

IMPERIAL

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Department of Physics



Student Handbook 2026–27

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Welcome to Imperial

Congratulations on joining Imperial College London, the only university in the UK to focus exclusively on science, medicine, engineering and business.

From Fleming's discovery of Penicillin to Gabor's invention of holography, Imperial has been changing the world for well over 100 years.

You're now very much a part of this community of discovery and we hope you will take this opportunity to make your own unique contribution. At Imperial, we expect all members of our community, whether students or staff, to share and demonstrate our values of respect, integrity, collaboration, innovation and excellence in all we do and strive to achieve.

Imperial provides a dedicated support network and a range of specialist support services to make sure you have access to the appropriate help, whether that's further training in an academic skill like note taking or simply having someone to talk to.

You'll have access to a range of professional development courses offered by the Early Career Researcher Institute, the Careers Service, Library Services and other support services teams throughout your time here, as well as opportunities to meet students from across the university at academic and social events.

We actively encourage you to seek out help when you need it and try to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Our choice of over 370 clubs, societies and projects is one of the largest of any UK university, making it easy to do something different with your downtime.

As one of the best universities in the world, we are committed to inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, clinicians and business leaders by continuing to share the wonder of what we do through public engagement events. Postgraduate students, alongside our academics and undergraduate students, make a significant contribution to events such as our annual Imperial Festival and our term-time Imperial Fringe events – if you're interested in getting involved then there will be opportunities for you to do so.

Our Principles

In 2012 Imperial and Imperial College Union agreed 'Our Principles'. This series of commitments was developed by academic and support staff in partnership with undergraduate and postgraduate students and Imperial College Union.

Imperial will provide through its staff:

- A world-class education embedded in a research environment.
- Advice, guidance and support.
- The opportunity for students to contribute to the evaluation and development of programmes and services.

Imperial will provide students with:

- Clear programme information and assessment criteria.
- Clear and fair academic regulations, policies and procedures.
- Details of full programme costs and financial support.
- An appropriate and inclusive framework for study, learning and research.

Imperial students should:

- Take responsibility for managing their own learning.
- Engage with the university to review and enhance provision.
- Respect, and contribute to, the Imperial community.

The Imperial College Students' Union will:

- Support all students through the provision of independent academic and welfare assistance.
- Encourage student participation in all aspects of the university.
- Provide a range of clubs, societies, student-led projects and social activities throughout the year.
- Represent the interests of students at local, national and international level.

Introduction from the President of Imperial College Union



Welcome to Imperial! On behalf of Imperial College Union, I am delighted to welcome you to our community and congratulate you on earning your place here. Whether you are joining us from nearby or from across the world, we are very pleased to have you as part of Imperial. This is a remarkable achievement, and one that reflects your hard work, curiosity and ambition. You should be very proud of yourself.

Imperial is known around the world for its academic excellence, research and innovation. Many of you may have chosen Imperial because of that reputation, and you will certainly be challenged and inspired. But Imperial is much more than the degree you will leave with. It is also the people you meet, the communities you join, the opportunities you embrace, and the memories you make along the way. Take the chance to meet people beyond your course, explore new interests, and allow yourself to grow through the communities and experiences you find here.

Being in London is also a huge part of the Imperial experience. Around South Kensington, you have museums, parks, music venues and cultural spaces right on your doorstep. Across the wider city, there is food, theatre, sport, history and communities from all over the world. I strongly encourage you to explore where and when you can. Some of your best Imperial memories may come from the moments you did not plan.

Outside your degree, Imperial College Union is home to hundreds of student-led clubs, societies and projects. Whether you are interested in culture, sport, music, performance, academic interests, or something completely new, there will be opportunities for you to get involved. These spaces are often where students find friendships, confidence and a real sense of belonging.

The Union is led by students, for students. The Deputy Presidents and I have been elected to work full time on improving your student experience, and your student representatives work across departments and faculties to make sure your voice is heard. Alongside us, the Union has dedicated staff teams supporting clubs and societies, student representation, events, activities and many other parts of student life.

The Union also runs the Advice Service, which provides free, confidential and independent support on issues such as life in halls, complaints, academic appeals and other concerns you may face during your time at Imperial. You can access this by emailing advice@imperial.ac.uk.

Please remember that you are not alone in this journey. Imperial can be intense, but there are people and communities here to support you. No matter what challenges you face, or what opportunities you are looking for, Imperial College Union is here to help.

Our office is on Level 2 of Beit Quadrangle, and you can find more information on our website.

Wishing you an incredible year ahead, and once again, welcome to Imperial!

Daniel Zhuo
Imperial College Union President 2026–27

 union.president@imperial.ac.uk
 imperialcollegeunion.org

1. Introduction to the Department

Welcome from Co-Programme Directors Professor Chris Dunsby, Dr Mary Matthews, Dr James McGinty and Professor Mark Neil

Welcome to Imperial College, we hope you have enjoyable time while you are learning about Optics and Photonics.

This edition of the handbook applies to the academic year 2026-27. The Photonics programmes have a relatively small number of students (in comparison to the undergraduate physics courses) and they have extensive access to the academic and support staff of the Department; students should not hesitate to approach us, the Programme co-Directors, or any member of staff for advice or assistance.

This handbook, together with the additional information provided elsewhere, describes the framework of the course and its assessment, but it may be necessary to make changes to detailed procedures if the circumstances indicate this is desirable. Similarly, the Board of Examiners has absolute discretion to modify the criteria described in this handbook, although in practice this would only occur in exceptional circumstances. Students will be consulted on any changes prior to their introduction

Academic and administrative staff



Professor Christopher Dunsby

Head of Projects
Programme Co-director



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Dr James McGinty

Programme Co-Director



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Dr Mary Mathews

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Professor Mark Neil

Programme Co-director



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Postgraduate
Administration team



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Departmental Information

You can find more information at

- The Department of Physics Website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/physics/>
- The Taught Postgraduate Students Website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/physics/students/current-students/taught-postgraduates/>
- The Optics and Photonics MSc Website: [In depth - MSc Optics and Photonics | Faculty of Natural Sciences | Imperial College London](#)
- The Photonics MRes Website: [In depth - MRes Photonics | Faculty of Natural Sciences | Imperial College London](#)

Attendance and absence

You must inform your Senior Postgraduate Tutor if you are absent from the university for more than three days during term. If the absence is due to illness, you must produce a medical certificate after seven consecutive days. If you miss an examination or the deadline for any other assessment (including lab work, in class tests, coursework or presentations) due to illness or other unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstance you must follow the Mitigating Circumstances Policy and Procedure. Please note that all claims for mitigation must be submitted within 10 working days of the examination or assessment deadline. If you are unable to provide evidence at the time you must submit the claim and indicate what evidence will follow and when it can be provided. Claims without evidence will normally be rejected. Please see the section on mitigation below.

The Registry will be informed of all student non-attendances as the university is obliged to report the non-attendance of students on Student Route visas to the Home Office.

Attendance will be monitored by registers and ID card readers at selected lectures/practical sessions, by submission of coursework (assessed and non-assessed) and by registers at all examinations. Meetings with staff (for example, project supervisors, personal tutors) may also be used.

If you do not engage satisfactorily with your studies, Imperial will consider what action is necessary to support your continued study under the Unsatisfactory Engagement Policy:



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline/

Key dates 2026–27

Term dates

Autumn term:	26 September 2026 – 11 December 2026
Spring term:	02 January 2027 - 19 March 2027
Summer term:	24 April 2027 – 25 June 2027

Closure dates

Christmas/New Year:	23 December 2026 - 03 January 2027 (Imperial reopens on 04 January 2027)
Easter Holiday:	24 March 2027 – 31 March 2027 (Imperial reopens on 01 April 2027)
Early May Bank Holiday:	03 May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday:	31 May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday:	30 August 2027

Please note that the Graduation ceremony will be held at the earliest date after the Examination board meeting is held. The Examination board meeting typically happens in October, after the end of the degree and the Graduation ceremony is typically in May of the year following the end of your degree.

