

South Kensington self-guided walking tour

Thanks for joining us today!



We'd love to hear what you thought of your visit today. Let us know what you thought by filling out our survey.



If you'd like to keep exploring, take a tour of campus with our app. Download by visiting imperial.ac.uk/study/visit/campus-tours/self-guided-tour

When you're finished with this guide, we hope that you might pass it on to someone who may enjoy it, otherwise please recycle it.

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Welcome to Imperial!

This is our whistlestop tour round the South Kensington Campus. South Kensington is home to many of our students and staff, working across our many buildings doing a huge range of activities. In addition, South Kensington isn't our only campus, so treat this as a starting point – you can learn and explore more from our website.

Our tour route is step-free and we have three options for you.

Spend **15 minutes** with us for an introduction to the College and some of our key buildings.

Take **30 minutes** and you'll add in further buildings where teaching, learning and research happens, as well as student support services.

With **45 minutes**, you'll have the full South Kensington Campus experience including Imperial College Union, our students' union, sports facilities and student halls of residence.

Along the way, there are plenty of places to take a moment to sit, toilets, and opportunities to grab something to eat or drink. Turn over to find our map with these areas marked. Your starting point is the College Main Entrance on Exhibition Road.

Read on to find out about our history, then unfold to get started. Happy travels!

History

Imperial College London has been based in South Kensington since 1907 when the Royal College of Science, the Royal School of Mines and the City and Guilds College merged to form one institution. Throughout the twentieth century, Imperial expanded and today, we're recognised as a world-leader in science, engineering, medicine and business.

We now also have campuses extending across London and the South East, including White City and Hammersmith.

On your visit today, you'll see many Imperial buildings where teaching, learning and research happens, visit beautiful parts of campus and get an insight into life at Imperial. To make sure that you, our students and staff stay safe on campus, please stick to the tour route.



SOUTH KENSINGTON

Campus map

- | | |
|---|---|
| C2 8–9 Prince's Gardens | A2 Great Hall |
| C2 14–15 Prince's Gardens | A2 Huxley Building |
| C2 52 Prince's Gate | A1 Imperial College Union |
| C2 53 Prince's Gate | C2 Prince's Gardens |
| C2 58 Prince's Gate | B3 Queen's Tower |
| A3 170 Queen's Gate | A2 Roderic Hill Building |
| A3 Abdus Salam Library | B2 Royal School of Mines |
| A2 ACEX Building | B3 Royal College of Science Building |
| A1 Beit Quadrangle | B2 Bessemer Building |
| B2 Bessemer Building | A2 Blackett Laboratory |
| A2 Blackett Laboratory | A2 Bone Building |
| A2 Bone Building | B2 Business School |
| B2 Business School | A3 Chemistry Building |
| A3 Chemistry Building | B2 City and Guilds Building |
| B2 City and Guilds Building | B2 College Main Entrance |
| B2 College Main Entrance | B2 Dalby Court |
| B2 Dalby Court | A3 Dangoor Plaza |
| A3 Dangoor Plaza | B3 Dyson Building of Design Engineering |
| B3 Dyson Building of Design Engineering | C2 Eastside Restaurant and Bar |
| C2 Eastside Restaurant and Bar | B2 Electrical and Electronic Engineering Building |
| B2 Electrical and Electronic Engineering Building | B2 Energy Futures Lab |
| B2 Energy Futures Lab | C2 Ethos Sports Centre |
| C2 Ethos Sports Centre | B2 Faculty Building |
| B2 Faculty Building | A3 Flowers Building |
| A3 Flowers Building | B2 Grantham Institute |

- Key
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Visitor reception | | Campus shuttle pick-up/drop-off point |
| | Chaplaincy Multi-Faith Centre | | Health Centre |
| | Imperial College Union Shop | | Underground station |
| | Food and drink | | Vehicle entrance |
| | Internal route | | Cycle hire |
| | Building entrance | | Bus stop |
| | Building entrance/exit via steps only | | Publicly accessible toilets |

For more information about the accessibility of our buildings search Imperial College London at accessible.co.uk

Explore

Have a walk around campus using this guide, which is designed to give you an insight into life at Imperial. Your starting point is the College Main Entrance on Exhibition Road. Once you've come to the end of your visit today, use the map overleaf to get back to where you started or find the nearest transport links.

