in the spring of 2021 and have thus made the resource available to you ahead of the start of the year to help support you in the move to University. We know that you will of course be busy preparing for your transition this coming month, spending time with family and friends and some of you may also be doing some part-time paid work or volunteering, so we have tried to choose the topics and questions carefully; do take some time to engage with the material prior to arrival!

We like to say that “mathematics is not a spectator sport”. The best way to learn maths is to do maths. The videos and supplementary material in the Pre-Arrival Course on Blackboard will include number of maths problems and quizzes.

How to approach some of the questions may not be self-evident, so take some time to think about them. Pause videos/write out the problems, think about what they are asking, and what methods and knowledge you have to solve the question.

Don't worry if you can't do all of them, but do try them out, and attend some of the live sessions set up in the Pre-Arrival course - get your brain working again after a long break!



## Recommended Reading

If you have a bit of extra time over the break, a few excellent books, which will help you to prepare for the different style of mathematics that you will study here, are:

**How to Study for a Mathematics Degree** by Lara Alcock, published by Oxford University Press (ISBN: 978 019 966 1329)

**A Concise Introduction to Pure Mathematics** by Martin Liebeck, published by Chapman and Hall (ISBN: 1 58 488 193 3)

This book is an excellent support for your first year mathematics programme and will be referred to in your Introduction to University Mathematics module.

**Towards Higher Mathematics: a Companion**, by Richard Earl, published by Cambridge University Press (ISBN: 978 131 661 4839)

**How to Think Like a Mathematician** by Kevin Houston, published by Cambridge University Press (ISBN: 978 052 171 9780)

Lecturers will usually recommend a selection of books at the start of a module. These will generally be available in the main College Library (including digital copies) or can be ordered if necessary. Through the library you will also have access to numerous e-journals, e-books and newspapers.





## Getting around campus



Maths classes primarily take place in the Huxley Building at 180 Queen's Gate.

The main lecture theatre is the Clore Lecture Theatre, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This is on the right hand side on the same level you enter the building from on Queen's Gate.

Your classes will take place across rooms on levels 1, 2 and 3. Tutorials may also take place on levels 5, 6 and the "in-between floor" 6M.

The two main Departmental rooms undergraduates can use for working are the Maths Common Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor next to the Clore, and the Maths Learning Centre (MLC) on level 4. There are also two other smaller computer rooms, 408 and 410, that students can use when they are not being used for classes or tutorials.

**Please note that access to rooms and study spaces in the Department may be restricted based on health and safety guidelines. Please follow Departmental and Health and Safety guidance around access.**

Most of the maths academic and administrative staff offices are on levels 5, 6, 6M and 7 of Huxley Building, although as we are a large department, a few of your tutors may be in different buildings around South Kensington. The Mathematical Finance section is located in Weeks Building.

Please see: [www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/visit/public/SouthKensingtonCampus.pdf](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/visit/public/SouthKensingtonCampus.pdf) for the South Kensington Campus Map. The Huxley Building is point number 13.



## Social Activities in the Department

The Department's Mathematics Society, **MathSoc**, run by undergraduates, organises social and careers events and talks by visiting speakers. Look out for regular activities and special events like the annual Christmas Event.

**Plus!** is an informal club which meets several times a term to chat about interesting and unusual mathematical problems. If you took part in the Mathematics Olympiads in the past, you may be interested in joining Plus!

The **UG Colloquium** is a weekly lecture series run by undergraduates for undergraduates. Join in and listen to talks about independent research your fellow students are undertaking (or just an interesting problem they have come across and looked into), or present a talk of your own! The Colloquium also organises the joint Warwick and Imperial Maths Conference, WIMP.

**Women in Maths** get-togethers take place biweekly and hold talks from academics and alumni in an informal social atmosphere. All welcome regardless of gender.

Other events such as **wellbeing events** and **research and inspirational talks** by academics will take place regularly, look out for advertisements and come along to hear something new and meet other students and staff.

Look out for all of the external activities happening in the **Union (clubs and societies)** or talks and workshops around College: **Imperial talks and events (open to the public)**, **careers events**, workshops and events at the **Enterprise Lab**, and of course if living in Halls, you will have Halls events to enjoy. And don't forget that you are in the heart of London - enjoy your surroundings, with the V&A, Science Museum, Natural History Museum, Royal Albert Hall, Hyde Park and other great locations just minutes away - make sure you take some down time to enjoy your other passions besides maths!

