Accelerating access to the best of Imperial’s people, technologies, expertise and facilities
Through bespoke pathfinder activities, led by dedicated engagement managers, we enable businesses to connect with and benefit from the world-leading expertise, facilities and resources at Imperial College London.

We build long-term, productive, collaborative relationships with businesses around the world.

Over 20 partners have already joined our network. They benefit from a close relationship with Imperial, a global top ten university and the most innovative in the UK.

**Our partners**  
*as of February 2020*  
Advantage Austria  
AirAsia  
AstraZeneca  
AWE  
Bank of America  
Barclays UK  
Blenheim Chalcot Management  
BP  
Brevan Howard  
Dyson  
Edwardian Hotels Group  
ELITE  
HSBC  
Huawei  
INEOS  
KPMG  
Mastercard  
MSCI  
NEC  
Procter & Gamble  
Quorn Foods  
Rolls Royce  
SSE  
Tata UK  
UBS  
UKDSC

**Imperial Business Partners** offers accelerated access to the best of Imperial’s people, technologies, expertise and facilities.
Universities can help businesses assess changing environments, meet specific goals, locate promising talent and secure competitive advantage.

Imperial College London is a world top ten university located in the heart of London. It is home to the greatest concentration of high-impact research of any major UK university and is among the top ten most innovative universities in the world.

Imperial has enterprise in its DNA: collaboration and interaction with industry is part of its founding mission. We believe that businesses and academia have much to offer each other.

IBP aims to provide dedicated support for businesses seeking to work closely with and extract the maximum benefit from their interactions with Imperial. We provide a gateway to guide the world’s most innovative businesses and support your access to the deep bank of talent and expertise at Imperial.

Organisations that partner with us will benefit from the expertise of scientists working at the forefront of science and technology – delivering clarity in a continually changing and uncertain environment.

Companies understand that exciting, compelling and valuable research and knowledge exchange happens at Imperial – we enable an entry point into that world.

“Advantage Austria is proud to be a member of IBP, which enables us to gain access to new knowledge, insight and world-class academic expertise at Imperial. Through bespoke workshops and learning journeys on the future of manufacturing, we were able to provide our network with a credible vision of the pioneering technologies and innovative manufacturing processes disrupting the industry. The entrepreneurial ecosystem at Imperial College is truly inspiring and we look forward to continuing our partnership and identifying further opportunities for collaboration.”

Peter Pesl, Head of Technology & Innovation UK, Advantage Austria
We are committed to providing a productive environment for sharing knowledge, exchanging insights, building partnerships to accelerate innovation and scanning the environment for new developments.

Members benefit from a range of specialist services and managed access to the academic excellence and entrepreneurial innovation that thrive at Imperial.

We are committed to providing a productive environment for sharing knowledge, exchanging insights, building partnerships to accelerate innovation and scanning the environment for new developments.

“IBP provides us the opportunities to meet world-leading professors in order to explore collaborative research with our research laboratories.”

NEC, an Imperial Business Partner

Pathfinder Activities

Pathfinder projects are co-designed to support your needs. The following is a non-exhaustive menu of possible pathfinder package examples. Your IBP relationship manager can help you identify appropriate activities that will support your business strategy.

**Example 1**
- Imperial academics presenting to senior management
- Futures workshop or foresight map delivered by Imperial Tech Foresight (ITF)
- Pre-identified PhD project work over 10 weeks (between two and four per academic year) covering a wide range of academic disciplines

**Example 2**
- A white paper outlining how the development and deployment of technologies in a specific sector can impact organisational performance and future investment decisions.
- A bespoke innovation day on a theme of choice, bringing together academics and startups

Imperial Business Partners
Accelerated access
- A collaborative approach to finding the right solutions for you, driven by regular discussions with a dedicated IBP manager
- A managed platform for accessing the Imperial entrepreneurial ecosystem, including academic expertise, enterprising students and state-of-the-art research facilities and working spaces
- Long-term horizon technology futures projects with Imperial Tech Foresight
- Discounts on Executive Education Open Programmes from Imperial Business School
- Connections with Imperial startups, either via direct introductions, through startup showcases at our events and/or bespoke innovation days

Events
- Members-only, executive networking events and dinners
- Delegate spaces at conferences given by Imperial and partners

Facilities
- Preferential access to Imperial’s flagship facilities, such as the Global Data Observatory and Advanced Hackspace (subject to capacity)

Students
- Connection to Imperial’s talented students for problem-solving, internships and recruitment

Example 3
- An interactive webinar, for members, staff or clients.
- A technical thematic briefing from Imperial's academic experts.
- Membership of Imperial's Careers Service patron scheme.
- Access to one place on the Techcelerate training programme, supporting innovators looking to deliver impact through their ideas or research

Example 4
- A facilitated academic workshop, enabling a deep dive into the latest technological advancements.
- First sight of the latest innovation in tech through sponsorship of a track at the Venture Catalyst Challenge, helping recent Imperial graduates turn their novel ideas into tangible products that deliver real-world benefits.

