

A100 Frequently Asked Questions

Here are the answers to the questions you asked at our webinars on 2nd April and 19th June:

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1. Accommodation

Where can I find out more information about accommodation?

There is a lot of information on the Imperial College's main website: Please visit here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/>

There is a series of accommodation FAQs already prepared by the Accommodation Team. These can be found here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/faqs/>

Updated information for 2020/21, including pricing and the removal of Twin rooms can be found at this site, which will be regularly updated over the summer months:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/prospective/ug/changesfor2021/>

Do you think that not staying in accommodation will largely affect how your relationships are with the fellow students?

Choosing to stay in halls of residence is a personal choice. You will get to meet new people; however, they may not be on your course. Medicine is a tight knit community so if you were not in halls of residence, there are many other ways you can meet your fellow peers.

Your student cohort will be random and will not be based on which accommodation you are in or whether you choose not to stay in Accommodation.

Is there accommodation provided for the hospital placements?

This is subject to the hospital themselves. A number of hospital sites which are further away from central, do offer accommodation but application to this is on a case by case basis. When you are allocated your placement, you would discuss accommodation with your Teaching Coordinator at the hospital site.

Are the halls of residency catered?

This was an option in the past but is not anymore. If you can't already, university is an amazing time to learn how to cook!

Are first years guaranteed accommodation?

First years are guaranteed accommodation if they meet the conditions set by the Accommodation Team. You can find out more here <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/prospective/ug/how-to-apply/accommodation-guarantee/>

Do you have to clear out your room in the halls over the holidays?

You pay the rent for the year so it's yours for the year. You can stay there whenever you want and leave whatever you want in there. Some of our students have been out in London with friends over the holidays and used halls to come back to as the night tube was running.

How do I pick the best hall for a medical student?

There are a wide range of halls available for all students not just medics. Making your hall selection is a personal one and you will meet lots of different people regardless of your selection. You should review the location, cost and what you value most. To find out more, please do look at the comparison of each hall here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/halls/compare/>

How is accommodation allocated?

All applications are loaded into a special software which randomly allocates applications whilst considering room selections/medical conditions/wellbeing issues. These are sent out with a deadline to accept/reject.

What date does everyone move into the halls?

Moving in day this year is on the Saturday 3rd October 2020.

How much is accommodation, how and when do I apply for accommodation?

All of this can be found on our website and you can compare between the halls here <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/prospective/ug/fees/>

How do students find accommodation after first year?

Most students arrange private accommodation for the second year onwards. This is usually organised within a group of friends who would like to live together. There are plenty of resources available to help you choose the right accommodation <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/private-accommodation/>

Some students choose to stay on campus and go into Evelyn Gardens or become Hall seniors throughout the various halls.

If I've deferred until 2021, do I still apply this year?

You do not need to apply for Accommodation if you have deferred your entry to 2021. You will be asked to fill in the necessary documentation in the next year-round.

If Imperial is my insurance, am I guaranteed accommodation?

Students who select Imperial as their insurance choice are not guaranteed accommodation. If they are not allocated a hall, then information on other options will be sent to them.

Can you be allocated accommodation that isn't one of your 5?

If you have firmly accepted your Imperial College offer, you are guaranteed a bed space however not necessarily guaranteed one of your five choices. The accommodation team will try to match everyone as best they can, but this is not always possible.

Can you choose your type of room or your roommate?

You can select a single or double occupancy room when you make your choices. However, you are not able to choose your roommate.

What accommodation do medics usually go for in second year due to the campus changing to Charing cross?

Most people move into private accommodation around Charing Cross hospital - this is organised separately within a group of friends who would like to live together. There are plenty of options of private houses to rent for students, they can be a bit expensive as it's in Hammersmith, but there are some cheaper options if you look hard enough. As I mentioned earlier, there is also the option to move back into halls as a 'halls senior' if you would like to do that instead, with some responsibility for looking after the first years.

Can you please clarify the accommodation discount for students identified as widening participation?

The accommodation team have identified costs on their webpage for 2020 Entry:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/campus-life/accommodation/prospective/ug/changesfor2021/>

There are no specific discounts for widening participation students.

2. Admissions

When do we receive our offer holder packs?

You should receive these over the next couple of weeks via email which will include all the documentation you need to complete including the next steps and any firm deadline dates. You will receive further information from the School of Medicine team on our offer holder information regularly over the next few months.

What is the School of Medicine doing about the changes imposed by COVID-19 to the Admissions process?

We realise that many of our offer holders are concerned about the effects of coronavirus pandemic has on their place on the Medicine degree. We hope that you, your friends and family are safe and well. The situation has been fast moving and we continue to priority the health and safety of our current and prospective student/staff community.

The Department for Education (DfE) has indicated that grades will be awarded as usual this year, and that these grades will reflect students' work during their A-level studies. They indicate that grades will be awarded in a fair and robust way, not just using predicted grades. At present we are awaiting details of how this process will work and cannot make definitive commitments in advance regarding how we will deal with offer-holders who do not meet the academic conditions of their offers in July/August. We shall make a statement on this as soon as we have the required information from the DfE, the Office for Students (OfS) and UCAS. The Medical School Council is working with the relevant bodies to discuss the implications of the current circumstances. As soon as information is made available, offer holders will be contacted. Decisions for 2020 entry will be made on the basis of grades confirmed by 31 August, unless this deadline is changed by UCAS.

For those applicants who appeal their A Level Grades and whose results are upgraded after 31 August, will be honoured. These will be assessed on a case by case basis.