The MSc and MRes programmes are full time for 12-months and there is no opportunity to take internships during the course.



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/visas-and-immigration/working-in-the-uk/work-rules-during-your-studies/

2. Programme information

Photonics MRes

Photonics is of key importance in many areas of research in natural science engineering and medicine. Preparing students for academic research in these areas benefits greatly from a formal training in fundamental aspects of optics, and the development of an extended project at the forefront of current research activity. Building on foundations taken from the MSc in Optics and Photonics, the MRes in Photonics is intended to provide this training. Imperial has offered an advanced programme in optics for over 90 years and the MRes Photonics draws on our experience as one of the largest centres for optics-based research and application in the UK.

This programme forms the first year of a 1+3 structure for students who have been offered a place to take up a PhD on completion of the programme, if they do not already have the significant grounding in Photonics necessary for their PhD project.

The main coursework (lectures and laboratory work), which takes place in the first term, consists of practical laboratory work and three lecture-based modules that together provide a key grounding in some of the essential knowledge and skills underpinning photonics. You choose further lectures from the elective modules available (either in Term 1 or Term 2). The laboratory work provides key training in basic skills and techniques widely used in photonics research. The main module of your studies is a nine-month, full-time MRes research project starting in January which is usually carried out in an academic research group, working at the forefront of their current research.

Graduates of this course have the fundamental knowledge of photonics, specialist skills and knowledge in the specific area around their project and are well qualified to go on to doctoral studies at Imperial.

Module			Term	ECTS
PHYS70024	Imaging	Compulsory	Autumn	5
	The Imaging module is split into two parts: geometrical optics and wave optics. Geometrical optics introduces you to the ray model for light propagation through optical systems and methods to model aberrations. The wave optics part introduces methods to model the propagation of scalar waves through optical systems and how this can be used to describe image formation for both coherent and incoherent illumination. Exam is in January.			
PHYS70025	Lasers	Compulsory	Autumn	5

Module			Term	ECTS
	Lasers underpin much of commercial and research optics and photonics. This module provides a basic introduction to the physics of lasers including 3 and 4-level lasers, the conditions required for gain and laser operation, control of the spectral properties of laser emission, Q-switching, modelocking and the different types of laser gain media, spatial laser modes, Gaussian beam propagation and includes an introduction to the topic of nonlinear optics. Exam is in January.			
PHYS70026	Optical Measurement and Devices	Compulsory	Autumn	5
	Optical measurement techniques are important to manufacturers and users of optical equipment and in a wide range of applications. Polarisation, interference and coherence are aspects of light that can be exploited for a broad range of measurement techniques and form the foundation of many optical devices. This module introduces these phenomena and provides frameworks for describing, understanding and exploiting them. The module gives details of the underlying generic optical concepts, their mathematical representation and their practical applications.			
PHYS70049	Photonics Laboratory	Core	Autumn	7.5
	You will follow a set of experiments ranging from short introductory experiments, through to longer experiments. You will be exposed to a wide variety of optical techniques and phenomena that you will also see in taught lecture modules.			
PHYS70050	MRes Research Project	Core	Spring-Summer	60

Module			Term	ECTS
	A nine-month research project is the largest core module of the MRes Photonics. You will work on a state-of-the-art problem within a research area of photonics, all embedded within a research group and under the guidance of research-active staff. You will agree a project through discussion with project supervisors at the start of the academic year.			
PHYS70007	Optical Communications Physics	Elective	Autumn	5
	This module builds on the Oscillations and Waves, E&M and Solid State Physics core modules, and develops understanding of how modern optical communications technologies operate. The module considers optical fibres and the surrounding optoelectronic and photonic technology, classical information theory and data encoding, and network infrastructure.			
PHYS70010	Quantum Optics	Elective	Autumn	7.5
	This module covers the interaction of quantum mechanical objects with light, including at the single-photon level. A description of the quantised electromagnetic field will be introduced, and the physics of atoms' and mechanical oscillators' interaction with the electromagnetic field will be discussed.			
PHYS70029	Optical Design	Elective	Spring	5
	The module introduces Seidel aberration theory to describe and enumerate the aberrations that arise in optical imaging systems such as compound lenses and mirrors. It studies arrangements of optical surfaces that are able to control or minimise aberrations and investigates both theoretical and practical design processes using an industry standard computer aided design package.			
PHYS70017	Laser Technology	Elective	Spring	7.5

Module			Term	ECTS
	An introduction to principles and practice of laser devices and nonlinear optical technology. The module will provide an understanding of the key physical concepts underlying laser and nonlinear optics and their contemporary applications. Students will be equipped with sufficient knowledge to be able to use and understand lasers and nonlinear processes in the subsequent research or commercial careers.			
PHYS70031	Biomedical Imaging	Elective	Spring	5
	An introduction to principles and practice of biomedical imaging technologies, including microscopes, fluorescence and tomography. The module will provide an understanding of the challenges presented by tissue samples, in vivo and ex vivo systems. You will be equipped with sufficient knowledge to be able to use and understand a biomedical imaging system in subsequent research or industry settings and will gain knowledge of latest research frontiers.			
PHYS70032	Opto-electronic Devices	Elective	Spring	5
	An introduction to the most important device components from the worlds of optical telecommunication, space lighting, optical displays and sustainable energy production. You will acquire advanced mastery of the principles of diode laser action and design, and you will explore how quantum theory can be harnessed to improve performance in nano-scale devices. You will also consider the key factors affecting the use of photovoltaics and LED lighting as part of a sustainable energy future. You will examine the operation of optical displays, how the human visual system works and the way in which it perceives light and colour, and the operating principles behind many displays and their development.			
PHYS70033	Fibre and Ultrafast Lasers	Elective	Spring	5

Module			Term	ECTS
	This module is an introduction to fibre lasers and ultrafast lasers. It will cover the fundamentals of optical fibres and how they can be used as laser gain media, the generation and characterisation of ultrafast optical pulses and relevant examples of ultrafast pulsed lasers. You will gain an understanding of how fibre and ultrafast lasers work and gain insight into why they are such useful tools in a wide variety of scientific and industrial applications.			
			Credit Total	90-92.5

We expect most students will finish with 90 ECTS. However, it is possible to finish with 92.5 ECTS if a combination of higher weighted electives is chosen. This involves a greater workload and should be discussed with your Mentor or the Programme Director before committing to this option.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the programme, our aim is that you will have achieved the following Learning Outcomes, based on the different activities, and be able to:

1. Use theoretical knowledge of the fundamental laws and principles of optics and photonics, and appropriate mathematical techniques applied to the physical world to solve real-world problems in optics.
2. Organise as part of a team the design, and execute safely, a series of experiments or computations, including the identification and use of appropriate specialist equipment
3. Evaluate and select appropriate theoretical knowledge of optical principles and mathematical techniques to support practical work
4. Model and simulate complete optical experiments and systems using appropriate specialist software
5. Determine the strength and validity of results obtained from experiments, models or simulations, include appropriate consideration of errors, and draw conclusions
6. Report the results of experimental work in writing
7. Evaluate the inter-relationships between a range of complex/advanced topics in optics and photonics, and explain their application
8. Critically examine the scientific literature to design an experimental, theoretical and/or computational investigation that extends current knowledge in the field
9. Execute independently an extended research project, analyse the results and formulate new knowledge that can be applied to real-world situations and contribute to the development of that research field.

10. Present the details of the research project, the work carried out, results and conclusions to a specialist audience orally and in writing

Students not eligible for the MRes may be awarded an alternative award (see “Progression and Classification”).

For the award of the PG Certificate (30 ECTS), students would achieve the learning outcomes 1-6.

Optics and Photonics MSc

Optics is of key importance as a scientific discipline in its own right, with applications in many industrial sectors including engineering, life sciences, medicine, ICT and high-tech manufacturing.

Imperial has offered an advanced programme in optics for over 90 years and the current MSc in Optics and Photonics draws on our experience as one of the largest centres for optics-based research and application in the UK.

The main coursework (i.e. lectures and laboratory work) takes place in the first two terms. The first term consists of practical laboratory work and three lecture-based modules that together provide a key grounding in some of the essential knowledge and skills underpinning optics. In the second term, you choose from a range of advanced topics at the forefront of current optical research and practice, and carry out a laboratory-based project to design and build a working optical system. There is also a chance to undertake a self-study project in an area of your choice. Your studies finish with a four-month, full-time Master's research project which is usually carried out in one of our academic research groups but may be with one of our industrial partners or, where appropriate arrangements can be made, abroad.

Graduates of this course are well qualified to apply their knowledge in a wide range of industrial contexts, as well as in a research environment. They find employment with a variety of careers in industry and many move on to doctoral studies at leading universities in the UK and around the world.

Module			Term	ECTS
PHYS70024	Imaging	Compulsory	Autumn	5
	The Imaging module is split into two parts: geometrical optics and wave optics. Geometrical optics introduces you to the ray model for light propagation through optical systems and methods to model aberrations. The wave optics part introduces methods to model the propagation of scalar waves through optical systems and how this can be used to describe image formation for both coherent and incoherent illumination. Exam is in January.			
PHYS70025	Lasers	Compulsory	Autumn	5

Module			Term	ECTS
	Lasers underpin much of commercial and research optics and photonics. This module provides a basic introduction to the physics of lasers including 3 and 4-level lasers, the conditions required for gain and laser operation, control of the spectral properties of laser emission, Q-switching, modelocking and the different types of laser gain media, spatial laser modes, Gaussian beam propagation and includes an introduction to the topic of nonlinear optics. Exam is in January			
PHYS70026	Optical Measurement and Devices	Compulsory	Autumn	5
	Optical measurement techniques are important to manufacturers and users of optical equipment and in a wide range of applications. Polarisation, interference and coherence are aspects of light that can be exploited for a broad range of measurement techniques and form the foundation of many optical devices. This module introduces these phenomena and provides frameworks for describing, understanding and exploiting them. The module gives details of the underlying generic optical concepts, their mathematical representation and their practical applications.			
PHYS70027	Optics and Photonics Laboratory	Core	Autumn-Spring	15
	You will follow a set of experiments ranging from short introductory experiments, through longer experiments and finally an extended self-design project. You will be exposed to a wide variety of optical techniques and phenomena that you will also see in taught lecture modules.			

Module			Term	ECTS
PHYS70028	Self-Study Project	Core	Spring	5
	This module lets you develop your ability to distil information from the scientific literature using methods appropriate to the chosen topic. You will develop skills for analysing and critiquing the literature. You will produce a report outlining the background to the chosen topic and the key steps in its development from conception through to the current state-of-the-art. Typically the topic chosen will be a research area or technique.			
PHYS70034	Masters Research Project	Core	Summer	30
	A 4-month research project on a state-of-the-art problem within the area of optics and photonics. The project will encompass either a laboratory-based practical project, computational project or theoretical project, either within one of our research groups or with an industrial partner and under the guidance of research-active staff. You will be able to choose from a range of projects based on their interests and the background they have developed through their prior studies on the MSc.			
PHYS70007	Optical Communications Physics	Elective	Autumn	5

Module			Term	ECTS
	This module builds on the Oscillations and Waves, E&M and Solid State Physics core modules, and develops understanding of how modern optical communications technologies operate. The module considers optical fibres and the surrounding optoelectronic and photonic technology, classical information theory and data encoding, and network infrastructure.			
PHYS70010	Quantum Optics	Elective	Autumn	7.5
	This module covers the interaction of quantum mechanical objects with light, including at the single-photon level. A description of the quantised electromagnetic field will be introduced, and the physics of atoms' and mechanical oscillators' interaction with the electromagnetic field will be discussed.			
PHYS70029	Optical Design	Elective	Spring	5
	The module introduces Seidel aberration theory to describe and enumerate the aberrations that arise in optical imaging systems such as compound lenses and mirrors. It studies arrangements of optical surfaces that are able to control or minimise aberrations and investigates both theoretical and practical design processes using an industry standard computer aided design package.			
PHYS70017	Laser Technology	Elective	Spring	7.5

Module			Term	ECTS
	An introduction to principles and practice of laser devices and nonlinear optical technology. The module will provide an understanding of the key physical concepts underlying laser and nonlinear optics and their contemporary applications. Students will be equipped with sufficient knowledge to be able to use and understand lasers and nonlinear processes in the subsequent research or commercial careers.			
PHYS70031	Biomedical Imaging	Elective	Spring	5
	An introduction to principles and practice of biomedical imaging technologies, including microscopes, fluorescence and tomography. The module will provide an understanding of the challenges presented by tissue samples, in vivo and ex vivo systems. You will be equipped with sufficient knowledge to be able to use and understand a biomedical imaging system in subsequent research or industry settings and will gain knowledge of latest research frontiers.			
PHYS70032	Opto-electronic Devices	Elective	Spring	5

Module			Term	ECTS
	An introduction to the most important device components from the worlds of optical telecommunication, space lighting, optical displays and sustainable energy production. You will acquire advanced mastery of the principles of diode laser action and design, and you will explore how quantum theory can be harnessed to improve performance in nano-scale devices. You will also consider the key factors affecting the use of photovoltaics and LED lighting as part of a sustainable energy future. You will examine the operation of optical displays, how the human visual system works and the way in which it perceives light and colour, and the operating principles behind many displays and their development.			
PHYS70033	Fibre and Ultrafast Lasers	Elective	Spring	5
	This module is an introduction to fibre lasers and ultrafast lasers. It will cover the fundamentals of optical fibres and how they can be used as laser gain media, the generation and characterisation of ultrafast optical pulses and relevant examples of ultrafast pulsed lasers. You will gain an understanding of how fibre and ultrafast lasers work and gain insight into why they are such useful tools in a wide variety of scientific and industrial applications.			
			Credit Total	90-92.5

We expect most students will finish with 90 ECTS. However, it is possible to finish with 92.5 ECTS if a combination of higher weighted electives is chosen. This involves a greater workload and should be discussed with your Mentor or the Programme Director before committing to this option.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the programme, our aim is that you will have achieved the following Learning Outcomes, based on the different activities, and be able to:

1. Use theoretical knowledge of the fundamental laws and principles of optics and photonics, and appropriate mathematical techniques applied to the physical world to solve real-world problems in optics.
2. Organise as part of a team the design, and execute safely, a series of experiments or computations, including the identification and use of appropriate specialist equipment.
3. Evaluate and select appropriate theoretical knowledge of optical principles and mathematical techniques to support practical work.
4. Model and simulate complete optical experiments and systems using appropriate specialist software.
5. Determine the strength and validity of results obtained from experiments, models or simulations, include appropriate consideration of errors, and draw conclusions.
6. Report the results of experimental work in writing.
7. Evaluate the inter-relationships between a range of complex/advanced topics in optics and photonics, and explain their application.
8. Critically examine the scientific literature to design an experimental, theoretical and/or computational investigation that extends current knowledge in the field.
9. Execute an extended research project, analyse the results and formulate new knowledge that can be applied to real-world situations.
10. Present the details of the research project, the work carried out, results and conclusions to a specialist audience orally and in writing.

