

Volunteer Guide

This guide contains key information for Commemoration Day 2026 on Wednesday 21 October.

Order of ceremonies

10.00: Faculty of Engineering

13.45: Faculty of Medicine

17.00: Faculty of Natural Sciences and Imperial Business School

Key locations

Graduand Check-in & Gowning

Junior Common Room

Photography

Queen's Tower Rooms & Smith Centre

Faculty Receptions

- Prince's Gardens Marquee
- Sir Alexander Fleming Building (Mechanical and Civil Engineering only)

Live Stream

Student Union Concert Hall

Gown Return & Stage Photography

City and Guilds Building

Important information

There are three steps graduands must complete on the day:

1. Check-in and collect their graduation envelope from the Junior Common Room.
2. Collect their Ede & Ravenscroft gown before their ceremony from the Senior Common Room (unless they have hired/bought their own gown).
3. Arrive at the Royal Albert Hall in plenty of time for their ceremony. They should arrive at the Royal Albert Hall from 45 minutes before the ceremony begins.

Graduand e-ticket email

A graduand e-ticket (with QR code) was sent to graduands on 07.10.2026 from Imperial-College@idloom.events ***

This email contains a QR code which graduands should use to:

- Check-in on the day in the Junior Common Room***
- Collect their gown in the Senior Common Room
- Access the Royal Albert Hall* and identify their seat number
- Attend their Faculty Reception - if applicable (guests have a separate pass**)

*Guest ceremony tickets for the Royal Albert Hall were sent separately from e-tickets@royalalberthall.com

**Guest Faculty Reception passes were sent to graduands on 07.10.2026 from Imperial-College@idloom.events

***If a graduand cannot locate their e-ticket, please direct them to the info desk at check-in in the Junior Common Room

Check-in and gown collection

Check-in and gown collection will be open at the following times:

07.00–09.00: Ceremony 1

10.45–12.45: Ceremony 2

14.00–16.00: Ceremony 3

Arriving late

Direct late graduands to the Information Desk in the Junior Common Room.

On the day gown hire

There are a limited number of gowns available to hire on the day. Direct all gowning inquiries to Ede & Ravenscroft in the Senior Common Room via the Junior Common Room.

Gown Drop-off

Gowns must be returned to Ede & Ravenscroft in the City and Guilds Building by 22.00 on Wednesday 21 October. Late returns may incur an additional cost, and the graduand will need to post the gown back to Ede & Ravenscroft.

Photography

Photography will be available in the Queen's Tower Room and the Smith Centre at the following times:

07.00–22.00: Queen's Tower Rooms

08.00–21.00: Smith Centre

Graduands can visit photography at any time throughout the day. They should be reminded to leave enough time to get to their ceremony or Faculty Reception (if applicable).

On-stage photography

This can be collected from the City and Guilds Building, where gown drop-off is also located.

Photo opportunities

- IMPERIAL letters: Dalby Court
- Congratulations backdrop: Dalby Court
- Floral display: University Main Entrance
- Business School Sign: Business School
- Queen's Tower Lion statues: Queen's Lawn
- Imperial Deck Chair: Queen's Lawn
- Graduation Mirror: Queen's Lawn
- Imperial Mascots: Outside the Royal Albert Hall
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Steps: Outside the Royal Albert Hall
- Graduation Bench: Beit Quad in the Student Union

Graduands and guests can use **#OurImperial** to share photos and memories of graduation.

Alumni Engagement team

Graduands will receive their alumni pin in the Senior Common Room, after check-in and as they exit the gowning area.

www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni

Ceremony livestreaming

Family and friends who can't attend the ceremony can watch our [live stream](#).

www.imperial.ac.uk/graduation

We will also be showing the live stream in the Student Union Concert Hall. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Other information

Children

Guest ceremony tickets must be bought for any child two years or older. Guest reception passes must be bought for any child five years or older.