We understand that the coming months will be challenging, and we will continue to keep our offer holders updated as soon as reasonably possible. In the meantime, to help answer some of your concerns regarding COVID-19 and Imperial College London's response, a series of FAQs have been developed which are viewable here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19//>.

Can offers be taken away?

Imperial will expect to receive your qualification and grade information later this year. Subject to fulfilment of your offer conditions, your place will be confirmed accordingly. Where applicants do not meet their offer conditions, their application will be reconsidered in full by the relevant department, who will then take a final decision as to whether the applicant's place can be confirmed.

Are offers for students on gap years unconditional?

For those students undertaking a gap year and wishing to join in 2021, if you fulfil all your offer conditions (qualification requirements) then your place would be guaranteed for the next year of entry.

If I applied for deferred entry but my gap year plans are cancelled, can I change this and enter the course in 2020?

Let the team at feoadmis@imperial.ac.uk know that you have changed your mind. However, there may be a delay for when we can confirm whether a place is available for you to join in October 2020. Your place for 2021 will remain confirmed until this time so you do not lose this.

What are the options for students who do not meet their conditions with their predicted grades?

If you do not meet your offer conditions (for example do not achieve the grades necessary) then your place at Imperial College would not be available.

More advice is being provided on those who wish to appeal their qualification grade and when you can join the course. The OFQAL has confirmed that the opportunity to appeal the decision and undertake an assessment later is possible. You should refer to the information provided by your School and OFQAL:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

What would happen if we chose to sit our assessment in the Autumn Term (after September)?

We are looking into supporting our candidates make the right choice for them. We will review each case on an individual basis to provide individualised feedback and advice.

UPDATE: If students sit in Autumn term, this will be considered a first-sit and candidates will be allowed to enter the course in 2021-22. If students wait until Summer 2021 to sit the exam (and do not take the exam in Autumn 2020), there will be an exception in this cycle in that this will also be considered a first sit. It is at the discretion of the Admissions Team whether you will be able to defer to 2021 and whether you'll need to re-sit the BMAT.

What will happen for IB students?

For students undertaking the International Baccalaureate, please do review to your examination board website for more information: <https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/may-2020-examinations-will-no-longer-be-held/>

The IBOrg have announced that the May 2020 examinations have now been suspended but provided reassurance that students will still be awarded their Diplomas with grades determined by their established procedures. Several coursework and component deadlines have also been extended. IB Diploma students should refer to [IBOrg for further information](#). [Imperial expects to receive your results from IOBOrg in the summer as normal.](#)

What will happen for other qualifications?

Please refer to the list below for your relevant qualification board:

HONG KONG: Candidates undertaking this assessment should refer to their relevant qualification authority website: [HKEAA](#).

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: Candidates undertaking this assessment should refer to their relevant qualification authority website: [College Board for further information](#).

International A LEVEL: Candidates undertaking this assessment should refer to their relevant qualification authority websites:

- [Pearson Edexcel International A Levels](#)
- [Oxford International AQA](#)

- Cambridge Assessment International

Canadian High School Diploma: It is noted that High school students who were on track to receive the required 100 credits to graduate will still be eligible to receive a high school diploma. Discussions should take place with your individual schools for how you wish to proceed.

French Baccalaureate: Candidates undertaking this assessment should refer to their relevant qualification authority website.

Irish Leavers Certificate: Candidates undertaking this assessment should refer to their relevant qualification authority website <https://www.examinations.ie/>

Do I need to send you mitigating circumstances due to disruption that I have faced caused by COVID-19?

No. We are aware that due to the unprecedented nature of current affairs that all our applicants will have faced disruption this year and we do not require you or your school to submit individual mitigating circumstances.

Look out for College notifications which will come to the email address you registered with UCAS. If you need to update or change your contact email address, please ensure that you do this via UCAS track.

When is the new Early High School Verification Deadline?

On some UCAS offer conditions, there may have been an earlier deadline of the 31st July for some non-UK qualifications and this may be on your UCAS offer conditions. However, in light of the situation, Imperial College has removed this deadline and to extend it in line with our academic conditions' deadline of the 18th August. Your offer won't be updated to reflect this, but this formal extension has been publicly confirmed at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/covid-19/>

For those who also have an English language condition, this has also been extended as we know that many testing centres have been closed. This is also the 18th August. However, this will also be kept under review. Similarly, your offer details won't be updated to reflect this change. Please do refer to your relevant testing provider for more information.

Please note ETS will make an online 'At Home Testing' TOEFL test available in particular regions. Imperial will accept this version of the TOEFL examination.

How large is the cohort?

The cohort size is set by the Department of Health who impose a cap on the number of students permitted to enter medical school each year. This year, the number is 345.

How will our space be confirmed if we do get the grades?

Once your results have been confirmed and provided to Imperial College London, and you have completed any other requirements associated with your offer, your place will be confirmed, and you will move to "Unconditional Firm" on UCAS. For those who are undertaking A-Levels at Schools/College, your results will be automatically filtered into Imperial College London.

For those who are required to provide confirmation of their qualifications, these need to be submitted to Medicine UG Admissions medicine.ug.admissions@imperial.ac.uk. Do ensure that you monitor the COVID-19 website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/covid-19/> for up to date information.

How do we look at student satisfaction at Imperial?

You can review student satisfaction through the National Student Survey results from 2019 here: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-information-and-data/national-student-survey-nss/get-the-nss-data/>

When will we be told about things we need before we start the course?

We will be running regular offer holder online events – one of which will be regarding start of term arrangements including what to bring to university during this transition period.

