Life in halls

Fun, friendly and with a healthy dose of independence, living in halls is a great way to fully immerse yourself in the Imperial experience from your very first day.

Halls are a place for everyone, with room enough to carve out your own space without being so big that they lose a sense of community.

So whether you can’t wait to get stuck into student life, or you’re nervous about leaving home for the first time, you’ll find halls the perfect balance of freedom, flexibility and friends on tap.

LOTS OF CHOICE
We’ve got options to suit a range of budgets, from premium en-suites to wallet-friendly twin rooms, and in a variety of locations – some within walking distance of campus. And with all bills included in your rent, staying in halls can be a good option as you adjust to university life.

ACCOMMODATION GUARANTEE
We guarantee a place in College accommodation to all first-year undergraduates and students on an official exchange who:

- will be studying at Imperial full time for the full academic year 3 October 2020–25 June 2021;
- have applied for a place in College accommodation by 31 July 2020 using our online system;
- have met the conditions of and accepted their academic offer from Imperial by 19 August 2020; and
- are coming to the College alone (unfortunately we cannot accommodate partners or children).
WHY HALLS?

Over 90 per cent of undergraduates at Imperial choose to live in halls in their first year. Here’s why:

First-year guarantee

There’s a place in halls waiting for you if you want it – you just need to make sure you meet our accommodation guarantee terms and conditions (see left).

All inclusive

Rents include utility bills, internet access, contents insurance and a contribution towards your hall activities fund.

Quality assured

All of our halls are signed up to recognised accommodation codes of practice, guaranteeing your right to safe, good quality accommodation. See: www.thesac.org.uk.
SELF-CATERED
All of our accommodation is self-catered. Cooking for yourself is a good step towards independence if you are leaving home for the first time. There is usually a real sense of camaraderie in the shared kitchens, which are big enough for you to cook together, and most have lockable kitchen cupboards for individual storage.

SHARED ROOMS
We have a mixture of single and twin rooms across our halls. Twin rooms are generally cheaper. You will have the chance to say whether you’d prefer a single or shared room on your application and we will try our best to match your preference.

To encourage new friendships, existing friends will not be allocated to the same shared room. Additionally, students under 18 on registration will only be offered a single room in accordance with the Children’s Act 2004.

GENDER MIX
As our halls are mixed gender, you will share facilities such as kitchens, and bathrooms if your room is not en-suite, with students of other genders. All shared rooms are single gender.

ON-SITE SUPPORT
Experienced residential support teams are on call at all times in every hall and are supported by a number of returning students.

The teams are there to look after your wellbeing and to provide any advice and support you may need. They also play an important part in the social life of the hall by organising a rolling programme of events such as movie nights and ice skating.

Security is also a priority, so all halls have CCTV and swipe card or fob entry systems.

SOCIAL FACILITIES
Many halls have their own social facilities, such as common rooms and TV/games rooms.

38–39 weeks
The length of our accommodation contracts vary from 38–39 weeks. You have the option to extend your contract over the summer at certain halls.
Applicants who have firmly accepted our academic offer are invited to apply for accommodation using our online system. You can choose up to five halls (and specify your preferred room type and price for each).

31 JULY 2020
The last date to apply for a guaranteed place in our accommodation for 2020 entry.

MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020
Applications open for applicants who have accepted Imperial as their insurance choice.

EARLY SEPTEMBER 2020
All applications are processed and we start allocating rooms (using software which matches your preferences with available rooms). Competition for some halls and room types is strong so we can’t guarantee to meet your preferences but we try our best.

SEPTEMBER 2020
We send accommodation offers by email. You must accept the offer by the date specified in the email to secure your room, otherwise it may be offered to someone else.

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2020
Moving in day!

ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES
A large number of our halls offer fully integrated accessible facilities for disabled students. Please contact the Student Hub team (see the back cover) as early as possible to make them aware of your requirements.

We recommend that you visit the facilities, where possible, before accepting your room offer. To arrange this, please email our Disability Advisory Service: disabilities@imperial.ac.uk

THE APPLICATION PROCESS
A quick guide to what happens when:

MAY 2020
Applicants who have firmly accepted our academic offer are invited to apply for accommodation using our online system. You can choose up to five halls (and specify your preferred room type and price for each).

Everyone who gets their application in before the deadline is treated the same; it’s not first come, first served.

Current students will be on hand on moving in day to help you unpack and settle in.
PREPARING TO LIVE IN HALLS

We know that it’s tempting to bring everything but the kitchen sink with you, but a lot of things you need are already provided. Plan well and there may be room for that extra pair of shoes, guitar or Xbox after all!

WHAT’S ALREADY PROVIDED?
All of our study bedrooms have:

- bed
- chair
- wardrobe
- chest of drawers
- laundry basket
- bookshelf and noticeboard
- desk and lamp
- curtains or blinds
- internet connection – don’t forget to bring a network cable!

Televisions are provided in most communal areas but if you intend to bring your own, or watch live TV or BBC iPlayer on your laptop or any other device, you will need a TV licence.

