

IMPERIAL

Faculty of Medicine

Department of Surgery and Cancer



Student Handbook 2025–26

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1. 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 writing your literature review or simply having someone to talk to.

You'll have access to an innovative range of professional development courses by the Early Career Researcher Institute, the Careers Service, Library Services and other support services team 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 360 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.

Doctoral Proposition

Imperial will:

Provide a world-class research programme

- focused on performing cutting-edge research that makes a significant contribution to the knowledge base
- throughout which internationally-acclaimed academics support, inspire and challenge you as you develop into an independent researcher
- in a vibrant and diverse community united by the aims of advancing the frontiers of science, technology, medicine and business, and addressing key economic and societal challenges

Provide innovative and effective professional development

- equipping you with skills to increase your research and personal effectiveness
- that gives you an insight into a wide range of career opportunities
- helping to ensure that you have the necessary attributes to excel in your chosen career

Deliver outstanding networking opportunities

- providing access to the elite international research community
- that arise from our extensive engagement with industry and business
- by organising a wide range of interdisciplinary meetings and social events within the university

Offer life-long membership of the Imperial community

- supporting you as a student and afterwards as an alumna/us
- enabling you to share your professional advice and experience with future students

www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/who-we-support/research-degree-students/doctoral-proposition/



Mutual Expectations for the Research Degree Student Supervisor Partnership

The Early Career Researcher Institute has worked with students and staff to produce a list of minimum expectations that students and supervisors can expect from each other, “our mutual expectations”. It is designed to facilitate conversations to establish effective partnerships and Imperial requires that the document is discussed at the first meeting between a main supervisor and a new student, plus at regular intervals thereafter. It also brings to light the Imperial Values, which students and supervisors should embed in the way they work together. This is a key document, so make it a priority to discuss with your supervisor.



[//bb.imperial.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/xid-11805857_1](http://bb.imperial.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/xid-11805857_1)

Cornerstone

In April 2022 the Early Career Researcher Institute (ECRI) launched the Cornerstone programme. This dedicated umbrella support and development programme helps Imperial's doctoral supervisors better support and guide their students throughout the PhD journey. Cornerstone was developed by experts from across Imperial in partnership with doctoral students. The programme includes mandatory training for all new and experienced supervisors, as well as optional continuing professional development workshops. Cornerstone is a continually evolving provision and the Early Career Researcher Institute welcomes feedback from supervisors and students – please contact ECRI directly if you have any suggestions.



ecri@imperial.ac.uk

www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/learning-and-development/cornerstone/



Welcome from the Early Career Researcher Institute

Welcome to Imperial and to the Early Career Researcher Institute!

The Early Career Researcher Institute works closely with Imperial College Union to enhance your experience and to ensure that when decisions are being made which affect your time at the university, your voice is heard.

Another important aspect of our role is to provide you with a free and exciting programme of professional development opportunities, delivered through a range of modes, so you can access these wherever you are in the world.

Our staff have a variety of research and other career experiences. Our professional development opportunities are designed to support you as you progress through your programme, but also to help you improve your personal impact, and be prepared for your chosen career, whether that is within academia, industry, government or something completely different!

Importantly, by attending our courses and workshops, you will meet students from other academic departments, enabling you to start building your research connections. We also deliver exciting competitions throughout the year which are an opportunity to broaden your knowledge as well as to have some fun!

Our primary way to communicate with you will be through our e-newsletter and our professional skills email bulletins. However, do check our website, blog and social media platforms to keep up to date with all the latest activities available to you.

Finally, Imperial is an extremely exciting, stimulating and diverse environment in which to work, to study and to research. Do make the most of all that the university and your programme has to offer.

www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/



Introduction from the President of Imperial College Union



Welcome to Imperial! To begin with, a huge congratulations on joining us here at Imperial– this is where you belong! This is a globally renowned institution and offers much more than just the degree you are looking to leave with. You will come across countless opportunities and meet an array of compelling people amongst your peers, accomplished academics and the wider university community. Imperial attracts the best talent from around the world - making it here is already a testament to your academic zeal and ambitious character. Now, what you make of your experience at Imperial has the potential to shape your future.

Being located in London is a true perk of being an Imperial student. Right on our west London doorstep are landmark museums and iconic venues, including the Royal Albert Hall which has hosted Imperial graduations for over 60 years. Beyond our campuses, the city has something for everyone; be that the West End, sporting arenas or diverse cuisines. I strongly encourage you to explore where and when you can – London is a fantastic place for your university memories to call home.

You will likely have chosen to come to Imperial for its academic reputation as an outstanding university, and it will deliver on this. The facilities for research and your learning are terrific. To accompany this, there are hundreds of student-led societies and events available to you outside of your degree. These are overseen by your students' union – Imperial College Union. The Union is led by students, for students. The three deputy presidents and I have all been democratically elected to work full time on improving your student experience at Imperial. We have a large team of permanent staff behind us, running the many functions of the Union such as supporting clubs and training student representatives.

The Union also runs the Advice Service, where guidance and support can be provided on issues such as life in halls, complaints, and academic appeals. This is a free and confidential service that is independent from the university. You can access this by emailing advice@imperial.ac.uk.

University is a new stage of life. For many, this stage presents itself with newfound freedom and control over what you do. As daunting as it may seem, take advantage of it! Immerse yourself in your degree, your extra-curricular activities and in the connections you make.

No matter what problems you have or opportunities you're looking for, we're here to help. Our office is on Level 2 in Beit Quadrangle, and you can check out our website for more information.

Wishing you an incredible year ahead,

Nico Henry, Imperial College Union President 2025-26



union.president@imperial.ac.uk



imperialcollegeunion.org

Key dates 2025–26

Term dates

Autumn term:	27 September 2025 – 12 December 2025
Spring term:	03 January 2026 - 20 March 2026
Summer term:	25 April 2026 – 26 June 2026

Closure dates

Christmas/New Year:	23 December 2025 - 02 January 2026 (Imperial reopens on 05 January 2026)
Easter Holiday:	02 April 2026 – 07 April 2026 (Imperial reopens on 08 April 2026)
Early May Bank Holiday:	04 May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday:	25 May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday:	31 August 2026

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.

This is just the beginning. 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**.

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 campuses, plus immersive 3D maps of South Kensington and White City. See services, navigate buildings, and find your way around campus with ease.

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

If your department requires check-in, just use the app to register your attendance when you're on site. You'll also find a quick link to your full timetable in the browser.

Your Career

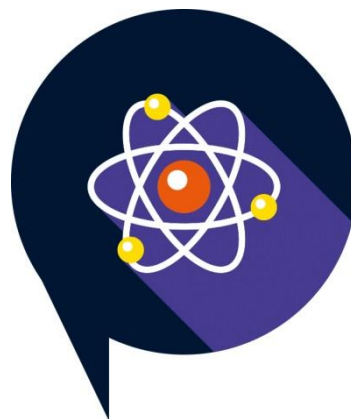
Browse the latest internships and job opportunities from the Careers Service—updated regularly to keep you connected with what's new.

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 Doctoral students, including information on support, health and well-being and ideas to help you make the most of London.