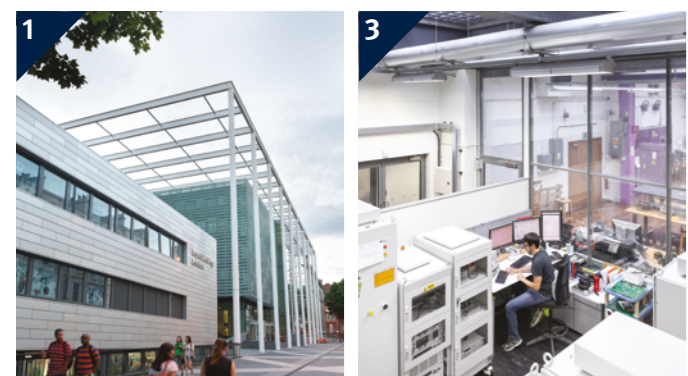
15 minute tour

1 The **College Main Entrance** was opened in 2004. Behind the reception desk, look out for the eye-catching artwork by Danish designer Per Arnoldi, which shows a visualisation of the human brain created with imaging scientists at Imperial's Hammersmith Campus. To the right, you'll notice a sculpture of Queen Victoria. Originally part of the Imperial Institute, the sculpture lived in the Queen's Tower (which you'll see in a few minutes) for over 40 years before moving to the College Main Entrance in 2006. While in the Tower, the Queen's crown disappeared – no records exist of what happened to it.

You can't miss the drum-shaped metal core in the atrium – this is the heart of **Imperial College Business School** and contains seven lecture theatres.

☪ If you're looking for something to eat or drink, go up the stairs between Queen Victoria and the Business School, and you'll find the College Café. Next door is the Alumni Visitor Centre, where Imperial alumni can use open workspaces and meeting rooms.

2 Once you've taken in the Main Entrance, proceed through the tunnel towards **Dalby Court**, a popular space for students and staff to meet, particularly in summer. Immediately on your left is the **City and Guilds Building**, and behind the doors onto Dalby Court, you'll see the original nineteenth-century bell and clock mechanism, which is still operational.



3 Working anti-clockwise around the Court, you'll next see the **Bessemer Building**, home to the Department of Bioengineering and recognisable by its pink glass canopy. The rooms are modular and can be expanded and contracted according to the needs of each group using the space. Next, you'll see the **Electrical and Electronic Engineering Building**, which houses the Maurice Hancock Smart Energy Lab – where researchers are developing new technologies that can make generating energy cleaner and more efficient.

4 Next door, to the left of the Sherfield Walkway sign, spot the living wall that marks **The Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment**, where world-leading work towards action on climate change and the environment is happening.

5 Finally, the striking blue cube on your left-hand side is the **Faculty Building**. Designed by Foster and Partners, the Faculty Building is home to the offices for key administrative staff, the President and the Provost. The blue panels, which clad the building, are specifically arranged according to the path of the sun to ensure correct shading.

6 After you've completed the full circle of Dalby Court, go down the ramp that passes underneath the Faculty Building. As you come towards the end of the ramp, on your left you'll see the Mechanical Engineering student learning workshop, where students are able to apply their learning practically using machinery. From here, it's hard to miss the Queen's Tower. Stick to the right-hand side of the Tower and continue ahead towards the centre of the Plaza.

7 The 87m-tall **Queen's Tower** and the two stone lions at its base are all that remains of the Imperial Institute – a scientific research institution created in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. By the 1960s, much of the Institute had been demolished due to the expansion of the College, leaving the Tower as a free-standing structure. The Tower's belfry houses the Alexandra Peal, consisting of ten bells that are rung on Royal Anniversaries by the Ancient Society of College Youths.

8 The Queen's Tower overlooks the **Dangoor Plaza**, a popular place to eat, relax and meet friends. The Dangoor Plaza is also home to plenty of events and activities throughout the year, including the weekly farmers' market during term time and the Welcome Fair at the start of term.

9 Look across the Dangoor Plaza and you'll spot **ALERT**, a sculpture by renowned British artist Antony Gormley. The work is a 6m-high sculpture created using blocks of weathering steel, which evokes the human form and asks us to reassess the relationship between the body and space. The weathering steel will naturally form a stable oxide coating and an organic hue over time.

Time to spare? Stay with us for another 15 minutes

10 You're currently at Dangoor Plaza, the heart of the South Kensington Campus. On the far side of the Dangoor Plaza are College buildings home to the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Faculty of Medicine.

