

IMPERIAL

Programmes Committee (PC)

Minutes from the meeting held on:

Thursday 27 November 2025 (confirmed)

Present

Professor Cloda Jenkins (Joint Chair), Dr Errikos Levis (Joint Chair), Steve Ward (Secretary), Dr William Cox, Dr Tiffany Chiu, Dr Lorraine Craig, Dr Christopher Ford, Dr Kate Ippolito, Dr Elaina McGinn, Dr Martyn McLachlan, Ms Betty Yue, Mr Scott Tucker, Dr Michael Weatherburn and Ms Judith Webster.

In attendance

Ms Amy Huynh, Professor Jim Crawley, Professor Marina Botto, Fiona Bibbey, and Aaron Lett.

Apologies

Dr Derek Huntley, and Dr Magdalena Jara

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Terms of Reference 2025-26

The Committee noted that the revised Terms of Reference.

2.1

It was reported that following Senate's decision to formally reintroduce Department Teaching Committees, a comprehensive review of all Senate committees, including their Terms of Reference and constitutions, will take place later this year. As a result, immediate changes to the current Terms of Reference are being kept to a minimum to avoid pre-empting this wider governance review, which will cover the Programmes Committee, QAEC, and the Admissions Committee. The primary update at this stage restricts itself to clarifying the governance of short courses and micro-credentials, specifically noting that approval mechanisms for these have been devolved to the Faculties.

2.2

References to BPES and Horizons have been removed, as these items are now sufficiently covered by standard modification and new module processes. However, the committee agreed to retain the requirement for the Programmes Committee to receive a document outlining the University's strategy and Faculty priorities for the upcoming year. It was acknowledged that while this strategic oversight is not currently happening in practice, with reliance instead on informal networks, it remains a vital standard to maintain and will be addressed further through the New Programme Development procedures. It was agreed through the discussion in the rest of the meeting that the review of Programmes Committee would include considerations of Horizons and BPES modules

3. Report of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 23 October 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters arising.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Major modifications to existing programmes

Faculty of Medicine

5.1 **PC.2025.16 School of Medicine BSc Medical Sciences with Multi-system Disorders and Therapies**

5.1.1 A major modification proposal from the School of Medicine to introduce the new intercalated pathway BSc Medical Sciences with Multi-system Disorders and Therapies with effect from September 2026.

5.1.2 The programme team outlined a new delivery model centred around three interconnected themes: clinical manifestations, disease pathogenesis and discovery science, and the translation of these into advanced therapeutics. These elements will feed into one another to create a cohesive learning structure.

5.1.3 The proposal has been discussed extensively at Staff-Student Liaison Group (SSLG) meetings, where it received overwhelming support and enthusiasm from students. The only reservation noted was a student concern that the new format might become "overly popular," which was acknowledged as a positive challenge. Furthermore, there were no objections raised regarding the suspension of the two current pathways, primarily because the essential core themes of those streams are being retained within the new proposal.

5.1.4 Queries were raised by Programme Committee reviewers around the module leaders, as this information was not provided, as well as the nature and length of the assessments.

5.1.5 **Outcome:** PC agreed to recommend the proposal to QAEC for **approval**, subject to the following requirements:

- The programme team provide clarity on the module leaders for the modules within the programme.
- The programme team provide further details on the assessments.

The programme team is invited to respond to the requirements before the proposal is considered by Programmes Committee through Chair's action.

5.2 **PC.2025.17 School of Medicine MBBS / BSc Medicine (A100)**

5.2.1 A late major modification proposal from the School of Medicine to remove the core module 'Clinical Practical Assessment' (MEDI50006); change the module designation of 'i-Explore' from

core to compulsory in year 2; and update the assessment for the core module 'Patients, Communities and Healthcare 1b' (MEDI50004), incorporating the Clinical Practical Assessment, with effect from October 2025.