Students not eligible for the MSc may be awarded alternative awards (see “Progression and Classification”).

For the award of the PG Certificate (30 ECTS), students would achieve the learning outcomes 1-6.

For the award of the PG Diploma (60 ECTS) students would achieve the learning outcomes 1-8.

My Imperial Campus

An app for students - designed by students!

My Imperial Campus is the beginning of a new mobile experience for the Imperial community. Built by students and alumni, the ambition is for the app to reflect the real needs and ideas of the people who use it every day. We're developing it iteratively, constantly learning from our community and evolving the features that help all of us succeed at Imperial.

The app is still growing, and we're adding new functionality all the time—so download it, explore what's already there, and keep an eye out for updates and chances to get involved.

Available now on the **App Store** and **Google Play**.



[My Imperial Campus | Administration and support services | Imperial College London](#)

What we've built so far:

Search & AI Chatbot

Chat with an in-app assistant that pulls information from within the app, across the university's website and resources-delivering quick answers when you need them.

Maps

Explore 2D maps of all Imperial campuses, alongside immersive 3D maps of South Kensington and White City. Find buildings, discover campus services, and navigate your way around.

Events

Discover what's on across Imperial-from public lectures to Union events and society meetups. Set your preferences in Settings to tailor your feed, or use the *Welcome Week* filter to see what's lined up for new students.

Timetable & Check-In

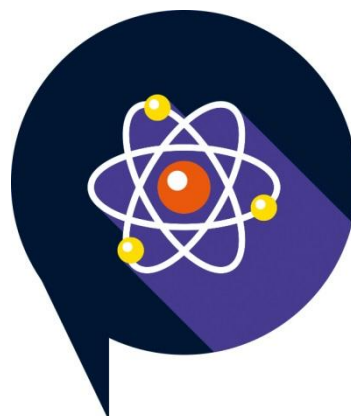
Access your timetable and, where required by your department, check in to teaching sessions directly through the app.

Your Career

Browse the latest internships and job opportunities from the Careers Service-updated regularly to keep you connected with what's new.

Imperial Success Guide

The Imperial Success Guide is an online resource with advice and tips on the transition to university level study. More than just a study guide, it is packed with advice created especially for students, including information on support, health and well-being and ideas to help you make the most of London. The Success Guide also provides you with information about professional development opportunities available to you through the Early Career Researcher Institute, the Careers Service, Library Services and other support services.



 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/pgt/

Student Shapers

Student Shapers is a chance to actively contribute to improving your learning experience at Imperial. This programme lets you work directly with staff on exciting projects that enhance the curriculum, create innovative teaching methods, and make a real difference in our learning community. The Student Shapers programme is open to all Imperial students across all departments. All opportunities that have been approved are listed in the 'Current Projects' area of the website.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/studentshapers/how-to-get-involved/current-projects/

Imperial Award

The Imperial Award is a programme that fosters personal development through self-reflection on your experiences, formally recognising this on your transcript. This programme is open to all students at Imperial, including undergraduate (UG), postgraduate taught (PGT), postgraduate research (PGR) and intercalating students. The Imperial Award aims to help you uncover more about yourself and your potential, and to enhance your ability to articulate the achievements and skills you

have developed through activities beyond the lecture hall. For more information, please visit the Imperial Award page.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/imperial-award/

3. Assessment

Within your programme of study, you will have different types of assessment which may include coursework, examinations, timed-remote assessment, presentations, labs or other forms of practical assessment.

Module specifications for the MSc Optics and Photonics and MRes Photonics can be found here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/physics/students/current-students/taught-postgraduates/optics-photonics/>

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/physics/students/current-students/taught-postgraduates/photonics/>

Imperial has policies and procedures to support the setting, sitting, marking and moderation of all assessment. These can be found within the Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study, Policies and Procedures at:



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Instruction to Candidates for Examinations

When taking examinations, students must ensure they follow the relevant instructions and guidance provided to them. In addition to the Instructions for Candidates, they must adhere to the specific instructions for each exam as provided by their programme team.



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/

Instructions for exam candidates can be found here:



www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/exam-arrangements-and-re-sits/Instructions-to-candidates-for-examinations.pdf

Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct

As your programme of study continues, you will be taught the concept of academic integrity and how you can ensure that any work that you complete now, or in the future, conforms to these principles. This means that your work acknowledges the ideas and results of others, that it is conducted in an ethical way, and that it is free from plagiarism. Academic integrity is fundamental to learning, teaching and research and it is important to understand what it means for you and the international community of research that you are joining.

Academic misconduct is the attempt to gain an academic advantage, whether intentionally or unintentionally, in any piece of assessment submitted to the university. This includes plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, exam offences or dishonest practice. Full details of the policy can be found at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Definitions of the main forms of academic misconduct can be found below:

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts, words, images, research or diagrams as though they were your own. Another form of plagiarism is self-plagiarism, which involves using your own prior work without acknowledging its reuse. Plagiarism may be intentional, by deliberately trying to use another person's work by disguising it or not citing the source, or unintentional where citation and/or referencing is incorrect.

Plagiarism must be avoided, with particular care on coursework, essays, reports and projects written in your own time but also in open and closed book written examinations. You can support your understanding of proper referencing and citation by using the resources available from the university such as the Library Services learning support webpages at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/plagiarism-awareness/

For group work, all members have responsibility for the integrity of the work submitted. Therefore, if plagiarism (or another form of academic misconduct) is proven, all group members may be liable for any penalty imposed.

Imperial requires you to complete mandatory training on plagiarism awareness. You can access this training online via the Early Career Researcher Institute's website:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/professional-development/masters-students/plagiarism-online/

Note: the ECRI plagiarism awareness online training link will be redirected as part of the ECRI website re-launch. Please contact ECRI colleagues for more information.

TurnitinUK is an online text matching service which assists staff in detecting possible plagiarism. The system enables institutions and staff to compare students' work with a vast database of electronic sources. Your programme team will explain how it is used in your programme.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/digital-education-services/digital-education-platforms/turnitin/turnitin-for-students/

Collusion

This is the term used for work that has been conducted by more than one individual, where this has not been permitted in the assessment brief. Where it is alleged that there has been collusion, all parties will be investigated initially under the Academic Misconduct procedure. Please be aware that this includes working with others in or outside the Imperial community, not just students on your programme.

You should note that whilst Imperial encourages students to support each other in their studies you should be careful to ensure that you do not go beyond the assessment brief with regards to individual work, always acknowledge the contributions of others in your work, and do not leave yourself open to allegations that you have supplied answers to enable another student to commit academic misconduct.

Exam offences

Exam offences fall into two categories. These are offences that may be disruptive in the exam venue or those that are considered an attempt to gain an academic advantage. Examples of disruptive behaviour includes causing a disturbance in the exam room, having an electronic device that has not been fully turned off or talking in the exam room. Behaviour that may be considered an attempt to gain an academic advantage includes bringing unauthorised material into an exam (such as notes, unauthorised books or other material), attempting to communicate with others apart from the invigilator, or trying to remove examination material without permission. You must ensure that you follow all reasonable instructions of the invigilators.

Dishonest practice

This is the most serious category under the procedure. Examples of dishonest practice include bribery, contract cheating, purchasing essays or other materials from other sources (which is now illegal in the UK) or other individuals to submit as your own, taking an exam for someone else or getting someone else to take an exam for you, attempting to access exam papers before the exam, making a false claim for mitigating circumstances or providing fraudulent evidence, falsifying documentation or signatures in relation to assessment or a claim for mitigating circumstances.

4. Board of Examiners

Board of Examiners

-  Professor M Damzen
-  Professor C Dunsby
-  Professor M Kim
-  Dr M Matthews
-  Dr J McGinty
-  Dr R Murray
-  Professor R Oulton
-  Professor M Neil
-  Professor C Phillips
-  Professor B Sauer
-  Dr S Truppe

External Examiners

-  Professor K Grattan, City St George's, University of London

An External Examiner is normally an experienced member of academic staff from another Higher Education Institution, that acts as a critical friend to the staff delivering your programme of study. For some programmes, one of the External Examiners could be an industry expert to provide the professional expertise needed to support the programme. External examining is an essential part of Imperial's quality assurance and enhancement process, ensuring that academic standards are maintained. The knowledgeable and independent views of external examiners are invaluable in certifying that the university's awards are appropriate, of comparable standard to the rest of the sector, as well as highlighting good practice and/or potential areas of enhancement.

During your programme you may be invited to meet your external examiners to discuss how you have found the programme. It is not appropriate however, for you to seek to submit complaints or representations directly to external examiners or to seek to influence them other than by giving feedback in a meeting. Inappropriate communication towards an examiner would make you liable for disciplinary action. If there is a specific issue that needs to be resolved, please see the Student Complaints Policy and Procedure.

A university summary of External Examiners reports from the previous academic year can be found here:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/external-examining/

Please note that you will need to be logged in to your Imperial account to access the summary reports.

The individual External Examiner reports for your programme/department are available from your department.

The individual External Examiner reports for your programme/department are available from your department. Please email ph-pgt@imperial.ac.uk to request access to external examiner reports.

5. Location and facilities

Imperial has a number of campuses in London and the South-East. All have excellent travel links and are easily accessible via public transport.

Your main location of study will be:

 South Kensington Campus
London SW7 2AZ

Facilities

Teaching and practical activities will take place in the Blackett Laboratory and the Huxley Building.

Computer access and printing is available at Blackett Level 3 Computer Lab and the Central Library on Level 2. The department's postgraduate office is located at Blackett Level 3 Room 315 and open Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 09:00 - 17:00, Wed 09:00 - 13:00. The PGT Administration Team can also be contacted on ph-pgt@imperial.ac.uk

If you notice any facility defects or maintenance issues, please contact the Customer Services Centre (CSC):

 www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities/customer-services-centre/

Library Services

The Abdus Salam Library at South Kensington is open 24 hours for study space, and further space is available to all students in GoStudy on levels 4 and 5 of the Chemistry Building.

Make sure you find out who your subject librarian is as they'll be able to help you find books and online resources for your assignments. Also, don't forget to check out the library's skills support and other campus libraries for access to specialist medicine and life sciences resources. You can borrow up to 40 books and, whether you're working on or off site, you'll be able to access e-books, e-journals and databases from their collection of over 750,000 titles. If they don't have what you need, they can get it for you, simply ask them to buy it or request a copy through their free Document Delivery service.

For any questions library staff will be happy to help, simply chat with them online or contact them via email, phone or social media, just check the website for details:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/library

Shuttle bus

A free shuttle bus runs between our South Kensington, White City and Hammersmith Campuses on weekdays. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. You need to show your Imperial ID card to board. You can download the timetable and check the latest service updates at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities/travel/shuttle-bus

Maps

Campus maps and travel directions are available at:



www.imperial.ac.uk/visit/campuses

Accessibility

Information about the accessibility of our South Kensington Campus is available online through the AccessAble access guides:



www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/imperial-college-london

Smoke-Free Policy

All Imperial campuses and properties are smoke-free. This means that smoking and the use of e-cigarettes, including vapes, by staff, students or visitors is not permitted on or within 20 metres of Imperial. The policy covers all university properties, including student accommodation and sports grounds.



www.imperial.ac.uk/smoke-free

Security and Community Safety team

The Security and Community Safety team are here to help and support you 24/7. Our priority is protecting our students, staff and visitors from harm and making sure that the campus is a safe, welcoming and inclusive space.

How our team can help you:

- Assist in an emergency
- Deliver first aid
- Offer advice on personal safety
- Provide high-quality D-locks
- Issue ID cards
- Lost and found
- Signpost to mental health support

How can you contact us?

In case of an emergency, contact us through the SafeZone app (more below)

If you need to speak with us in-person, our **Security and Community Safety Hub** for all enquiries, and services – including lost property and bike security – is located at:

- Wells Way Cabin (Located behind the Abdus Salam Library and Sherfield) for out-of-hours enquiries.

Our ID Card Services Office is located at:

- Sir Alexander Fleming Building G53

SafeZone

SafeZone is an app that allows you to contact the Security and Community Safety team. You can use it in an emergency, to request First Aid assistance, or to share information through the app's tip reporting function whilst on any campus. SafeZone can also be used to send important updates and information to the Imperial community during major incidents or disruptions, both on campus and elsewhere.



SafeZone is optional to register for and is now available to download on the Apple and Android App stores. Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/security/safezone/ for more details about SafeZone.

All existing phone numbers for the Security and Community Safety team are still operational. In the event of an emergency, you can still call 4444 from any internal Imperial phone.

6. Placements

Imperial defines a placement as:

“work experience, assessed project work, a period of course-based study or a period of research (for which academic credit is awarded and/or where the student remains subject to Imperial student regulations during the relevant period) and where there is a transfer of direct supervision of the student to a third party (i.e. where a member of staff at the third party acts as the day-to-day supervisor/manager) for a period of two weeks or more.”

Academic departments are responsible for managing any study placement or work placement which forms part of your degree programme or might directly contribute to the delivery of your degree. It is expected that you will contribute to the process of planning your placement.

Your department will be guided by the university’s Placement and Learning Policy and associated good practice:



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/placement-learning

For placement options in your programme please refer to the Programme Specification. Please note that not all postgraduate programmes have placement opportunities.

All placements and external projects must be discussed with Chris Dunsby (christopher.dunsby@imperial.ac.uk) in the first instance.

Your Departmental Placement Manager(s):



ph-pgt@imperial.ac.uk

The Careers Service is available to provide students with additional support in networking to find their own placement opportunities:



www.imperial.ac.uk/careers/applications-and-interviews/

For general information on undertaking a study or work placement visit the Placements website:



www.imperial.ac.uk/placements

If you are considering/planning a placement outside the UK, you should also refer to the Placement Abroad Handbook:



www.imperial.ac.uk/placements/information-for-imperial-college-students

7. Working while studying

You may opt to seek employment on a part-time basis during term time alongside your studies. You might do this to supplement other funding sources, use existing skills, gain new skills, work in or lead a team, expand your network, build employability, support your wellbeing, or have fun, amongst other reasons.

Being engaged in a mixture activities is important for supporting wellbeing but it is important that the time you spend on degree-related study is balanced. For some students the need to earn extra income via part-time employment is an acute need which the university acknowledges.

If you are in unexpected financial need, you should investigate what other financial support options are available. An excess of time spent on non-degree activities can be detrimental to your studies. Students are not normally encouraged to undertake part-time employment for more than 8 hours on average per week during term time. Any non-degree activity should never entail missing learning sessions, tutorials, placements or assessments.

If you are here on a Student Route visa you can work no more than 20 hours a week during term time. Some sponsors may not permit you to take up work outside your studies and others may specify a limit.



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/visas-and-immigration/working-in-the-uk/work-rules-during-your-studies/

If you are enrolled on a one-year full-time postgraduate programme, you are permitted to work full-time during the university Christmas and Easter closure period, as well as after the official course end date. Please note that one-year full-time postgraduate students are not considered on vacation during the summer months. You can only work full-time during the summer if you are undertaking an assessed work placements that is a formal part of your programme.