Accelerating access
Imperial is the only UK university to focus exclusively on science, technology, engineering, medicine and business research. This gives IBP members access to a unique and critical mass of expertise, including:

**FinTech**
The IBP FinTech chapter has been established to help companies address the challenges posed by disruptive technologies to the financial sector. It provides accelerated access to Imperial’s FinTech Network of Excellence, which brings together academics from across Imperial on topics including cybersecurity, cryptocurrencies, computational finance and machine learning.

**Nutrition**
Imperial’s Centre for Translational Nutrition and Food Research brings together the College’s relevant expertise across all disciplines. Nutritional problems often start as biology, but usually require chemistry, engineering, psychology and economics for a solution. The food industry and retailers have important roles to play in helping research to address problems of both obesity and malnutrition. IBP has worked with the centre to develop an IBP Food Chapter, bringing together industries with a close interest in this theme.

**Sustainability and green growth**
Sustainability issues have transitioned from peripheral business interests to central strategic concerns. Relevant Imperial expertise includes climate policy, cleantech, mitigation, adaptation, climate modelling, energy infrastructure and low carbon solutions.
Data science and AI
From electronic heart surgeons to virtual personal assistants, Imperial’s expertise in AI ranges across engineering, science, healthcare and business. Research at the College’s Data Science Institute includes statistics, big data, machine learning, modelling, simulation, visualisation and cloud computing, with applications for astrophysics, particle physics, biology, meteorology, medicine, finance and healthcare social sciences.

Entrepreneurship and innovation
Imperial’s entrepreneurial ecosystem of staff, students, businesses, investors and policy makers is constantly growing. IBP members can enjoy access to this network, online and in person at our programme of exclusive events for IBP members.

Smart infrastructure
The increasing need for cities to improve performance in services and infrastructure creates technical, social and business challenges, as well as opportunities for new technologies and a better understanding of the value of data. Imperial expertise includes applying data science to civil engineering, enabling and managing mega projects and digital transformation.
Imperial Tech Foresight (ITF) is Imperial College London’s dedicated foresight practice

ITF works with corporate clients through different modes: consultancy, curating events, thought-leadership and futures workshops with select academics.

Foresight is a process for discovering what is changing in the world and considering strategically responses to these changes. We work with IBP members by leveraging multi-disciplinary perspectives on how the future might unfold to inform today’s decision making.

The purpose is not to predict the future, but to better understand the elements and changes that might contribute to how the future develops. The ITF team focuses on technology foresight, contextualising where breakthroughs and disruptions may impact society and business.

IBP members enjoy access to a range of pathfinder activities. We will co-design these with you to ensure your business gets practical, actionable insight into the future it faces.

Drs Leila Sheldrick, Liliang Wang and Connor Myant worked with a group of Austrian manufacturing organisations to explore how future design processes might evolve in light of new market demands and what might happen when industry 4.0 allows the anticipation and development of more holistic manufacturing systems. The impact of additive manufacturing and advanced knowledge sharing was also discussed during a two-day interactive workshop programme.
We have developed a select menu of different potential engagement modes that could be part of an IBP pathfinder activity:

1. **TECH FORESIGHT LIGHTBULB SESSIONS**
   Short, inspirational workshops designed to stimulate discussion by unpacking future technologies and their potential impact on business. Based around a thematic area or inspirational piece of content, each Lightbulb Session will begin with an introduction to the thematic findings and bring to life some of the important what-if questions stemming from Imperial researchers. Questions to explore might include, “What if we no longer need sleep?” to “What new materials will be important in space travel?” This interactive conversation will be followed by a collaborative workshop exercise to identify possible future research questions.

2. **FUTURES WORKSHOP**
   A collaborative workshop to co-create future opportunities, identify strategic decisions and define future research gaps and uncertainties for the next 5, 10 or 15 years. These sessions help to engage critical stakeholders or industry partners on a specific future challenge or technology. Before the session, the ITF team develops specific futures exercises and materials. This a full-day workshop that critically unpacks the topic area together with internal and external academic experts.
HSBC recently published 'Lending to Low-Carbon Technologies', a report on financing for low-carbon solutions. Produced by Dr Charles Donovan and colleagues from Imperial College Business School’s Centre for Climate Finance and Investment, the report examines how finance can better support low-carbon solutions and help meet the UK government’s commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

IBP members benefit from the professional services offered by Imperial Consultants — Imperial College London’s dedicated consultancy arm.

With access to the cutting edge expertise of over 4,000 academics and the state-of-the-art facilities at Imperial College London, Imperial Consultants are on hand to deliver innovative solutions that meet diverse business needs. Imperial Consultants will find the right Imperial expert for you, whether you require advice, analysis or insight, or want to develop a new product from scratch.

Over the last ten years, our experienced team has successfully supported more than 3,400 projects, for over 2,000 clients from 60+ different countries.
Executive Education

IBP members can take advantage of courses run by Executive Education at Imperial College Business School.

These include short immersive courses from Imperial Executive Education, guided by global thought leaders, science pioneers and business experts. IBP members receive a 10% discount for courses, which cover topics including health innovation, management, strategy, leadership, innovation, marketing, finance, FinTech and risk management.

IBP members can also explore options for using Apprenticeship Levy funding to facilitate attendance on Imperial’s part-time MBA programmes. Imperial is an approved apprenticeship provider offering programmes that are recognised as part of the Level 7 Senior Leader Master’s Degree apprenticeships.
A home for business

Imperial’s White City Campus houses a rapidly expanding entrepreneurial ecosystem. It provides a home for local entrepreneurs, world-leading academics, strategic industrial partners, talented students and more than 70 companies ranging from startups to corporates.

A platform for innovation

- 10 hectares
- £2bn investment in our White City Campus
- £85m+ to date raised by incubator companies
- 1,300 scientists, clinicians and engineers on campus by the end of 2019

Scale up the next wave of high-growth, high-tech digital companies ready to scale their businesses will find a home in Scale Space – a collaboration between venture builder Blenheim Chalcot and Imperial.

Co-location Businesses looking to work alongside entrepreneurs and world-class researchers to turn innovations into new products and services will find a home in the Translation & Innovation Hub (I-HUB). Operated by Imperial College ThinkSpace, I-HUB supports startups and fast-growth companies, established scientific research organisations and accelerator programmes. It includes Central Working — the co-working space for West London’s enterprise community.
Eighty Eight Wood Lane

From early 2020, Eighty Eight Wood Lane will provide 192 new homes, offering people an opportunity to live in the heart of this pioneering neighbourhood. The building includes 59 flats at affordable rent for Imperial key workers.

The Invention Rooms

These offer spaces for businesses, Imperial staff and students and the local community to collaborate. Designed to inspire inventors, entrepreneurs and makers, the building includes the Imperial College Advanced Hackspace.

Engineering solutions

Currently under construction, the Michael Uren Biomedical Engineering Research Hub will bring together 600 engineers, scientists and clinicians in this unique space to address pressing healthcare challenges.

Better chemistry

With state-of-the-art spaces for companies to collaborate with researchers to address global challenges such as energy, healthcare and sustainability, the Molecular Sciences Research Hub is home to 800 scientists, clinicians, engineers and business partners as well as a new research base for Imperial’s Department of Chemistry.

Incubation

Early-stage science companies can find office and laboratory space, mentoring and support in the White City Incubator. This provides office, laboratory space and support for early-stage science companies.

On-site talent

Imperial’s White City community includes 600 Imperial postgraduate students who live on campus in the Wood Lane Studios.

Improving health

A state-of-the-art hub to house Imperial’s School of Public Health has entered an exciting phase, with a £100 million fundraising campaign to support the development of this new space for health, wellbeing research, education and community engagement.

Accelerating access
About Imperial College London

Imperial College London is a world top ten university with an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research.

Consistently rated amongst the world’s best universities, Imperial is committed to developing the next generation of researchers, scientists and academics through collaboration across disciplines.

Located in the heart of London, Imperial is a multidisciplinary space for education, research, translation and commercialisation, harnessing science and innovation to tackle global challenges.

- Imperial is home to 8,000 staff and 17,000 students
- It awards over 6,700 degrees p.a.
- The College focuses on the four main disciplines of science, engineering, medicine and business and is renowned for its application of these skills to industry and enterprise
- Imperial is home to the greatest concentration of high-impact research of any major UK university
- Imperial is the second most innovative university in Europe and top ten in the world
- Imperial is the UK’s third most international university and is ranked 10th in the world
Enterprise at Imperial

IBP builds partnerships to accelerate innovation and helps its members connect with the best of Imperial

Research Partnerships
Collaborative research bringing academic rigour to complex real-world challenges.

Commercialisation
Opportunities to license the technology developed in our labs.

Consultancy and technical services
Testing and analysis, expert opinion, product design, expert witnesses, strategic development and capacity building from Imperial Consultants

Executive Education
New ideas and help in answering the questions and dilemmas that face your business.

Incubator space
A hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, the Imperial White City Incubator offers laboratory space and support for early-stage companies.

Co-location
Office, laboratory and co-working space among a community of researchers and innovators, managed by Imperial ThinkSpace.

Recruitment
Opportunities to reach students, advertise vacancies and take part in events.

Join Imperial Business Partners to put you at the forefront of science and technology imperial.ac.uk/ibp
Contact Imperial Business Partners
If you think membership of the Imperial Business Partners programme is right for your organisation, we’d love to hear from you.

ibp@imperial.ac.uk | +44 (0) 20 7594 2910 | imperial.ac.uk/ibp