5.2.2 The committee discussed two proposals regarding the Year 2 curriculum, the first being a modification to reclassify the "I-Explore" module from "Core" to "Compulsory." It was noted that the current "Core" status prevents standard compensation, leading to a reliance on specific exemptions to allow student progression. Moving to "Compulsory" would align the programme with other departments and allow for clearer application of compensation regulations. A discussion followed regarding the assessment nature of this module; it was clarified that while a numeric mark is required for the transcript, it will not contribute to the overall degree classification. It was noted that a broader university-level conversation is needed to tighten regulations regarding modules that display marks but are excluded from weighted average calculations.

5.2.3 The second proposal involved the Clinical Practice Assessment, which had previously been listed as a standalone O-ECTS element. The committee agreed to bundle this assessment into an existing module (MEDI 50004). The committee surmised that the assessment's historical presence as a standalone item on the transcript was likely to satisfy professional body (GMC) requirements, but agreed that merging it into a credit-bearing module was a logical step.

5.2.4 **Outcome:** PC agreed to recommend the proposal to QAEC for **approval**.

The Committee also agreed to look into the information on the I-Explore website to clarify the programme changes with the text listed around the MBBS.

5.3 **PC.2025.18 Department of Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction
Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Research (Multiple Long-term Conditions) (MLTC)
MRes Clinical Research (Multiple Long-term Conditions) (MLTC) (1YFT)
MRes Clinical Research (Multiple Long-term Conditions) (MLTC) (2YPT)**

5.3.1 A major modification proposal from the Department of Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction to introduce new MRes and Postgraduate Certificate pathways in Clinical Research (Multiple Long-term Conditions) (MLTC), effective from October 2026.

5.3.2 The new pathway addresses a global strategic shift in clinical practice and funding, acknowledging that patients increasingly present with co-morbidities rather than single diseases. A distinct gap in the current educational market was highlighted; while short professional courses and doctoral centres exist, there is no dedicated Master's level qualification for this subject. Consequently, this would be the first MRes of its kind globally. The proposal was characterised as a low-risk addition to the portfolio, as it leverages the existing MRes structure—requiring the creation of only one new specialist module while utilizing established core modules.

5.3.3 Regarding governance and delivery, the pathway is supported by significant expertise, including Professor Jonathan Valabhji (National Clinical Director for MLTC at NHS England) as Course Director and Dr. David Hope as the designated Pathway Lead. The new specialist module will be delivered via a week-long block covering both fundamentals and cutting-edge research

techniques. The assessment strategy is designed to be practical, requiring students to interpret a mock dataset, formulate and test a hypothesis, and present their findings in a 15-minute oral presentation.

5.3.4 The programme team clarified that the short course option was included as future proofing in case it was launched in the future.

5.3.5 Outcome: PC agreed to recommend the proposal to QAEC for **approval**.

6. Programme suspensions and withdrawals

Faculty of Engineering

6.1 PC.2025.19 Department of Computing MSc Computing (Management and Finance) (G5U11)

6.1.1 To consider a major modification proposal from the Department of Computing to suspend the MSc Computing (Management and Finance) programme for three academic years with effect from October 2026.

6.1.2 The committee expressed its full support for the proposal, describing the decision as both rational and reasonable. It was highlighted that the course currently suffers from low recruitment, with only one student enrolled at present. Additionally, there is a persistent misalignment between the course title and its content, which has historically caused students to transfer out of the programme to other streams.

6.1.3 Regarding the implications of the suspension, it was confirmed that there would be no negative impact on the existing student. Since the relevant modules are already embedded within other active streams, the student's progression will not be affected. Consequently, no objections were raised regarding the suspension.

6.1.4 Outcome: PC agreed to recommend the proposal to QAEC for **approval**.

ITEMS TO NOTE

7. PC.2025.14 Chairs Report

The consider the actions taken by the Chair on behalf of the Committee for:

- For the 2024/25 academic year post May 2025 meeting (PC.2025.14a)
- For the 2025/26 academic year so far (PC.2025.14b)

8. Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC)

PC noted the minutes from the previous QAEC, published on the university website:

www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/senate-subcommittees/quality-assurance-enhancement-committee/

9. Any other business

9.1 No other business was raised.

10. Dates of future meetings

10.1 The next Programmes Committee meeting will be held online, scheduled for 29 January 2026.