

The
Postgraduate

Handbook
2013/14

imperialcollegeunion.org



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Contents

- 04-05 ▲ Introduction
- 08-09 ▲ Meet the Sabbaticals
- 10-15 ▲ Life as a Postgraduate
- 16-24 ▲ What we have to offer
- 25-30 ▲ Student Communities
- 31 ▲ Campus Map

Go online and find out more about your Union, our activities, what's on in our venues and how we represent you.

imperialcollegeunion.org



All information correct at the time of going to print (September 2013)



David Goldsmith

President

president@imperial.ac.uk

Welcome to Imperial College London and welcome back to those of you returning!

We understand that you're no longer an undergrad and that your needs have changed as a result. Nevertheless we at the Union and Graduate Students' Union (GSU is the postgrad-only arm of the Union) are here to support you in your new lifestyle so that you can make the absolute best out of your time here.



We are the voice for all Imperial students.

Flexibility is key and with over 300 clubs, societies and projects there is a world of choice for what to do with your spare time. The Union is a platform for you to do all the things you could possibly dream of doing. It empowers you to run a campaign, start a society, attempt a new sport, play in an orchestra, experience live music, party with your friends and anything else you could possibly think of.

We are the voice for all Imperial students. Our network of postgraduate academic reps ensure that you are well represented and getting the best education/research experience. Blessed with a good relationship with College Management we are able to represent you effectively both locally and nationally.

Working hard is always best accompanied with play and so we hold many exciting campus-wide events as well as running three bars and a nightclub with student-friendly prices. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Postgrad Mingle in October. Don't be afraid to come over and say hi.



We want to ensure you make the most of your time at Imperial too. Our student activity program offers you the opportunity to join one of over 300 Clubs, Societies & Projects. Each one of these groups are run by students and the time and skills that you learn as a volunteer is recognised in our new Imperial Plus scheme ensuring that being involved also enhances your employability! We also run two bars, two nightclubs and a Shop and newsagent all with the aim of offering you great value services at student prices.



We are a student-led not-for-profit charity with one aim, to make your time at Imperial the best it can be.

What is Imperial College Union?

Every student at Imperial College London is also a member of Imperial College Union. We are a student-led not-for-profit charity with one aim, to make your time at Imperial the best it can be.

Our student officers are the heartbeat of Imperial College Union, each and every one of our 2,336 members who hold a position are elected with five students taking a year out of their studies, to be Sabbaticals, holding the most senior positions. Your Sabbatical team are elected in a cross-campus election in March and we are proud to have had the highest turnout in the England and Wales for a Students' Union for the last two years!

We are the voice for all students at Imperial. Our Academic Representation Network gives focuses on improving every aspect of your department, you will have a chance to elect your Academic Representative soon after you start. Your Sabbatical team also sit on important College committees and regularly meet with senior members of College academia and management, ensuring the best interests of students are considered in every decision.

The Advice Centre can help with any problems you might have and the Sabbatical Officers are here to help with enquires or point you in the right direction.

We can't wait for you to join us and look forward of you becoming part of one of the best Students' Unions in the UK with over 16,000 members!

Who are we?

The Union is run by a team of elected officers, volunteers and full-time staff who all work together to ensure we provide the best services we can for students.

The President and the Deputy Presidents. They are all current Imperial students on a Sabbatical Year or at the end of their studies. Their job is to represent all members of ICU and their doors are always open. If you have any queries or problems, whatsoever, make sure you get in touch with them.



Nat Kempston

Deputy President (Education)
 dpeducation@imperial.ac.uk

Hi everyone! I'm Nat, your Deputy President (Education) for 2013/14.

My job is to represent you on all educational matters, and help you out with any academic problems you may encounter this year. I will be spending my time making your educational experience at Imperial top class, and worthy of the top-10-in-the-world institution that we are. This is not an easy task, and involves sitting on various committees, attending numerous meetings, as well as heading up a large network of 500 academic representatives.