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/pgr/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 UG, PGT, 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/

2. 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 locations of study will be either one of the following campuses:



South Kensington

Imperial College London, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ



St Mary's

St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY



Chelsea and Westminster

369 Fulham Road, London SW10 9NH



Hammersmith

The Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN



Charing Cross

Reynolds Building, St Dunstan's Road, London W6 8RP



North West London Hospital

Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3UJ



White City

White City Campus, 80-90 Wood Lane, London W12 0BZ (North site)

White City Campus, 68 Wood Lane, London W12 7TA (South site)

Facilities

Computer access and printing is available at your workstation within your division. The Department's postgraduate office is located at the following address:

***Imperial College London
Roderic Hill Building
5th Floor, Room 513G
South Kensington Campus
London, SW7 2AZ***

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 637,000 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, parking requirements, and services including lost property and bike security is located at:

- Chemistry Building, Level 1, Room 171A (Use Chemistry 2 Main Entrance)
- Open Monday–Friday, 8am–4pm. Visit Wells Way Cabin (Located behind the Abdus Salam Library and Sheffield) for out-of-hours enquiries.

Our ID Card Services Office is located at:

- Sir Alexander Fleming Building G53

SafeZone

SafeZone is an Imperial app through which you can quickly and directly contact the Security and Safety team whenever you need them. Whether you're in an emergency situation, in need of First Aid or want to report an incident on campus, SafeZone allows you to be immediately put in touch with a member of our Security and Community Safety team and, at the touch of a button, can share your location and personal profile so that they can respond quickly and effectively to your specific needs. It also allows the entire Imperial community to stay informed in the event of a major incident in London or wherever you may be in the world. Safezone also provides information on other services, such as real-time updates on the university shuttle bus.



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 College phone.

3. Introduction to the Department

Head of Department

The Department of Surgery and Cancer is a multi-disciplinary department led by Professor George Hanna and is located across multiple campuses. It is one of the 8 Departments that make up the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London.

The department aims to innovate, develop and apply new translational technologies, partnerships and approaches to enhance medical and surgical diagnostics/prognostics, clinical decision-making and improve patient safety. It also aims to understand and model gene-environment-diet interactions in relation to personalised healthcare problems, patient stratification and general population disease risks.

The Department has three Divisions:



[Division of Surgery](#) led by Professor George Hanna



[Division of Cancer](#) led by Professor Iain McNeish



[Division of Anaesthetics, Pain Medicine and Intensive Care \(APMIC\)](#) led by Professor Anthony Gordon

The Department is also closely interlinked with the [Institute of Global Health Innovation](#) led by Professor the Lord Ara Darzi. Research students based in the Institute are usually registered with the Department of Surgery and Cancer and hosted in one of our Divisions.

For further details of all the research carried out in the Department, please see our [Research webpages](#).

Director of Postgraduate Studies



[Professor James Flanagan](#) is the Director of Postgraduate Studies (DPS). He has overall responsibility for postgraduate matters within the Department. He chairs the Postgraduate Education Committee and represents the Department on a number of College committees. He also approves all the registrations, student milestones and examination entries on behalf of the Department.

Education Manager



[Alison Cambrey](#) is the Education Manager for the Department. She oversees the delivery of UG, PGT, and PGR education.

Education Research Manager



[Jennifer Simeon](#) is the Education Research Manager for the Department, overseeing the Postgraduate Research (PGR) Degrees programme. She manages the approval process for all PGR students and addresses any issues that students or supervisors may encounter, keeping both parties informed on new policies and updated guidelines. Requests for changes to a student's record should be directed to Registry through Jennifer. She collaborates closely with Professor Flanagan (DPS) and Paige Marques to ensure a positive student experience.

Postgraduate Education Administrator



[Paige Marques](#) is the Postgraduate Education Administrator for the Department. Paige manages the admissions process for all PGR applications within the department and provides administrative support for various PGR-related tasks and activities. All assessment forms should be submitted to her; she will ensure they are complete before coordinating approval from Professor Flanagan.

Postgraduate Education Committee (PGEC)

The Postgraduate Education Committee (PGEC), chaired by the DPS, is constituted to support all of Surgery and Cancer's postgraduate activities. The Committee monitors postgraduate study on behalf of the College and the Graduate School and helps to ensure that students and supervisors comply with the necessary procedures and regulations. The PGEC is comprised of the PG Education Team, the PGEC Representatives, and the Department's Student Representatives.

To cover the wide range of research activities across various campuses within Surgery and Cancer, the PGEC has academic members from each section, called 'PGEC Representatives'.

The PGEC reps act as the first point of contact between students/supervisors and the Department, so you will come into contact with them at various points throughout your degree. They have extensive knowledge and experience of postgraduate issues and will be happy to advise you in any aspect of your higher degree studies.

Each student is randomly allocated a PGEC rep at the start of their degree. Your rep must be included in all of your milestone assessments (ESA/LSR) to ensure the College's examination procedures are upheld during the process. Your PGEC rep should not act as an additional supervisor, although they may offer your feedback following your milestone assessments. You have the option of switching PGEC reps should you wish to do so, so long as they are outside of your section. If you wish to switch your PGEC rep, please ensure to inform Paige. A list of PGEC reps can be found [here](#).

4. Department Procedures

Departmental Induction

The Department organises an induction session once a year for all new research students in the Department. The Departmental Induction provides a general overview of your research degree, covering topics such as course structure, expectations, support resources, etc.

As we have students starting throughout the year, it may be some weeks/months before you actually have an introduction to the course and the Department. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to organise a meeting with [Jennifer Simeon](#) as soon as you start your research degree, so that you can discuss the structure and expectations of the course to ensure you are successful throughout your study period.

Divisional Induction

At the start of your research degree, you should go through a formal induction with your supervisor and/or someone from your research group. This should cover things like a lab induction, health and safety induction, and other logistics (like building access, catering facilities, etc.). Please liaise with your supervisor before you start to request an induction meeting for your research degree. It is strongly recommended that you do not start your research degree until you have completed a formal induction.

Staff-students are reminded that, although an induction may have been conducted at the time of employment, it is also strongly encouraged to have an induction specific to your research degree as there are additional expectations.

Processing your Expenses Claims

It is important that you familiarise yourself with Imperial's [Expenses Policy](#). After you have incurred an expense, your claim should be submitted as soon as possible to your department. Unless otherwise stated by your department, all claims should be submitted within 3 months but not later than 6 months. If your claim is submitted beyond 6 months, it is likely to be rejected and you will not be reimbursed.

Professional Skills

All doctoral students are expected to achieve a minimum of four Early Career Researcher Institute professional skills credits and to complete the compulsory online plagiarism awareness course as follows:


- By the Early-Stage Assessment (ESA) – 2 credits plus the plagiarism awareness online course
- By the Late-Stage Review (LSR) – a further 2 credits

The Early Career Researcher Institute's Professional Development attendance requirement exists to ensure that all students receive a broad range of skills development training while at Imperial and the opportunity to engage with students from outside their department.

Attendance and Absence


You must inform your supervisor if you are absent from the university for more than three days. If the absence is due to illness you must produce a medical certificate after seven consecutive days. You should also contact your supervisor for support and guidance if your research is being impacted by personal circumstances. This may include making a submission deadline extension request.