WHAT TO BRING

- bedding (pillows, duvet and cover, sheets, pillow cases) and towels
- pots and pans
- utensils (e.g. tin opener, wooden spoon, vegetable peeler)
- plates, bowls, mugs and cutlery

If there’s no room in your luggage, or you don’t have these things already, you can buy them online at [www.unikitout.com/imperial](http://www.unikitout.com/imperial) and they’ll be ready and waiting when you get here. Currently, Imperial students enjoy a 10 per cent discount.
PARKING
Space is at a premium in central London so none of our halls have allocated parking. Street parking is also strictly controlled and expensive. The College can provide campus parking permits for disabled students, but generally we advise you not to bring a vehicle. Secure bike storage is also available at most halls (see pages 10–15).

HALL ACTIVITIES
To help everyone feel involved in hall life, each hall organises its own programme of activities. Past activities have included theatre trips, barbeques, cinema trips and end-of-term parties.

LIVING AT HOME
This can be cheaper, and you’ll still have access to our academic, social and sports facilities, but you may have to make more effort to join in with College life. Remember to also take the time and cost of commuting into consideration.

TOP TIP:
“ There is a list of things that are provided, so check that before you buy unnecessary things. Bring a decent range of kitchen equipment – you’d be surprised by how often people forget things like frying pans and cutlery!”

–FIFI, FIRST YEAR MEng MATERIALS WITH NUCLEAR ENGINEERING
### About Our Halls

#### Hall of Residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hall of Residence</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Distance to South Kensington Campus (in Minutes)</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>By bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beit Hall</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastside</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemp Porter Buildings</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson House</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodward Buildings</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xenia</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All prices given are for the 2019–20 academic year. We will publish prices for 2020–21 on our website once they have been confirmed. Please see our website for the latest information: [www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation)*

*Kemp Porter Buildings is a new accommodation site, due to open to students from 2020 entry. At the time of going to print (June 2019) the price per week/per person for this hall has not been set. Once confirmed, we will publish this information on our website.*

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Don’t forget to apply for an 18+ Student Oyster photocard to get 30% off adult-rate travelcards and bus and tram pass season tickets.
Distances to campus (in minutes) are calculated using Google Maps. Public transport times include walking times to and from the station at both ends. Times may vary according to the time of travel.

All halls are non-smoking. They have shared kitchens, telephone and wired internet access in the bedrooms, and Wi-Fi in communal areas. The length of our accommodation contracts can vary from 38–39 weeks. There are options to stay over the summer in a selection of our halls.

For a detailed breakdown of rents at each hall and the number of rooms available within each price band see:
www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/thehalls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HALL OF RESIDENCE</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
<th>DISTANCE TO SOUTH KENSINGTON (IN MINUTES)</th>
<th>NEAREST TUBE STATION</th>
<th>ROOM TYPES AVAILABLE</th>
<th>PRICE PER WEEK PER PERSON†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beit Hall</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>&lt; 5</td>
<td>South Kensington</td>
<td>Standard single, En-suite single, Standard twin, En-suite twin, Premium en-suite</td>
<td>£150–£237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastside</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>South Kensington</td>
<td>Standard single</td>
<td>£157–£288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kemp Porter Buildings</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>North Acton</td>
<td>Standard single, En-suite single, Standard twin, En-suite twin, Premium en-suite</td>
<td>To be confirmed*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southside</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>South Kensington</td>
<td>Standard single</td>
<td>£162–£288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xenia</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Waterloo</td>
<td>Standard single, En-suite single, Standard twin, En-suite twin, Premium en-suite</td>
<td>£123–£212</td>
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</table>
Beit Hall

Beit could not be better positioned for students looking to be at the heart of student life. Overlooking Imperial College Union, it can be noisier than other halls but the payoff is good quality accommodation, right on campus.

LOCATION

South Kensington

CAPACITY

339 students

Please note: over 18s only due to alcohol licensing restrictions at Imperial College Union.

FACILITIES

Beit is usually dubbed the party hall. It’s fun and friendly and close to all your essential needs.”

—LUKE, FIRST YEAR MSci CHEMISTRY
Eastside

Made up of three Halls (Gabor, Linstead and Wilkinson) and offering only en-suite rooms (single, twin and premium), Eastside has everything you need on the doorstep. This includes a ground-floor bar and restaurant, a convenience store and easy access to Ethos sports centre.

“Eastside is brilliant: it’s modern, has pretty views, is close to campus yet has an air of peace around it, and is just pleasant to be in!”

– ABIGAEL, FIRST YEAR MEng MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

LOCATION

South Kensington

CAPACITY

454 students

FACILITIES

Laundry  Communal lounge  Bike storage  Lift access

Accessible facilities  Bar and restaurant  Convenience store  Outdoor space

TOP TIP:

“Don’t be afraid to talk to new people, especially in the first few weeks. Everyone is in exactly the same situation, and it always ends up that you have more in common than you would think.”