11 On the west side of the Dangoor Plaza, you'll find the **Abdus Salam Library**, where Imperial students study, revise and theorise. The Library holds a huge range of books and online resources, computers, laptops and iPads, as well as group and individual study zones. It is open 24 hours a day (except Friday 23.00–Saturday 10.00), and has a café that's open until late.

12 To the right of the entrance to the Abdus Salam Library, head into the **Sherfield Building**, and on your right-hand side, you'll see the entrance to the Queen's Tower Rooms, an impressive space used for conferences, community events and exams.

The Sherfield Building is also home to many of our student support services, like the Careers Service, the Disability Advisory Service, the Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service, and the Student Hub – a central point for student enquiries.

☪ If you need a pitstop for a bite to eat or a caffeine hit, head up to Level 2 via the lifts on your right or the stairs on your left. Going out of the doors on Level 2 brings you to the Sherfield Walkway linking many of the food and drink outlets on campus, including the Junior and Senior Common Rooms. Along the Sherfield Walkway you'll also find the KPMG Data Observatory, where our researchers present data visualisations in new and exciting ways.



13 Continue across the lobby of Level 1 of the Sherfield Building and exit through the left-hand automatic door. Go down the ramp and along the pedestrian walkway up Callendar Road, and you'll spot some behind-the-scenes goings-on. On your left, you'll see the **Huxley Building**, home to the Department of Computing, and the **Blackett Laboratory**. If you look up, you'll see an octagonal structure on the roof: this is a weather station! Continuing up Callendar Road, on your right you'll see the wind tunnels used by the Department of Aeronautics, which are used to test aircraft, cars, sporting equipment and much more.

14 As you come up to Prince Consort Road, take a left to the entrance to the **Blackett Laboratory**, home to the Department of Physics. Above the building's entrance sits a relief sculpture designed in 1958 by Professor John Skeaping from the Royal College of Art. It depicts a range of scientific images and equations, mapping out the state of physics at the time.

It's here in the Physics department that Dr Abdus Salam worked when he was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in 1979 for his contribution to the theory of the unified weak and electromagnetic interaction between elementary particles. This research was key in the path to discovering the Higgs boson particle in 2012. Imperial has been at the centre of much ground-breaking research over the years, and we are home to 14 Nobel Prize winners. More recently, you may recognise Imperial as being a key player in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including in its modelling, treatment, vaccinations and testing, for which the College was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize.

Hungry for more Imperial intel? Stay with us for 15 more minutes!



15 Double back on yourself and cross over the road to the side with Holy Trinity Church. Continue walking away from the Church and then take a left into the **Beit Quadrangle**. These buildings host our students' union, **Imperial College Union**, and **Beit Hall** undergraduate residence. The Union's facilities include an Advice Centre, a state-of-the-art student media centre, cinema, science fiction library, as well as bars and a nightclub.

16 Leave the quad and as you return to Prince Consort Road, don't forget to look up to see the building's architecture and the plaque marking the location of the first concert of the band Queen! On your left, you'll see the Royal Albert Hall, where Imperial graduations take place. Cross over to the Royal College of Music and continue walking towards Exhibition Road until you reach the **Royal School of Mines**, one of the oldest buildings on campus. Designed by Sir Aston Webb, who was also the architect of Buckingham Palace and the V&A, this building has even starred in a number of film and TV shows. This building is home to the Department of Earth Science and Engineering and its rock library, and the Departments of Bioengineering and Materials.



17 As you reach Exhibition Road, cross over and walk up the road called Prince's Gardens. On the left-hand side, on the north side of the square, you'll find our sports centre, **Ethos**, with a gym, swimming pool, courts and 9m climbing wall. Next door you'll find the **Imperial Early Years Centre**, the on-site College nursery for children of students and staff. On your right is the leafy square also called Prince's Gardens.

18 The road to the east side of the square is home to our on-campus shop, **Eastside** student residence, and the Eastside bar, another Imperial favourite. On the south side of the square is **Southside** student residence, and our NHS health centre and dental surgery. This brings us to the end of our tour today, but feel free to have a wander and return back to Exhibition Road, which will bring you back to the start of the tour at the College's Main Entrance – or, if you joined part-way through, jump back to the beginning to connect the dots.

Thanks for joining us today.