The Union's Mums and Dads scheme is one where new first year students are placed into a "maths family" with older students acting as the "parents" - a great way to get the "insider" information on the course and College! More information to come in coming month from the Union/MathSoc.



# Have a Concern?

In addition to the support services in the Department, you can read about College's support services in the [Student Support Zone](#).

With so many places to get support, it can be difficult to identify where to go. In most cases, your Personal Tutor can help you identify support, but in other cases it is possible to find support directly yourself. Of course, although your Personal Tutor is your main contact in the Department, you are always free to discuss your needs with any staff member you feel most happy to do so. The UG Liaison Officer is also available to help point you in the right direction on questions you may have.

Please contact staff by email to set up a meeting or ask advice - **make sure to include your name and CID and send the email from your Imperial email address.**

## FAQ: Where do I go to get help with...?

### Trouble settling in/adjusting to life at University

Your Personal Tutor is your main point of contact on most issues, especially settling in at University. If you have any concerns/feeling low/homesick, not settling in/meeting people, make sure to speak with your Personal Tutor or the UG Liaison Officer ([i.hibbins@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:i.hibbins@imperial.ac.uk)). If you are living in the Halls, you should also speak with your Hall Senior or Warden. Just make sure you talk to someone! Also, if you notice any of your friends feeling low, encourage them to speak to someone.

Transitions can be both really exciting, but also at times difficult and unexpected (learning how to live independently, go shopping, cook, etc for yourself), and can be especially so after the recent challenges with Covid-19, so do talk to people about how you are feeling and think about ways to engage with the community, find some maths study friends, join a society in the Union, get a group together to cook or go to the farmers market together, join halls events or outings. If living at home, it may be a challenge adjusting to a new routine and the demands of university study - talk to your Personal Tutor or external family and friends who can relate to your situation and support you.

### Computer/IT issue

Contact information for the ICT Helpdesk is on [www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/) - you should log your support query via the website form (ASK ICT) to ensure the right person responds. The pages also link to information on software you can access through your account.

### Language Support

Your Personal Tutor can help you identify any concerns with your language skills, and may refer you to the Centre for Academic English. The Centre for Academic English offers short intensive evening classes—please take a look on: [www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/current-students/undergraduate](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/current-students/undergraduate). For international First Year students, an English support module runs throughout the year. If you have not been asked to attend the module based on your English test results, but would like to do so, please contact the Undergraduate Liaison Officer.

### Study skills (exams, lectures, writing reports)

Your Personal Tutor or the UG Liaison Officer can help you identify your needs and can work with you to improve your study skills. You can also look at the Imperial Success Guide for support: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/).

### Disability Advisory Service & Learning Difficulties

If you have a registered disability/a long term health issue or if you had special arrangements during school exams, please do let us know as soon as possible and contact Sai Nathan (Student Experience Coordinator) who is the Departmental Disabilities Officer. You can email her on [sai.nathan@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sai.nathan@imperial.ac.uk). She can help go through the procedures required. You may also need to meet with the Disabilities Advisory Service. It is important that the College has all of the paperwork in place in order to support you in the most appropriate manner (exam arrangements are not automatically transferred over). Specific advice is available on the Disability Advisory Service Website: [www.imperial.ac.uk/disabilityadvisoryservice](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/disabilityadvisoryservice), or by email [disabilities@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:disabilities@imperial.ac.uk).

You may also discuss concerns around your learning with your Personal Tutor or UG Liaison Officer who can support you as you liaise with the Disabilities Advisory Service for assessment/guidance.

### Health issues interfering with studies (body or mind)

You should alert your Personal Tutor or the UG Liaison Officer as soon as you can if you are facing health issues (body or mind) that are interfering with your studies; this may be discussed with the Senior Tutor to help assess the likely impact on your studies.

All students should make sure that they are registered with a Doctor either at the Imperial College Health Centre (if living in campus accommodation/in the catchment area) or near their home. Contact the Health Centre via: [www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/) and phone: **020 7584 6301**. The College has a Counselling service that is free for students to use: [www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling/) contact them via email for appointments: [counselling@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@imperial.ac.uk). There is also a Dental Clinic on campus—call **020 7589 6623** for information.

