

Feedback at Imperial

Rep Conference 2015

**Academic
Representation
Network**

imperial
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**QUALITY
Feedback**

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Nominations closing soon!

STUDENT ACADEMIC CHOICE AWARDS

**Nominations close
Friday 13 February**

Nominate someone today to celebrate and reward excellence and innovation amongst Imperial's academic and professional staff.

**To make your nomination, visit
imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas**

imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas



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Introduction

Welcome to the second Rep Conference of Imperial College Union!

One of our core aims at the Union is to amplify the students' voice and a vital part to achieve this aim is the Academic Representation Network. With the help of the Representatives we are able to raise and solve many issues within departments and across the College. However we wouldn't be able to excel if it wasn't for dedicated and engaged staff members.

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The collaboration between students and staff is essential for us to remain a prestigious university and together we improve teaching, feedback and student satisfaction.

When I campaigned for the Deputy President (Education) position one of my manifesto pledges was to improve feedback at Imperial College. Feedback is a weakness amongst a majority of universities and Imperial College is no exception as highlighted through various national surveys. But many lecturers do provide good feedback and I believe that sharing this good practice is the first step in improving feedback as a whole across the College.



Pascal Loose

Deputy President (Education)
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We as students are taught and assessed by excellent lecturers and we therefore know what constitutes as good feedback. This why we invited you to the conference, to share your point of views and your experiences.

This conference is a chance for both staff members as well as students to express their ideas and to get the most out of the conference, make sure to ask questions and get involved in discussions.

About the Conference

In February 2014, Imperial College Union's Academic Representation Network hosted its first ever Rep Conference, themed *What Is Excellence? Students' views on Imperial's future*. It was attended by Academic Representatives, College academics and professional staff. Our second Rep Conference is themed *Feedback at Imperial*, reflecting the priority of the Rep Network for 2014/15: improving the standard of feedback, in all its forms, given to students of Imperial College London.

The conference will provide the opportunity for delegates to hear keynote speeches from senior College and Union speakers, and take part in workshops focusing on Postgraduate and Undergraduate feedback needs and experiences. At the end of the afternoon there will be a chance to socialise and continue the discussions. Shortly after the Conference, the Union will circulate a summary of the discussions in the sessions and speeches, sharing outcomes and ideas with Academic Representatives and staff across College.



Nominations are now open!

You can stand at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote.

Thinking of standing? Our upcoming Information Sessions will help you write a winning manifesto and run a successful campaign. Visit our Elections website for the dates, times, and details of each session.

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Programme

Time	Event	Room
13:30	Registration & Coffee	Union Concert Hall Level 2, Union Building
13:45	Welcome Address Pascal Loose	Union Concert Hall Level 2, Union Building
	The Academic Representation Network Andrew Keenan	
	GTA: Grow, Think and Approach Mario D'Auria	
14:20	Feedback for Undergraduates	Meeting Rooms 1&2 Level 1, Union Building
	Feedback for Postgraduates	Meeting Room 3 Level 3, Union Building
15:00	Refreshments	Union Concert Hall Level 2, Union Building
15:20	How can we improve feedback at Imperial College? Panel Debate	Union Concert Hall Level 2, Union Building
16:00	Closing address	Union Concert Hall Level 2, Union Building
16:20	Post-conference networking & refreshments	Union Concert Hall Level 2, Union Building

Plenary Session 1

Welcome Address

Pascal Loose

Pascal Loose is the current Deputy President (Education) at Imperial College Union. Arriving at Imperial in 2011, Pascal has taken a year-long break between the third and fourth years of his degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering to become an Officer Trustee.

During his time at Imperial, Pascal has been an Academic Representative in EEE, a committee member of the EESoc, and an active member of several student initiatives. He was also a volunteer for Coder Dojo, an Imperial Hub project through which Imperial students teach young children how to code.

The Academic Representation Network

Andrew Keenan

Andrew Keenan is the Education & Welfare Manager at Imperial College Union, where he has worked since 2010.

Twice elected President of the University of St Andrews Students' Association, Andrew's first role at Imperial was as professional support for the Academic Representation Network. He has since taken on responsibility for supporting campaigns, liberation zones, the Advice Centre, and policy formation around education and welfare.

GTA: Grow, Think, Approach

Mario D'Auria

Mario D'Auria is a PhD student in the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering and winner of the Department and SACAs Best Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) award.

Students throughout their degree, but in particular in their first year, need all the support and feedback they can attain to improve the learning process. GTAs have a fundamental role in fulfilling these objectives and furthermore encouraging them. Mario will discuss the unique and essential role that GTAs hold at Imperial. Based on his experiences, he will address the challenges he had to face, his own learning process, and finally the impact on students.