Postgraduate Research students undertaking taught elements of a doctoral programme of study should also refer to the Mitigating Circumstances Policy and Procedure:

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

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.

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 and Procedure.

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

Health and Safety Information

Keeping you safe is a top priority for us.

The Imperial Health and Safety Statement can be found at:




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

Your Departmental safety contacts are:

Cancer

 Yoyo Dixon
 Hammersmith campus
 yoyo.dixon@imperial.ac.uk




Surgery

 Steffi Klier
 St Mary's and Chelsea and Westminster campus
 s.klier@imperial.ac.uk

Surgery – MSK Lab

 Janani Kanagaraju
 White City campus
 j.kanagaraju@imperial.ac.uk

Anaesthetics, Pain Medicine and Intensive Care (APMIC)

 Steffi Klier
 St Mary's and Chelsea and Westminster campus
 s.klier@imperial.ac.uk

You will be required to complete training sessions, these include:

- MOST (Month One Safety Training)
- Data Protection
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Fire safety and awareness
- Information Security Awareness
- Safeguarding at Imperial College London

There is also a wide range of [eLearning micro-learning modules](#) 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.

Imperial Safety Department

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

The Imperial'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, driving, and working alone or late.

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 online at:

 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.

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

5. Doctoral Milestones and Progress Reports

Early Stage Assessment (ESA)

The early stage assessment is to determine your ability to perform research and whether registration for the PhD or MD(Res) degree should continue. The assessment of performance is completed by 9 months (MD(Res)) and 12 months (PhD) after initial registration.

The College requires the use of Turnitin to check for potential plagiarism so students are also required to upload their Early Stage Assessment report to Turnitin, via Blackboard. For more information please see this [link](#).

Selecting your examiners

Your supervisor/s will need to determine your examiners at least 6-8 weeks' prior to your assessment date. Your internal examiner should be someone from your Division. Your external examiner can be anyone outside of your Division (but can still be within Imperial). Please note that the college do not reimburse travel costs for external examiners for milestone assessments (only for your final viva). Therefore, please bear this in mind when selecting your external examiner.

It's your supervisor's responsibility to identify the examiners and securing their approval of the appointment. Your supervisor may also organise your ESA, however they may request for you to arrange this.

Organising the ESA Viva

It is imperative for the following attendees to be present at your viva:

- One internal examiner
- One external examiner
- Your PGEC Rep
- At least one of your supervisors
- The ESA viva should be conducted in person. If you need to request a remote viva, please seek approval from the DPS with a valid justification. If this applies to you, contact [Jennifer Simeon](#) for assistance.

If you're tasked with organising your ESA, you should take the following steps into account:

- Contact your ESA attendees at least 6 weeks prior to your ESA deadline in order to set a date.
- We recommend using something like [Doodle Poll](#) to help with this task.
- If one of your examiners is a member of the PGEC then an additional representative is not required.
- If any of these 4 attendees are not present, you will be requested to re-sit your ESA Viva.

Format of the Report

- You should submit your report to your examiners at least one month before your assessment, but it is worth clarifying with them to see if they would like to receive it beforehand.
- Your report should be 20-30 pages in length (single-spaced). Please note the examiners will not read anything beyond this page limit so please ensure you adhere to it.
- Data presented at this stage may be minimal but should be indicative of your ability to perform.
- Please include a literature review, results to date and a plan for future work.

Whilst there is no set format for the Early Stage Assessment report, many students have structured their ESAs like this:

- **Introduction**
- **Research Aims**
- **Methodology**
- **Results**
- **Progress**
- **Future plans (this may include a Gantt Chart)**
- **References**

Oral Presentation

- The presentation of your work should last 10-15 minutes in length (roughly 15 slides).
- Followed by roughly 20 minutes of questions by the examiner.
- Followed by 20 minutes of discussion amongst the examiners and feedback to the students.

One your viva is completed, ensure to get the ESA form signed off by the 4 attendees and return it to [Paige Marques](#) as a single word or pdf document.

Possible outcomes:

- Pass and progress with Doctoral Degree Registration
- If undertaking an MD(Res), it may be decided your research is more suitable for a PhD. In this instance, it must be clearly agreed at the time of assessment and marked on the ESA paperwork.
- Re-Submit – if you have not demonstrated sufficient progress, you will be given specific targets by your assessors which must be met within the next 3 months. A resubmitted report and examination (if required) must be completed.
- Transfer to MPhil registration (not applicable to MD(Res) – it may be decided at this point it would be more suitable for you to study for an MPhil award.
- Fail/Withdraw – It may be decided at this time that the best option would be to withdraw from the course.

Forms required: [Early Stage Assessment form](#)

Timing: Viva completed by end of 12 months, the form must be returned to [Paige Marques](#)

Late Stage Review (LSR)

The Late Stage Review (LSR) is a second review of your progress during your research programme. The purpose of this review is to ensure that you have enough data and experiments planned for you to complete your PhD or MD(Res). The reviewers will provide guidance on any required further work, and areas to focus on.

Selecting your examiners

Where possible, the assessors for your LSR should be used again, as this provides consistency throughout your degree. However, if this is not possible then new assessors should be determined at least 6-8 weeks' prior to your assessment date. Your internal examiner should be someone from your Division. Your external examiner can be anyone outside of your Division (but can still be within Imperial). Please note that the College do not reimburse travel costs for external examiners for milestones assessments – only for the final viva). Therefore, your supervisor/s needs to bear this in mind when selecting your external examiner.

It's your supervisor's responsibility to identify the examiners and securing their approval of the appointment. Your supervisor may also organise your LSR, however they may request for you to arrange this.

Organising the LSR Viva

It is imperative for the following attendees to be present at your viva:

- One internal examiner
- One external examiner
- Your PGEC Rep
- At least one of your supervisors
- The LSR viva should be conducted in person. If you need to request a remote viva, please seek approval from the DPS with a valid justification. If this applies to you, contact [Jennifer Simeon](#) for assistance.

If you're tasked with organising your LSR, you should take the following steps into account:

- Contact your LSR attendees at least 6 weeks prior to your ESA deadline in order to set a date.
- We recommend using something like [Doodle Poll](#) to help with this task.
- If one of your examiners is a member of the PGEC then an additional representative is not required.
- If any of these 4 attendees are not present, you will be requested to re-sit your ESA Viva.

Format of the Report

- You should submit your report to your examiners at least one month before your assessment, but it is worth clarifying with them to see if they would like to receive it beforehand.
- Your report should be 4 pages in length (single-spaced), excluding references and figures.
- The report summary must be fully referenced, and should focus on results obtained, interpretation and future work.

Oral Presentation

- The presentation of your work should last roughly 20 minutes in length (roughly 15-20 slides);
- Followed by roughly 20 minutes of questions by the examiners;
- Followed by 20 minutes of discussion amongst the examiners and feedback to the student.
- You should start by describing the progress which has been made as well as conclude with a plan of future work through to submission.
- The purpose of the review is to confirm that the student:
 - a) Has an adequate understanding of the research problem.
 - b) Has a critical awareness of the relevant literature on the subject.
 - c) Has a realistic research plan and schedule.