### Stress

Your Personal Tutor can discuss your concerns, as well as the UG Liaison Officer or the Senior Tutor, and we can help you to find possible solutions. The College runs a number of stress management workshops—information will be sent on email. The Health Centre has helpful information on their website: [www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/exams-and-stress/](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/exams-and-stress/). You may also contact the Student Counselling Service for support, [www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling/).

### Absence from college

If you are unable to attend/engage with your studies for one or two days, you can self-certify your absence. For three or more days you must inform your Year Tutor, and for a week or more you must request permission from the Senior Tutor. Where this is due to mitigating circumstances, and where this interferes with an assessment, you must complete a Mitigating Circumstances form (more information on forms will be given at start of year).

### International Student Concerns

Extensive advice is available for international students on the International Student Support Office Website: [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/) and students are encouraged to see the staff in the office for any questions regarding their visa or their stay in the UK.



## Statements for Council Tax Exemptions/Letters to open up Bank Accounts, etc

You can download statements to confirm your registration as a student directly from MyImperial this can help with opening up a bank account, confirming your student status for council tax exemptions, etc. In the summer after your first year you will also be able to download your transcript from this online service.

## Accommodation troubles

If living in the Halls, speak with the Warden/Sub-Warden/Hall Seniors with any concerns. Your Personal Tutor or the UG Liaison Officer can discuss issues with you to help you find avenues of support and refer you to the Accommodation Office. The Senior Tutor can also help identify the likely affect on your work. If living off campus and having issues around housing rights/your landlord, you can also seek support from the Union Advice Centre at [advice@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:advice@imperial.ac.uk). Information on accommodation options and support is available on [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/)

## Social troubles

Your Personal Tutor or the UG Liaison Officer can discuss your concerns, as well as the Senior Tutor, and we can help you to find possible solutions.

## Family troubles

Your Personal Tutor or the UG Liaison Officer can discuss your concerns with you, as well as the Senior Tutor. If the issues are likely to interfere with your work, the Senior Tutor can help to identify possible routes of support.

## Course concerns

If there are any potential concerns with your course of study, be it content, difficulty or structure of deadlines and/or workload, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr Chris Hallsworth, is happy to discuss the concerns with you. Your Student Year Reps, Departmental Representative and the UG Liaison Officer are also here to help liaise between the students and the staff, so you can always approach them with concerns over the academic programme.



## Support for LGBTQ+ students

Within the Department you can talk to your Personal Tutor, UG Liaison Officer or Senior Tutor. You can also contact the Union Society IQ: [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/a-to-z/iq-imperial-college-lgbt](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/a-to-z/iq-imperial-college-lgbt).

## Financial troubles

Your Personal Tutor can discuss your concerns with you. You should also visit the Student Hub to talk to someone in the Student Financial Support office, [www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding) for assistance. There may be hardship funds available depending on your circumstances: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/financial-assistance/student-support-fund](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/financial-assistance/student-support-fund). The Union Advice Centre can help with financial concerns as well, including debt advice: [advice@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:advice@imperial.ac.uk). You should discuss the situation with the Senior Tutor or the UG Liaison Officer if the situation is severe and is affecting your studies.

If you are studying full-time, the College recommends that you do not work part-time during term time so that you can fully concentrate on your studies. Many students work in the summer to help pay for expenses during the year. If you do need to work during term time, the College advice is to work no more than 10–15 hours per week, which should be principally at weekends and not within normal College working hours so as to not interfere with your lectures and classes. Please be careful with your time and ask for help if you are finding that work is interfering with your studies. Your primary objective while at Imperial should be your academics!

## References

Your Personal Tutor is your primary referee, so you should make sure that they know you well enough to write a reference for you. Other good people to ask for references are: Project Supervisors (especially Year 2, 3 and 4 project supervisors) and the Year Tutor. The Senior Tutor may provide a reference if you are unable to gain a reference from any of the above. You should always make sure you ask people who know you well and thus can write a good reference for you.



**We look forward to welcoming you to the College!**

**For all College information for new students, please visit the College website: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/new-students/)**

**For updates related to Covid-19 including health and safety questions, please visit: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/students](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/students)**

**For arrival to the UK information, please visit: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/students/arriving-in-the-uk/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/students/arriving-in-the-uk/)**



**Imperial College  
London**