

Dear Applicant,

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Imperial this Autumn.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to ensure that your degree programme can be safely delivered, we are writing to update you on how the College is planning to support a safe return to study and on how we intend to deliver your programme in 2021-22.

We will require you to be in London from the start of the autumn term and for the whole of the 2021-22 academic year in order that you can attend on-campus activities. We plan to deliver your programme through a combination of on-campus and online teaching activities (multi-mode), with a strong emphasis on prioritising your time on our campuses.

We are planning for the most crucial and engaging learning opportunities to be delivered in-person and without social distancing in place. We anticipate UK government guidelines will support this decision by the time you arrive for the new academic year. Lectures may be hosted online when this method is considered to be educationally beneficial to students, and when it is clear that online mode will reduce the risk of sustained COVID-19 transmission as our community emerges from the pandemic. We will use our experience of our past academic year when deciding how best to timetable your teaching.

It is important to recognise that, depending on official government guidance throughout the entirety of next academic year, the balance of on-campus and online teaching may be subject to change. However, we share students' hopes that we will be able to offer on-campus learning activities consistently throughout the coming year.

Further details on the mix of on-campus and online activities and support available to you in your department are provided in the programme delivery section of this letter.

Institutional guarantees

General

Our priority is for you to experience everything our campuses and London has to offer. However, you will be expected to adhere to the safety measures in place for the College. This may include requirements to undertake regular testing and to report the outcome of this testing to the College and strong expectations to have been vaccinated. The completion of the required safety measures will ensure that we can keep the College community safe and satisfy the UK government and UK Public Health Authorities that we can continue with in-person on-campus activities, wherever possible.

In the event that there is an escalation of the pandemic, then, in line with Public Health Advice from the UK Government, we may be required to suspend all on-campus activity. No additional fees will be charged if the programme cannot be delivered within the advertised timeframe.

Details for your programme are set out in this communication.



Attendance and Delivery of Teaching

As you can appreciate, it is not entirely clear what circumstances we will be working with for the coming academic year, but we are planning the delivery of your programme on the assumption of a phased return to substantial amounts of on-campus teaching over the 2021-22 academic year. To accommodate this, we may plan to deliver your programme initially through a combination of on-campus and online activities (multi-mode), the balance of which will be reviewed and adjusted as circumstances change. This means you will be required to attend the College in-person from the start of your programme, unless you can demonstrate that you have been impacted by [exceptional COVID-19 related circumstances](#).

In these circumstances you will not be disadvantaged in your learning experience, and you will be temporarily provided with a remote alternative of any on-campus activities which you might miss. You should contact the Undergraduate Teaching Office (ae.office@imperial.ac.uk) if you anticipate not being able to travel to London for the start of term and would like to discuss your options with us.

As a community, we have learnt a lot from this past year. Our combination of cutting-edge technology and academic excellence resulted in some [new and creative ways of learning and engaging](#) with each other on campus and remotely. Many of the changes made to the learning experience have worked well, and therefore your department may retain some of these approaches in the new academic year to enhance your overall experience on campus, and these are specified in this communication.

In the event of a suspension of on-campus activity due to an escalation of the pandemic, in-person activities outlined in the programme delivery section of this letter will be delivered to all students online, or as an online alternative, that delivers the same learning outcomes.

Assessment

For assessments that take place in the Autumn Term, or at the start of the Spring Term of the 2021/22 academic year, where there was to be an in-person on-campus written examination, these will be assessed by timed remote assessments, irrespective of whether there are restrictions in place or not. We may continue to deliver examinations by timed remote assessments where these are deemed the most appropriate method of assessment.

Safety

You will be required to follow the safety requirements put in place on campus and in all College buildings (including halls) to ensure we keep the campuses and the Imperial community safe and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, particularly in our ability to deliver your degree programme and to offer you a full student experience.

There will be requirements and expectations placed on you and other members of the College community to follow the safety measures put in place by the UK government and national and local public health authorities. You can view our current guidance for our community on our [website](#). This may vary once we begin the academic year, but is likely to include undertaking regular testing for COVID-19 and to report the results of this testing to the College. There is also the strong expectation that you will have been [vaccinated against COVID-19](#), or that you will take up the opportunity once in the UK, if vaccination is not available in your home country. Failure to follow the safety measures and any reporting requirements may result in restrictions being imposed on the delivery of your research degree programme and on your access to the wider student experience.

Student Experience



Your experience at Imperial goes beyond just your academic studies. With the impact of COVID-19, Imperial has been working with your Students' Union to ensure that we are able to provide, enhance and facilitate all areas of your student experience in all eventualities. We identified key pillars of the wider student experience: academic experience; research culture and environment; amenities and accommodation; student community; wellbeing support; co-curricular activities and extra-curricular activities. Information on how we will deliver these, along with information on our Library Services, considering current and potential future restrictions, are set out on [our website](#).

Delivery of your Programme of Study

Departmental induction

The core departmental induction activities for your programme will take place on-campus. These activities will be supplemented by some online activities.

Further details will be provided nearer to the start of your programme.

Content of the programme

We have reviewed the learning outcomes for your programme to ensure these can be taught and assessed in a multi-mode format.

No changes to the programme or module learning outcomes have been made as a consequence of moving to a multi-mode format.

Scheduling

We are not anticipating changing the term in which modules will be taught or assessed.

Programme Delivery 2021-22

Lectures, tutorial sessions and laboratory activities during the Autumn term will be delivered in mixed-mode. For most of these activities part of the cohort will join the session in person and part of the cohort joining synchronously online. The number of students that can join any on-campus activity will be determined based on risk assessments for each activity and regularly reviewed throughout the year.

All computer-based tutorial activities will be delivered online. Students will be able to book computer space in the Department to join these sessions subject to room capacity constraints.

In the event of a partial lockdown, the balance of in-person and online activities will have to be adjusted, in-line with any restrictions introduced. Similarly in the event that the situation improves we will increase our capacity limits for on-campus activities in response to the improving situation, thereby allowing for a greater proportion of in-person teaching in our mixed-mode delivery

Support for online learning

To access the content of the programme online you will be expected to have access to a computer, reliable internet connection and be able to use Microsoft Teams. Your College IT account will provide you with free access to the Office365 suite of tools, and further information about how to use Microsoft Teams is available at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/connect-communicate/office-365/apps/microsoft-teams/>.

Training and support for how to use other systems and software will be provided during the programme induction and through specific modules.



Length of the programme

We anticipate you will be able to complete the programme within the timescale previously advertised.

Additional costs

You will be expected to have access to a computer, webcam, microphone and to a reliable internet connection, and you will need to cover any associated costs for these. There are no other expected additional costs (beyond those previously advertised) to participate in the programme if you have to study remotely.

Professional accreditation

Professional accreditation for this programme remains in place even if it is being delivered in multi-mode format for 2021-22.

Location

In-person activities will still be delivered at the South Kensington campus.

Visas and Immigration

If you require a visa to study in the UK, it is important that you have read the guidance provided by the International Student Support Team at the College at <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/visas-and-immigration/covid-19-and-your-immigration-status/>

Imperial has a team of specialist immigration advisers who can provide specific advice on your immigration situation and on the best options for you. They can be reached by email on international@imperial.ac.uk. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct immigration permission for your studies in the UK.

