Welcome

We hope you enjoy this self-guided tour round our South Kensington Campus, where lots of our research and teaching takes place.

The College’s main base has been in South Kensington since 1907 when the Royal College of Science, the Royal School of Mines and the City and Guilds College merged to form one institution and Imperial College London was born.

The growth and expansion that followed, including taking over the land occupied by the Imperial Institute in the 1960s, is reflected in the huge variety of architectural styles you’re about to see.

Our campus may now be nearly unrecognisable from the College’s early days, with cutting-edge facilities transforming what lies behind the nineteenth- and twentieth-century facades, but what hasn’t changed is our commitment to being a world leader in science, engineering, medicine and business. We’re the only UK university with this specialist focus so we hope you’ll enjoy getting to know us and our home a little better today.

Living in London

Our South Kensington Campus is surrounded by some of London’s most famous cultural attractions. Just a five-minute walk will take you to the door of three of the world’s finest museums: the Science Museum, the Natural History Museum and the V&A Museum, while the Royal parklands of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park are just a stone’s throw away.

Our location in London’s Zone 1 also means you’re only a short Tube journey away from popular sights like Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, the London Eye and Tower Bridge.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFE ON CAMPUS?

Join our mailing list for updates on what’s happening within our community, information about admissions and applying, open days, events and much more.

Details correct at the time of going to press (May 2022)
Get to know Imperial’s South Kensington Campus, taking in Dalby Court, the historic Queen’s Tower and the student facilities of Prince’s Gardens.

**1 MAIN ENTRANCE (EXHIBITION ROAD)**

Imperial’s main entrance was designed by the international design studio Foster + Partners. It was officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen in 2004. The stainless steel drum that cuts through the building is home to Imperial College Business School. The artwork behind the main entrance reception desk is a visualisation of the human brain by Danish artist Per Arnoldi, who worked with imaging scientists at the College’s Hammersmith Building.

**2 DALBY COURT**

Dalby Court is bordered by a number of key buildings. College headquarters are in the blue-cubed Faculty Building. The pink glass-fronted Bessemer Building is home to the Institute of Biomedical Engineering. The 12-storey Electrical and Electronic Engineering building houses the Maurice Hancock Smart Energy Lab where our researchers are developing new energy-generation technologies. There is lots of outdoor seating on Dalby Court so in warm weather you’ll find plenty of people having a catch-up over coffee.

**3 SHERFIELD WALKWAY**

The Sherfield Walkway is home to a range of retail and catering outlets. The ‘virtual corridor’ of digital screens (on the right) belongs to our Data Science Institute, which also houses the KPMG Data Observatory, a circular wall of 64 monitors creating 313 degrees of surround vision. Beyond this is the Department of Chemical Engineering’s ACE Extension. It is home to a Carbon Capture Pilot Plant stretching over four floors, which gives our undergraduate students the chance to run one of the most sophisticated plants of its kind in the world.

**4 SHERFIELD BUILDING AND THE LIBRARY**

The Sherfield Building houses the majority of our student support services like the Careers Service, the Disability Advisory Service, and the Student Hub – a central point for all student administrative queries. On leaving the Sherfield Building, you’ll see the Central Library ahead of you. The Library houses a huge range of printed and online resources – computers, laptops and iPads, and group and individual study spaces. It is open 24 hours a day (except Friday 23.00 – Saturday 16.00), and has a cafe open till late, making it a popular place to study.

**5 THE QUEEN’S TOWER AND LAWN**

The 87m-tall Queen’s Tower and the two stone lions at its base are all that remains of the Imperial Institute – a scientific research institute created in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria’s Jubilee. By the 1960s a need to expand the College led to the building’s demolition, leaving the Tower as a free-standing structure. There are 324 steps leading to the base of the copper-covered dome, with access along the way to a viewing platform that is opened for special occasions. Ten bells are housed within the belfry and are expertly rung on Royal anniversaries such as The Queen’s birthday.

**6 THE QUEEN’S TOWER AND LAWN**

The Dangor Plaza is a new development on our campus, created thanks to a generous donation by alumni David and Elie Dangor. The Plaza and adjacent Queen’s Lawn area are the perfect spot to eat, relax and socialise with friends between lectures.

**7 ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES**

This is one of the oldest buildings on campus. It was designed by architect Sir Aston Webb, who is best known for Buckingham Palace and the V&A Museum. Its architecture has led to it appearing in a number of film and television productions, including 2014’s Kingsman: The Secret Service starring Colin Firth. It is now split into two wings: the Acton Webb Wing, home to the Department of Earth Science and Engineering and its Rock Library, and the Goldsmith Wing where the Departments of Bioengineering and Materials are based.