How do offers get reconsidered if you miss your offer requirement by one point (IB)? Will you be more lenient considering exams are canceled?

Confirmation week occurs in August 2020 when A Level results are out in which we will look at all reconsideration offers. If you meet your offer conditions and you achieve your grades, then as long as you have completed the other conditions of your offer, your status will move to unconditional. Your place at Imperial is then secure. If you have not achieved your grade conditions and are a narrow miss, then you will be considered with others who have not been matched. This exercise takes place during confirmation week so you would be unlikely to know an update until 13 August when UCAS outcomes are updated from institutions. Any adjustment to your original offer condition will be based on the number of spaces available on the course.

Wales and Northern Ireland aren't offering Autumn exams.

If you are not given the opportunity to sit in the Autumn term but can sit in Summer 2021, you will need to contact the feoadmis@imperial.ac.uk team after your grades are released to discuss your individual case. In circumstances like this, you may be required to submit an application through UCAS for Entry 2021.

If this is considered a resit by your country's exam board, you would still be eligible to reapply as the School of Medicine has released the requirement to submit mitigating circumstances to be allowed to take assessments over two years. Under these circumstances you would not be required to sit the BMAT or undertake the interview process again. You would be provided with a Conditional offer subject to fulfilling your grade conditions and DBS requirements.

I am an international student. If visa office in my country do not open till October or later, what will be the way ahead for me?

If visa offices are not open until after the course starts, you will need to contact the feoadmis@imperial.ac.uk team as soon as possible. There is also helpful information on the International Student support page: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/visas-and-immigration/> as well as contact information for speaking to an advisor about your specific requirements.

3. Covid-19 Effect

Is it likely we will still be able to start in October considering Covid-19?

The current climate is fast moving and can be filled with uncertainty. However, we will keep all our offer holders updated about any changes to the type of teaching experience you may receive if the Government advice does not allow us to start in October due to COVID-19.

How will multi-mode teaching work?

Offer Holders will have received a letter explaining that in the academic year 2020-21, Imperial College will be taking a multi-mode approach to teaching
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/197816/academic-year-202021-imperial-announces-multi-mode/#:~:text=An%20Imperial%20education&text=Imperial%20calls%20this%20a%20'multi,will%20be%20strictly%20adhered%20to.>

Will EU students have to self-quarantine for two weeks when coming to the UK? If so, will we have to pay for accommodation when we self-quarantine 2 weeks before freshers start?

Currently visitors to the UK are required to undertake a two week period of self-isolation / quarantine. If you have taken a room at Imperial's halls of residence, you can observe your quarantine there for free. You will not be charged. The quarantine restrictions are under-review so I would recommend bookmarking the government website to make sure you have the most up-to-date information ahead of any travel plans: <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

4. Course: Phase 1

Please note: the first section here is answers from before the multi-mode teaching was announced. Later in this section you will find answers within the context of COVID-19

How will I learn the new content?

The professors will teach you how to learn/revise - active learning is recommended. So, flashcards, teaching others, talking it through (and of course some remote learning). Students have access to online learning platforms as well as our curriculum map, Sofia. There are library facilities on most campuses.

What exactly is CBL?

Case-based collaborative learning. Details online regarding this approach. Ours is a little different but you'd get the idea. In short, working together on a patient case like an MDT.

How is content on the new course delivered?

There is a variety of different types of teaching methods being employed throughout Phase 1. You will have the opportunity to undertake small and large group teaching, have access to a greater variety of digital content (available for pre, during and post activity) as well as more chances to undertake practical clinical and research skills.

What is the timetable like in the first year?

Year 1 students will typically spend Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday at South Kensington Campus, with Thursday (clinical day) to alternate between placements and Charing cross for teaching such as anatomy. Every second Friday afternoon has no scheduled teaching to ensure students have time for themselves and for catching up on work. Wednesday afternoon has no scheduled teaching (class or hospital) as this is when clubs and societies may take place.

Will I do dissection/prosection at all?

Knowledge of the human body will be delivered through Anatomy and Diagnostics via cadaveric teaching, clinical imaging and linked clinical skills. You will develop research skills through the Clinical Research and Innovation module with the opportunity to select a research experience.

At this stage Year 1 does prosection, Year 2 does prosection initially and then starts on dissection. However, the current Coronavirus situation could prevent this.

How often is feedback by teachers/professors provided on assignments?

Feedback comes in a myriad of forms. Our formative assessments every 2/3 weeks are called Engagement and Feedback Assessments (EFAs) and are designed to give you an idea of how you're doing. Each student has an academic tutor who provides study skills and welfare support on a group or one to one basis.

Do you take a register at every lecture/tutorial?

Students are encouraged to attend all teaching to ensure you understand the content of the course. We understand that at times students cannot attend lectures, so many lectures are recorded and

uploaded onto our online platform. The School of Medicine does have an attendance policy. You will be advised of the policy and what the School and General Medical Council expect of future doctors.

You would be provided with more information about attendance and how you report absences when you join.

Where will I be based?

You will be based at various sites throughout your six years at Imperial with many of these sites being in the Central West and North West London vicinity. You will be based at South Kensington and Charing Cross campus for much of your first two years before your clinical placements begin.

What books shall I buy before I start?

It is not compulsory to buy any set texts, as all the e-books you need will be on your iPad. You will also have full access to the library on campus. If you do wish to purchase books, the reading list is a good guide, however you will not be required to purchase any texts

How is the flipped classroom approach used in teaching?

