

What are the benefits of the Imperial Award?

The Imperial Award can help you:

- discover more about yourself and your potential
- develop practical self-reflection skills
- develop your ability to 'pitch yourself' to various audiences
- gain a formal recognition from the College

With the Imperial Award, you can:

- access online tools to help you reflect on your experiences and build your portfolio
- use online resources and attend workshops and webinars helping you develop self-reflection skills, and improve your ability to communicate about your competencies
- receive individual feedback from peers and assessors
- become a part of a student community, with opportunities for peer feedback and support

Who can participate in the programme?

The Imperial Award programme is open to all students at Imperial, including UG, PGT, PGR and intercalating students.

Is the Imperial Award given to a limited number of students each year?

All students who participate in the programme can complete the Imperial Award. It is your individual journey of self-reflection, self-discovery and building portfolio of evidence. Each student is assessed individually and can complete the programme if they meet the criteria; and there are no limits to how many students can register on or complete the programme each year.

If I don't complete the programme within one academic year, can I continue in the following year?

Yes, you can continue until you finish your course at Imperial. However, it is strongly recommended that you start well before your final term at Imperial, allowing yourself enough time to build your portfolio, produce your reflective submissions and potentially improve (and re-submit) them based on feedback.

If I'm a first year student, can I complete the Award in one academic year?

You can register and start your journey by populating your portfolio, reflecting on your experiences, using online resources and attending workshops. However, you won't be able to submit your reflective piece(s) until your second year at Imperial. Therefore, you won't complete the programme in your first year, but you can make sure you're ready to submit your submissions in your second/third year.

Students on one year courses, even if it is a one year UG BSc (such as the Medicine intercalated year), will be able to submit from the start of their course, and complete it before they finish their course at Imperial.

If I complete one or two streams, but not the full Award, is it still going to be formally recognised?

Yes, completion of any Stream of the Imperial Award will be officially recognised on your degree transcript. Additionally, you will receive a certificate after completing each Stream of the Programme, as well as the Full Award.

What experiences can I use as evidence?

You can use any experience that contributes to your personal development, including but not limited to:

- Clubs, societies and projects
- Academic or wellbeing representation
- Event organisation and management
- Courses
- Life events
- StudentShapers projects
- Volunteering at Imperial, or outside of the College
- Research experiences
- Teaching, tutoring, mentoring or marking
- Work (Casual, part-time or career experiences, enterprises)

Can I use experiences from before becoming a student at Imperial?

We encourage our students to reflect on their experiences whilst being a student at Imperial. However, PG students can also draw upon their experiences whilst being UG students at Imperial, or externally. If you choose to reference an experience from before your time at Imperial, make it clear in your submission why you have chosen to do so.

What is the benefit of using the online portfolio? Do I need to populate it to complete the programme?

Although the online portfolio is not a compulsory part of the programme (it is not assessed), it can help you collect your thoughts on specific experiences, monitor your progress and prepare for producing your reflective submissions. The content of your portfolio is private, and only you can see it. Students also find the portfolio helpful when preparing cover letters or CVs for job applications. Therefore, we encourage all students to use it as part of their developmental journey through the programme.

What's new to the IA in 2021/22?

In response to feedback from students, we have developed a more accessible assessment model, introducing a wider range of submission methods, and improved support.

The main changes include:

- Options for video and multimedia submissions, in addition to written statements
- Regular peer to peer mentoring sessions
- Streamlined assessment criteria
- Improved online workshops

See the updated Student Guide document and the [Imperial Award System Pages](#) for full details, guidance and examples.

Do I need to write essays to achieve the Imperial Award?

Not necessarily, your reflective pieces can be submitted as:

- Written submissions
- Video submissions
- Multimedia submissions

See the Imperial Award system pages to find out more about how to produce and submit your reflective pieces.

Can I use different submission methods for different streams (e.g. a written statement for stream one, and a video for stream two)?

Yes, you can mix and match per stream as streams will still be submitted separately. The same assessment criteria apply to all (see the Student Guide for the detailed assessment criteria).

Can I submit my reflective pieces for the three streams separately, using different submission deadlines?

Yes, you can submit (and re-submit) your reflective pieces separately, or in one go. You can use any of the submission deadlines available to submit, and/or re-submit your reflective pieces.

If I don't meet the criteria, can I re-submit anytime?

Yes, there are multiple submission periods available throughout the academic year. You are free to choose when you want to submit and/or re-submit your reflective pieces. The submission schedule is available on the Imperial Award system welcome page.

I submitted in the last academic year, and it didn't meet the criteria.

Do I need to re-submit it to be assessed against the new criteria?

The outcome of that assessment is still valid but will be amended as follows:

- 'Met' – nothing changes, it will be still recorded as 'Met'
- 'Not Met' – this will now be recorded as 'Needs Development' (this means that you have not met criteria, and you should re-submit)
- 'Partially Met' – this will now be recorded as 'Needs Development' (this means that you have not met the criteria, and should re-submit). Assessors check past submissions, and will be aware that your statement/attribute was previously assessed as 'Partially Met'.

My submission "Needs Development", but I met some of the criteria for some of the attributes. How much of my submission do I need to change?

Your resubmission must meet the Imperial Award criteria as a stand-alone piece. When resubmitting, we suggest that you keep the content that met the criteria and only amend or edit the content that "Needs development" based on the assessor feedback. This applies to all submission methods.