Hammersmith Hospital campus is one of the major sites for PGR students within the Faculty of Medicine. In 2011 a group of postgraduate students eager to build a stronger student community on the Hammersmith Campus formed the Hammersmith Students’ Community (HSC), a society registered within the Imperial College Union. The goals of this society were to engage with and integrate students from all areas of the campus and to provide an informal support network for students. Most importantly, the need to bring a student environment to the Hammersmith Campus and therefore improve the student experience in what is one of the most internationally acclaimed universities was a desire shared between this group of students which motivated the formation of the HSC. Despite high demand for a community of this kind and the range of student social activities organised so far, there is still little awareness of the HSC and the potential of having such a society on site.

In order to address the above, we have organized an HSC information event which was held at the Wolfson Cafeteria on the 11th of June, where postgraduate students, student reps, GSU representatives and the current members of the HSC met and discussed about student experience at the Hammersmith campus. Pizza and refreshments were provided and kindly funded by the Cohort Building Initiative.

A total of 28 postgraduate students attended this event, which comprised PhD, first year Medical students and Master students from different departments.

In order to get feedback from students, anonymous questionnaires were distributed and filled in. In these questionnaires, students could voluntarily provide their email address if they wished to become a part of the HSC committee in the new academic year.

From all the students who attended, 79% had heard about the Hammersmith Students’ community before this event. However, from this group of students only 40% had attended at least one of the events previously organized by the HSC (in the majority Christmas Party, Movie Nights and the Boat Party).

From all students, nearly all showed an interest in seeing again at least one type of event organized on campus. Overall, between 60 to 70% of all students were interested in seeing again the Boat Party, Pub Quiz, Movie Nights and Spring/Summer Party. About 50% showed an interest in the Halloween and Christmas party, and 10% were interested in other events, some of which suggested outdoor activities, and dance classes.

When enquired about their student experience, 81% of students said they were happy with their student experience. From the 19% who replied no, the majority stated that the reasons why they were not happy with their student experience were due to the poor number of events organized on site, poor interaction between students, lack of communal/social spaces.

Overall, four students showed an interest in taking a role within the Hammersmith Students’ Community, and efforts will be put in place to form a new team who, together with the support of the student cohort leader on site, will take into consideration the demands of the students collected from this event and make a plan of action for events to be organized in the next academic year.