

International Students

Imperial is the most international university in the UK and the fifth most international in the world. Each year we welcome students from over 130 countries. The Careers Service is committed to supporting all Imperial College students in preparing for, planning and getting started on their careers.

This handout will introduce you to the support available from the Careers Service. It also directs you to other sources of information where you can keep up to date with the latest rules and guidance on how political changes like Brexit and changes to the immigration rules affect your options. The International Student Support (ISS) team at Imperial offer specialist visa and immigration advice. ISS and the Careers Service run regular workshops throughout the year giving the most up-to-date picture - sign up to our weekly events email via JobsLive to be alerted to these.

SUPPORT FROM THE CAREERS SERVICE

It's important to register with JobsLive, the online system for the Careers Service, where you can find out what's on and search job/internship adverts. There is also a website with information and resources to help you with your career www.imperial.ac.uk/careers and a Careers Information Room on floor 5 of the Sherfield Building.

The Careers Service:

- Facilitates many opportunities to meet with employers during term time, through careers fairs, forums, lunchtime talks and employer presentations and skills sessions. We also have the 'ask an alumnus' system. See the website and JobsLive for full details.
- Offers training on key career skills such as how to write a good CV/cover letter, fill in application forms, perform well in psychometric tests and succeed in interviews. See the Careers Service website and events listed on JobsLive.
- Advises on how to search for job and internship opportunities through JobsLive and other sources.
- Offers 1:1 careers appointments with Careers Consultants which can be used to discuss any aspect of career planning, review application materials or prepare for interviews. 20 min appointments are bookable on the day from 07:00 via JobsLive.
- Subscribes to GoinGlobal, a guide to employment around the world, including listings of internships, industry profiles and application tips for different countries. See www.imperial.ac.uk/careers/resources

- Has a 'Guide to Recruiting International Students for Employers' document on our website that you can refer employers to.

Please note that the Careers Service does not make recommendations of individual students to employers, provide contact details of employers or write applications for students.

WORKING WHILE YOU STUDY

Taking advantage of opportunities for work experience and internships while you study can help you to decide what direction you want your career to go in, network and add valuable knowledge and skills to your CV. The Careers Service offers support to all students on how to find opportunities and present yourself well in applications and interviews.

As an international student, how much and when you can work during your time as a student will be governed by visa regulations. At the time of going to print (Sept 2018) EU students (except those from Croatia) face no restrictions. For non-EU students there are restrictions. Students on a Tier 4 visa have work restrictions. Tier 4 students may work up to 20 hours per week during term-time and full-time hours during their official vacation time or on the final 4-6 months of their visa. Term-time differs for UG and PG students. For further information on working during your studies please refer to the ISS website. Be sure to check the UG Imperial term times at www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/registry/term-dates as these are the dates that the Home Office uses to define if you are in or out of the holiday period.

WORKING AFTER YOU GRADUATE

There are a variety of options for remaining in the UK and seeking work after graduation. Current (Sept 2018) examples include the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur), Tier 4 (Doctorate Extension) and Tier 5 (Youth Mobility). Full and up to date information on these is available on the Imperial International Student Support (ISS) webpages.

The most common route is through Tier 2 (General) sponsorship which is for skilled workers with a job offer. The employer must hold a Tier 2 sponsor licence and provide the applicant with a 'Certificate of Sponsorship' (CoS). There is a register on the www.gov.uk website of the licenced employers, so you can check this list before making an application. However, be aware that many employers only use their licence for high-level hires and not graduate level recruitment, so being on this list is not a guarantee that they will sponsor you for the position you are applying for.



A general rule of thumb is that larger, corporate employers are more likely to sponsor at graduate level than smaller or non-corporate employers (such as start-ups or charities).

BREXIT - EU STUDENTS AND WORKING IN THE UK

On 19 March 2019, the UK Government will officially leave the EU. No one is exactly sure how this will affect Imperial students and their ability to work in the UK post-graduation; however, Imperial is committed to working with the government to ensure the best possible outcomes for our European students. You can read about Imperial's approach here: imperial.ac.uk/about/imperial-and-the-european-union.

Our advice to EU students is to stay in touch with changes, follow the news and know your rights and responsibilities in this time of change. If you have any concerns at all, do not hesitate to contact us.

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

If you are working in the UK either during or after your studies, you will need a National Insurance Number. An example would be AB 12 34 56 Z. The number is used by your employer and the Government to manage your tax and pension contributions. It builds up your entitlement to certain state benefits including the state pension. For further information and how to apply for a number, see www.gov.uk.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT

If you are considering working in the UK after you finish your studies and are not a native English speaker, it may be worth spending time on improving your English language skills while you are a student. Some international students spend the majority of their social time with speakers of their own native language, and find their language skills are not job-market ready when they graduate. As well as taking opportunities to socialize with native English speakers, you can find free English language support through Imperial's Centre for Academic English www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english.

CHINA CAREERS FAIRS

Imperial College Careers Service collaborates with LSE and Cambridge to provide careers fairs in China for current students and recent graduates. Fairs were held in previous years in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. The fairs take place in August each year and are advertised on JobsLive.

FURTHER SUPPORT

- **UKCISA**, the UK Council for International Student Affairs is proactive in working with the government to voice the opinions of students everywhere. Their statement of principles is here: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information-Advice/EEA--Swiss-Students/EUReferendum-what-we-know-for-EUstudents
They also have a helpline open Monday to Friday, 13:00 to 16:00 - 020 7788 9214.
Home Office Employer Helpline: 0300 123 4699
- Imperial **International Student Support**: for individual advice and information on any of the above, please contact: International Student Support, Level 3, Sheffield

Building, Imperial College London, South Kensington, London SW7 2AZ. Tel: +44 02075948040. Email: international@imperial.ac.uk

The International Student Support team at Imperial also provides information and assistance via its website: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/visas-and-immigration.

- For information on the disclosure of disability or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia please see information on the Careers Service website: www.imperial.ac.uk/careers/disclosure