As a Postgraduate student myself, I understand that sometimes Postgraduate students feel under-represented by the Union, and I want to assure you that this is not the case here. The Graduate Student's Union (GSU) is YOUR union, which represents your academic and welfare needs as well as hosting social, networking and careers events throughout the year. This year we aim to hold more Postgraduate-specific events, so if you have any ideas or suggestions about the type of events you want your union to host, then

please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Finally, I just want to stress how privileged we are to be at this fantastic institution. We are the lucky ones, so make sure you get involved with everything you can, and take advantage of every opportunity thrown your way.

DPE love,

Nat

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nat Kempston". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.



Yas Edwards

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)
dpcs@imperial.ac.uk

Hello! I'm Yas the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) at Imperial College Union (ICU). I support student volunteers in running an extensive choice of 300+ activities from Music and Mountaineering to Sci Fi and Snowsports.

These are all showcased at Freshers' Fair on our South Kensington campus on Tuesday 1st October, which despite its name is not only for first years. All our Clubs, Societies & Projects and the many opportunities they provide are open to postgrads like you. Clubs, Societies & Projects are an integral part of the student experience at Imperial. It's worth coming along to get a feel for clubs, chat to members, watch demonstrations and grab some freebies. But if you can't make it, take a look at our website and keep an eye out for Give It A Go (GIAG) which highlights events, trips and taster sessions that clubs put on for you to try before becoming members!

Clubs, Societies & Projects are an integral part of the student experience at Imperial.

So why get involved? We know the demands of postgraduate study can be great and your needs may be different to that of an undergrad. With the huge choice of opportunities, events and trips, there are loads of clubs you can fit around your academic commitments. It's also a great way to meet people out of your teaching or research group, and important to highlight how involvement in activities outside of study can enhance many personal skills valued by employers. So grab these opportunities, make time to enjoy yourself, and your time at Imperial could be so much more than you expected.

If you have any questions or just want to say hello, feel free to email me, drop into the office or find me on campus!

Yas :)

Y. Edwards



Marrison Lewis

Deputy President (Welfare)
dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk

Hello, I'm Marissa and I'm your Deputy President (Welfare) – my job is to ensure that your time at Imperial is as enjoyable as possible and to help out if you run into any trouble.

Imperial has a great student community; the Union is here to welcome you to it and help you settle in. Whether you're a returning Imperial student, new to this university or new to this country, the move into postgraduate study can feel like a big transition. Thankfully, there are lots of services here to help should you ever need any support in your studies – from your Academic and Welfare Officer, to the Advice Centre to the Counselling Service, there is plenty available for you to use should you ever need it. If you're unsure who to contact or just fancy saying hello, you're more than welcome to drop into my office for a chat or email me with any problems.

Another key part of my role is facilitating student-led campaigns on campus. A campaign can be about pretty much anything - if you see something around campus you want to change or if something on your course is getting you down

or if you want to make students aware of an issue particularly close to your heart – come to me and let's make it happen!

▲▲
Imperial has a great student community; the Union is here to welcome you to it and help you settle in.

One piece of advice before you head off into the land of postgraduate study; don't feel embarrassed about asking for help – you are absolutely entitled to any support you need.



Kieron Creagh

Deputy President (Finance & Services)
dpfs@imperial.ac.uk

Welcome to Imperial, my name is Kieron and after 4 years studying Geology I am sticking around to be your Deputy President (Finance & Services). This means I will be a full-time student officer working for all students based in the Union offices up on Level 2 in the Union building.

As the name suggests I will be responsible for all the Union finances, commercial operations and entertainments ensuring that Students have a voice when it comes to how we spend our money and run our venues. This includes club nights, live music and other student led events. As well as our main Bars based in the Union building we will soon be re-opening a Postgrad bar on Level 0 of the Sherfield building. Keep a particular eye out for GSU (Graduate Student's Union) events such as the monthly Pub Quiz.

