

Key themes from REC Student Survey

Diversity of the institution

Perceived lack of racial representation & diversity especially too few black students & academics

Perceived widespread phenomenon of friendship groups/cliques which consist solely of people of one ethnicity/nationality

A feeling that race is not an issue or is irrelevant and that meritocracy is more important at Imperial

Appreciation of the College as a diverse institution

Ratio of home to international students is a concern for some (too few home students)

Sense of tension between Chinese students and others/discrimination against Asian international students

A sense of elitism/a class issue rather than a race issue necessarily

Suggestions that College do more outreach/access work to encourage BAME (especially black) pupils in schools to come to Imperial

Diversity of the local population

(East) Asian students are the target of mockery, bullying, and discrimination

Perceived widespread phenomenon of friendship groups/cliques which consist solely of people of one ethnicity/nationality (possibly as a result of Asian students feeling unwelcome)

A sense that racial issues/tensions are non-existent, imaginary, or exaggerated

Division within Kensington and Chelsea especially in the aftermath of Grenfell

Increased police presence making BAME (especially black) students uncomfortable

Suggestion that College partner with organisations that promote diversity and run events on this theme

Reporting racial discrimination

Lack of awareness of College policies/procedures around reporting racial discrimination

Negative perception of/lack of confidence in how College might handle a report of racial discrimination

Feeling that there is casual racism/microaggressions that cannot really be reported

A sense that academics and students are being dismissive towards (people of) other cultures or making assumptions about other cultures

Racial slurs heard in the local area

Recommending the institution

Race is not a factor for most: some would recommend it based on quality of the course, but others have non-race-related concerns

Key themes from REC Student Survey

Concern about lack of support for mental wellbeing (especially for BAME students)

A sense that the environment is hostile, stressful and unhealthy

Concern about financial difficulties/lack of financial support at the College

Lack of diversity among academics

Lack of a sense of community at Imperial or in London

Course progression

Stressful and difficult course

Lack of confidence about course progression

Post-course progression

Physics 'professional skills' modules perhaps not that useful

Good resources at the College

Lack of variety in jobs advertised to students (industry/academia-focused)

Need more soft/people skills development or well-rounded personal development

Course content

Strong sense that race is irrelevant to and has no place in science/academia, and that it does not get brought up

Courses are very Western-based (e.g. case studies, reading material etc.)

Lecturers/academics are not well-trained enough to talk about race comfortably

Course enjoyment

Students appreciate interaction with lecturers

Some lecturers are not as engaging as others

Sessions (including tutorials) that are in large groups are not always helpful due to number of people

Problem classes are useful and there should be more

Group discussions and approachability of tutors

Some students are nervous to ask questions in groups/contribute to discussions in lectures

Many lecturers are helpful one-to-one, but some are more approachable than others

Large group sizes make questions difficult

Lecturers are not always available

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Assessment and support

There is a disparity in different markers' expectations in some assessments (e.g. labs)

Feedback does not always come in a timely manner

There needs to be a better balance between coursework and exams

Suggestion that blind marking should be implemented for all assessed work

Suggestion for mock exams especially in first-year when still getting used to transition to university from school

Imperial College Union

Unchallenged/relatively unpunished racism in sports societies especially the behaviour of the Rugby Club

Students not having enough time to socialise/participate in society events due to heavy workload

Sense that the Union may not be doing enough to combat racist incidents/change the culture

Sense that some cultural societies are being exclusionary to those not of that culture/who do not speak a certain language

Sense that some society events seem to be attended by mostly EU students

Final comments

Lack of black representation in the College

Sense that race is not an issue and positive discrimination is unfair

International students having a more difficult time assimilating (accents/communication especially)

Imperial should start a broader conversation about race (institutional racism, diversity in STEM etc)

Issue with East Asians being referred to as "Oriental"

Comments for SAT

Encourage integration and friendships among different races/backgrounds - mix up groups randomly

Better access/outreach to show that students from all backgrounds can attend Imperial

Increase representation in staff (so students can have people to look up to/reach out to someone with a similar background if they have issues)

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Engaging with/promoting the cultural societies/events - suggestion of a multicultural festival similar to Fresher's Fair

Start the conversation, talk about race, and educate people

Support international students (financially/with their English/etc.)

Promote diverse famous people who have attended Imperial