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/visas-and-immigration/working-in-the-uk/work-rules-during-your-studies/

If you are considering part-time work during term time you are strongly advised to discuss this with your supervisor or Personal/Senior Postgraduate Tutor (see Wellbeing, Support and Advice section for more information). If you are on a Student Route visa you should also seek advice from the International Student Support team regarding visa limitations on employment.

The university's Board of Examiners will not normally consider as mitigating circumstances any negative impact that part-time work during term-time may have had on your performance in examinations or in other assessed work. Assessment cannot be rescheduled to accommodate your part-time working arrangements.

8. Health and Safety

Keeping you safe is a top priority for us.

The Imperial Health and Safety Policy can be found at:



www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/safety-management/health-and-safety-policy-statement/

The list of Local Safety Staff can be found here:



[Local safety staff | Administration and support services | Imperial College London](#)

You may be required to complete inductions and attend training sessions to safely complete this course. These are done locally, depending on your course.

Additionally, the Safety Department offers a range of Safety Courses focused on specialised topics and designed to raise awareness of hazards and control measures for working safely in hazardous areas (i.e., laboratories and workshops) across the university. A full list of courses can be found here:

[Safety Courses | Administration and support services | Imperial College London](#)

Imperial Safety Department

The [Safety Department](#) offers a range of [specialist advice](#) on all aspects of safety, including [Fire Safety](#). This includes anything which you feel might affect you directly, or which may be associated with teaching, research or support service activities.

The university's activities range from the use of hazardous materials ([biological agents](#), [chemicals](#), [cryogens](#), [gases](#) and [ionising/non-ionising radiation](#)) to field work, heavy or awkward lifting and driving.

All of Imperial's activities are covered by general health and safety regulations, but higher risk activities will have additional requirements.

The Safety Department helps departments and individuals ensure effective safety management systems are in place throughout the university to comply with specific legal requirements.

Sometimes the management systems fail, and an accident or a near-miss incident arises; it is important that we learn lessons from such situations to prevent recurrence and the Safety Department can support such investigations. All accidents and incidents should be reported via Imperial's online reporting system, CoreStream, the link to which can be found here:



www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/accidents--incidents/

To report concerns or to ask for advice you should contact your programme director, academic supervisor or departmental safety officer in the first instance. You may also contact the [Safety Department](#) directly at safetydept@imperial.ac.uk.

For matters related to Fire Safety please contact: firesafety@imperial.ac.uk.

Occupational Health requirements

Imperial's Occupational Health Service provides services to:

- protect health at work
- assess and advise on fitness for work
- ensure that health issues are effectively managed

The Service promotes and supports a culture where the physical and psychological health of staff, students and others involved in the university is respected, protected and improved whilst at work.



www.imperial.ac.uk/occupational-health

9. University Policies and Procedures

Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study

All registered students of Imperial are subject to the university Terms and Conditions as well as the Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study. The relevant set of regulations will depend on your programme and year of entry, please see our Regulations webpage to determine which apply to you:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations

 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/terms-and-conditions

Academic Feedback Policy

We are committed in providing you with timely and appropriate feedback on your academic progress and achievement, enabling you to reflect on your academic progress. During your study you will receive different methods of feedback according to assessment type, discipline, level of study and your individual need. Further guidance on the Policy of Academic Feedback can be found on the Academic Governance website:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/academic-feedback/Academic-feedback-policy-for-taught-programmes.pdf

You will receive informal and formative feedback on your practical work from demonstrators while you are working in the laboratory. You will receive provisional marks and feedback on your laboratory reports in line with the College policy. You will receive provisional marks (see below) in the form of a letter grade on your examination performance, approximately two months after the examinations.

Please note that your examination scripts once completed belong to the university under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Please see the Imperial GDPR webpages for further information at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/policies-and-guidance/guidance/guide-2---exam-records/

Provisional Marks Guidance

Provisional marks are agreed marks that have yet to be ratified by the Board of Examiners. As these results are provisional they are subject to change by the Board of Examiners. The release of provisional marks is permitted except in certain circumstances. Further information can be found in the Guidelines for Issuing Provisional Marks to Students on Taught Programmes:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/mark-and-moderation/Guidelines-for-issuing-provisional-marks-to-students-on-taught-programmes.pdf

Late Submission Policy

You are responsible for ensuring that you submit your assessments (including timed remote assessments) in the correct format, by the published deadline (date and time) and through the correct method (e.g. through a digital submission point, by email, or in hardcopy to a named submission point). Any piece of assessed work which is submitted beyond the published deadline (date and time) would be classed as a late submission and will incur a penalty (a cap at the pass mark, or it is classed as a fail). Further guidance on Late Submission of Assessments can be found on the Academic Governance website:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/mark-and-moderation/Late-submission-Policy.pdf

If you submit late due to mitigating circumstances, the cap on your mark may be lifted if a claim for mitigating circumstances is accepted. Please see below.

Mitigating Circumstances

During your studies you may be affected by unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances. You should always contact your Personal Tutor for advice and support. If this happens at the time of, or immediately preceding, your assessments you may be able to make a claim for mitigating circumstances. If successful this claim enables the Board of Examiners when reviewing your marks at the end of the year to have greater discretion with regards to offering repeat attempts (either capped or uncapped), a repeat year, or with your progression or final classification. Please note, the Board are not permitted to amend the marks that you were awarded, only to take your claim into account when making decisions.

All claims must be supported by independent evidence and submitted within 10 working days of the affected assessment. Any claim made after this deadline is likely to be rejected unless there is a good reason (such as you were still unwell) until the point of submitting the claim. Details of the university's Mitigating Circumstances procedure can be found under the Mitigating Circumstances tab on the page below:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Through the procedure you may also be able to request a deadline extension to some forms of assessment. Wherever possible it is expected that this is used as it will enable you to complete your studies within the same academic year (rather than over the summer holiday or in the next year). Please note, extension requests have to be made before the original assessment deadline.

Your department will have specific instructions for making a claim for mitigation or for requesting an extension. Details can be found at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/physics/students/current-students/student-welfare-and-wellbeing/>

Support for ongoing or long-term conditions, or for registered disabilities would not normally fall under the remit of mitigating circumstances and students should be supported through their studies with additional examination arrangements. More details can be found at:

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures

As has been highlighted under the Academic Integrity section, it is important that you learn how to properly attribute and acknowledge the work, data and ideas of others. Any proven form of academic misconduct is subject to penalties as outlined in the university's Misconduct Policy and Procedures.

Unsatisfactory Engagement

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, sometimes students struggle to meet the university's expectations with regards to their engagement with their studies. Imperial has a process to identify and support students by reaffirming these expectations with an action plan. If a student does not engage satisfactorily with these supportive measures, they can be withdrawn from their studies. The full details of this process, and the appeals procedure relating to it can be found at:

Fitness to Study

Imperial expects students to participate within the university community, such as by fully engaging and studying to the academic level required and working and living cooperatively. If there are concerns that a student is unable to engage as expected, due to an underlying physical and/or mental health difficulty, the university has a process to ensure that decisions about a students' ability to study are made through a supportive, timely and transparent process which operates in the best interests of the student:

Mutual Expectations

The mutual expectations document provides a suggested starter list of expectations that master's students and their project supervisors might expect from each other. It is designed to facilitate conversations to establish effective partnerships and it is recommended that the document is discussed at the first meeting between a main project supervisor and a new student. It should be noted that this is not exhaustive, and that departments may have variations in roles and responsibilities; supervisors should be aware of any such variations and will feed this into their discussions with students. Further, it is recognised that supervisors may not always be best placed to meet all the expectations laid out in the document, but should be aware of who, in their department, can. Students and project supervisors are encouraged to discuss, tailor and personalise the document further to suit. It is also recommended that students and their project supervisors revisit the document throughout the duration of the project.

