

Dear student,

I write to welcome you to the Department and the Imperial community. In a short while you will be joining us on our campuses, beginning what will no doubt be one of the most exciting and inspiring periods of your life.

You have secured your place at the College in the most challenging of circumstances. You should be very proud of your efforts and be reassured that you are entering a community that will support you in the coming year and beyond.

In recent correspondence from the Department, we have shared your programme details with you, which you can also access online through this [link](#). These plans set out how we will deliver your learning and student experience in the current circumstances. It also describes what actions we will take if any additional restrictions are implemented in order to combat COVID-19.

The pandemic has not ended in the UK, nor in most other countries around the world. However, thanks to the effort of our National Health Service, the UK is making great progress with vaccinating our entire adult population. This has allowed us to safely unlock many areas of society, which means you can enjoy a full and enriching experience at the College.

Following the relevant safety guidelines and taking advantage of the freedoms currently available to us, we can now teach you without full social distancing in place, and we can be more targeted in where and when we recommend the use of facemasks and self-isolation.

Although this will be your first introduction to our campuses, many of our staff and your fellow students have been here intermittently over the previous academic year. This year will be an exciting yet unusual experience for us all, and we will need to show patience with one another.

Safety

Welcoming you onto our campuses comes with a range of responsibilities. I am sure you will take these responsibilities seriously and will put a high value on the wellbeing of our community. It will be important that we continue to test regularly for COVID-19, that we follow national and College [safety guidelines](#), and that we ensure we take up the offer to be vaccinated.

Teaching

By now you will know the balance of on-campus and remote teaching you will receive this academic year, should public health guidelines for universities remain the same as they currently are.

The Department is looking forward to an academic year with many more on-campus teaching activities, as well as offering you the most beneficial elements of what we have learned in our past year of providing increased digital learning.

Student life

The Department, Faculty, College, and your student union are all working together to make sure you have the very best experience at Imperial.

There are lots of different places where you can access support and advice once you join us. Our [Student Support Zone](#) is available to point you in the right direction. The resources provided will prove useful throughout your time studying at the College.

Our [Welcome Season](#) will ensure you ease into life at the College in an enjoyable and safe way. And of course, with every week that passes London regains that which makes it such a famously student-friendly city. Restaurants, night life, sports and green spaces, retail, and tourist attractions are all more accessible now than they have been for much of the past year. I urge you to get out and about and enjoy the capital this autumn.

Arrival

Depending on your vaccination status and where you live in the world, your journey to campus may require careful planning. The College is here to support you, find out more on our [website](#).

You will continue to receive regular newsletters and updates from the College as you near the start date of your programme. It is also recommended you follow the College, Department, and student union's social media accounts for further information.

If you have booked College accommodation, more information will soon be available.

If you are nearing the start of your programme and you are facing significant challenges in reaching campus, please contact our Civil Engineering MSc Office (civilmsc.2021@imperial.ac.uk). If you do not do so, we will assume you are able to join us for in-person teaching at the start of term.

I would like to thank you once again for choosing to join us here at Imperial. The Department and the entire College look forward to welcoming you into our community.

Dr Stavroula Kontoe

Director of the MSc Programme