

E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS POLICY

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

Imperial supports sustainable modes of travel while prioritising the safety of staff, students, visitors and property. This policy sets out the requirements for the use, storage and charging of powered transporters, recognising the fire risk associated with lithium-ion batteries and the current legal framework in the UK.

This policy applies to:

- All university owned, leased or managed buildings and premises
- All staff, students, contractors and visitors
- All academic and residential buildings

This policy does not apply to the use of mobility scooters, powered wheelchairs, medical or disability related electric mobility aids.

DEFINITIONS

E-scooters: 2-wheeled stand-on scooters propelled by a motor, instead of being manually propelled. This term is used as shorthand in this policy to cover all powered transporters.

E-bikes: bicycles which are propelled by a motor, as well as being manually propelled.

LEGAL POSITION

E-scooters

There is no specially designed legal regime for e-scooters and powered transporters¹. This means that they are covered by the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles. It is therefore illegal to use a privately owned e-scooter:

- On a public road without complying with a number of legal requirements, which potential users will find very difficult.
- In spaces that are set aside for use by pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders; this includes on the pavement and in cycle lanes.
- On private land, without the permission of the owner.

Given the points above, **e-scooters are prohibited on Imperial campuses, including residential buildings.**

E-bikes

There are specific existing regulations governing the allowable use of e-bikes in the UK on public roads². Imperial therefore permits the use of e-bikes on its campuses, providing the general principles detailed below are complied with.

¹ [Powered transporters - GOV.UK](#)

² [EAPC standards and legal requirements - GOV.UK](#)

General principles that apply to the use of e-bikes, bicycles and scooters

Our campuses are shared by pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. All bikes, including e-bikes must only be used on roads and bike lanes across campus and must not be ridden on shared footpaths and walkways. To promote a safe and respectful environment, all users are expected to act with consideration for others who share campus roads and pathways, including:

- Pedestrians have priority on all shared footpaths and walkways;
- Cycles and scooters must be fitted with appropriate lighting, and these lights are to be used between dusk and dawn to ensure visibility;
- E-bikes are permitted on campus; however, electrical assistance must not be engaged when travelling on shared footpaths;
- Only folded cycles and scooters may be taken indoors, and only where the relevant Department has agreed a suitable internal storage location for the personal device;
- All e-bikes (including folding) are prohibited from storage inside buildings – except in designated secure cycle stores:
 - Faculty bike store
 - White City cycle Hub
 - MediaWorks cycle store
 - School of Public Health bike store
 - Others designated spaces
- Keeping or charging e-bike batteries is prohibited in university buildings due to the fire risk associated with these batteries; and
- Rental e-bikes must be parked in our campus designated space.

Please note e-scooters are prohibited on Imperial campuses, including residential buildings (see section 3: Legal position)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All individuals with responsibility or oversight over Imperial-occupied premises and the activities within them must ensure policy adherence at all times.

All Staff, students and visitors to Imperial are required to comply with this policy at all times. Failure to comply with this policy constitutes gross misconduct and would invoke the relevant disciplinary procedures.

REFERENCES

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/government-safety-message-on-e-bikes-and-e-scooters>

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/what-you-need-to-know-electric-bikes/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>

<https://www.gov.uk/electric-scooter-rules>

<https://nfcc.org.uk/our-services/campaigns/charge-safe/>

<https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/transport-traffic/road-safety/9>

<https://www.checkfire.co.uk/fire-safety-news/what-is-thermal-runaway/>

<https://www.britsafe.org/safety-management/2025/the-hidden-risks-of-lithium-ion-batteries>

Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/20/enacted>

POLICY AND DOCUMENT CONTROL	
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