Imperial College London
International Student Support Newsletter

WINTER 2017
The International Student Support team have launched a new trips programme! Please like our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter so you'll be the first to know about our upcoming trips.

**Day Trips**

Bath Christmas Market & Lacock

2nd Dec
Sign up!

Kensington Palace

9th Dec
Sign up!

The Making of Harry Potter

28th Jan
Sign up!
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

CLAUDIA LEIBA

Role: Assistant International Student Adviser

How long have you worked at Imperial?
Since March 2016 so coming up to two years now.

How long have you worked with international students?
In my previous job role at the University of the Arts London I worked in international admissions and was there for six years so I have worked with international students for a while now.

What one word best describes your role?
Varied. Although in principle what I do sounds samey, it’s the anomalies that make it interesting like having to investigate something further with the Home Office or having to get more information from a student in order to get a clearer idea of the situation. I like having to dig deeper to find out what is going on.

Describe a ‘typical work day’ for you?
As we work in a student facing office, no day is ever really 100% the same as although the students that we see have the common ground that they are international, they are from all over the world and have varying background stories and different situations. My day mainly consists of answering emails in our shared inbox and where I can, helping to answer any queries from students who come into the office outside of our quick query times. This summer I was able to help out with visa applications for our Presessional students going onto Master courses so that was good as I was mostly able to go through the application with them independently which has really helped to boost my confidence in my role now. I also approve any applications for HOST and do the organisation of ISS theatre trips our latest one being a sell-out trip to see Les Miserables.

What one thing in your office could you not function without?
My computer! For this job role I would be lost without it as I need it to look up students on our system which allows me to see what visa they are currently on and when their course ends etc and help me advise them better.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party (current or historical figures) who would it be?
Beyonce, a true musical icon with an incredible voice and a great role model for black women, I would ask if she would kindly sing one of her songs at my dinner party preferably my favourite – ‘If I were a boy’.
Usain Bolt, arguably one of the greatest sprinters we will ever see, I would want to ask him how it felt like to get his first gold medal and whether any of his medals have a particularly special meaning.
Lindsey Vonn as I am going on my first skiing holiday this year and I need some tips for technique!

Tell us something we might not know about you?
I am surprisingly good at ice skating despite only doing it annually at one of London’s ice rinks. I highly recommend the one right here on our doorstep at the Natural History Museum.
Winter Events in London
Our Top Picks

Christmas with International Students House
You will be welcomed with Christmas drinks and delicious canapés on arrival at the bar, before joining us for a three course Christmas Lunch, followed by the Queens Speech and a Christmas film marathon while you rest your post-Christmas Dinner food-belly!

Click HERE for details

Kew Gardens
See the Gardens light up for an unforgettable after-dark festive trail of lights.

Click HERE for details

Burning the Clocks Festival in Brighton
The Brighton lantern parade, bonfire and fireworks display 2017 brings the whole city together to celebrate the shortest day of the year.

Click HERE for details

Scandinavian Christmas Markets London
The markets is an annual event that Scandinavians in London flock to. Products on sale range from classic Nordic design pieces to more affordable toys, Christmas cards and of course food, Christmas cookies and sweets.

Click HERE for details
International Family Network

The International Student Support team aims to provide support to help with the transition into UK life. Moving to an unfamiliar country and trying to balance study commitments while raising a family can be an isolating and difficult experience. If you’re an international student parent in this position, the good news is that you’re not alone! We have created the International Family Network in order to bring international families together in a welcoming and informal environment. Our meet-ups allow you to socialise and share experiences/tips with others who may be going through many of the same situations as you.

**Dates for your Diary:**
**Christmas Party 15 December**

Our next event will be the Family Network Christmas Party on Friday 15th December on the South Kensington Campus. This is a free event and will be an opportunity to bring your children and other halves on to campus to meet other Imperial families!

For more information and to sign up please email Shelagh Markey on s.markey@imperial.ac.uk

Join our Family Network Facebook Group to be the first to hear of news and events organised specially for you and your family
TUESDAY
28TH NOVEMBER
12 - 1
SKEM 207

WORKSHOP:
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: STAYING
SAFE IN THE UK

Would you know what to do in an emergency? Who to contact and how? Have you ever thought about how to keep yourself and your personal belongings safe whilst you are living in London?

This session, run jointly between Imperial’s Security Services and International Student Support Team will give you lots of practical information to maximise your safety and security in the UK including:

- General safety advice – keeping yourself and your personal belongings safe
- UK Law: things to know
- How to contact emergency Services – both in College and outside
- How to register with a Doctor in the UK and what do you if you need urgent medical help

There will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.

Sign up here:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-students-staying-safe-in-the-uk-tickets-40092968147
Help! What to do if...

...I lose my passport?
1. Report this to the police and obtain a crime reference number/letter from the police.
2. Apply for a new passport through your country’s Embassy or High Commission.

...I lose my BRP?
...in the UK:
1. Report a lost or stolen BRP to the Home Office online.
2. Wait for a response from the Home Office with instructions on applying for a replacement BRP.
3. Contact the International Student Support team for an appointment to check and send your BRP(RC) application.

...outside the UK:
1. Report a lost or stolen BRP to the Home Office online.
2. Apply for a replacement BRP (single entry) visa at the British Embassy to get back into the UK.
3. Apply for a new BRP when you have returned to the UK within 1 month.

...I lose my Police Registration Certificate?
1. Report it immediately to the nearest police station.
2. Complete a new Overseas Visitors Records Office registration proforma, prepare your supporting documents.
3. Go to OVRO to apply for a new certificate.

BRP FAQ

What is my BRP?
Your BRP (biometric residence permit) is your student visa!

Should I carry my BRP with me every day?
No, it is not a requirement to carry your BRP with you in the UK and we do not recommend you do this in case you lose it. You only need your BRP if you are traveling in and out of the UK.

Can I use my BRP as a form of ID?
We strongly advise you not to use your BRP as a form of ID, because you are at risk of losing it or having it stolen.
Instead, we recommend you apply for a UK proof of age card through Pass-Scheme.

What if there is a mistake on my BRP?
If there is a mistake on your BRP (e.g. your name is spelled incorrectly, the valid until date is wrong, your date of birth is wrong, etc.) you will need to get this corrected. Please contact us and we will assist you with this process.

check our website for more info
Our Service: free UK student visa advice and support for Imperial Students

Where to find us: Level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

Opening Hours: 9:30 - 5 (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri),
10-4 (Wed)

http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/

Email: international@imperial.ac.uk