

When you begin your ATAS application please select Imperial College London from the drop-down menu. Your ATAS certificate must be linked to Imperial College to be able to use this as part of your visa application to study at Imperial.

When should I apply for ATAS?

You should apply for ATAS clearance well in advance (at least one month) of making your student visa application as the processing time for ATAS can be as long as 30 working days.

How long will it take for me to get ATAS clearance?

The ATAS team aims to respond to all applications within 20 working days from submission but this can take longer during peak periods. The ATAS website will give an estimated date by which you should have received your certificate; however, this is not a definite prediction. Please do not panic if you have not received your certificate by this date.

If you have been waiting for a decision for more than 30 working days, please email the International Student Support team with details of your ATAS application reference number and your date of application.

How long is ATAS valid for?

An ATAS certificate is only valid to be used with a visa application for 6 months from the date of issue. Please ensure that you submit your visa application before the certificate expires!

I am having problems registering on the ATAS website – what should I do?

Try registering [online](#) from a different computer (e.g. in a place of work or education) or with a new login email address.

Alternatively, try using a different web browser (the ATAS website works best in Google Chrome). You may have trouble using Internet Explorer or Firefox to complete the form.

What is my JACS code?

If you are a new undergraduate student, you should be given your JACS code by your department.

If you are a new postgraduate student, your JACS code should appear in your College offer. If you do not know your JACS code, please look on the course information tab of your student e-service.



Please note that your JACS code may not be the same as your course code. You need to enter details of your JACS code on your ATAS application.

Is my course Taught or Research?

Courses at Imperial College:

- Taught = All Meng, MSci and MSc courses
- Research = All MRes and PhD courses

I don't know what modules I'll be studying?

MSc students must enter the titles of the optional modules which they think they might choose to study as part of the course. **For details of the modules available on your course, please see the [postgraduate prospectus](#) or [contact your department](#).**

MRes students should describe the options available on their course and (if known) list which options they will choose.

MEng and MSci students should also provide information about the modules offered on their course (in particular the final year elective & core modules). This information will be provided by the Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for relevant courses.

I'm a PhD student but I don't have a statement of research - where can I get this?

PhD students will also need to enter some information about their proposed area of research. This should be about 6-7 lines in length and agreed with your supervisor in writing (by email is fine). [Please refer to our website for a document with examples of good and bad statements of proposed research provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.](#)

Is my programme a joint programme with another country?

If your course includes a year abroad, but your degree will only be awarded by Imperial College, then you should answer "No".

If your course includes study in two different countries, and will either be jointly awarded by Imperial College and another institution, or awarded solely by another institution, then you should answer "Yes".

What education history do I need to provide?

In the "Undergraduate / Postgraduate studies" section, the form will ask you whether you have "undertaken any undergraduate or postgraduate studies". This refers only to courses



International student support

at university level that have been **completed**. The application form only requires you to provide information on your education history related to professional qualifications from a College/University and previous Undergraduate and Postgraduate study.

You are not required to provide information about your high school education.

How should I complete the ‘Employment’ section if I have never been employed?

You are required to provide details of employment since you left school that includes any paid work and any long-term voluntary (i.e. unpaid) work. You do not need to provide information about temporary jobs you have done during university vacations.

If you have not undertaken any employment as mentioned above, select “No” in this section.

Who should I use as referees?

The ATAS guidance states that you need to provide the “full names and contact details of 2 referees (First name(s) and Family name). You must have known both of your referees for at least 3 years. At least one must also be an academic from your country of origin.”

- If you have been studying outside of your home country then you can use an academic referee that is not from your country of origin (eg if you have studied your UG in the UK then you may use a UK academic as a referee).
- If you are applying for an UG Masters course (eg. MEng), and you do not have an academic referee who has known you for 3 years, it is okay to use a referee who has known you for less than 3 years.

What should I do if my referees are not based in my home country?

If you are unable to provide referees from your home country because you have been studying elsewhere, this should not be an issue. Please just provide two referees from your most recent studies.

How should I complete the ‘Sponsors’ section if I am a self-funding student?

Where you are asked for the sponsor name and you are self-funded, write your own name.



International student support

I have already obtained ATAS clearance but my passport details have since changed – what should I do?

If you have been issued a new passport please email international@imperial.ac.uk with your ATAS ID and new passport number and we will forward this on to the ATAS team. In most cases they will update your certificate to reflect the new passport details. In some instances you may be required to apply for a new ATAS.

Where you have changed nationality you may be required to apply for a new ATAS.

I have already obtained ATAS clearance but I entered the incorrect JACS code – what should I do?

You will need to make a new ATAS application using the correct JACS code. Once you have submitted a new application, please send us a copy of your most recent ATAS certificate together with the ATAS Reference Number (for your new application) - we will then ask the FCO whether they will be able to fast-track your application. You will need to wait until you have your new ATAS certificate before making your visa application.

I have applied for ATAS clearance using the wrong passport/JACS code but do not yet have my ATAS Certificate – what should I do?

Please email international@imperial.ac.uk giving your ATAS reference number. We may be able to get this information changed for you before your certificate is issued. If we cannot, you will need to make a completely new ATAS application (see above).



International student support