CSI and LMAP – class teaching time is only around 20 hours each (compared to 100 for some of the others) Knowledge is mostly learned at home and is consolidated within teaching time.

Can lectures be accessed online in case you can't make it to the lecture that day?

Lectures are routinely recorded, and these are made available after they take place.

How many people are in a tutorial?

This can vary - for communications skills it is sometimes as low as 3. For team-based learning session can sometimes be as many as 90.

What does the lab work involve?

Lab work comes under 'learning by discovery'. They allow you to learn through demonstration and to troubleshoot problems and reinforce learning. We do a small number of wet-lab experiments. These are 2-2.5-hour labs where you are given a protocol and equipment which will allow you to find out information and answer clinical questions.

How early can a typical day start and how late can a typical day end?

We do not schedule teaching between 8am – 9am and 5pm – 6pm (although university policy says we can).

How much independent learning (such as consolidation of material) are we expected to do every week?

This varies according to the person/their attitude/their learning style. Around 2-6 hours per week is set aside for guided independent study (necessary before some classes). There are guidelines for this which suggest around 1000 hours of independent study over the year. No one counts this however and this also includes time spent thinking about the material such as on the train etc.

What are the term dates?

The term dates can be found here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/registry/term-dates>. Medicine term dates do differ from those in other departments as our course has a staggered start date. You will be given access to your timetable during your welcome weeks.

Do the number of scheduled holidays decrease over the 6 years of the course?

As you will progress through the course, the amount of available scheduled holiday periods will reduce. The first three years of the course will provide you with a longer break before these holidays reduce.

UPDATE: Answers given post-multimode teaching announcement:

When do the main assessments occur during 1st year?

The mock (formative) assessments are in March (Term 2) and the Summative assessments are at the start of Term 3 (end of April and in May). However, there are also on-going progress assessments in Term 1, 2 and Term 3.

Will we still have GP placements?

Currently, we anticipate that GP and primary care placements will go ahead, although the content may vary as a result of changing clinical practice.

What parts of the course will still be face-to-face and what COVID secure guidelines are in place?

The face to face teaching will focusing on the skills and procedures that are difficult to teach remotely e.g. palpation and a clinical history. We will review the procedures taught, related to the COVID pandemic and we will be introducing measures such as reducing contact time and group sizes, wearing of masks etc

Will we still get to do labs in first year?

At the moment we are planning to focus on teaching skills in Term 1 - things that are more complex to to teaching face to face. We will retain a number of labs, but these may be reduced in number, depending on how often we can bring you onto campus.

What are contact hours like for the new curriculum?

The on-campus care to face teaching will be full time in weeks 1&2 plus 10&11, in addition we will offer between 1-2 day a weeks 3 to 9. The remaining time will be remote face to face teaching as well as independent study.

5. Course: Clinical and Community Healthcare Placements

What do first year clinical placements entail?

The main purpose of your first clinical placement is to allow you to gain patient facing experience through the interactions you have with people in healthcare settings. You will have regular interactions with a set of patients from the community healthcare practise.

How are clinical placements allocated and where could they be?

Your clinical placements are central allocated by your year curriculum officer. Adjustments are made for health conditions or restrictions noted by a College support service.

Your clinical placements tend to take place around Central West and North West London. Our current clinical partners are as follows:

You can expect to complete attachments at the below list of teaching hospitals, provided as a guide:

- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
- London North West Healthcare NHS Trust – Ealing Hospital
- Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust – Charing Cross, Hammersmith, St Mary's and Western Eye Hospitals
- London North West Healthcare NHS Trust – Northwick Park
- Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust
- West Middlesex University Hospital

You will also under healthcare placements within the community throughout the course.

Which GP practices would we be at?

During phase one, students will undertake community-based experiences at General Practices across London. These will typically be within London Boroughs that require no more than one hour's travel time from the College.

As you progress through the course, your healthcare community placements could be further afield.

What are the hours for hospital placements?

These can be variable depending on what firm you are on however they tend to run between 8am and 6pm. You will get downtime throughout the day and you might not be needed on site all day every day! It's all about the experiences you get and when your clinical teaching, ward round and grand rounds will be! Remember you get protected time on Wednesday afternoon every week.

Are the wards crowded for medical students as we are a large medical school?

Not at all- students are allocated in a way that ensures this is not the case.

6. The BSc year - Phase 2 and Research

What does the BSc year involve?

During your fourth year, you will work towards the BSc by completing a taught module, a clinical case study and a supervised research project. This gives you the chance to develop your scientific knowledge and research skills, as well as expose you to research at the cutting edge of the field. The BSc is entirely course work based, so you will have a break from exams! Some work is undertaken independently, and other pieces involve group work and peer assessment. You can check out the BSc Medical Sciences options here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/courses/school-of-medicine/medicine/>

Will there be opportunities to get published?

Students are welcome to publish their work if it is suitable particularly during the BSc year and usually this is during the project component. Students work with academics within that subject speciality to determine the route of publication and what is currently available.

What is the intercalated PhD?

Medical students can choose to interrupt their studies for a period of 3 academic years after 4th year to complete an intercalated PhD (iPhD). Students may choose to source their own PhD and funding. There are also some PhD opportunities and studentships available within the School of Medicine. You can find out more information once you are at Imperial.

What determines the classification of the BSc degree?

Your BSc classification is made up of in course assessments, coursework and your project submission. Each degree may involve other types of assessment such as oral presentations or group work. Your total score across all of these components would make up your overall classification.

Will the BSc degree involve research placements or is it based at Imperial only?

