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 son or daughter 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 with annual household incomes up to £60,000.

best university in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019
CHOOSE FOR-CREDIT MODULES IN NEW SUBJECTS
Through I-Explore there are opportunities to deepen your knowledge in a range of subject areas.

RANKED NO. 1
for graduate employability in The Guardian University Guide 2019

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
370+ 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.

Imperial is a member of the Russell Group, which is made up of 24 of the UK’s most research-intensive universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.
APPLICATION AND SELECTION

APPLY ONLINE VIA UCAS – FROM 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

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 (medical choices are limited to four).

The parents and guardians section of the UCAS website has lots of information about the process and how you can be of support.

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 son or daughter only applies to one course per department.
WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT

This is the first opportunity for your son or daughter 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 son or daughter 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 son or daughter 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
LOCATION

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.

SELF-CONTAINED CAMPUS IN SOUTH KENSINGTON
One of London’s most attractive neighbourhoods, within easy reach of all the city has to offer.
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 kept in a good condition.

As with all large cities, there is some crime and we try and help our students stay safe by working closely with police liaison officers to deliver safety briefings 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.

20 MILLION

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

GUARANTEED ACCOMMODATION FOR FIRST YEARS

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

HELP WITH FINDING PRIVATE 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 son or daughter 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

All halls are mixed gender; all shared rooms are single gender.
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 son or daughter 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.

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

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

TUITION FEE LOAN COVERING THE FULL COST OF TUITION

MAINTENANCE LOAN TO HELP WITH YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER’S LIVING COSTS

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 son or daughter’s fee status which we assess using UK government regulations.

HOME TUITION FEES
The maximum fee that universities are allowed to charge Home students is set by the UK government, which has not yet announced the fee for 2020 entry. As a guide, it was set at £9,250 for 2019 entry, which we charged for all of our undergraduate courses. The government has confirmed that eligible EU students starting university in the 2020–21 academic year will continue to pay the Home rate of tuition.

OVERSEAS TUITION FEES
Tuition fees for international students are set by the College and vary per course. We have not yet set our tuition fees for 2020 entry. Once confirmed, we will publish them on our website:

www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/courses
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
Home students can apply for a non-means-tested Tuition Fee Loan from the UK government to cover the full cost of tuition for every year of their course. These loans are also available for eligible EU students starting university in 2020 for the duration of their course.

EXTRA COURSE COSTS
Some of our courses involve extra costs that are not covered by tuition fees, for example, protective clothing and field trips. Details of these can be found on our Study website (see left).

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

£298 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 son or daughter to budget effectively by going over their expected income and expenditure together before they start university, as well as looking at ways that they can save money.
**Funding University Study**

There are two main sources of funding for university study:

- your son or daughter’s chosen university
- the UK government

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**Funding from Imperial**

**Imperial Bursary**

The Imperial Bursary helps Home students with the cost of studying in London. It is awarded to all Home students with annual household incomes below £60,000, on a sliding scale from £2,000 to £5,000 per year.

The bursary is paid on top of any government funding your son or daughter 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 son or daughter provides to their regional funding body, e.g. Student Finance England for students from England. This means they 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.

[www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/imperial-bursary](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/imperial-bursary)
**Imperial Bursary 2020–21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME</th>
<th>IMPERIAL BURSARY (per year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£0–£16,000</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>£16,001–£50,000</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>£50,001–£55,000</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£55,001–£60,000</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
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</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 son or daughter should check the eligibility criteria and deadlines carefully so they don’t miss out. Use our scholarship search tool to see what your son or daughter may be eligible for.

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

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**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 son or daughter 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
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**

If your son or daughter experiences difficulties in their academic or personal life, there are lots of people here to help:

- 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
- volunteers on the confidential overnight telephone listening service, Nightline

Our Student Space 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 son or daughter 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.

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 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.

Our 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.
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 370 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.
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.

Our I-Explore programme makes it possible for your son or daughter to study a diverse range of for-credit modules in areas beyond their core subject, with options covering humanities, science and business.
Can I find out about my son or daughter’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 son or daughter’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 son or daughter 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 son or daughter 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.
Please note: we use the terms ‘son’ and ‘daughter’ throughout this guide but appreciate that these terms may not be applicable to, or used by, individuals who identify in other ways or by those acting as guardians.

The information in this guide is current at the time of going to press (June 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