Children under 16 years old must always be accompanied by an adult whilst on the university's South Kensington Campus, and by an adult guest of the relevant graduand whilst at the Royal Albert Hall. Please note that it is not possible for a child to sit with a graduand at any time at the Royal Albert Hall.

Guests

Guests are not permitted in the check-in and gowning areas. Please direct them to wait in one of the food and drink outlets open on the day or in areas such as Dalby Court, the Queen's Lawn, or outside the Royal Albert Hall.

Buying tickets on the day

Please direct graduands and guests to Door 12 at the Royal Albert Hall if they are looking to buy additional ceremony tickets. Tickets can be sold to graduands only. Please note that the Faculty of Engineering ceremony is almost sold out.

No Faculty Reception passes will be available for sale on the day.

Imperial Souvenirs

Imperial merchandise will be available to buy at:

Imperial College Union shop on Sherfield Walkway
- 07.30–22.00

Door 6 at the Royal Albert Hall - will open 45 minutes before each ceremony

Food and Drink Outlets

The following food and drink outlets will be available on the day.

Blackett Café, Blackett Building	08.00–17.00
Imperial Business School Café, University Main Entrance	08.30–17.30
Chemistry Café, Chemistry Building	08.00–16.00
Eastside Bar and Café, Prince's Gardens	12.00–21.00
Essentials Convenience Store	08.00–21.00
Library Cafe, Abdus Salam Library	07.00–22.00
Lumen Café, EEE Building	08.00–16.00
Pret a Manger, University Main Entrance	06.00–20.00
Royal School of Mines Café	08.30–16.00

Water Fountains

Drinking water locations on campus can be found here: [Hydration Station Map](#)

Find out more about graduation

For key information for graduands please access the Graduand Guide here: [Graduand Guide](#) | [Imperial students](#) | [Imperial College London](#)

For frequently asked questions: [Frequently asked questions](#) | [Imperial students](#) | [Imperial College London](#)

Contact on the day

Jessica Leung (Volunteer Team Leader, Volunteer Hub, Ground Floor Business School, LG19A) - 07517 551 938

Joanna Stachowicz (Check-in Team Leader, Junior Common Room) - 07566 950 960

Francesca Secola (Receptions Team Leader) - 020 7594 6131

Security Control - 020 7589 1000

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/graduation>

Accessibility

We want to ensure all graduands have the best experience possible as they celebrate their graduation.

The Royal Albert Hall is wheelchair accessible and has hearing loop capability, and we will have live captions during the ceremony. If graduands or guests attending have any accessibility queries for the Royal Albert Hall, they can be directed to the Royal Albert Hall team at Door 12.

We also have step-free access across the South Kensington campus and have included a map of step-free routes below. We will have information desks located in the University Main Entrance and outside the Queen's Tower Rooms (ground floor, Sherfield), so please direct graduands to these desks if they have any questions or concerns on the day.

Quiet Room

There will be a Quiet Room located on the lower ground floor of the Business School in LG19B next to the Volunteer Hub.

Multi-Faith Prayer Rooms

Multi-Faith Centre at 15 Prince's Gardens (next to the Weeks Building)

Nursing Room

EENG-210 (situated on the Sherfield Walkway, between the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Building and the Junior Common Room). Please go to the Faculty Building reception to sign out the key.

Security

If you need to report any incidents to security during the day, including first aid requests, please contact security control on 020 7589 1000, and a member of the security team will attend.

Map

Please follow this link to access the [Commemoration Day 2026 Map](#).

Timings Overview

Wednesday 21 October	Ceremony start time	Estimated ceremony duration	Check-in and gown collection	Faculty Receptions
Faculty of Engineering	10.00	2 hours and 5 minutes	07.00–09.00	12.15–13.45
Faculty of Medicine	13.45	1 hour and 35 minutes	10.45–12.45	15.30–17.00
Faculty of Natural Sciences and Imperial Business School	17.00	1 hour and 35 minutes	14.00–16.00	18.45–20.15