Congratulations...

on receiving an offer from Imperial. We’re delighted you’re considering joining us. This guide lets you know what to expect over the next few months.

We’ve also included a taster of the academic and social opportunities that await you at one of the world’s best universities, alongside practical information on preparing for life in London.
About your offer

If you are holding a conditional offer from Imperial, which you accept, your place will only be confirmed once you meet all the conditions specified in your offer on our online application system.

Repaying to your offer
You need to respond to your offer through our online application system within 28 days of the full conditions being made available.

You can do this by visiting our Study website, choosing the appropriate link and logging in to your current application:

- www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/how-to-apply

We’ve put together a list of frequently asked questions which may help if you have any problems with our online application system:

- www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/contact/faq

Requests to extend the offer deadline may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Please contact the appropriate Admissions team (see right).

Paying a course deposit
If you accept your offer for Master’s study, we will send you an invoice for the course deposit by email. The amount you need to pay is 10 per cent of the tuition fee for the first year of the course. You should receive your invoice within ten days of replying to your offer.

You have 30 days to pay the deposit to secure your place. If you miss the payment deadline, your offer may be withdrawn.

If you do not receive a deposit invoice within ten working days of accepting your offer, or you have any questions, please contact the Student Fees team (see right).

Meeting your offer conditions
You need to meet all the conditions set out in your offer before you can register for your course, pay your tuition fees or receive a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) (if you need one). We advise that you aim to do this by 15 August 2019.

Find out how to submit your offer conditions at:

- www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/after-you-apply/conditions

Deferring your offer
We try to accommodate all requests to take a year out before taking up your place (known as deferred entry), but sometimes this isn’t possible. If you wish to defer, please contact the relevant Admissions team as soon as possible.

Contact admissions
For questions about your offer, please contact the appropriate Admissions team.

- www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/contact

Contact Student Fees team
For questions about your fees, including paying your deposit, please contact our Student Fees team:

- tuition.fees@imperial.ac.uk
What happens next?

The essentials

Advice for applicants
Find out more about what happens next, including information about meeting your offer conditions.

> www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/after-you-apply

Explore accommodation options
See our private housing webpages to help prepare for your accommodation search – also see page 10 for details on our purpose-built postgraduate halls.

> www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/privatehousing

Make sure you’re financially prepared
Budget for student life before you arrive to make sure financial issues are not a barrier to you getting the most out of your experience.

> www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/managing-your-money

Key dates

- **1 March 2019** – applications open for Imperial’s pre-sessional English courses (see page 14)
- **27 May 2019** – application deadline for 12-week pre-sessional English course for Master’s students
- **June–July 2019** – Imperial begins issuing CAS numbers to students requiring Tier 4 (General) student visas and starting in September–October
- **30 June 2019** – advisory deadline for meeting your offer conditions for students starting a course at the end of August
- **1 July–20 September 2019** – 12-week pre-sessional English course dates
- **1 July 2019** – application deadline for 6-week pre-sessional English course
- **22 July 2019** – application deadline for 3-week pre-sessional English course for Master’s students
- **30 July 2019** – advisory deadline for meeting your offer conditions for students starting a course at the end of September
- **12 August–20 September 2019** – 6-week pre-sessional English course dates
- **31 August 2019** – earliest date you can move into GradPad accommodation. You can move in on the day your contract starts (either 31 August, 14 September or 28 September), or on any day after, but not before – see page 10
- **2–20 September 2019** – 3-week pre-sessional English course dates
- **28 September 2019** – start of Welcome Week

Many of our Business School courses have different start dates, usually between August–September of each year.

If you have received an offer for a course in our Business School please check our website for more information on your course start date:

> www.imperial.ac.uk/business-school/programmes/admitted-students/start-of-term

Imperial term dates

- **Autumn term** 28 September–13 December 2019
- **Spring term** 4 January–20 March 2020
- **Summer term** 25 April–26 June 2020
Visas and immigration

Most students from a country that’s not in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland require a Tier 4 (General) student visa to study at Imperial. The earliest you can apply for this visa is three months before your course start date.

**Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)**

If you require an ATAS certificate for your course and visa application, we will specify this in your offer conditions.

- Apply for the certificate at the web address below up to nine months before your course start date – you will need your course’s CAH-L3 code and descriptor (your department will supply this).
- Applications can take up to 30 working days to process.
- Once issued, certificates are only valid for six months so make sure you apply for your visa before it expires.
- You need to submit evidence of ATAS clearance to our Admissions team as soon as you receive it.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme)

**Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS)**

This is a reference number which you need to enter on your visa application. Our Admissions team will send you your CAS once you have met all the conditions of your offer. You must apply for your visa within three months of your course start date once you receive your CAS.

