If you are thinking about applying to participate in the International Entrepreneur Programme you will need to have a solid business plan. Use the Enterprise portal to find out about the support available at the Enterprise Lab and all of the entrepreneurial activities taking place across the College, visit https://bit.ly/2MIBZ1J

To submit your business proposal you will need to complete the online proforma which will go live on the International Student Support website Tuesday 4 October at 12:00 (BST) and close on Thursday 30 October at 12:00 (BST).

Imperial staff involved in entrepreneurial activities at the College will assess the applications and shortlist the strongest applications to progress to the second stage: Pitch-to-Panel session. Applicants will be notified by 15 November of the outcome of their application.

Those who progress to the second round will have the opportunity to have a practice session to prepare their pitch for the Pitch-to-Panel session.

The opportunity to pitch your business plan to the International Entrepreneur Panel. The Panel will decide whether or not the College will endorse your idea to be sponsored for a visa.

The Home Office grants Imperial College 20 endorsements annually to be able to support international students on a Tier 4 visa to set up a business in the UK.

Applicants can be UG or PG and must be in their final year of study (one of the requirements to apply for the visa is that you must have been awarded your degree).

The College is required to assess that the applications for this scheme meet the Home Office requirements of being a **genuine and credible business** that **demonstrates entrepreneurial skills**. The International Entrepreneur Programme has been designed to allow the College to assess applicants and ensure they meet the Home Office requirements. The programme allows applicants who are shortlisted for the Pitch-to-Panel session pitch their business.

By the end of the programme an applicant will be in the position to present their business plan at the Pitch-to-Panel session and, if the business plan is endorsed by the International Entrepreneur Panel, to be sponsored for a Graduate Entrepreneur Visa for 1 year in the first instance.

**who can apply?**

- final year non-EU students who require a visa to stay in the UK
- UG or PG students
- only open to Imperial students or graduates

**endorsement under the graduate entrepreneur visa scheme**

If your business has been recommended for endorsement after the Pitch-to-Panel session then the International Student Support team will provide the letter of endorsement and guide you through the visa application process

**IMPORTANT NOTE, WHILST YOU ARE ON YOUR TIER 4 VISA YOU CANNOT**

- be part of a business that is trading or establishing a trading presence,
- employed by a company in which you hold 10% or more of shares, or
- working in a statutory role such as a director.