The Mutual Expectations document is available here:



[Mutual-Expectations---Masters-Student-Supervisor-Partnership.pdf](#)

Academic Appeals Procedure

We have rigorous processes and procedures in place to ensure assessments are conducted with fairness and consistency, claims for mitigating circumstances have been considered reasonably and in line with the regulations of the university, and that the decisions of the Boards of Examiners maintain the integrity of our academic awards. Should you believe that you have grounds to appeal these decisions, we have laid out clear and consistent procedures through which appeals can be investigated and considered:



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline

The [ICU Advice service](#) can help you with understanding this policy and supporting you through the process.

Arithmetic Marks Check

If you consider that there may have been an error in the adding up of your marks, you may request an arithmetic mark check. Please note that this must be requested within 10 working days of the official notification of your results from the Assessment Records team in Registry. You may not request marks check for a previous year of study. Please note that a marks check is not a remark of your work, but an administrative check that the marks have been accurately recorded.

If you are requesting an arithmetic mark check, please submit the [Arithmetic mark check form](#) to the PGT office, ph-pgt@imperial.ac.uk.

Student Complaints

Imperial strives to ensure that all students are well supported in their studies and receive a good experience of their programme and the wider university activities. If you feel that your experience has not lived up to these expectations Imperial has an agreed Student Complaints process through which your concern can be investigated and considered.

If you have any concerns about your experience at Imperial and have been unable to address these informally, you should contact Student Complaints who can provide advice about what is the appropriate way to seek to resolve this at:



student.complaints@imperial.ac.uk



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline

Student Disciplinary Procedure

Imperial has the right to investigate any allegation of misconduct against a student and may take disciplinary action where it decides, on the balance of probabilities, that a breach of the Student Code of Conduct has been committed. The general principles of the Student Disciplinary Procedure are available on the university website:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline/

Protecting our students from incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct

Imperial is committed to supporting students and preventing incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct.

Our dedicated website page outlines a range of information and resources, including:

- Information about what harassment and sexual misconduct is
- How to make a report
- What happens when you make a report
- Disciplinary procedures for staff and students
- Resources for advice and support

Visit www.imperial.ac.uk/students/preventing-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/ for more information.

Copyright

Copyright is an automatic right given to creators that allows them to control who copies, adapts, translates and makes public their work. Unless you have the copyright holder's permission, you cannot do these things unless permitted by law or licence.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/copyright-guidance/

Intellectual Property Rights Policy

Imperial's Intellectual Property (IP) policy governs the ownership and management of the university's Intellectual Property and its discretionary Reward to Inventors Scheme.

Further guidance on the Imperial Intellectual Property Rights Policy is available on the university website:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/research-policies/research-related-policies/ip-policy/

Confidentiality is critical in research, especially when collaborating in shared laboratory spaces. Research students must protect sensitive information diligently to preserve trust, collaboration, and

academic integrity. Your funding arrangements may also require that confidentiality is maintained. You should strictly protect sensitive, personal or research-related information. Confidential information must only be shared with authorised individuals. Breaching confidentiality is considered as misconduct with disciplinary consequences.

Further information about the Imperial Enterprise Lab, a dedicated support service for students who want to develop their entrepreneurial mindset, skills, and networks, can be found at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/enterprising-students/

Use of IT Facilities

View the Conditions of Use of IT Facilities:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/computers-printing/conditions-of-use-of-it-resources/

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

All staff and students who work with personal data are responsible for complying with GDPR. Imperial will provide support and guidance, but you do have a personal responsibility to comply.

In line with the above please see the university's Privacy Notice for Students which form part of the Terms and Conditions of registration with Imperial.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/admissions/Privacy-Notice-for-Students-and-Pro prospective-Students.pdf

10. Wellbeing, support and advice

In your department

Your department has a system of academic and pastoral care in place to make sure you have access to the appropriate support throughout your time at Imperial.

Student Wellbeing Advisor

There is a team of Student Wellbeing Advisors (SWA) at Imperial. The SWA for Physics is Ella Robson. She can be emailed at fonsstudentwellbeing@imperial.ac.uk

Head of Student Experience

Yasmin Andrew is currently our Head of Student Experience. She can be contacted by email at ph.hse@imperial.ac.uk

Your Personal Tutor

Your Personal Tutor is your first point of contact for pastoral support and advice. You can arrange to have a meeting with them at any time during your studies (although most Personal Tutors will have set office hours or may require you to make an appointment).

If necessary, they will direct you to an appropriate source of support.

The Postgraduate Tutor in the Physics Department is Dr Bob Forsyth (ph.pgt-tutor@imperial.ac.uk – ext. 47761), who is available to discuss any matter, personal and academic, in confidence.

Departmental Disability Officers

Departmental Disability Officers are the first point of contact in your department for issues around disability. They can apply for additional exam arrangements on your behalf and will facilitate support within your department.

Your Departmental Disability Officer is: Mery Fajardo

Email: ph.disabilityliaison@imperial.ac.uk

Telephone: 47513

More information on Departmental Disability Officers is available at:



www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service/support-available/departamental-disability-officers/

More information about how to request additional exam arrangements for exams if you have a disability is available at:



www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/additional-exam-arrangements-in-respect-of-disability

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

Protecting our students from incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct

Imperial is committed to supporting students and preventing incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct.

Our dedicated website page outlines a range of information and resources, including:

- Information about what harassment and sexual misconduct is
- How to make a report
- What happens when you make a report
- Disciplinary procedures for staff and students
- Resources for advice and support



Preventing harassment and sexual misconduct | Current students | Imperial College London

Attributes and Aspirations

Whether you are new to Imperial or continuing after your undergraduate degree, starting this exciting new stage of your education can be a little daunting. To help you out, Imperial have created Attributes and Aspirations (AA), an online course that you can help you adapt to master's study, plan your career and develop invaluable transferable skills so that you can be a better student.

Units include:

- Making the most of your master's
- About Imperial and adapting to new environments
- Critical thinking and decision-making
- Career planning

There are no assessments, and you can choose the modules you want to do, when you want to do them. Remember, PhDs and graduate level jobs are being advertised now for start dates of next year so don't miss out.



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/attributes-and-aspirations/pgt/

Your Union

All Imperial students, including postgraduates, automatically become members of Imperial College Union when they register at the university. The Union provides a range of independent support.

Imperial College Union Advice Service

The ICU Advice Service delivers free, confidential, and impartial advice covering academic issues, complaints and disciplinaries, university accommodation, and internal and external signposting. Contact [the ICU Advice Service](#) and complete the registration form to speak with a member of the team.

 www.imperialcollegeunion.org/advice

Student representatives

Imperial College Union operates various Representation structures, including one for postgraduates, which consists of 500+ elected student representatives from programme, group or stream study level to a faculty level, who have strong links to the Officer Trustees. Reps represent the voice of students and can direct you to internal and external support services. The Union's Liberation & Community Networks also work to make sure that the views of under-represented and interest groups are heard at Imperial. The student representatives are generally elected in one of ICUs election cycles that take place throughout the year so keep an eye out for your chance to get involved.

If you have any feedback about issues in your department relating to academic or wellbeing issues, you can speak to one of your student representatives.

 www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/your-representatives/a-to-z

Officer Trustees

The Union is led by a team of Officer Trustees who are elected every year by the students of Imperial. They work full time at the Union and either take up their role after their studies have concluded or take a year out of their studies to represent the voices of students in the Union, the university and the wider community.