Your BSc involves three modules. Your first two modules provide you grounding in the subject matter before moving onto the research project module. Depending on the type of BSc degree you have selected, your research project could be based in a lab space, clinical environment or a solely literature based assessment.

How big an impact does the intercalated BSc have career-wise, especially if someone chooses to become a doctor rather than a researcher?

Undertaking the BSc during your fourth year is a key component of the MBBS course at Imperial. It provides you with opportunities to explore in-dept research, build upon your portfolio of scientific knowledge which can be applied to your clinical work and potentially find a career path into Academic Research. If your path takes you to become a clinician, the knowledge and skills you acquired will remain exceedingly useful for supporting your patient population and clinical team.

7. Course prep

What should we do to prepare for the course?

You don't need to prepare for anything by yourself. Before your course begins, you will be provided with an induction module (completely optional!) which will help you to engage with some of the teaching in your first module – Principles of Medicine (POM). Other free, online texts that we could suggest that students might like to dip into were the following:

Biochemistry, 5th edition. Berg JM, Tymoczko JL, Stryer L. New York: W H Freeman; 2002.

Molecular Biology of the Cell, 4th edition. Bruce Alberts, Alexander Johnson, Julian Lewis, Martin Raff, Keith Roberts, and Peter Walter. New York: Garland Science; 2002.

Immunobiology: The Immune System in Health and Disease. 5th edition. Janeway CA Jr, Travers P, Walport M, et al. New York: Garland Science; 2001.

How intense is the workload?

The workload is really as intense as you'd like it to be - you can manage it alongside other activities like the social side. It's not as intense as many of the engineering courses or straight science courses here, because thankfully most of our teachers recognise the importance of growing as a person, and that becoming a doctor is definitely not just about the amount of knowledge you can memorise over your time here.

8. Course: Qualifications and Assessment Information

When will our first assessment be in the first year?

There is a Clinical Science Integration (CSI) Team Based Learning (TBL) assessment in late October.

How many essays do we have to do each term of first year?

There are no essays in first year. Most assessment is multiple choice, very short answer or short answer question.

Are students ranked across the year?

As part of your medical school career, you will be provided with your assessment performance as a means of feedback. This tends to form part of the discussion with your Academic Tutor who will provide study skills support through the early phase of medical school. Ranking will also play a part in your Foundation School application process.

When are clinical assessment OSCEs taking place?

You will undertake your OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) during the third year of the course.

How are your clinical placements assessed?

Your clinical placements will be assessed via in-course assessment - Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) and in clinical end of year examinations.

How many students go into academic foundation programmes?

The Academic Foundation Programme is very competitive – in 2020, there was only 450 posts available (around 5% of all Foundation posts). However, Imperial does well on this programme with a high proportion of our recently graduated doctors entering this pathway.

For more information about this pathway, please refer to the Foundation Programme website: <https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/programmes/2-year-foundation-programme/academic-training/>

Are assessments pass/fail?

There are some assessments which are pass/fail - most commonly the final summative assessment at the end of the academic year.

9. DBS Check

When will we receive more information regarding DBS checks?

You should receive more information regarding your DBS (Disclosure Baring Service) enhanced certificate check as part of your Offer Holder documentation. This should be with you in May 2020.

What if I have already had a DBS done?

If you have already had your DBS certificate undertaking, you may still need to complete a new one as the check needs to be enhanced and registered to Imperial College London. Please refer to your Offer Holder letter and if you have further enquiries, please contact medicine.ug.admissions@imperial.ac.uk

How does DBS work for international students?

As an overseas student, you are required to submit a “letter of good conduct” which can be provided from your country's government or police force. This takes the place of your DBS check. You must adhere to the deadline set within your Offer Holder letter.

10. Funding

What scholarships are available for medical students?

There are many scholarships available for students listed here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/scholarships/>.

How and when do we apply for student loans?

Home and EU students who meet the criteria can apply for Tuition Fee Loans which cover the cost of tuition. For more information, please look at the Student Loan Company website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/student-loans-company>.

You can also review the tuition fees costs here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees/undergraduate-tuition-fees/2020-21/>

UCAS also provide a helpful guidance on the application and supporting your student finances:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/getting-student-support/undergraduate-student-finance-and-support>

If my fees are covered by grants or self-funded, can I still apply for maintenance or bursary?

Yes, if you are eligible regardless of how you cover your fees.

Imperial Bursary: You will still need to meet the eligibility criteria set to Imperial College. To see if you are eligible, please review this page: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/fees-and-funding/bursaries-and-scholarships/imperial-bursary/>

There are helpful guidance at various independent organisations: [Save the Student](#), [UCAS](#), & [government website](#).

Can EU students apply for bursary?

No. Unfortunately the Imperial Bursary is only available to Home students.

What if I don't want to take out a loan but cannot afford my fees?

This is a challenging position to be in. Unfortunately, without means to pay for your university education, you may find yourself in a position of not being able to complete your studies. The University is not able to pay for your tuition fees if you cannot make the payment. Payment plans can be agreed and generally you don't pay your full fees upfront – these are made as instalments.

For more information about this process, please do review the UCAS funding page:

<https://www.ucas.com/finance/student-finance-england/tuition-fee-loans-full-time-students>

How do I keep costs low while living in London?

Budget well and spend sensibly – you can make it in London!

London can be an expensive place to live but there are lots of useful resources to help you budget and ensure you are getting the best offers as a student. Some useful sites include:

- Imperial College London Funding Website: <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/managing-your-money/living-costs/>
- Royal Medical Benevolent Fund Budget Planner: <https://rmbf.org/medical-students/budget-planner/>

- Save the Student Website: <https://www.savethestudent.org/save-money>

Would medics need a travel pass in the first year?