[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/after-you-apply/cas](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/after-you-apply/cas)

**Your visa responsibilities**

You must comply with the rules attached to your visa to protect your immigration status. You must also co-operate with the College to help us meet our duties as your visa sponsor. Your responsibilities include:

- Uploading a copy of your visa and passport to our online application system
- Attending all scheduled classes, laboratory sessions, etc.
- Registering with the police when you arrive in the UK (if required)
- Informing the Home Office of any change in your circumstances

Find out more about your responsibilities online:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas)

**Working while you study**

Tier 4 visa students may only work for a maximum of 20 hours in any one week during term-time – you cannot average this over a longer period. Other working restrictions apply. We recommend that you do not work part-time during term-time if you are studying full-time. If this is unavoidable you should aim to work no more than 10–15 hours per week, which should be mainly at weekends and not within normal teaching hours.

**Visa advice for EU students**

In a referendum held in June 2016, the UK voted to leave the European Union. Your right to study in the UK won’t change as a result of Brexit. At the time of going to print (February 2019), the visa arrangements for EU students post-Brexit have not been confirmed. Our trained visa advisers within our International Student Support team will be updating their advice for EU students as information about Brexit is confirmed by the UK government.

**Contact International Student Support**

Our International Student Support team can provide specialist advice on a wide range of visa and immigration issues, even before you arrive.

[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas)
Completing a postgraduate qualification requires a sustained commitment to your studies right from the start. We recommend budgeting for student life well in advance to make sure that you can get the most out of your experience.

**Tuition fees**
Tuition fees for postgraduate study vary per course. You can find the fee for your course on our Study website.

- [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees/2019-20](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees/2019-20)

**Living costs**
Students applying for a Tier 4 visa for study in London need to prove to the Home Office that they can cover living costs of £1,265/month for up to a maximum of nine months.

This figure is useful as a guide for all Imperial students budgeting for the year to cover accommodation, utilities like internet and electricity bills, food, travel and personal/leisure costs. It does not cover tuition fees and any additional course costs. Actual costs will vary according to your lifestyle and how good you are at sticking to a budget.

- [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/managing-your-money](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/managing-your-money)

**Postgraduate Master’s loans**
Students from England and the EU* can apply for a government-funded loan towards their postgraduate studies. You can get up to £10,906 for Master’s study in the 2019–20 academic year. Whether you qualify depends on your course, age, and nationality or residency status. The earliest you start repaying the loan is the first April after you leave your course and when you’re earning over £21,000 per year. You have to pay this loan at the same time as any other student loans you have.

- [www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan/overview](http://www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan/overview)

**Scholarships**
Find out more about the range of scholarships available.

- [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/scholarships](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/fees-and-funding/scholarships)

A number of external organisations offer scholarships to Imperial Master’s and Doctoral students. See ‘Further Funding Opportunities’ at the web link above.

* The UK government has confirmed that access to government funding will remain unchanged for EU students entering the College in 2019 for the duration of their course.
Finding accommodation

London is a large city with lots of types of accommodation. Here is an overview of what’s available. Our Student Hub can also offer help and advice, even before you join the College.

Private postgraduate halls
Imperial’s postgraduate accommodation, GradPad, offers two halls exclusively for postgraduate students at Imperial and other London universities:

- GradPad Griffon Studios – Battersea
- GradPad Wood Lane Studios – White City

Both locations are within easy reach of public transport for travel to and from campus, but remember to factor this cost into your budget.

For further details, including price, facilities and how to book, see the GradPad website:

- [www.gradpadlondon.com](http://www.gradpadlondon.com)

Private accommodation
Many postgraduates find accommodation in shared houses, flats or studio flats. London has a wide range of privately rented properties. The majority is usually advertised no more than one to two months before it is available for you to move in. If you start looking earlier than this, estate agents may expect you to start paying rent immediately.

For advice on navigating London’s huge choice of property and more information on the most popular areas for Imperial students, see our private housing webpages:

- [www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/privatehousing](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation/privatehousing)

Property search website
Landlords, estate agents and private halls providers use the Imperial Home Solutions website to advertise their properties. You can use it to find properties, access housing advice and connect with other Imperial students who are looking for somewhere to live.

- [www.imperialhomesolutions.co.uk](http://www.imperialhomesolutions.co.uk)

Help with your search
We know that searching for accommodation in a big city can seem daunting. That’s why our Student Hub team is here to help. Get in touch with any questions you may have about finding your home away from home:

By email: student.hub@imperial.ac.uk

By phone: +44 (0)20 7594 9444

Facebook: www.facebook.com/imperialstudentaccommodation

Twitter: @icstudenthub

- [www.imperial.ac.uk/student-hub](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-hub)
Registering at the College

You need to register for your course online before the start of term through our online application system. International students need to upload details of their passport, and visa (where it applies). You also have the option to upload a photo to be printed on your ID card for collection on arrival.

If you’re from a country that’s not in the European Economic Area (EEA) you will also need to register in person once you arrive the College.