Some of the things I will be focusing on include improving the level of customer service throughout the organisation, continuing to offer part-time jobs to students wherever we can and transforming our bars and clubs into places students are proud to call their own. I also plan to

make it easier for students to give us feedback by introducing more online tools and running a regular Entertainments Working Group, this is a student led body that will act as an open discussion forum for what events you want to see held at the Union and provide feedback on our services.

I am also the first port of call for finance enquires for our many Clubs, Societies & Projects. I will also be supporting the GSU engage with the postgraduate community, run events and ensure that we tailor our services to meet the needs of every student.

We have over 300 different Clubs, Societies & Projects and postgraduates make up over 40% of the student population so don't hesitate to get involved. Finally, good luck with your year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kieron Creagh'.

Life as a Postgrad at Imperial College

Study Type

21%
3,284

Postgraduate
Research

23%
3,555

Postgraduate
Taught

56%
8,933
Undergraduate



Imperial College London is an elite and challenging environment for postgraduate study, with world-leading MSc, MBA and PhD programmes. It is also an active student community, with hundreds of social and extra-curricular opportunities for postgraduates and the UK's highest level of postgraduate participation in students' union life.

What separates postgraduate from undergraduate life is not just the complexity of the subject matter, but the independence and

maturity expected of the students. That doesn't mean you are locked into the lab - on the contrary, you set your own workflow and study, and can make the time and space for an active social life as well.

There are two modes of postgraduate study at Imperial – taught courses, which usually last for one year, and doctoral research, which can last up to four or more years. These two modes differ in the final qualification you receive and length of study.

Taught Courses

Doctoral Research (PHD)

Qualifications Available	MSc, MRes, MEd, MPH and MBA	MPhil, PhD, MD(Res) and EngD
Study Time	12 months full-time study, or 24 months part-time study.	MPhil is 12 months full-time study; PhD, MD(Res) and EngD require at least 36 months of full-time research.



For those doing a Master's course, a year is not a long time, and you may have quite a bit of work to get through for your Master's. However, your course coordinator or course convener can help to ease the load by answering any questions you may have. As a Master's student, you are entitled to timely feedback on your work, to experienced and trained project supervisors, and experienced pastoral care staff.

Typically, PhD students are assigned two supervisors – one primary supervisor and a secondary contact. You can also request an academic mentor – a third academic who can offer independent advice if necessary.

A small but growing number of students are in a Centre for Doctoral Training – where they are funded for a combined MSc and PhD programme for the full four years.

Postgraduate student life requires a higher level of independence and self-motivation than undergraduate study. Taught postgraduates will attend scheduled lectures, but both taught and doctoral students are expected to take personal responsibility for their own research and learning. This might sound intimidating, but it offers you new opportunities for personal responsibility and academic independence – which is invaluable experience for careers in academia or industry.

The relationship you will have with College and your department is different from that offered to an undergraduate. Your responsibilities to College, and their mutual responsibilities to you, are set out in the 'Postgraduate Precepts' – a set of expectations determined by College. The key points, and a few tips and hints, are detailed below. Also, you are entitled to access any service provided by Imperial College Union – all postgraduates are automatically members, and you can join any Club, Society or Project, take any volunteer position, and use our facilities.

The relationship between supervisor and doctoral researcher is a modern, academic version of the master-apprentice relationship; they are not your teacher, but your guide, helping you develop your research and self-management skills in order to run a laboratory or group of your own one day. While different supervisors have different preferences, you should meet with your main supervisor regularly - possibly as often as once a week - to talk about your progress and receive any suggestions about the direction you should





take your work in. All supervisors have different styles of working with their PhD students. For example, some supervisors leave their PhD students to get on with things and determine the direction of their research themselves. Others are a lot more hands on and provide a lot more direction and suggestions for their research. Needless to say, many supervisors occupy a middle ground between these approaches. In any case, your supervisors are there to offer support and guidance as you conduct your research and eventually go on to write your thesis.