– HARRY, FIRST YEAR MEng MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Kemp Porter Buildings

New for 2020, Kemp Porter Buildings is comprised of bespoke rooms, arranged in clusters of flats. Each flat has its own kitchen, a dedicated common room area, and access to outdoor space. Located only a two minute walk from North Acton Tube station, you can enjoy being close to other student developments across North Acton and can make use of the easy transport links to our South Kensington Campus and other parts of London.
Southside

Made up of four Halls (Falmouth, Keogh, Selkirk and Tizard), Southside offers a range of en-suite rooms (single, twin and premium). Occupying the ‘south side’ of Prince’s Gardens, next to the Eastside Halls (on the ‘east side’), it is also close to Ethos sports centre and Essentials convenience store.

LOCATION

South Kensington

CAPACITY
404 students

FACILITIES

- Laundry
- Outdoor space
- Bike storage
- Lift access
- Accessible facilities
- Communal lounge

TOP TIP:

“Each hall has its advantages. Just think about what is most important to you – you’ll find lots of nice people around you no matter where you end up living!”

–KAREN, FIRST YEAR BEng BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
Woodward Buildings

Opened in 2015, Woodward is part of a growing student village which 1,600 students from different universities now call home. Offering some of our cheapest rents and with travel times to our South Kensington Campus of around 40 minutes by bike and Tube, it’s a good option for students looking to balance price with premium accommodation and facilities. It’s also just two stops from London’s famous Westfield shopping centre at White City.

Please note that some of the rooms and kitchens in Woodward Buildings overlook Acton Cemetery.

**LOCATION**  
North Acton

**CAPACITY** 690 students

**FACILITIES**
- Lift access
- Laundry
- TV/games room
- Bike storage
- Accessible facilities
- Rehearsal rooms
- Private garden

Wilson House

Wilson House is made up of 22 inter-connected Victorian houses and a new, purpose-built block. It is close to St Mary’s Campus in bustling Paddington and is just a 30-minute walk or short bike ride across leafy Hyde Park to our South Kensington Campus.
Xenia

Located in London’s famous South Bank area, Xenia offers easy access to many cultural attractions including the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre and the Tate Modern gallery. It is owned by the Salvation Army Housing Association (SAHA) but is managed by Imperial staff.

LOCATION

Waterloo

CAPACITY

166 students

FACILITIES

Accessible facilities
Private garden
Communal lounge
Laundry
TV/games room
Lift access
Beyond the first year

Most students choose to live in private accommodation from their second year onwards. London has a huge range of private housing to suit all budgets. Don’t panic if you’re unsure of where to start: our Student Hub team can provide lots of advice and practical help.

BECOME THE FIRST YEAR

Accommodation will account for a large part of your living costs so it’s important to be realistic about what you can afford. Also be aware of journey times to and from the College and make sure you balance price with practicality. The London Rents Map provides a useful overview of rent rates:

www.london.gov.uk/rents

When drawing up your budget, don’t forget about the additional bills that you may face, including electricity, gas, TV licence and broadband charges.

The private rental market in London moves quickly, which means you do have to act fast if you find somewhere you like. However, other properties will always become available so don’t feel pressured to accept a property that will stretch your budget too far.
WHERE TO LOOK
Some of the popular areas for Imperial students are shown on the map below. Visit our Accommodation website for video guides to nine of the most popular areas for our students:

www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/livinginprivateaccommodation/areas

You can also check out our Area Guide online (or pick up a copy from the Student Hub – see page 18) for an overview of local areas, average rent rates, local facilities, and travel times to our South Kensington Campus.

Popular areas to live

STAYING ON IN COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION
Returning students can apply for accommodation in our Evelyn Gardens halls of residence.

With on-site support and a familiar halls environment, Evelyn Gardens is a great way to transition to private-sector accommodation. This hall of residence is set around a traditional London townhouse square, a short walking distance from our South Kensington Campus.

Another option is to apply to join the residential support team as a hall senior in one of our halls. This role involves helping to organise social events and activities for residents.
PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

Private housing support and guidance

PROPERTY SEARCH WEBSITE
We run an online property search website exclusively for Imperial students to help you filter London’s huge choice of properties. Imperial Home Solutions lets you search by type and size of property, price, area and travel time. You can also create your own property shortlist from a huge choice of rented properties offered by private landlords.

In addition, you can connect with potential flatmates via the message board and access useful information such as a checklist of what to look for when viewing properties and advice about paying deposits.

STUDENT HUB SUPPORT
The Student Hub at our South Kensington Campus brings together all of our key student support services. They provide a wide range of practical private housing help. You can pop in for advice and guidance throughout the year. They also host a number of events to support you at the busiest times in the private housing search, including:

- a Private Housing Evening every March, for advice on conducting a successful search
- May Housing Roadshow – a month-long initiative, providing a wide range of activities to help you navigate the private housing market

www.imperialhomesolutions.co.uk
Disclaimer
The College is constantly reviewing its provision of accommodation for students, with the aim of improving student facilities generally. Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure that the information in this booklet is up to date and as accurate as possible at the time of going to press (June 2019), plans for acquisition, disposal and refurbishment of properties mean that we cannot guarantee the availability of any particular accommodation or facility.
Got a question?

To find out more about our halls, or for help with your private housing search, contact our Student Hub team:

accommodation@imperial.ac.uk
facebook.com/imperialstudentaccommodation

www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation