About Imperial

Imperial College London is one of the top ten universities in the world, and the only UK university to focus exclusively on science, engineering, medicine and business.

If your child is thinking about applying to Imperial, this guide will help you support them in their decision about whether the College is right for them.

9th

ONE OF THE MOST GENEROUS UK UNIVERSITY BURSARY SCHEMES
The Imperial Bursary is designed to help Home students by providing up to £5,000 for each year of study

RANKED NO. 1
for graduate employability in The Guardian University Guide 2020

OVER 380+ CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND PROJECTS
There are lots of opportunities to meet new people and discover new interests

APPLICATION AND SELECTION
Pages 4–5
Information on what we’re looking for.

CENTRAL LONDON LOCATION
Pages 6–7
A self-contained campus in the heart of London’s cultural quarter.

ACCOMMODATION
Pages 8–9
Our first-year accommodation guarantee, plus support past the first year.

FEES AND FUNDING
Pages 10–13
What it costs and what help is available.

STUDENT SUPPORT
Pages 14–15
A dedicated network, ensuring students feel safe and supported.

LIFE ON CAMPUS
Pages 16–17
380+ clubs, societies and projects, plus sports facilities and the arts.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Pages 18–19
Find answers to some of our most frequently asked questions.
APPLICATION AND SELECTION

APPLY ONLINE VIA UCAS – FROM 4 SEPTEMBER 2019 FOR 2020 ENTRY

15 JANUARY IS THE DEADLINE FOR MOST COURSES; FOR OUR MEDICINE COURSE IT’S 15 OCTOBER

WE RECEIVE AN AVERAGE OF 7.5 APPLICATIONS FOR EVERY PLACE

AN INTERVIEW AND/OR ADMISSIONS TEST MAY BE REQUIRED

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

MAKING AN APPLICATION
Applications for all undergraduate courses are made via the University and Colleges Admissions Service’s (UCAS) online system. Students can apply for up to five courses in any one admissions cycle.

The Parents and Guardians section of the UCAS website has lots of information about the process and how you can help.

[www.ucas.com/parents]

WHAT WE’RE LOOKING FOR
We want students who are excited and enthusiastic about their subject. Academic ability is a key factor but departments will also consider factors such as relevant skills and the potential to succeed in a challenging academic environment.

At Imperial, many degrees in the same department have a common structure for the first year. Transfer to a different course within the same department is usually possible, although not guaranteed, so we recommend that your child only applies to one course per department.

WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT
This is the first opportunity for your child to convey their interest in, and suitability for, the course(s) they’re applying for. It’s useful to highlight things that have inspired their interest in the subject, such as:

- taster courses or public lectures
- books they have read
- extracurricular activities
- work or voluntary experience

Other things to cover are the skills they have that will help them on the course, such as communication and time management, as well as interests that will make them stand out. Demonstrating an understanding of what the course involves is also essential.

You can help by encouraging your child to talk through their decision – this will help them to identify information that’s relevant. Also proofread for errors!

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEW
If your child demonstrates sufficient potential they may be invited for an interview. There is no standard College interview but things you can do to help with their preparations are:

- Encourage them to re-read and familiarise themselves with their personal statement before the interview as they may be asked to elaborate on it.
- Practise interview techniques, working on things like eye contact and how to formulate answers, or encourage them to attend a mock interview at their school (if available).
- Help them to think of questions they might want to ask at the interview – this is as much their chance to see whether the course is right for them as it is for the department to see if they’re a good fit.

Find out more about Imperial’s selection process: [www.imperial.ac.uk/parents/applying-to-imperial]
HOW SAFE IS LONDON FOR STUDENTS?

In South Kensington – where the majority of our undergraduate teaching takes place – the streets are well paved and well lit and the public areas are well maintained.

As with all large cities, there is some crime. We work closely with police liaison officers to deliver safety briefings for our students throughout the year and personal safety campaigns with Imperial College Union.

We also have our own Security Service within the College, campus-wide CCTV monitored live by our 24-hour control room staff and an emergency response team on standby at all times.

CENTRAL LONDON LOCATION

IS LONDON WORTH THE COST?

Studying in the UK’s capital city brings a number of benefits, including:

- proximity to some of the world’s biggest employers, who regularly come to our campus to recruit our students
- being ideally placed for attending interviews, visiting companies and undertaking internships
- access to world class facilities beyond our campus, including one of the world’s largest libraries (The British Library) and over 170 museums
- networking opportunities at the huge range of public events run by London-based professional associations

London can be expensive but students are in a good position to minimise their living costs by taking advantage of the wide range of student discounts available on everything from clothes to travel. Budgeting in advance – and learning to stick to it – is also key.

No.1

London is the best student city in the world

QS Best Student Cities 2019

SELF-CONTAINED CAMPUS IN SOUTH KENSINGTON

One of London’s most attractive neighbourhoods, within easy reach of all the city has to offer

20 MILLION

visitors per year make South Kensington one of the world’s most popular cultural destinations
Accommodation

COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION

All offer holders who are coming alone and who make Imperial their firm choice are guaranteed a place in one of our halls of residence for their first year, as long as they apply by 31 July 2020 for entry in 2020.

Prices for our halls, which are all self catered, currently range from £105–£288 per week – including utilities, internet and contents insurance. This price range reflects the differences in room type (including its size and whether it’s single, twin and/or en suite) and the proximity to campus.

As our halls are mixed gender, your child will share facilities such as kitchens, and bathrooms if their room is not en-suite, with students of other genders. All shared rooms are single gender. Accessible accommodation is also available for disabled students or students with special requirements.

To compare all of our halls by distance, features and rent, see: www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/thehalls

ON-SITE SUPPORT

Experienced residential staff are on call round-the-clock in all of our halls. They look after the wellbeing of residents and help to maintain a friendly living environment by organising regular social events to bring everyone together. All halls also have CCTV and swipe card or fob entry systems.

HOW TO APPLY

We will email your child when applications open. Using our online system, they can choose up to five halls (and specify their preferred room type and price for each). Their preferences are all ranked equally and we will do our best to match them when we allocate rooms in early September, although we cannot make any guarantees. We do not allocate rooms on a first-come, first-served basis so while meeting the deadline is key, there is no benefit in rushing the decision.

We issue accommodation invoices via email before the start of every term. Payment options include online, by cheque or by bank transfer.

GUARANTEED ACCOMMODATION FOR FIRST YEARS

ROUND-THE-CLOCK, ON-SITE SUPPORT AND YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

HELP WITH FINDING PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

BEYOND THE FIRST YEAR

Most students live in private accommodation from their second year onwards. London has a huge range of houses, flats and studios available to rent. Our Student Hub team provides lots of support to help students in their search. This includes a property search website (Imperial Home Solutions) exclusively for Imperial students and annual private housing events. Returning students can also apply for accommodation in our Evelyn Gardens hall of residence. Other options include applying to join the residential support team as a hall senior in one of our halls or searching for vacancies in first-year halls.
Fees and funding

BURSARIES FROM IMPERIAL OF UP TO £5,000 PER YEAR FOR HOME STUDENTS

TUITION FEES
There are currently two rates of tuition fees: the Home rate (for UK students and EU students) and the Overseas rate (for international students). The rate of tuition we charge is based on your child’s fee status which we assess in line with UK government legislation after we receive their application.

HOME TUITION FEES
£9,250 per year is the Home rate of tuition which we charge for all of our undergraduate courses for 2020 entry. This fee is capped by the UK government. The UK government has also confirmed that eligible EU students starting university in the 2020–21 academic year will continue to pay the Home rate of tuition for the duration of their course.

OVERSEAS TUITION FEES
Tuition fees for international students are set by the College and vary per course. For 2020 entry, our Overseas tuition fees range from £30,000 to £44,000 per year. Visit our Study website for more information:

www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/courses

FEES AND FUNDING

TUITION FEE LOANS, COVERING THE FULL COST OF TUITION, MEAN TUITION FEES DO NOT NEED TO BE PAID UPFRONT

MAINTENANCE LOAN TO HELP WITH LIVING COSTS

FEES AND FUNDING

FEE INCREASES
All students should expect inflationary increases to their tuition fees for every year their course lasts. Changes to the Home rate of tuition are subject to government regulation. Overseas fees increases are set by the College and are expected to rise each year by an amount linked to inflation.

TUITION FEE LOAN
All Home students can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan from the UK government to cover the full cost of tuition for every year of their course, regardless of their household income. Eligible EU students starting university in 2020 can also access this loan for the duration of their course.

LIVING COSTS
Rent, food, travel and personal/leisure costs are the major costs that your child will need to budget for while at university.

£300 per week is a rough guide to how much they will need to live comfortably at Imperial, although actual costs will vary according to their lifestyle. This figure does not include tuition fees and any extra course costs (see left).

You can help your child to budget effectively by reviewing their expected income and expenditure with them before they start university, as well as looking at ways that they can save money.
FUNDING UNIVERSITY STUDY

ONE OF THE MOST GENEROUS BURSARY SCHEMES OF ITS KIND IN THE UK FOR HOME STUDENTS

FUNDING FROM IMPERIAL

IMPERIAL BURSARY
If you annual household income falls below £60,000 per year, your child may be eligible for up to £5,000 per year from Imperial towards their living costs.

The Imperial Bursary is paid on top of any government funding your child is entitled to and doesn’t have to be paid back.

There is no separate application process for the bursary. It is automatically awarded based on the household income information that your child provides to their regional funding body, e.g. Student Finance England for students from England. To be considered, your child must apply for the government’s means-tested Maintenance Loan (even if they do not intend to take it out) and consent to share this information with Imperial to be considered.

Imperial Bursary 2020–21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME</th>
<th>IMPERIAL BURSARY (per year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£0–£16,000</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£16,001–£50,000</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£50,001–£55,000</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£55,001–£60,000</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Please note: exclusions apply to repeat years of study and NHS-funded years for MBBS/BSc Medical students. Graduate Medicine students are not eligible for the Imperial Bursary.

This bursary offer may need to be adjusted if the UK government changes the levels of fees or the associated arrangements for supporting students, for example, as a result of the outcome of the recent Higher Education Review. If this does prove necessary, we will publish any revisions clearly on our website.

SCHOLARSHIPS
The College offers a growing number of scholarships that are designed to reward academic, sporting and music excellence. The application process is different for each scholarship so your child should check the eligibility criteria and deadlines carefully so they don’t miss out. Use our Scholarship Search Tool to see what your child may be eligible for.

Search our scholarships:
www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/scholarships-search

www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/imperial-bursary

UK GOVERNMENT FUNDING

MAINTENANCE LOANS
As well as the Tuition Fee Loan (see page 10), Home students can apply for a means-tested Maintenance Loan to help with their living costs. The amount your child may be eligible for will depend on their household income, as well as the UK government funding arrangements where they live.

The UK government has confirmed that eligible EU students who have lived in the UK for over five years and who will be starting university in 2020 can also apply for a Maintenance Loan for the duration of their course.

Find out more about government funding and loan repayments:

www.imperial.ac.uk/parents/fees-and-funding
Student support

A PERSONAL TUTOR FOR EVERY STUDENT

We want all of our students to succeed and to enjoy their Imperial experience to the full. That’s why we’ve invested in a dedicated support network to help with their personal and academic development, and to make sure they always have someone to turn to.

PERSONAL SUPPORT

There are lots of people to help your child with any academic or personal difficulties:

- their personal tutor – an academic member of staff in their department who can offer advice on a range of issues
- residential support teams who provide round-the-clock guidance and pastoral care in our halls of residence
- independent professional advisers in Imperial College Union
- a Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice service, offering confidential sessions with professional counsellors
- specialist student mental health advisers and mental health study mentors

Our Student Support Zone website brings together information on all of our student support services. It also includes a wide range of practical guidance.

CAREERS PLANNING AND ADVICE

Our Careers Service provides a wealth of professional guidance to help our students prepare for life after Imperial. It supports a huge range of career development activities, including one-on-one sessions with professional careers consultants, daily skills seminars, alumni mentoring, a CV checking service, work shadowing opportunities and nine annual careers fairs that bring hundreds of graduate employers to campus.