You may also need to register...

with the police after arriving in the UK with a visa, or after getting permission to stay for longer in the UK. In central London the registration is completed at the Overseas Visitors Records Office (OVRO). At the start of term, our International Student Support team will make special arrangements with OVRO for you to do this. We will send you more information about this when you start at the College.

Graduate School

All Imperial postgraduates enjoy automatic membership of the Graduate School. We recommend connecting with the School as soon as you arrive to find out more about their services, which include professional skills training (see page 14) and a year-round programme of events to bring together students from across the College.

Welcome Week and Imperial College Union

Welcome Week (also known as Freshers’ Week) takes place during the first week of term. This is our official welcome for all new students and covers a wide variety of events to help you get to know the College and people studying and working here a bit better.

One of the highlights of the week is the Freshers’ Fair. This is a chance for you to meet representatives from over 370+ student-run clubs, societies and projects supported by Imperial College Union. This is one of the largest ranges of any students’ union in the UK.

Also look out for our annual welcome event for international students, organised by our International Student Support team.

Imperial College Union’s Freshers’ Fair gives you the chance to discover more than 370 clubs, societies and projects that you could get involved with over the coming year.

Student Hub

The Student Hub provides a one-stop shop on campus for student enquiries. Drop in for support on issues including student finance, accommodation, admissions, exchange programmes, transcript requests, student admin and general wellbeing enquiries.

Welcome to Imperial
Reaching your potential

The academic and personal wellbeing of our students is really important to us. That’s why you’ll find a comprehensive network of people and resources you can turn to for support, help and advice, throughout your time with us.

Personal and professional development
Professional skills training forms an integral part of postgraduate study at Imperial via the Graduate School’s professional development programme. Integrating feedback from students, course organisers and graduate employers, this free programme covers study and professional skills including interview preparation, note taking, writing a literature review, networking, presenting skills and project management.

Pre-sessional Academic English courses
Conditional offer holders who pass a pre-sessional English language course automatically satisfy the College’s English language requirement without having to retake an English language qualification like IELTS. Twelve- and six-week courses are available (plus a three-week option for applicants holding unconditional offers).

Pre-sessional Academic English courses
www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/pre-sessional-english

These courses are not suitable for Imperial College Business School offer holders.

Academic language support
The Centre for Academic English offers a wide range of free courses, interactive workshops, one-to-one consultations and online resources to help all Master’s and Doctoral students studying science, engineering and medicine improve their academic and social English.

Academic language support
www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english

If you’re a Doctoral student and English is not your native language you must undertake an assessment of your academic English ability. This is part of the College’s PhD Academic English Requirement and must be taken within three months of your course registration date. We will use the results to identify what additional academic writing support you may need. You may also need to undertake a progress check. Find out more and register for an assessment date on our website:

Academic language support
www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/phd-students

Support for International students
We have a dedicated International Student Support team to help you adjust to life in the UK. They organise a range of events and trips throughout the year to help you meet people and explore London and beyond. They also offer a specialist visa and immigration advice service, which you can make the most of before you even arrive at the College.

Support for International students
www.bit.ly/ukcisa-csi

Find out more about the academic and personal support available for our students on our student support website:

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Personal and professional development
www.imperial.ac.uk/graduate-school

Pre-sessional Academic English courses
www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english/pre-sessional-english

Support for International students
www.bit.ly/ukcisa-csi

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

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www.imperial.ac.uk/student-space

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www.imperial.ac.uk/student-space

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Find out more about the academic and personal support available for our students on our student support website:
Living in London

With discounts on everything from clothes to travel, being a student at Imperial could be one of the most cost-effective times in your life to experience London living.

Like any big city, life in the capital can be expensive. But with sensible budgeting it is possible to enjoy much of what London has to offer. Many of the city’s best attractions are free to experience, or offer reduced rates for students, so living on a student budget doesn’t have to mean missing out on a social life. The biggest challenge may actually be deciding what you’re going to do...

Almost 50 per cent of London is devoted to green space, with 18 per cent open to the public like parks, public gardens and woodland.

300 languages spoken across the city – more than in any other in the world.

17,000+ music performances a year across more than 300 venues.

250 festivals a year including the Notting Hill Carnival and London Pride.

200 theatre shows running daily in London’s West End.

20 per cent of all UK cinema screens are based in London.

170+ museums many with free entry.

800 bookshops.

380+ public libraries.

20 million visitors a year make South Kensington one of the world’s most popular cultural destinations. At Imperial, you can enjoy the best of both worlds: freedom to enjoy the area on your own terms, as well as plenty of green space to escape the crowds, with Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens on your doorstep.

Source of stats: www.london.gov.uk
Got a question?

Contact Imperial

For general information about studying at Imperial, please contact our International Recruitment team: international-recruitment@imperial.ac.uk

For information about your offer, please contact the relevant Admissions team:

- [www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/contact](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/contact)

The information in this guide is current at the time of going to press (February 2019). The finance figures provided are for guidance purposes only – the latest information is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/pg](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/pg)

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