Safe & Secure

A Crime Prevention Guide for Imperial College Students

Campus Services
Contents

2 Contents
3 Introduction
5 Personal Safety
7 Protect Your Property
9 Drink and Drugs
11 Mobile Phones and Laptops
13 Cars and Bikes
15 Scams and Cybercrime
17 Home Security
18 Useful Contacts
19 Reporting advice
Introduction

Dear Student

Welcome to London and the world famous Imperial College. I hope you have a great time in this wonderful city and I wish you every success during your studies here.

London is one of the largest cities in the world with a hugely vibrant and diverse population. I have no doubt that over the coming years you will have a great time exploring the many sites and sounds this city has to offer. Please note, however, that although being one of the safest cities in the world, London like everywhere, does have crime issues you should be aware of. That said, many of the crimes previously reported by students could have easily been prevented if they had taken a little more personal responsibility to protect themselves and their property.

The following booklet sets out some sound crime prevention advice that I hope you will read and take note of. If you do, I believe you will greatly reduce the chances of you ever becoming a victim of crime and as such giving you the best opportunity to enjoy to the full your time here at Imperial College.

Best wishes

Nigel Ward
Crime and Investigations Manager
Personal Safety

London is a very safe place to live and study but, like any other city, there are risks. Below are just a few pointers which, if followed, will go a long way to aid your safety.

• Trust your instincts, they will usually be right, if you feel nervous or frightened move away from the threat and seek safety with others or in a safer location.

• Know where you are going, plan your journeys. How are you getting there? More importantly, how you are getting back? **Not all public transport in London runs 24/7.**

• Don’t carry on you or display excessive amounts of cash.

• Carry a personal attack alarm, **available free** from the Security office, room 155 Sherfield Building.

• Do not go into parks after dark.

• Do not accept lifts in vehicles from people you don’t know.

• Always keep a list of emergency contact numbers in your mobile phone.

• Be aware of your surroundings, especially at cash machines and when using your mobile phone in public places.

• Only use Hackney Cabs or Licensed Mini Cabs. Do not use illegal mini cabs who will tout for your business near pubs and clubs.

• If threatened with violence for property do not fight for it, **hand it over.** Property can be replaced; you can’t.
To protect it, register it.

Register your property FREE and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen.

To get started visit www.immobilise.com
Protect Your Property

If you do have items of property stolen there are a few simple steps you can take that may assist in getting your possessions returned to you, if found.

- Register your items with www.immobilise.com – This is a free web site where you can register your personal items so they can be returned to you, if found.

- Register your bike with www.bikeregister.com – A free national bike registration website.

- Use Ultra Violet pens to mark your property with your house/room number and post code to help police repatriate stolen property to owners and deter criminals. Free UV pens are available from the Security office, 155 Sherfield building.

- Certain electronic devices have tracker programs fitted as standard such as Apple computers, IPads and IPhones. Ensure they are activated. If not present try to download this software.

- Keep a record of all your serial numbers and also your mobile phone’s IMEI number which is obtained by typing *#06#.

- Take photographs of any non serial numbered items of value.

- Lock doors and windows when leaving rooms or buildings even for short periods of time.

- Do not leave personal items insecure and unattended, no matter for how long; they won’t be there when you return.
Drink & Drugs

You will no doubt at some stage whilst at Imperial look to enjoy the social side of life whether within the College or out and about in London. Please be aware of the following points:

- Controlled drugs are illegal. If you are caught with them you not only risk being arrested but also the potential expulsion from Imperial College.

- Legal highs and drug substitutes are widely available in London. The ingredients, however, are unknown and they are killing people; **DO NOT USE THEM**.

- Drink spiking can be an issue in London. Do not leave your drinks unattended and do not accept drinks from strangers. If you believe your drink may have been spiked or you have consumed contaminated alcohol, bring this to the immediate attention of your friends, the police, premises management and seek medical attention.

- Drink responsibly and stay safe. Many people become victims of crime when overly intoxicated and incapable of looking after themselves.

- Look after each other when out in groups and ensure everyone gets home safely.

- When you have been out enjoying yourself please have consideration for others on your return and keep noise to a minimum.
Mobile Phones & Laptops

Phones and laptops are by far the most common items reported stolen by students. The majority of offences could have been avoided with a little personal responsibility.

• Do not leave electronic devices unattended in communal areas even for short periods of time; a theft takes seconds to happen.

• Buy a security cable for your laptop and use it.

• Watch your items in places like coffee shops and restaurants, professional thieves table surf looking for unsuspecting victims leaving items vulnerable.