DISABLED STUDENT SUPPORT

If your child has additional needs relating to a disability, enduring health or mental health issue or specific learning disability, we advise them to contact our Disability Advisory Service for a confidential discussion (see website, left). We offer a wide range of tailored teaching and learning support, as well as accessible accommodation.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Each year we welcome students from over 130 countries and we work hard to make sure they quickly feel part of our student community.

DENTISTS AND DOCTORS

An NHS Health Centre and Dental Surgery are located on our South Kensington Campus, providing a range of services.

MULTI-FAITH CENTRE

The Centre brings together chaplains from many different religions, as well as offering prayer rooms, events and information on local places of worship.

IMPERIAL BUDDY SCHEME

Imperial College Union’s buddy scheme pairs first-year students with returning students to help them meet people in different study years within their department.

International Student Support team runs year-round social events and a specialist advice service on visas and immigration. The Centre for Academic English offers free classes in both academic and social English, as well as one-to-one consultations and self-study resources, to enhance communication skills and employability.
Life on campus

OVER 380 STUDENT-RUN CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND PROJECTS

FOR-CREDIT MODULES IN NEW SUBJECT AREAS THROUGH I-EXPLORE

ACCESS TO GYM AND SWIMMING FACILITIES

OPEN-ACCESS ART AND MUSIC FACILITIES, PLUS THEATRE, MUSIC AND ARTS GROUPS

We encourage all of our students to get involved in life on campus – this is not only a great way for them to settle in and make new friends, they’ll also have the chance to develop a diverse CV that showcases their potential to future employers.

STUDENT ORGANISATIONS
Our students’ union (Imperial College Union) is home to over 380 student-run clubs, societies and volunteering projects that are open to all – this is one of the largest selections of any UK university. They play a big part in enriching the social, cultural and educational experiences of our students, as well as being an outlet for them to try new activities, meet new people and have fun away from their studies.

SPORT AND RECREATION
Ethos, our flagship sports centre, is right at the heart of our South Kensington Campus, so it’s easy to stay active all year round. All of our students have access to the gym and swimming facilities in Ethos, and at our other campuses, for an annual membership fee (currently £30). Other options include year-round fitness classes, personal training, a nine-metre high climbing wall and regular sports events.

THE ARTS
Our musicians and artists are well catered for, with music lessons and practice rooms, an art gallery and a professional lunchtime concert series available to all.

In 2018 Imperial’s mixed a cappella group The Scopes performed at the Edinburgh Fringe, one of the largest arts festivals in the world.

We have volunteering opportunities in the UK and abroad, with the chance to gain recognition through the Imperial Award scheme.

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Frequently asked questions

Can I find out about my child’s academic progress?
At Imperial, our students’ academic progress is of the utmost importance to us. However, UK data protection laws restrict us from releasing personal information about them to you without their permission, which includes details of their academic performance. If you are worried about your child’s progress, or feel they need extra support, you can refer them to the range of academic and personal support services we offer at the College (see pages 14–15).

Find out more:
www.imperial.ac.uk/parents/parents-of-current-students/frequently-asked-questions

What if my child is unwell?
All students should register with a local doctor (known as a GP) within the first few days of arriving on campus. Depending on their term-time address, they may be able to register with the NHS Health Centre on our South Kensington Campus which they can use during clinic hours. They can also register with the dental surgery next door to the Centre.

What happens in the first week at Imperial?
The first week of term, known as Welcome Week, offers a range of events to help your child settle in before lectures begin. From welcome talks and presentations on Imperial’s key services to planned activities and social events, there are lots of opportunities to learn all about Imperial and meet other new students.

Find out more:
www.imperial.ac.uk/parents
Our website for prospective students from the EU/EEA includes the latest information on any changes to fees, funding and visa requirements following the UK’s decision to leave the EU.

www.imperial.ac.uk/about/imperial-and-the-european-union

The information in this guide is current at the time of going to press (September 2019). For the most up-to-date information about our courses see:

www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/courses

Alternative formats of this guide are available on request from prospectus@imperial.ac.uk