

About our information for new staff from overseas

We wish to provide helpful and easily digestible information to our new members of staff arriving from overseas. We hope that in this way we are able to support you in your preparations to join us and during your first few months in London.

We have a dedicated set of webpages and supporting leaflets which we hope will ease your transition into life in the UK.

Please visit our Overseas Staff webpages at:

www.imperial.ac.uk/hr/procedures/recruitment/overseas

Here you will find information on the following topics:

- Permission to Work
- Essential Travel Items
- Bank Accounts
- Tax and National Insurance
- Pensions
- Accommodation
- Childcare and schooling
- Healthcare
- Living in the UK

Our New Staff webpages will also be a useful source of information to you as you prepare to take up your appointment with College and as you settle into employment with us. Please view these webpages at:

www.imperial.ac.uk/newstaff

Websites for further information

Accommodation webpages:

www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/
Visitingimperial

Living in London (College site):

www.imperial.ac.uk/livinginlondon

Transport for London:

www.tfl.gov.uk

Visit London:

www.visitlondon.com/areas/villages

Living in London:

www.livinginlondon.net

Upmystreet:

www.upmystreet.com

Commute from:

www.commutefrom.com

Gumtree:

www.gumtree.com

National Association of Estate Agents:

www.naea.co.uk

Information on renting property:

www.direct.gov.uk

Accommodation for sale/rent:

www.rightmove.co.uk

www.findaproperty.com

Information for new staff from overseas



Accommodation in the UK

Helping you make the
transition to life in the UK

Imperial College London

Exhibition Road
South Kensington
London
SW7 2AZ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7589 5111
www.imperial.ac.uk/hr
www.imperial.ac.uk/newstaff

www.imperial.ac.uk/hr/procedures/recruitment/overseas

Accommodation

It is important to arrange accommodation in advance of arriving in London and various options for this are available to



you. A good place to start your accommodation search is by viewing Imperial College's

[Accommodation web-pages](#), which offer information on both short

and long stay accommodation.

To help with your accommodation search, you may also wish to refer to the following information:

Deciding where to live

London has a good public transport network, and more details of this can be found in our [Living in London](#) webpage. A good place to start when searching for accommodation is by identifying areas which will be easily accessible from your place of work. The [Transport for London](#) website provides a variety of transport maps and help with planning journeys.

Living in Central London

London has evolved from many small villages joining together as the city spread outwards, and this is evident when choosing an area to live. The [Visit London](#) website has a comprehensive guide to London's 'villages'. Different areas of the city have their own 'centre' and character, which is enhanced by the many different cultures present in the city.

[Living in London](#) is another useful website when choosing an area of London to live in, which gives advice on the character of each area of London. You may also wish to view the [UpMyStreet](#) website for information on the local neighbourhood in which you are considering living.

Commuting from outside central London

If you wish to live outside of London and commute in via train, we would recommend visiting the '[Commute From](#)' website, which allows you to search for areas to live based on length of commute, and then gives the average house price in each area, as well as details of local schools, crime rates, and links to local estate agents.



Renting a property

The College's [Accommodation Office](#) maintains a database with information on estate agents and available properties. There are also plenty of online search engines for finding private rental accommodation in the UK. If you are looking for a flat or flat-share, [Gumtree](#) is one of the most commonly used websites in London. You could try the website of the [National Association of Estate Agents](#), which allows you to search for property type and price within a particular area. If you do not want to rent through an agency, you could search the local papers for housing advertisements and rent directly from the owner.

Our Overseas webpages contain information relating to some of the common terminology used for accommodation types.

The [DirectGov](#) website has useful

information for people who want to rent accommodation, including information on the different types of landlord and tenancy agreements, and advice on what to do if you have a problem with your landlord.

Buying a property

If you will be staying in the UK for a substantial period of time, you may wish to consider buying a property, although it is advisable to live in and research an area for a period of time before you buy. Buying a property in the UK can be a complex procedure and there are a number of one off costs and cost of living expenses that you will have to take into account when buying a property, the [Directgov website](#) has useful information on planning for these costs.

There are many websites, such as [Right-move](#), which list properties for sale and will also provide you with an indication of current property prices in the area you wish to live. A directory of [estate agents](#) is also available should you wish to enlist the services of an estate agent in your property search.

Relocation

Reimbursement of reasonable relocation expenses may be made to new members of academic and senior academic related staff whose initial appointment is for three years or more. Staff will only be reimbursed for items which are authorised by the Head of Department/Division/School/Institute.

You may wish to carry out an internet search of international relocation companies and obtain a selection of price quotations for removals.