One your viva is completed, ensure to get the LSR form signed off by the 4 attendees and return it to [Paige Marques](#) as a single word or pdf document.

Possible outcomes:

- Pass and progress with Doctoral Degree Registration
- If undertaking an MD(Res), it may be decided your research is more suitable for a PhD. In this instance, it must be clearly agreed at the time of assessment and marked on the LSR paperwork.
- Re-Submit – if you have not demonstrated sufficient progress, you will be given specific targets by your assessors which must be met within the next 3 months. A resubmitted report and examination (if required) must be completed.
- MPhil – it may be decided at this point it would be more suitable for you to study for an MPhil award.
- Fail/Withdraw – It may be decided at this time that the best option would be to withdraw from the course.

Forms required: [Late Stage Review form](#)

Timing: Viva completed between 24 months for full-time students, and between 48 months for part-time students. The form must be returned to [Paige Marques](#).



www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/research-programmes/



www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/research-degree-examinations/Plagiarism-issues-in-theses.pdf

Writing up Status

Research students yet to submit their thesis for examination by the end of the standard active research period are subject to a formal monitoring point to determine progress and eligibility to enter the writing up period. This formal monitoring point is known as a **Progress Review**.

To be considered eligible for entry to writing up, students must have successfully completed the progression milestone requirements for their PhD or MD(Res). This includes both the Early-Stage Assessment and Late Stage Review.

To be considered eligible for entry to writing up, students must have completed all experimental work and collection of material relating to their thesis and be in a position to submit their thesis within their writing up allowance.

As part of the Progress Review, students will normally be expected to demonstrate that all experimental work and collection of material relating to their thesis will be complete within the standard active research period allocated for their programme of study.

A student who still has experimental or data collection work to perform at this stage cannot move in to writing up status. Students in this position will have their active research period extended and will be liable for full fees for the additional period. An extension to the active research period will not result in an extension to the thesis submission deadline procedure.

If you do not advise us of what you intend to do at the end of your minimum registration period, your student registration will lapse completely. You may lose access to ICT, facilities and/or VPN and online library access. It can be a very time consuming, length process to get your student record back in order once your registration has lapsed. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to avoid this.

Please note, no experimental work or data collection can be completed once you enter writing up status. Your supervisor must agree to you entering writing up by completing the [writing up form](#). Please note, once you enter writing up status you will no longer be charged tuition fees.

For further information please see the Registry pages on [writing up](#).

The Imperial Doctoral Academic Communication Requirement (DACR)

As a doctoral student, you will be contributing to the formation of knowledge in a fast-moving field by communicating new, complex content to diverse, anonymous, often interdisciplinary audiences. You might be transitioning from your Master's into research communication, or you may have been in industry or out of academia for many years. Even if you have been actively communicating your research, you may need to develop higher-order communicative and linguistic competence to meet Imperial doctoral expectations and fulfil your ambitions as a researcher.

To support this, the university has set up the [Doctoral Academic Communication Requirement \(DACR\)](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/current-students/doctoral/academic-communication-requirement/) so that all new doctoral students receive communication training and feedback as early as possible in their doctoral programme.



www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/current-students/doctoral/academic-communication-requirement/

6. Academic Support

Departmental Support and Faculty Senior Tutors

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 here. This includes:

Senior Tutor (PGR)

The Department's Senior Tutor (PGR) can offer pastoral support and advice. You can arrange to have a meeting with them at any time – what you discuss will be completely confidential.

If necessary, they will direct you to an appropriate source of support. See [Roles and Responsibilities](#) documents.

The Departmental Senior Tutors are:



[Dr Istvan Nagy](#)



[Dr Joana Dos Santos](#) (currently on maternity leave and will return in the summer term)

In the Department of Surgery and Cancer, we believe that students must be supported as much as possible in every aspect to be successful. We want to introduce ourselves, Joana and Istvan, as the new Departmental Postgraduate Senior Tutors. We have worked at Imperial for some time and have seen the importance of building a supportive environment and a culture of collaboration and open communication. We are both delighted and excited to be taking on these roles and hope to make helpful contributions to the support systems in the Department. We look forward to working with students, personal tutors, and supervisors to solve any issues which may prevent students from fully realising their potential to complete their studies.

Please contact us directly if you feel you need support. You can reach us at joana.dos-santos14@imperial.ac.uk and i.nagy@imperial.ac.uk. Any issues directed to us will be treated respectfully and confidentially.

The Faculty of Medicine Student Wellbeing Adviser is:



[Becky Zamora](#)

The FoM (PG) Student Wellbeing team can help provide you with general support on managing your wellbeing and can talk through any wellbeing-related concerns that you might have in relation to your studies. Given the nature of your studies, it's completely understandable and even somewhat expected that issues will arise at some point during your programme so please don't hesitate to get in touch for support if you're feeling stressed, anxious, overwhelmed or just want to talk- you don't have to deal with it alone or be in crisis in order to seek support.

What can you expect from an appointment with an adviser?

The Student Wellbeing Advisers can offer confidential one-to-one meetings (online or in person) to discuss your situation. We will meet with you to talk through your initial concerns and agree next steps. These meetings are a time to reflect on your wellbeing. They are also an opportunity to:

- Receive relevant information to assist with your query
- Access support with setting wellbeing-related goals
- Be introduced to wellbeing self-help resources
- Discuss where to go for further support

Your dedicated **Student Wellbeing Adviser** is **Becky Zamora** and you can get in touch for an appointment by completing the [registration form](#) or emailing: fomwellbeingpg@imperial.ac.uk

We're here to support you during your time at Imperial so please don't hesitate to get in touch whether it's something big or small- we'd love to hear from you.



The Faculty of Medicine Senior Tutor is:

- [Dr Jeffrey Vernon](#)

The Faculty Senior Tutor has responsibility for ensuring the delivery of consistent, high quality support for students in their personal, general academic and professional development. Working with and supporting personal tutors and Senior Tutors, they ensure that support systems are effective, that training is appropriate and that Imperial policies in student support are implemented. In addition, each Faculty Senior Tutor provides support to their senior tutors and directly to students who have more complex concerns or situations.

The Faculty Senior Tutor is available for additional support and guidance, augmenting the support that our department can provide for academic and personal matters. You may find a Faculty Senior Tutor particularly useful if you have a matter which you feel is highly sensitive or complicated, and wish to ensure that you will be talking to the right person or team to help you.

Clinical Academic Training Office (CATO)

The [Clinical Academic Training Office](#) supports clinicians (Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health Professions, Healthcare Scientists, Pharmacy staff, Psychologists) at all stages of their academic research careers, including the PhD/MD(Res) stage (often referred to as Clinical Research Training Fellows, CRTF).

CATO supports CRTFs by:

- Delivering sessions targeted specifically at clinicians doing PhD/MD(Res) – eg ‘Getting the most out of your PhD as a clinician’
- Providing access to the wider CATO programme of events; including research symposia, careers workshops and masterclasses - which include opportunities to network with other clinicians following clinical academic careers
- Sharing information about clinical academic opportunities and support – through regular newsletters and email updates
- Producing factsheets – to give advice and information to CRTFs about key career transition points and support/resources available – eg, navigating the OOP process, preparing to return to clinical training
- Conducting surveys – to gain feedback about the experience of CRTFs and develop new activities to address needs identified
- Liaising with other College Teams to develop and enable access to resources and support for PhD fellows – eg, arranging for final year clinical PhD fellows to access services provided by the PostDoc and Fellows Development Centre, eg, inputting into Faculty of Medicine projects working with PhD supervisors

All CATO activities are offered **in addition** to support and information provided by each academic department/research group and the Imperial College Graduate School. CRTFs should ensure that in the first instance they meet all relevant expectations in their Research Degree handbooks, attend local dept/group inductions/meetings and also that they complete mandatory training required by the Graduate School.

The CATO provision is independent of and complimentary to local and Graduate School activities for PhD/MD(Res) fellows. CRTFs are strongly encouraged to engage with the CATO programme and to attend as many CATO events as is possible.

Enquiries: <mailto:cato@imperial.ac.uk>

CATO Website: [Events](#) [Factsheets](#)

7. Examination Procedures

My Imperial - Postgraduate Research Milestones

You will be able to upload and submit your exam entry form, thesis declaration form and thesis, as well as view up-to-date information about your Early-Stage Assessment, Late-Stage Review and Viva Examination milestone status.

You will receive email notification when online access to Postgraduate Research Milestones is available to you. Access is via My Imperial using your Imperial single sign-on.



www.my.imperial.ac.uk/

There is a step-by-step guidance to the Examination Entry form process and Thesis Submission process is available online at:



www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/student-systems/student-records/student-journey/PGR-Manual---Students.pdf

Viva

Once you have submitted your thesis, the Registry will ensure that copies are provided to your examiners, in advance of your viva examination.

Your supervisor, or another member of staff in your department/division, will be responsible for organising the viva and making all the necessary arrangements.

When your viva has taken place, you will be informed of the outcome.

Please find linked here under the *Examiner Reports for Research Programmes* section the thesis examiners' form so that you are aware of what is expected of the thesis:



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

Please read the Success Guide for postgraduate research students for more advice on preparing for your viva:



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/pgr/progressing-through-your-phd-/main-stages-of-the-phd/the-viva/

You can also find out more about how your examiners will assess your thesis by reading the examiner reports for research degrees:



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

E-theses: Requesting an Embargo

In some cases, it may be necessary to delay the release of a thesis to the public by applying for an embargo.


If you decide that your thesis should have an embargo, discuss this with your supervisor and tick the appropriate box on the Thesis declaration form:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/research-and-innovation/scholarly-communication/public/thesis-declaration-form.pdf

Reasons for requesting an embargo include:

- You plan to publish your thesis
- To avoid invalidating a potential patent application, see Intellectual Property: www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/research-policies/research-related-policies/ip-policy-college-login/
- It contains commercially sensitive research or research with confidentiality obligations
- It contains information collected under the promise of confidentiality and anonymity e.g. patient information
- It shows evidence of animal experimentation and release to the public would pose a significant risk to the researchers involved or to Imperial staff and students
- It contains information of significance for national security

For further information please contact the Assessment Records team at assessment.records@imperial.ac.uk

 www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/support-for-staff/scholarly-communication/open-access/theses/requesting-an-embargo/

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts, words or images and diagrams as though they were your own. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional but must be avoided at all times.

When studying for a research degree (and as you continue in your research career) it is your responsibility to conduct and disseminate research results in an honest and ethical matter. When you prepare your Early-Stage Assessment, Late-Stage Review, or final thesis, as well as other publications and presentations throughout your studies, it is essential to avoid plagiarism.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/pgr/developing-your-skills/practicing-open-research/plagiarism-/

More information about plagiarism awareness for postgraduate research students is available on the Library Services website:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/library/research-support/plagiarism-awareness-for-researchers

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. You will be expected to run your Early-Stage Assessment through the Turnitin software – your department will be able to give you further information about this process.

www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/who-we-support/research-degree-students/turnitin-guidance-for-students/



The Early Career Researcher Institute, in conjunction with the Library, has developed a mandatory online plagiarism awareness course which needs to be completed before your Early-Stage Assessment. It aims to equip Imperial research students with a working knowledge of the concept of plagiarism and how to avoid it. This enables students to use and share information ethically, with academic integrity.

www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/learning-and-development/courses-by-programme/research-integrity-ethics-and-sustainability/plagiarism-awareness-doctoral-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 under the Academic Misconduct procedure.

You should note that whilst the university encourages students to support each other in their studies you should be careful to ensure that you do not exceed any assessment brief with regards to individual work, 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.

Dishonest practice

This is the most serious category under the procedure. Examples of dishonest practice include bribery, contact cheating (purchasing an essay or other materials from other sources, (which is illegal in the UK) or other individual to submit as your own, 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.


Research Misconduct

Research Misconduct can be characterised as behaviours or actions that fall short of the standards of ethics, research and scholarship required to ensure that the integrity of research is upheld. It can cause harm to people and the environment, wastes resources, undermines the research record and damages the credibility of research.

Regardless of discipline and institution, the fundamental factor in ensuring the quality of research and research practices has to be the honesty of the individual investigator. Investigators should be honest with respect to their own work, which means subscribing to proper scientific practices such as acknowledging the contributions of colleagues or collaborators, ensuring veracity of data, and acting with integrity in the depiction of results and conclusions. However, investigators are also

expected to be honest in relation to the work of their colleagues and peers. Colluding in, or concealing, the misconduct of others is not compatible with an environment which encourages intellectual honesty and is, therefore, in itself misconduct.

Imperial's policy on, and procedures for, the investigation of allegations of research misconduct can be accessed here:


 [www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/secretariat/new-library-may-24/Annexes-to-Appendix-to-Ordinances-\(Staff\)\(13-December-2023\).pdf](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/secretariat/new-library-may-24/Annexes-to-Appendix-to-Ordinances-(Staff)(13-December-2023).pdf)

 www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/

Enquiries about the operation of these procedures, or about potential cases of misconduct should be addressed to Jonathan Hancock, Research Integrity Officer:

 Jonathan.hancock@imperial.ac.uk

Where a student completes taught module(s) as part of their research programme, they will also be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures:

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

8. University Policies and Procedures

Academic Regulations

All registered postgraduate research students of Imperial are subject to the university Terms and Conditions as well as the Academic Regulations that apply to your degree.

If your PhD programme is divided into a 1 year Masters followed by 3 years of research, please note that the Masters year will be governed by the relevant taught academic regulations of the institution making the award (in most cases this will be Imperial but in some Centres for Doctoral Training this may be a partner institution in the consortium so please check with your programme team if you are unsure). The subsequent research (PhD/EngD) period will be governed by the relevant PhD or EngD academic regulations of Imperial.



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



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

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:



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



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

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:




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

Academic and Research Integrity

You are expected to conduct all aspects of your academic life in a professional manner. A full explanation of academic integrity, including information on Imperial's approach to plagiarism is available on the university website:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/research-governance-and-integrity/research-integrity/what-is-research-integrity/

 www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/academic-integrity/Examination-and-assessments---academic-integrity.pdf

Academic Appeals Procedures

We have rigorous regulations 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 made at Early-Stage Assessment, Late-Stage Review or final thesis submission/viva 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.

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 Students 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/

The Early Career Researcher Institute provides training on Copyright:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/learning-and-development/courses-by-programme/research-integrity-ethics-and-sustainability/copyright-for-researchers-online-course/

Intellectual Property Rights Policy

Imperial's [Intellectual Property \(IP\) policy](#) governs the ownership and management of universities Intellectual Property and Imperial's 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-college-login/

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

The Early Career Researcher Institute provides training on Intellectual Property:

www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/learning-and-development/courses-by-programme/research-impact-and-knowledge-exchange/intellectual-property-online-course/



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/

Employment During Studies

If you are studying full time, Imperial recommends that you do not work part-time during term time. If this is unavoidable, we advise you to work no more than 10–15 hours per week, which should be principally at weekends and not within normal university working hours.

Working in excess of these hours could impact adversely on your studies or health.

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 considering part-time work during your studies you are strongly advised to discuss this issue with your supervisor or Senior Tutor (PGR). If you are on a Student Route visa you should also seek advice from the International Student Support team regarding visa limitations on employment.

Please note, PhD students are entitled to 25 days annual leave during the year. If your annual leave has been approved by your supervisor you may work full-time hours on those annual leave days. You may also work full-time during university Christmas and Easter closure period, and once all academic requirements have been completed (e.g. you have submitted your thesis including final corrections).

Please note that these rules also apply to your work as a GTA:


 www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/learning-and-development/working-as-a-gta/


Imperial's processes will not normally consider as mitigating circumstances any negative impact that part-time work may have had on your performance in your examination or in other assessments. Examinations or vivas cannot be rescheduled to accommodate your part-time working arrangements.

Study Leave

If you plan to carry out research away from Imperial for a period of 2 weeks or more as part of your PhD student registration, your department can approve study leave using the External Study Leave form (which is then submitted by your department to the Student Records team for recording).

Study leave is normally pursued either as a placement under the supervision of a third-party organisation (placements are managed by your department and are subject to Imperial Placement Learning Policy and Good Practice under the university's overall off-site working protocols) or fieldwork managed by your department under off-site working protocols. Contact your departmental postgraduate administrator for further guidance if you and your supervisor wish to have study leave considered.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/placements/information-for-imperial-college-students/ (note: if you are considering/planning a placement outside the UK you should also refer to the Placement Abroad Handbook available on this page)

 www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/research-degrees/administration/

Ethics

Imperial has an overall Ethics code which sets out key behaviours which the university expects of all its members in order to facilitate a leading academic community which demonstrates integrity in all its activities, and which manages relationships with third parties appropriately. These behaviours include honesty, fairness and transparency. The Code is intended to provide a starting point to help members of the university identify and tackle ethical issues faced in the course of their activities. It also describes routes available for members of the Imperial community to escalate ethical concerns where appropriate.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/research-ethics-committee

Good Research Conduct

Imperial is committed to undertaking research of the highest international quality within an intellectually challenging and inspiring environment, to extending the frontiers of research within and beyond existing research disciplines, and to bringing together research expertise within and beyond the university to address the science challenges of today and the future. Imperial's achievements in research are underpinned by the quality and expertise of the individuals within it, and the pages in the

link below define the standards of research governance and integrity essential to the university's reputation and success.



www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/

Leave

It is important to take a break from your research and Imperial has a PGR Annual Leave policy in place to support you.

If you are funded, you should check the terms and conditions of your studentship which will set out your annual leave entitlement. Unless otherwise stated in your terms and conditions, the university's position is that all research degree students, including international students with a Student Visa, are entitled to a minimum of 30 days to a maximum of 40 days per year (including public holidays and College closure days) of annual leave (pro rata for part-time students). This annual leave entitlement aligns with the UKRI's terms and conditions for training grants, student annual leave.

www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/ecri/public/research-degree-students/PGR-student-leave-policy.pdf

UKRI-funded students are entitled to four categories of leave: Family Leave, Medical Leave, Additional Leave and Annual Leave. You are not expected to study during leave absences. Full details on leave entitlements, including eligibility and possible studentship extensions, can be found in the [UKRI Standard Terms and Conditions of Training Grants](#).

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

9. Animal research

Understanding the basic biology of infections, injuries and chronic diseases is an essential step in finding new treatments and cures. From cancer to malaria and war wounds to heart disease, research using animals forms an important element of Imperial's work.

Imperial believes that the use of animals in research is vital to improve human and animal health and welfare. Animals may only be used in research programmes where their use is shown to be necessary for developing new treatments and making medical advances.

Imperial is committed to ensuring that, in cases where this research is deemed essential, all animals in the university's care are treated with full respect, and that all staff and students involved with this work show due consideration at every level.

For more information please see:



www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-integrity-investigations/animal-research/

10. Wellbeing, support and advice

Your Union

All Imperial students 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](https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/advice) and complete the registration form to speak with a member of the team.



www.imperialcollegeunion.org/advice

Student representatives

Imperial College Union operates two Representation Networks of 500+ elected student representatives – the Academic Representation Network and the Wellbeing Representation Network. Reps represent the voice of students and can direct you to internal and external support services. The Union's Liberation & Community Officers also work to make sure that the views of under-represented and interest groups are heard at Imperial. [The student representatives are 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 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.



www.imperial.ac.uk/student-support-zone

Coaching and Research Degree Mediation

As well as professional development opportunities, the Early Career Researcher Institute has a dedicated coaching programme designed to help you through challenging times. The **coaching programme** has been established to provide an opportunity to talk, independently from your academic department, about challenges you may be experiencing during the course of your studies. The programme primarily focuses on building effective working relationships and there may be other self-development issues that you can explore with a trained coach.



www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/individual-support-and-wellbeing/coaching/coaching/

The Institute also provides support for students and supervisors who are finding their partnership difficult. The confidential and non-judgemental research degree mediation programme is designed to support students and supervisors to work through challenges they may be experiencing, to find ways to move forward and work together more effectively.



www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/individual-support-and-wellbeing/mediation/

Advice Services

The tutor system is complemented by a university-wide network of advice and support. This includes a number of specialist services.

Careers Service

The Careers Service has strong links to your Department and with a range of employers. You can access group workshops, presentations, networking sessions and individual one-to-one appointments. The Careers Services is based at the South Kensington Campus on Level 5, Sherfield Building however services are offered across our campuses and online to help facilitate access.