The cheapest option for transport is a 18+ Student Oyster Card. More information can be found here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/student-travel-discounts/>

Is it OK to have a job while I study? Are there many opportunities for this within the college?

Whilst we don't recommend students overload themselves, we understand that many students will need to supplement their income with a job. It is recommended to not exceed 15 hours a week. Opportunities are available to work with the Imperial College Union (<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/>) - check out their website nearer the start of term for any current opportunities.

Is a BMJ subscription available through Imperial?

As a medical student you get access to various clinical based tools – this includes the BMJ's Best Practise case tool. This is free – you just have to be signed into the College's WIFI to authorise the download.

For more information about the types of resources available at Imperial, do look at the Imperial Medicine subject support pages: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/subject-support/medicine-and-biomedical-science/>

If my financial situation is going to change in this next term, can I apply for the Imperial bursary directly for help in this coming year?

If your financial situation (parental income) has changed by more than 15% since the application for Student Loan testing, then you can request a recalculation. You will be asked to provide additional information and the household income you used for your application will need to forecast the projected income up until the next tax year before providing evidence at a later date. For more information about all the types of funding available, please check out this site: <https://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/the-big-fat-guide-to-student-finance-2012.html#extrafunds>

Will the NHS Bursary year 5 and 6 students receive completely go towards tuition fees?

You will receive NHS funding during your fifth and sixth year at medical school. You will be required to fill in a new application form for this funding stream. The NHS bursary has two sections: Tuition Fees and Maintenance bursary depending on your fee status. Please remember that if you are not eligible for the maintenance bursary, you may be eligible for the tuition fee payment. More information can be found on the NHS Bursary webpage: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary-students/help-and-guidance>. You can also see more detail on Imperial's Student Finance website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/undergraduate-funding/loans-and-grants/nhs-funding/>

11. I-Explore (Previously called Horizons)

What is Horizons and when does it take place?

Horizons or iExplore as its now called, is available for 1st year medical students and classes take place on Tuesdays between 4pm-6pm. You can continue to take classes up until your fourth year.

For more information about the programme, check out their online platform of courses here:<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons/>

Do you have SScs or other arts or languages to study alongside the medicine course?

You can learn languages with the iExplore programme. Modules available during 2019-20 academic year included many different languages including French, Italian, Arab, Japanese, Korean, Russian and British Sign Language. You can see the full list here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons/module-options/1st-year-undergraduates/>

You can also undertake other humanities and social science related courses; this could include History, Art, Digital Platform Design, Science Fiction and Politics. Again, to see the full list, please take a look at this webpage:<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons/module-options/1st-year-undergraduates/>

What is i-Explore and is it compulsory?

iExplore is the new name of our “Horizons” extra-curricular programme. This gives students an opportunity to learn new skills, languages or humanities courses which are outside of the Medicine course. It is 100% optional and not compulsory. Teaching time is protected so if you don’t take part in iExplore you just get the time off.

For more information and additional FAQs, check out their resource here:
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons/frequently-asked-questions/>

12. iPads and Technology

When do students receive an iPad?

You will receive your iPad during your freshers' fortnight at Imperial. This will be a pre-organised session as part of your timetable.

What model will they be?

They are likely to be an iPad mini 4. To see the specification, check out the wiki page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/iPad_Mini_4

Will I need a laptop as well as my iPad?

Again, this is a personal choice. A lot of students utilise both their laptops (for essay writing and to have a bigger screen) and their iPad (for notes / using in lessons and on clinical wards).

You can borrow laptops for up to four hours whilst on site at Imperial. However, if you want to use a laptop more permanently it is recommended to organise your own personal one.

What are the iPads used for?

- 1) To guarantee all students have a device to engage with digital learning materials (in class and at home)
- 2) To complete some assessments
- 3) Digital sign offs for placements
- 4) Whatever else you want!

13. Research Opportunities

Are there summer research opportunities?

Being part of the Medicine Faculty does mean that you will meet lots of individuals who are at the forefront of scientific research. This means that you can get research opportunities if you are interested. Sometimes research opportunities come up which are opened out to the cohort to help with projects particularly during the summer months. These opportunities are normally advertised internally so students are reminded to look out for such notifications.

Is it easy to get extra research placements during the year?

It's really easy if that's something you're very keen for - especially as Imperial is one of the biggest research unis in the whole world. There are tons of labs and professors that you can contact to help out with their research if you'd like to do that, but also don't worry about doing that too early. There are plenty of summer breaks (which is when I'd recommend doing research, not during the academic year) over your time here when you can get involved with research! Also, your whole 4th year is dedicated to research, so you study the background behind your subject and then have the chance to get involved with huge variety of research projects (and many people end up publishing their research too).

Further into the future, is it better to do a PhD in specific area of medicine in order to get into that specialty? e.g. more for more competitive specialties like neurosurgery?

in 4th year you will complete your BSc in research which is the first opportunity you get to do some extra research. I would 100% advise you not to get focused on one specialty at the moment though, because your experiences here will probably shape your final decision (and most people who come into med school with an idea, have changed it by the time they've left). You can intercalate with a PhD as well as the BSc year (which adds a few years onto the course), but you will still have to go and work in the NHS as a foundation doctor and work your way up regardless, so many people choose to do a PhD later on in their career once they have had more experience and are on the training path to a specialty.

14. Support

Who do I contact regarding disability support?

Students may contact DAS directly via disabilities@imperial.ac.uk to discuss their support adjustments prior to joining the course.

What mental health support and other pastoral care is available for students?

At Imperial, we operate a tutoring scheme in which you are provided with a personal tutor from day one. Tutors will support you academically and pastorally as you move through the course. The FEO Welfare team run this scheme and you will be hearing from them during your welcome week.

We also have Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service available for all students. You can find more information about this here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling/what-do-we-offer/>

What if I find the work too hard and don't do well?

At the start of term, you find out who your personal tutor will be. You are encouraged to contact them any time that you would like to discuss your progress or any concerns that you are having. We want you to do well during your time at Imperial, and so you will be given study guides and as much support as possible. A formative exam in January will allow you to gauge your progress, and you will then meet with your tutor to get feedback on your performance, helping you to pinpoint what you should focus on in future. We want you to succeed; try to be proactive if you do feel that you need support and we will do our best to help you. Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union (ICSMSU) officers are all current students who have been where you are now; you'll see them out in full force over the first few weeks of term so do take the chance to say hi and get to know them. If you find that you're struggling at any stage they would be more than happy to have a chat. If you have any questions, please message them! All their contact details are on their website and their president is a fulltime officer so always on hand to answer your questions. This year his name is Ben and you can reach him on icsm.president@imperial.ac.uk

What is the pastoral system like at Imperial?

At Imperial, we operate a tutoring scheme in which you are provided with an academic/personal tutor from day one. Tutors will support you academically and pastorally as you move through the course. The FEO Welfare team run this scheme and you will be hearing from them during your welcome week.

The FEO Welfare are your first point of contact for all welfare and wellbeing issues and enquiries.

Each year has a senior tutor who can be approached for more significant welfare support whether that is financial support, health conditions, mental health concerns or implementing support adjustments.

For those with ongoing health conditions which may require to have additional support/adjustments, you will also be supported by your year Senior Tutor. The Senior Tutor is a senior member of the medicine faculty focused on student welfare and have nothing to do with your progression or assessment marking.

15. University Experience - Ben Russell and Zoha Imam

How do I know Imperial College is right for me?

I love Imperial - the support to students is great, resources are exemplar, faculty are so nice, opportunities are amazing (I went to Nepal with Imperial on a medical research project!), and societies/clubs are so vast. But of course, the choice is personal to you. You will enjoy whichever medical school you join. Imperial is not just lecture-based but interactive learning too. Well-structured and clinical exposure relatively early on.

Is there a split between ICL students and ICSM students?

There is a bit of a split (the same as there is at most universities with a medical school), it's for lots of reasons like historical ones, the fact we're here for much longer than anybody else and personal differences - this is a good thing because everyone still has imperial friends but means we ALSO get an amazing separate community which feels more like a family!

Are there any humanitarian societies and other societies other than sport?

Yes! Medicines sans Frontier, amnesty, charitable societies, volunteering societies as well as drama, light opera and music.

Can I join a society if I know nothing about them or a sport if I've never played before?

Yes! Uni is probably the best place to learn a new skill or join a new society! I know plenty of people who have tried so many things for the first time since coming to university. Many people in societies haven't done things before, so this is the ideal time to try things out cheaply

Where do most societies take place?

A lot take place in Hammersmith as well (Charing Cross Hospital) especially the medic clubs/societies. Training sessions are a bit outside of London, but I think there's a coach that takes you there

Are societies expensive?

No, most societies are free or have a very small cost associated with them. The greatest expense tends to be associated with purchasing kit or equipment for some sports societies.

How many societies will I have time for?

As many as you can fit in! Freshers' events will introduce you to the Clubs within the Union, and we would encourage you to take part and get involved in any that interest you in the first few weeks. From there, you can then narrow down your choices once you have had a go. You will get an opportunity to meet all the clubs (from sports & arts, to volunteering & academic) at Freshers' Fair, which we encourage everybody to attend.

Any good nightlife?

Just come and we'll show you - there are loads of clubs that we go to around the area and some further afield. You'll get introduced to some during fresher's fortnight and your clubs and societies will introduce you to the rest. One tip: DON'T get sucked into going to the big ones like ministry of sound, they are honestly so rubbish after you've been once to experience it... The smaller ones are a lot more personal

Are there sheltered and safe spaces for bicycles in halls?

Most halls have bike shelters (check specifics for each Halls on the website), and all of them are locked up. Depends where they are for each Halls but there are plenty around (and on Imperial campus)

Will taking a gap year improve my university experience?

Taking a gap year should be a personal decision. Many people have valued the experiences they have undertaken if they take a gap year whilst others really want to start Medical School. Remember that you will be at medical school for six years minimum and whilst you get a longer summer break in the early part of your studies, this will shorten as you move through the course. If there is an experience you want to dedicate a large proportion of your year to, a gap year may be the way to go.

How do I get a job at the student union?

Just apply online! You'll be emailed about it when you start at Imperial. You will hear a lot about the Student Union during your welcome week.

Has Imperial made you a confident clinician?

Very much so - especially with this new course where you will be getting much more clinical involvement from much earlier on! It really depends on the person, not the course (despite what you may hear from newspapers) - if you are someone who enjoys talking to patients and learning how to diagnose and treat them then you will become a confident clinician by just getting lots of experience on the wards. There are some people who DON'T get involved on the wards or with patients and they are always the people who don't feel prepared to be doctors... So you must be engaged, but if you're doing the right course for you then speaking to patients will be fun (and you even get lots of training on how to do this in clinical communications)

Is it true that medical students are generally more isolated as compared to students of other courses, and they don't get to meet people of other courses very often?