• Be aware of your surroundings when using phones/tablets and laptops in public places; snatch offences are commonplace.

• Engage tracking software if present, if not, download it.

• Keep a record of your phone’s IMEI number, dial *#06# to get it.

• Ensure you regularly back up data and your coursework from computers, just in case.

• Mark the underside of your electronic goods with an Ultra Violet pen.
Many students will use bikes whilst at Imperial and a few may have a car. The following tips may help prevent a crime taking place.

- Do not leave a vehicle with its engine running or keys in the ignition; even for a short periods of time.
- Park cars in well lit areas at night, covered by CCTV if possible.
- Do not leave parcels or other property in any visible place within a parked vehicle, store it in the boot.
- When parked, ensure doors and windows are shut, locked and the alarm is set.
- Register your bike with www.bikeregister.com.
- Get your bike property marked and registered totally free of charge by the Security team, 155 Sherfield Building.
- Use the College’s secure bike storage facilities. Access is gained by registering your bike on the College web site.
- Do not use inferior cable locks, buy a good D lock. The College sells heavily discounted, Gold standard, D locks to staff and students for only £30. In 4 years no bike secured with one has been stolen. Available from the Security office, 155 Sherfield Building.
- Always secure your bike through the frame, not the wheels.
- If you can remove it, a thief can steal it. Consider taking saddles and lights with you and buying additional locks to secure any quick-release items.
Students in the past have been targeted by clever con artists and have handed over substantial quantities of cash. Please read the following points and don’t get caught out.

- Beware bogus police officers. Real Police don’t issue on the spot fines and request immediate payments of cash.

- Money Mules – If someone offers you money to transfer money via your bank account do not do it. It is a criminal offence called money laundering, used by organised crime networks to hide money transactions.

- Banks, Police and other organisations will never ask you to disclose bank card PIN numbers or passwords. Do not divulge them to anyone.

- Do not leave any computer unattended when logged on, always log off.

- Be careful what personal data you make public on social media. Identity thieves trawl such websites to build up profiles to then steal people’s identities. Also do not post anything online you may later come to regret either personally or professionally. You may also make yourself vulnerable to unwanted or inappropriate advances.

- Do not be taken in by sob stories from strangers asking for cash. They will be well rehearsed and sound believable but it will be a tissue of lies set to deceive you.

- Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
Home Security

The information below is relevant for when you are in halls of residence as well as when you move into private, rented or shared accommodation.

• Always lock your room or premises when leaving it unattended even for short periods. Walk in theft is easy.

• When in halls of residence, or within the College, do not allow people to tailgate you into secured areas.

• If you see anyone suspicious call the police or security. Better safe than sorry.

• Don’t leave climbing aids such as ladders or wheelie bins in a position a criminal could then use to get into your property.

• Do not leave your keys or valuables near doors or windows. Thieves use rods through letter boxes to steal items without having to break in.

• Keep your valuables out of sight and secure, remove the temptation to steal from you.

• During warmer periods, do not leave windows open when your premises is unattended, burglars do climb.

• Ensure side gates and outbuildings are kept secured with adequate locks

• When your lights are on, close your curtains. Looking from a dark exterior into a light interior is like a shop window for burglars. They can see who is in and what items are on offer.
# Useful Contacts

## Emergency Services

**Police, Fire, Ambulance** – Emergency  999  
**Police** – Non Emergency  101  

## Security Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Internal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Kensington</td>
<td>020 7589 1000</td>
<td>x4444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silwood Park</td>
<td>020 7594 2444</td>
<td>x3333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammersmith</td>
<td>020 7594 6666</td>
<td>x9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington Danes</td>
<td>020 7594 3457/8</td>
<td>x43457/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
<td>020 7594 3660</td>
<td>x43660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charing Cross</td>
<td>020 7594 0713</td>
<td>x3333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Imperial Health Centre**  020 7584 6301 / 020 7594 9375  

**Crime and Investigations Manager**  020 7589 8176
Reporting advice

If you become a victim of crime it is important that you inform the police at the earliest opportunity. If the crime takes place on Imperial College premises please also ensure you report the crime to the College Security Team as soon as possible.

The College employs a Crime and Investigations Manager, Nigel Ward. He will examine your reports, offer ongoing advice and support and liaise with law enforcement agencies to enhance all opportunities to identify offenders and have them arrested.

Nigel also offers crime prevention advice and guidance so if you have any questions or concerns please either make contact in person at Room 155 Sherfield Building or send an email or give him a phone call.

Enjoy your Imperial experience!

Websites

www.immobilise.com
www.met.police.uk
www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice