Walking Tour
Welcome

We invite you to take a self-guided walk of Imperial College London’s South Kensington Campus – home of the only university in the UK to focus exclusively on science, engineering, medicine and business.

Imperial is a place where engineers work alongside clinicians, scientists rub shoulders with designers, and mathematicians collaborate with business experts. It’s a dynamic environment of collaborative discovery where exciting things happen every day.

Imperial is rated amongst the top five universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2013. Our main campus here in South Kensington is home to state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities, from a Hydrodynamics Laboratory that is the largest of its kind in the UK to a £2 million Carbon Capture Pilot Plant, which is believed to be the most sophisticated in any academic institution worldwide.

You can also follow in the footsteps of Olympians in our state-of-the-art sports centre, Ethos, which was the training venue for 14 Olympic nations during London 2012, including Great Britain’s Brownlee brothers, Alistair and Jonny, Men’s Triathlon Gold and Bronze medallists.

→ Find out more about studying at Imperial at: www.imperial.ac.uk/prospectivestudents

Please follow the tour route illustrated and keep to public spaces. This is a working academic institution and access to most buildings is restricted to current staff and students.
Imperial’s Main Entrance was designed by the international design studio Foster + Partners, and was officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 2004. The stainless steel drum that cuts through the building contains Imperial College Business School lecture theatres, and the artwork behind the Main Entrance reception desk is an eye-catching visualisation of the human brain by artist Per Arnoldi, who worked with imaging scientists at the College’s Hammersmith Campus to create it.

The Sherfield Building, through which you have just walked, incorporates many student support services like the Careers Advisory Service, Registry, the International Student Support team, Student Counselling, and the Student Hub – the one stop shop for all key information and support that students need for everyday life.

On your right on exiting the Sherfield Building is the Central Library – a modern, flexible space offering over 1,200 study spaces, 280 computers, plus a popular café. Every year there are over 1,200,000 visits to the College’s libraries.

The tallest building is the Electrical and Electronic Engineering building which has state-of-the-art research and study facilities, including rooftop solar panels, used by students to compare predicted versus actual energy yield.

The modern glass Bessemer Building houses Bioengineering and the Institute of Biomedical Engineering. Also based on Dalby Court are the Energy Futures Lab and the Grantham Institute for Climate Change – two research hubs which focus on addressing the science challenges of today and the future.

Overlooking the Queen’s Lawn is the Queen’s Tower – all that remains of the Imperial Institute, which was built to mark Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee in 1887. The Tower is 287 feet tall, clad in Portland stone, and topped by a copper-covered dome. There are 324 steps from the ground to the base of the dome. The large stone lions are two of the original four who flanked the entrance to the Imperial Institute.
Open in 1998 by Her Majesty The Queen, the glass-fronted Sir Alexander Fleming Building, named after the penicillin pioneer from St Mary’s, is a purpose-built hub for medical and biomedical study and research.

Opposite is the Skempton Building, home to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, which includes an extensive Hydrodynamics Laboratory equipped with the facilities to measure waves and their impact. The ground floor is the location of the Wohl Reach Out Lab, where school children take part in hands-on science.

The Southside Halls of Residence have over 400 bed spaces. Opened in 2007, the Halls are conveniently close to transport links, Exhibition Road museums and Hyde Park. Southside also houses the campus dental clinic, and the Health Centre, which provides 24-hour care for NHS-registered students.

Overlooking the newly restored Prince’s Gardens are the Eastside Halls, opened in 2009 and architecturally mirroring the design of Southside. These halls provide 454 bed spaces, mainly single occupancy with a few twin bedrooms. On the ground floor are a convenience store stocking all daily essentials and the Eastside Restaurant and Bar – a lively, contemporary space, a great place to socialise with friends!

Ethos, the College’s main Sports Centre, was officially opened in 2006 by track and field legend Sir Roger Bannister, and Sydney 2000 rowing gold medallists Simon Dennis and Louis Attrill, with their coach Martin McElroy, all of whom are College alumni. All Imperial students are entitled to free use of the gym and swimming pool, and also benefit from student rates for all other facilities and classes.

The Royal School of Mines building dates from 1909 and was designed by architect Sir Aston Webb, best known for redesigning Buckingham Palace and the Victoria and Albert Museum. The building is now split into two wings: the Aston Webb wing, home to Earth Sciences and Engineering, one of the world’s leading centres for the study of Geoscience; and the Goldsmith wing, where the Departments of Bioengineering and Materials are based.

Beit Quadrangle, named after early twentieth century philanthropists, was designed by Sir Aston Webb and built in 1910. Student accommodation was built in 1926 and refurbished in 2000, now providing student bedrooms with views of the Royal Albert Hall and the quad.

Imperial College Union is located in the surrounding building. Responsible for the representation of all students at the College, the Union also facilitates around 320 student-led clubs, societies and projects with more than 9,000 members. The Union building is home to several bars and social spaces, including the Union bar which houses many historic and valued trophies and plaques.
Come back again...

Our campus is open to the public all year round for self-guided tours. But if you want to see our teaching facilities up close, chat to our world-leading researchers about their work and find out more about our degrees at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, why not come back and visit us during one of our dedicated events.

PROSPECTIVE UNDERGRADUATES AND SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Open Days - We hold separate Open Days for science and engineering and for medicine where you can visit our departments, speak to current students and staff, and get a feel for life at Imperial. www.imperial.ac.uk/visit

Departmental Open Days - Individual departments hold Open Days for students interested in a particular area. www.imperial.ac.uk/visit/deptopendays

Summer schools and taster days - We run a number of residential and non-residential taster activities for school students. www.imperial.ac.uk/outreach

PROSPECTIVE POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Open Day - Our annual event is a chance to visit departments, talk to current staff, students and researchers, and explore different parts of the College. www.imperial.ac.uk/visit

EVERYONE

Imperial Fringe - Our monthly drop-in events take a playful look at science, discovery and debate through themed activities built around our current research. There is also a pay bar on site. www.imperial.ac.uk/festival/fringe

Imperial Festival - Our annual Festival celebrates the very best of our research discoveries through interactive demonstrations, thought provoking talks, live music, dance and more, across our South Kensington Campus.

Meet researchers, explore our facilities and enjoy being entertained, with activities for all the family. www.imperial.ac.uk/festival

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