Visit the Career Service's website to:

- Find resources and advice on successful career planning
- Book on to workshops and events
- Book a careers appointment



www.imperial.ac.uk/careers

Student Counselling and Mental Health

The Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service offers short-term counselling to all registered students. The service is free and confidential. Counsellors are available at the South Kensington, Hammersmith and Silwood Park Campuses.



www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling

Financial support and tuition fees

If you've got any questions about student financial support (loans, scholarships and research council studentships, US and Canadian loans) then contact the Student Financial Support team:



020 7594 9014



student.funding@imperial.ac.uk

If you suddenly find yourself in financial difficulties or experience an unexpected change in circumstances, you may be eligible to apply for emergency financial help through the Student Support Fund. The Fund offers a one-off payment of up to £2,000 to cover such emergencies as last-minute accommodation and travel necessities, equipment and childcare. It does not have to be repaid.



www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/financial-assistance/student-support-fund/

For tuition fees queries, contact the Tuition Fees team:



020 7594 8011



tuition.fees@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College Union Advice Service

Imperial College Union runs the Advice Service independently of the university with advisers on hand to provide free, confidential, independent advice on a wide range of welfare issues including housing, money and debt, employment and consumer rights, and personal safety. Contact the [ICU Advice Service](#) and complete the registration form to speak with a member of the team.



www.imperialcollegeunion.org/advice

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 student 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 are 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.



Level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus



020 7594 9444



student.hub@imperial.ac.uk



www.imperial.ac.uk/student-hub

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, pop-ups and contract-checking services.



Level 3, Sherfield 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/

Health Services

NHS Health Centre and finding a doctor

Even if you're fit and healthy we recommend that you register with a local doctor (GP) as soon as you arrive in London. For help finding your nearest GP see the Student Space website:



www.imperial.ac.uk/student-support-zone/your-health/doctor-and-dentist/

There is the Imperial College Health Centre on our South Kensington Campus which you may visit during clinic hours if you're feeling unwell. Students living within the practice catchment area are encouraged to register with the Centre.



www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk

NHS Dentist (based in the Imperial Health Centre)

The Imperial College Dental Centre offers a full range of NHS and private treatment options.



www.imperialcollegedental.co.uk/




Disability Support

Disability Advisory Service

The Disability Advisory Service provides confidential advice and support for all disabled students and students with specific learning difficulties.

If you hold an offer or are a current student, you are invited to visit the [Disability Advisory Service](#) pages for further guidance.

Once you begin your studies, there is a lot of support available to you, for example, if you think you may have a specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia) or autism, but have never been formally assessed, the Disability Advisory Service offers initial screening appointments.

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

Departmental Disability Officers


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

Fanny Mozu-Simpson is the DDO for our department.

More information on Departmental Disability Officers is available at:

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

More information on procedures for the consideration of additional exam arrangements in respect of disability is available at:

 www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/exam-arrangements-and-re-sits/Exam-arrangements-in-respect-of-disability.pdf

Library and IT

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

If you're having problems with technology (including computers, laptops and mobile devices), you can get help from ICT's Service Desk.

 020 7594 9000
 www.imperial.ac.uk/ict/service-desk

Software shop

The Software shop offers a variety of general and subject specific software programs and packages for free or at a discounted price for Imperial students.

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

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 research. 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 637,000 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

Centre for Academic English (CfAE)

The goal of the Centre for Academic English is to ensure you develop both the ability and the confidence to excel as a communicator during your doctoral research. From the very beginning of your research and all the way through, we're here to help you realise your potential.

To achieve this, we've designed a flexible academic STEM communication programme for doctoral students. In the early stages of your research, you can join our sessions which provide the foundations of accurate and appropriate written communication for STEM research. Our technical speaking courses provide you with practical training in successful oral communication, helping you prepare for early-stage presentations and your viva. By using our online resources, you can create your own personalised self-study learning pathway. As you build your pathway, you'll have the freedom to select the STEM communication resources you need whenever you need them.

To find out more about what is available for you, visit the CfAE website.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/



Level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus



english@imperial.ac.uk

Religious Support

The Chaplaincy Multi-faith Centre has chaplains from many different religions, as well as prayer rooms and information on places of worship. In addition, it runs meditation classes and mindfulness workshops for stress management.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Support for International Students

International Student Support team

Students from outside the UK make up around half of our student population, so our International Student Support team offers year-round support to help our international students settle into Imperial life. This includes UK visa and immigration advice and trips to different places of interest.

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

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 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

Your 2025/26 student representatives are:



Michael Fadel (Division of Surgery)

I am a NIHR Doctoral Fellow and a General Surgery Registrar in North West London, with a clinical interest in minimally invasive surgery for gastrointestinal cancer. The overarching aim of my doctoral research is the development and validation of a non-invasive breath test for the detection of colorectal cancer and other gastrointestinal cancers. I was initially awarded a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship from the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Charity and Westminster Medical School Research Trust, followed by the award of a three-year NIHR Doctoral Fellowship to carry out this research in the form of the COBRA2 study.

My research also includes leading the development of a European Consensus in Robotics for Gastrointestinal Surgery trainees through the European Robotic Surgery Consensus (ERSC) study group. I was awarded a research grant by the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES) to execute this research to define and standardise the essential elements of a robotic training curriculum for trainees, which will ultimately improve patient care and safety.

As a postgraduate student representative for the Division of Surgery, I look forward to working closely with my colleagues to help enhance students' experiences within a supportive and friendly environment.



Henry Robb (Division of Surgery)

Dougie is a General Surgery registrar in London with a specialist interest in oesophago-gastric surgery. He is currently a second year PhD student and MRC Clinical Research Training Fellow under Professor George Hanna. His PhD builds on work within the group investigating the hypoxic volatile metabolic response of oesophageal adenocarcinoma (OAC) and utilising this signature for novel therapeutic strategies. This project mixes basic scientific research with the ground-breaking NIHR portfolio adopted HYDRA (HYpoxia DRiven volatile response in oesophagogastric Adenocarcinoma) clinical study.

As a postgraduate student representative for Surgery, he will advocate for improved provision and resources for PhD students. He understands the challenges that PhD students face, including funding, accessing research infrastructure and future career planning. He is excited to work with the

department to ensure doctoral students to have as many opportunities as possible to pursue academic careers and secure post-doctoral fellowships.



Sophia D'Alessandro (Division of Cancer)

I am a second year PhD student based in Professor James Flanagan's research group within the Division of Cancer. My research focuses on understanding the mechanisms behind why breastfeeding reduces breast cancer risk. Before coming to Imperial, I completed a MSc in Reproductive Science and Women's Health at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Institute for Women's Health, University College London.

I am looking forward to representing the student community and see this as an opportunity to advocate for student needs, foster a sense of community, and help improve the overall PhD experience for everyone. I'm passionate about creating open channels of communication between students and faculty, ensuring that everyone's voices are heard and valued.



Nuria Mascaro (Division of Cancer)

Hi, I am Nuria Mascaro and I am currently a 2nd year PhD student supervised by Professor Charlotte Bevan, in the Division of Cancer. My PhD is aimed at understanding the abscopal effect in prostate cancer, a phenomenon that shrinks the metastatic site when treating the primary site with local therapy. The project is part of two clinical trials called ATLANTA and AEGEAN, funded by Prostate Cancer UK (PCUK) and taking place in Charing Cross Hospital (NHS).