No, you can meet whomever you wish! Medics just end up seeing each other a lot more often because you are in a very unique degree (no one else has clinical placements etc and a LOT of contact hours) but I am friends with many non-medics.

I've heard of there being a mother/father programme where you have an Imperial parent in their second year. Can you tell me more about that?

Yes! There is a 'Mums and Dads' scheme which is exactly what you've described. You and the other 'kids' are paired with a 'couple' of parents in 2nd year and they are there for welfare, going out reasons, academic support, giving tutorials, sharing notes etc. You're paired up by the Students' union depending on what your interests are.

Are there many social events on?

There are massive events in the first fortnight and around 300 people get involved. This is amazing and just makes you realise that there are so many awesome people here! Types of events throughout the year vary from regular club nights, to more formal balls, to quiz nights, sports nights, film nights, exam after parties, and many more options within Clubs and Societies.

What did you like the most about your med course? And what did you not like as much?

I loved learning about medical conditions/drug interactions/patient contact and I undertook some research in Nepal with Imperial (AMAZING!). I didn't enjoy the science-heavy aspect (molecules etc) but it's a rite of passage that you must learn!

What is the environment of the course like? Is it competitive, collaborative etc?

This depends on who you end up making friends with. Some people can be competitive however the course encourages collaboration leading to most people becoming collaborative. Older year notes will be available to you too. Everyone wants you to do well!

What is the general demographic? How many students are male/female or mature?

We have a mix of students within our cohort - we probably have around 10% of the cohort who are over 23 plus. The gender balance within school of medicine is around 1:1 which surprises most people. Over the last few years, we are swaying slightly more to more females on the course but the ratios are very close.

Will freshers fair still go ahead? What is the passport?

We are unsure but we sure hope so! The passport guarantees entry to most Freshers' Fortnight events, even if they are "sell out". Last year the passport sold out in a matter of days to the incoming freshers. The student union recommends that you get a passport (you might have to beg your parents for a bit of cash) so that you have a chance to fully immerse yourself into making friends on your course. The Imperial medics Freshers' fortnight has gaps in for halls events and society events so you get a lot of fun packed in without having to miss out on anything!

Why should I study at Imperial?

Did you not have to answer this question in your interview?! It's one of the best universities in the world (I'm not talking about rankings, which don't mean anything for undergraduate education), it's in London, there are fantastic people here, more opportunities than I've ever heard at any university, and we have our own students' union just for medicine!

What are the Imperial sports facilities like?

The Ethos centre at South Kensington campus has a range of facilities - 25m pool, fitness gym, exercise studio, climbing wall, sauna, steam room, spa, squash courts, badminton hall and treatment rooms. There are also various facilities across our other campuses and halls. More information is available on our website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/sport/facilities/our-facilities/>

How much free time do we have on an average by day? How much time must we spend revising at home in first year?

Free time is available if you want it and you can build free time into your life if you want it. A lot of work is pre/post reading so if you organise yourself you can do this around your life. The amount of time revising really depends on the person. Some students are very committed and do not allow themselves and social time/time for other activities. We advise against this as it takes away from the university experience.

If most societies take place on Wednesday afternoon, doesn't that make clashes very likely?

Wednesday afternoons is mostly for sport. If you want to do multiple sports it is possible to alternate sports week by week or to choose sports based on alternating seasons of the years. Wednesday is the most common day, but some sports do occur on other days too.

Does wearing the face veil (niqab) go against Imperial's dress policy? If so, can a student choosing to wear the item enter an (exclusive) agreement with the College?

The School of Medicine does have a dress code as you are expected to dress professionally at all times. This is in a manner that will not cause offence to patients, relatives or colleagues. As a medical student you will undertake clinical placements in the various NHS Trust hospitals and GP practices with which Imperial is linked. The trusts have indicated that they will not permit students to wear any garment which obscures the face, either whilst undertaking clinical placements or in the Foundation Year posts which doctors undertake after graduation.

How do we sign up for the Freshers Fair? Will it be done virtually?

Information will come out at some point in the next few months from the main Union (ICU) so look out for emails or letters from them which will have much more information - but it won't be until October so don't worry about it for now. Freshers' Fair is going to be done using some form of virtual software, the main Union are looking into which specific software we use at the moment, but the current plans are to do it online. It is unlikely we will be able to hold an event as large as the Fair in person by October and many other courses are not returning, so I would imagine this will continue to be the case.

16. Vaccinations and Medical Checks

Are we required to have any vaccinations before starting the course?

As part of your offer holder information pack, you will get further information regarding the vaccinations you will be required. You will be asked to fill out a Health Questionnaire. There are also clinics available once you join Imperial for any additional vaccinations you might need.

Do we need any medical check-ups before we start med school?

You would have completed a medical questionnaire before arriving at Imperial. You also must complete a vaccination check as you must be up-to-date with all your vaccinations before being allowed to have contact with patients. The Occupational Health Centre on the South Kensington campus will individually assess each new student's vaccination record and where you are found to require further immunisation you should make it a priority to attend as requested. Your appointments are on the attached link together with a form that you need to complete and take with you. All initial appointments early October depending on your teaching group.

17. Webinar

Where can I listen to the webinar again?

You can listen to the webinar again via our offer holder page. This will be available to listen as many times as you like!

I have more questions, where can I ask them?

Please get in touch with the Admissions Team in the School of Medicine via feo-admissions-interviews@imperial.ac.uk