

## Applicant Behaviour Policy

Imperial College London expects all staff and students to maintain standards of conduct consistent with the values and expectations of the Imperial community. These expectations extend to applicants, with the aspiration of joining the Imperial community. For this policy, we consider applicants as those individuals who have made an application to study at Imperial College London.

Imperial College London expects our students to follow a Student Code of Conduct [\[link\]](#), which is complementary to, and does not replace, other standards, regulations, or professional conduct requirements applying to students in the University.

The expectations for applicants follow the principles of this code of conduct as outlines below.

In summary, we expect applicants to:

- Have respect for each other and our surroundings, i.e. our campuses or other venues used in to host events held during the application process
  - Applicants should take responsibility for their behaviour and their impact on others, treating others with respect and dignity to create an equitable and inclusive environment. Our campuses, property, and facilities should be treated with respect. Whilst freedom of speech or expression is an important right for all in our community, it is not an unqualified right. It is important to remember that a person's right to freedom of speech means lawful freedom of speech.
  - Examples include but are not limited to:
    - disruption or interference with the University's admissions processes, such as interviews, applicant visit days, open days, or other such activity.
    - wearing clothes, other items, or having visible tattoos with slogans or symbols that might constitute a breach of the criminal or civil law of England and Wales.
    - distributing material, including online material, which is intimidating, threatening, indecent or illegal; and intentionally or recklessly harming other individuals or putting others at risk of harm.
- Be honest and show integrity
  - Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to independence, honesty, and transparency. They should be honest and truthful in their dealings with each other and with third parties.
  - Applicants should not submit false claims against other prospective or current members of the University community to actively discredit an individual
  - Examples include but are not limited to:
    - academic misconduct, which includes fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty during the application process.

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- making vexatious allegations (such as frivolous allegations, or repeated allegations based on substantively the same matter that has been dealt with) against a member of the University.
  - Failure to disclose a criminal record or being under investigation by the police or the law courts.
- Never engage in any form of sexual misconduct and abuse
    - Any form of sexual misconduct (i.e., sexual harassment, sexual violence) is never tolerated. All applicants are expected to act to ensure an environment free from these behaviours.
    - Examples include but are not limited to:
      - sexually explicit remarks, innuendos or banter.
      - offensive comments about someone's dress, appearance, or private life, including their sexuality or gender identity.
      - unwanted or inappropriate physical contact or photography, for example the practice of upskirting.
  - Never engage in bullying, harassment, and discrimination
    - We do not tolerate bullying or harassment, including any form of discrimination against any other person on grounds of any protected characteristic (i.e. a personal attribute as defined by the UK Equality Act), or targeting an individual due to their personal attributes.

Imperial College London is committed to ensuring that all interactions between the University and our applicants are conducted in a professional, courteous, and respectful manner. It is expected that our applicants or their representatives have the same commitment. The expected standards of behaviour include all interactions and communications, including social media.

Imperial College London will not tolerate inappropriate, offensive, or abusive behaviour during the admission process or communications deemed to be malicious and that have the potential to bring the University's reputation into disrepute. The University will not tolerate hostile or inappropriate behaviour, including excess levels of contact.

All breaches of this policy will be taken seriously and investigated by the Head of Admissions before any action is taken. The Head of Admissions will present their findings to the Director of Admissions and Data and escalate to the Chief Marketing and Recruitment Officer if appropriate.

In consultation with the Vice Dean (Education) of the relevant faculty, and the senior responsible officer of the faculty for student experience and education, and the Admissions Tutor for the program of study, the most appropriate course of action will be agreed. This action may include, but is not limited to, the withdrawal of an offer to study, or no further action be taken.

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The University will normally warn an applicant if their behaviour, communication, or interactions are judged to be inappropriate prior to taking any further action. This warning will be issued by the appropriate Faculty Admissions Manager, in consultation with the appropriate Admissions Tutor and the Head of Admissions.

However, in extreme cases the University may act with no warning. Such actions may include rejecting an application made, or withdrawing an offer made. Conduct that constitutes a criminal offence may also be reported to relevant authorities. For prospective students applying through UCAS, where inappropriate behaviour leads to the withdrawal of any offer, the University will report its actions to UCAS.