Before starting my PhD, I also studied at Imperial, undertaking my undergraduate degree in Medical Biosciences and my master's in Cancer Biology, following the route of many students in my lab! As the Postgraduate Representative for Cancer, I'm enthusiastic about supporting and advocating for the needs of our postgraduate community. My role involves working closely with faculty, administration, and fellow student reps to ensure that our voices are heard in decisions that shape both our academic and social experiences. If you have ideas for improving postgraduate life in the department or are facing challenges in your research, please don't hesitate to get in touch, I'm here to help! I am excited to embark on this journey with all of you. Hope to see you soon!



Ellie Sweeney (Division of Cancer)

Hi, I'm Ellie Sweeney, a second-year PhD student in the Division of Cancer, supervised by Professor Simak Ali and Professor Laki Buluwela. My PhD research focuses on breast cancer, exploring factors that influence sensitivity to Samuraciclib, a novel CDK7 inhibitor, and identifying potential combination therapies. My PhD is funded by the MRC through the MultiSci DTP. Before starting my PhD, I completed a BSc in Biological Sciences at the University of Exeter, followed by an MSc in Genes, Drugs and Stem Cells- Novel Therapies, and an MRes in Biomedical Research at Imperial College London.

As your Postgraduate Rep for Cancer, I want to make sure postgraduate voices are heard and that the department remains a supportive and engaging place to study. I'll be working with staff and fellow reps to raise any issues, share feedback, and help enhance the postgraduate experience. If there's anything

you'd like to discuss, whether it's a concern, an idea, or just general feedback, please feel free to reach out!



Jonathan Dutton (Division of APMIC)

I am currently nearing the end of my first year as a PhD student within the APMIC division, supervised by Dr Kieran O'Dea and Dr Brijesh Patel. My research focuses on investigating neutrophil extracellular vesicles and altered neutrophil phenotypes in the context of cardiac surgery, with the aim of characterising patient immune responses to cardiopulmonary bypass. This project extends previous work examining immune dysregulation and cellular injury in critically ill patients receiving extracorporeal life support. Our ongoing studies are supported by a research grant from the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA).

My background is in clinical anaesthetic training, and I have a particular interest in cardiothoracic anaesthesia, critical care, and mechanical circulatory support. Beyond my doctoral work, I hope to translate insights from this research towards future project grant applications and the development of further studies in perioperative inflammation and the evolving immunological phenotypes observed clinically in a subset of patients following major cardiac surgery. A deeper understanding of these immune trajectories has the potential to inform both mechanistic research and translational strategies aimed at improving perioperative outcomes and personalising patient care.

Having come from a clinical background where I felt very comfortable, the transition to research has been both exciting and humbling. As a postgraduate representative, I am committed to supporting my colleagues and fostering a collaborative and inclusive research environment. I am particularly keen to promote research engagement across all levels of training, encouraging talented undergraduate students to explore and contribute to the vibrant academic community within the Department of Surgery and Cancer.

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. 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 survey gives you regular opportunities to make your voice heard:

- **Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES)**

The PRES is your chance to tell us about a range of elements related to your student experience such as supervision, resources, research community, progress and assessment, professional development, and wellbeing. This is a national survey that helps us to compare how we are doing against other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that are valued by our students. The survey is open to postgraduate research students and runs across the spring and summer terms. At Imperial, PRES is run every other year, in odd-numbered calendar years. The survey is confidential. The more you take part the more representative the results so please take a few minutes to give your views.

You can read about the action Imperial has taken in response to the PRES here:



www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/networks-events-and-funds/pres/

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. Professional Development Opportunities for Research Degree Students

Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA)

Many research students across Imperial are involved with teaching, supervision and assessment (in the form of marking) of both undergraduate and Master's level students. Working as a GTA provides research students with an opportunity to broaden their experience at the university and develop further skills. These include learning to teach, convey complex technical concepts, writing/communication skills, etc. Furthermore, research students may find that acting as a GTA helps improve their own technical abilities (both theoretical and practical), enables them to broaden their knowledge base, and gain communication and task management experience. When considering a career in academia, teaching experience is important and GTA work allows building up a teaching portfolio and even becoming aware of one's own teaching style.



www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/tools-and-reference/quality-assurance-enhancement/roles-and-responsibilities/



www.imperial.ac.uk/human-resources/recruitment-and-promotions/recruitment/temporary-worker-appointments/graduate-teaching-assistants/

Imperial Outreach

The Outreach team at Imperial is responsible for delivering the university's programme of activities for schools and colleges. The team deliver a wide range of exciting and inspiring activities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds right across the United Kingdom.

The team focuses on raising attainment, changing perceptions, supporting teaching staff and stimulating interest in STEM subjects from primary through to A-Level education, as part of Imperial's widening participation and outreach agenda.

By working with teaching staff, schools, colleges and community organisations they are able to offer support specifically where it is needed through a dedicated portfolio of programmes for young people. These programmes form part of the Imperial Access Agreement.

To make sure the team offer the fullest breadth of activities, they collaborate with many members of academic staff, as well as student ambassadors who add the valuable perspective of life as a current Imperial student.



www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/schools-outreach/

Recruitment and Outreach student ambassadors / Outreach STEM Leaders

Our ambassador and leader schemes provide you with an opportunity to work with young people to help inspire them to consider studying science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

Some activities will draw on your subject expertise, giving you the chance to communicate your research in a way that is suitable for a school age audience. Other opportunities may be more

generally focused on your experience of higher education through talks about student life for sixth form students or mock interview sessions for potential applicants.

 www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/volunteering/outreach-student-ambassadors/

 www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/volunteering/outreach-stem-leaders/

Professional Skills Development Programme

The Early Career Researcher Institute at Imperial provides an internationally renowned and award-winning Professional Development Programme.

Funders of doctoral programmes, including governments, industry and research councils expect that you spend time on your professional development ([UKRI, 2024](#)), and developing generic research, personal and professional development is an important part of your postgraduate training.

Our Professional Development Programme offers you support in your study and research, as well as the opportunity to develop knowledge, attributes, and skills relevant to your doctorate and your future career whether inside or outside academia. These development opportunities can improve your ability to undertake focused and successful research, present your work to a variety of audiences, and enhance your overall experience at Imperial. Postgraduate alumni, academics and employers have noted the value of the programme.

We work across Imperial with academic and support departments, alumni, students and externals to enable and enhance joined up opportunities. This has a social benefit, fostering networking and collaboration, as our courses, events and activities provide fora for students to interact with others from different departments and divisions.

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 <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/early-career-researcher-institute/learning-and-development/>

16. And finally

Alumni services and benefits

When you graduate, you'll become a member of a lifelong global network of more than 262,000 incredible people. You'll have access to an exclusive range of services and benefits, designed to support you in your next steps, wherever you are in the world, including:

Lifelong learning: from discounts on further study to mentoring, career support, online resources and events, we're here for you throughout your career to support your professional development.

Connections: Imperial's alumni community can be a source of friendship and professional contacts. Whether you're looking for top tips for a new city, to find a business partner or mentor, or get to know your local community, we've got you covered.

Perks: discounts, access to the library, Imperial College Union, and a dedicated co-working and lounge space in the heart of London – there are plenty of perks on offer for Imperial alumni whether you're based near campus or further afield.

Visit the alumni website to find out more about your new community, how to access your benefits, and how to get in touch with fellow alumni around the world.



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