The Officer Trustees represent students in a variety of roles, including Education, Welfare, and Activities. These elected students are here to represent your views as a student body - do make sure you get in touch with them if there's something you would like to discuss or change.

Student Hub

The Student Hub brings together information on many of Imperial's key administrative services in one easily accessible place. The staff in the Hub can provide general advice and information on a wide range of aspects of life at Imperial, including your enrolment and student records; statement of registration for proof of your student status, transcripts and awards; fees and finance; accommodation; and international student queries. If your query needs specialist guidance, the Hub team will sign-post you to other university student support services as appropriate.

The Hub is on hand to answer your questions in person (at our desks in South Kensington and White City), by email, phone or online through the ASK Student Hub service.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/student-hub

Student Support Zone

Student Support Zone has lots of information about the resources available at Imperial and beyond to help you to stay healthy and happy. It's a great place to start when you're looking for some support – it covers advice about housing and money, health, wellbeing and maintaining a good work-life balance, and provides the details of who you can contact if you need some extra support.

Centre for Academic English

As a student at Imperial, you want to be good at your science and you also want to be good at communicating it. CfAE can help you:

- communicate your science more easily and more effectively in writing and in speaking
- increase your chances of better grades
- improve your employability prospects through enhanced communication skills

The CfAE team are experts in academic communication and work with all students and academic staff at Imperial. They understand how busy your timetable is, as well as what support you need and when you need it. CfAE provide a range of options which accommodate different learning styles from personalised self-study resources to live group activities to 1:1 coaching sessions.

To find out how CfAE can help you throughout your degree, [visit their website](#), [email the team](#) or come meet them on Level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus.



Level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

english@imperial.ac.uk

www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english

Useful support contacts

Health and wellbeing

If you have moved home to take up your place at Imperial, you will need to register with a new doctor (also known as a General Practitioner or GP) so that you can access NHS healthcare. It's important that you register with a doctor soon after you arrive – don't wait until you are sick, as this could delay your access to treatment.

Imperial College Health Centre



40 Prince's Gardens, South Kensington Campus



020 7584 6301



imperialcollege.hc@nhs.net



www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk

Imperial College Dental Centre



Prince's Gardens, South Kensington Campus



020 7589 6623



www.imperialcollegedental.co.uk

Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service



020 7594 9637

 counselling@imperial.ac.uk
 www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling

Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Service

 15 Prince's Gardens, South Kensington Campus
 chaplaincy@imperial.ac.uk
 www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Disability Advisory Service

 020 7594 9755
 disability@imperial.ac.uk
 www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service

International Student Support

 020 7594 8040
 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/

Careers Service

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus
 020 7594 8024
 careers@imperial.ac.uk
 www.imperial.ac.uk/careers

Accommodation

Information and guidance around private housing and private halls for PG students is available from the Student Accommodation Office. Online you can find a Private Housing Masterclass that guides you through each step of your private housing search. The team also hosts private housing events, webinars and contract-checking services.

 Level 1, Faculty Building, South Kensington Campus
 020 7594 3300
 accommodation@imperial.ac.uk
 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/accommodation/prospective/pg/
 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/accommodation/private-accommodation/

ICT and software

ICT Service Desk

 Abdus Salam Library, South Kensington Campus
 020 7594 9000



www.imperial.ac.uk/ict/service-desk

Software shop



www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/computers-printing/devices-and-software/

11. Student Administration

The Student Administration team are responsible for the administration and maintenance of the student records for all students studying at Imperial. This includes enrolments, programme transfers, interruption of studies, withdrawals and processing of examination entry for research degree students. The team also use this information to fulfil reporting duties to the Student Loans Company and Transport for London, as well as other external bodies.

The team are responsible for the processing of student results and awards on the student record system as well as the production and distribution of academic transcripts and certificates of award.

The 'My Documents' online portal allows you to access your documents, including proof of enrolment and award documentation. You can then digitally share these documents with third parties such as an employer or university.

Each document has a unique QR code with the official university watermark, making it easier for employers and others to verify your credentials. This online document sharing is a legitimate service, introduced and authorised by Imperial.

We would like to encourage you to use this online service in place of paper-based documentation. You can access the 'My Documents' portal here:



www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/request-an-official-document/

Student Records



+44 (0)20 7594 7268



student.records@imperial.ac.uk

Degree Certificates



+44 (0)20 7594 7267



certificates@imperial.ac.uk

12. Work-life balance

The pace and intensity of study at Imperial can be demanding so it's important to find time for outside interests.

Imperial College Union

The Union's range of 370+ student-led clubs, societies and projects is one of the largest of any UK university, opening up lots of ways for you to enjoy your downtime.

 www.imperialcollegeunion.org/about-us

 www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/a-to-z

Move Imperial

Imperial has a wide range of sports and activities on offer that cater for all experience levels and abilities. We have a recreational activity offer, competitive sports teams and an elite sport programme. We are dedicated to ensuring we have a diverse, inclusive and exciting offer for all.

More information about Imperial student memberships and updates to our services can be found at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/ethos/memberships/students/

For an annual fee you will get use of the gym and swimming facilities on our campuses. More information about Imperial student memberships and updates to our services can be found at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/sport

We have a huge collection of online resources, home workout videos, healthy recipes and playlists available to all as part of our Move More campaign, more information can be found at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/sport/get-active/move-more/

13. Student feedback and representation

Imperial and Imperial College Union are committed to continually improving your education and wider experience and a key part of this is your feedback. Feedback is thoroughly discussed by your student representatives and staff.

Student representation

Student Representatives are recruited from every year group, department and faculty to gather feedback from students to discuss with staff. More information about the role, and instructions on how to become an academic representative, are available on the Imperial College Union website.



www.imperialcollegeunion.org/representation/a-to-z

Staff-Student Committee

Staff-Student Committees are designed to strengthen understanding and improve the flow of communication between staff and students and, through open dialogue, promote high standards of education and training, in a co-operative and constructive atmosphere. Your elected Union representatives share student feedback here. Imperial good practice guidelines for staff-student committees are available here:



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/student-feedback

14. Student Surveys

Your feedback is important to your department, university and Imperial College Union. Whilst there are a variety of ways to give your feedback on your university experience, the following surveys give you regular opportunities to make your voice heard:

- **Module Evaluation Questionnaire (MEQ)**

The MEQ is your chance to tell us about the modules you have attended. The questionnaire is open to students across all years of study and runs at the end of the autumn, spring and summer terms.

- **Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)**

The PTES is an annual survey which asks you to rate a range of aspects of your experience, such as teaching, assessment and feedback, organisation, and learning resources. The survey runs in the summer term and is open to postgraduate taught students. Results of this national survey help inform enhancements to the student experience.

If you would like to know more about any of these surveys or see the results from previous surveys, please visit:



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/student-surveys/pg-student-surveys

15. And finally

Alumni services and benefits

Graduation is just the beginning. As part of a lifelong global community of more than 275,000 Imperial alumni, you'll enjoy access to exclusive benefits, opportunities and support wherever your future takes you.

Whether you're looking to continue learning through study discounts, mentoring, career support, online resources and events, or hoping to build meaningful connections through a worldwide network of alumni, Imperial is here to support you at every step. With added perks including Imperial Plexus, our online alumni community platform, library membership, webinars, access to Imperial College Union, and more, you'll remain part of a community that continues to open doors long after graduation.

Visit the alumni website to explore your benefits and connect with fellow Imperial alumni across the globe.



www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/benefits/recent-graduates/

Opportunities for further study

After you have completed the MSc in Optics and Photonics or MRes Photonics, you may choose to continue your studies at Imperial. Previous graduates have gone on to PhD positions at Imperial and other Universities around the world, while others have found employment with a variety of careers in industry and commerce.