Breakout Sessions

There are two different breakout sessions - one focusing on Undergraduate experiences, and one on Postgraduate experiences. Delegates can choose which session to attend; the outcomes of each session will be made available to delegates online after the conference.

Feedback for Undergraduates

Facilitated by Emilie Lunddahl (Chemical Engineering Departmental Representative) and Iacopo Russo (Materials Departmental Representative)

Feedback for Undergraduates is one of the most debated topics at Imperial. Scores in the National Student Survey are amongst the weakest in the Russell Group - but how does this square with the calibre of our students and staff?

Emilie and Iacopo will lead groups of staff and students in exploring the different facets of feedback at Imperial.

Feedback for Postgraduates

Facilitated by Stuart Haylock (Graduate Students' Union Academic & Welfare Officer for Physical Sciences) and Rachel Vaux (Graduate Students' Union Academic & Welfare Officer for Life Sciences)

Feedback for Postgraduates is discussed far less than for our Undergraduate members - but does that mean their experience is better, or are we not asking the right questions?

Stuart and Rachel will lead groups of staff and students in discussing the needs of our taught postgraduates and our doctoral researchers - and how feedback can help students become effective researchers and academic leaders.



Read our NSS Response 2014 at imperialcollegeunion.org/responses

Read our PTES Response 2014 at imperialcollegeunion.org/responses



Plenary Session 2

Panel Debate

The panel will be discussing the question, *How can we improve feedback at Imperial College?* Each panel member will have a chance to give their view on the subject and challenge the views of the others; there will also be the opportunity for the audience to question the panel.

Pascal Loose

Pascal is Deputy President (Education) at Imperial College Union.

Nida Mahmud

Nida is a PhD student in Chemistry, and is 2014/15 President of the Graduate Students' Union, the arm of Imperial College Union specifically for our Postgraduate members.

Joe Cooper

Chairing the debate is Joe Cooper, Managing Director of Imperial College Union. Joe joined the Union in October 2011 after eight years as the Deputy Chief Executive of Kent Union. Before that, Joe had been Area Convenor for the National Union of Students, and President of Canterbury Christ Church Students' Union; he has also received an MBA from Kent University.

Arijit Gupta

Arijit is an experienced Academic Representative, and is currently the Undergraduate Departmental Representative for Mathematics.

Dr Jane Saffell

Jane is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine, and is a two-time Student Academic Choice Award winner – including the award for Best Feedback in May 2014.

Closing address

Professor Debra Humphris

Debra Humphris is Vice Provost (Education) at Imperial College London. Professor Humphris joined the College in October 2012 from the University of Southampton, where she had been the Pro Vice Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) since 2008. Previously, she had been the Director of the Health Care Innovation Unit at Southampton, and a researcher at a number of medical and healthcare-focused institutions and medical schools.



The Union in numbers

218

Number of Undergraduate Reps.

192 Undergraduate Reps, 20 Dep Reps and 6 Academic Affairs Officers.

76 Postgraduate Research Reps, 191 Postgraduate Taught Reps, 4 Dep Reps and 5 Academic & Welfare Officers.

276

Number of Postgraduate Reps.

QUALITY Feedback

20

Recommendations made to the College on areas such as Teaching, Assessment and Feedback, Academic Support, and Personal Development.

15

Recommendations made to the College on areas such as Engagement, Assessment and Feedback, Organisation and Management and Skills Development.

4,600

Number of students that participated in Your Rep & Council Elections. That's 26.83% of all students at the College!



Read more about our Impact at the College in our Impact Reports online at imperialcollegeunion.org/impact



Imperial Plus

Developing your skills

No matter what your volunteer role is, if you volunteer with the Union or with College* you can register for Imperial Plus. Make sure you get the recognition you deserve for your volunteer efforts!

Log the hours you volunteer towards the Imperial Plus Volunteer Certificate or Volunteer Accreditation. Applications for the Volunteer Qualification open at Easter.



Why register for Imperial Plus?

- ▲ Get acknowledged for your time, effort and dedication as a volunteer
- ▲ Record the skills you develop in your role
- ▲ Access skills based training that will support you in your role, which graduate recruiters value
- ▲ Complete the Volunteer Certificate or Volunteer Accreditation by **1 June** and receive an exclusive invitation to the Union Awards

88% of volunteers said Imperial Plus met their expectations**

"I didn't realise how many hours I actually put in before"

Volunteer Certificate participant

For more information and to register, visit
imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus



*Agreement will need to be sought between the Union and College led volunteer programmes **2013/14 Imperial Plus evaluation

Imperial College Union

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