For all postgraduates, a good working relationship with your supervisor is paramount. If you have any issues or concerns about your supervisor, the Union can help. There are a number of postgraduate officers in our Academic Representation Network that are there to ensure that the academic experience for students at Imperial is second to none. You can find out more about the Academic Representation Network on page 16.

If you're working on a PhD, you should be provided with a workspace, probably in an office shared with other postgraduates. You are also entitled to a departmental induction process, meeting key staff and touring your group's

facilities. This applies regardless of the time of year you start your research; up to one in three PhD students start their studies outside of Freshers' Week.

Here are some handy tips from past and present postgraduate students for you as a new postgraduate at Imperial:

- ▲ **You are in charge of yourself** – this can be both intimidating and very liberating. Don't feel pressured to stay in the office as long as everyone else, or miss out on social opportunities because your supervisor hasn't left for the day yet. College will tell you to take responsibility for your learning and research – that means knowing when to relax and take time off, too.
- ▲ **Time management is key** – use a calendar to keep track of deadlines and meetings.
- ▲ **Join the Clubs, Societies & Projects at Imperial.** You will have lots of work to do, but by joining clubs you will have a commitment to something outside of your MSc or PhD, which will motivate you to complete your work in good time, else you miss out on the social side of university life.
- ▲ **Attend your student community events** learn more about them on page 25. You will meet people with similar interests (and frustrations) as you and be able to blow off steam as well as possibly spark up collaborations.
- ▲ **Familiarise yourself with your travel, conference and equipment budgets** – if you are lucky enough to have them. Your group's coordinator or administrator will let you know how to make expense claims and buy new chemicals or equipment.

- ▲ **Join learned societies** (e.g. the Royal Society of Chemistry or Royal Astronomical Society) as you will be able to meet people and attend conferences with experts in your field. Additionally, many learned societies offer travel grants. Your department will only have a limited conferences budget, so this is a good way of attending more.
- ▲ **Try to get your work published in scientific journals.** This is easier said than done, but successfully doing so can significantly increase your chances of getting a job in academia.
- ▲ **Don't worry if you find yourself reading the same papers six times over.** And then reading them several times over again a year later!
- ▲ Socialise beyond your year and **create a good network of friends and 'colleagues'**. If you need help at any time and someone's busy, there may be someone else who is free. Both PhD students and postdoctoral researchers can be helpful.
- ▲ **Get teaching experience** as an undergraduate laboratory supervisor or classwork assistant. You will earn money, improve your communications skills, and widen your understanding of your subject area.
- ▲ Set up a Remote Desktop connection to your office computer so that you can access your work from home and access papers from anywhere. **And remember to back up your data weekly, if not daily!**
- ▲ Capitalise on **living in London** by getting out and sightseeing. Eat well and make sure to do some exercise too!

A Typical Timeline of a PhD Student

- ▲ **Year 1**
PhD begins
Following 6 - 12 weeks: plan of study established and project description outlined.
After approximately nine months: early stage assessment.
- ▲ **Year 2**
Main bulk of research begins.
Six months later: presentation on work to establish your understanding and level of progress so far.
- ▲ **Year 3**
18 - 24 month assessment: some PGs complete their research now and start their writing-up stage. Students take an average of six months to write up their thesis. Up to six months later: possible viva – the oral defence of your thesis in front of a panel of experts.
- ▲ **Year 4**
Depending on your funding, you may now have to register as a writing-up student to complete your thesis. Funding may continue for another 6 -12 months depending on your circumstances.

*NB: This is a typical, not a definitive timetable.

Representation for Postgraduates

Imperial College Union has a vast Academic Representation Network, which exists to ensure that the academic experience for students at Imperial is second to none. For Postgraduates, there are Academic & Welfare Officers for each Faculty, as well as Course and Group Reps within each department. You can find out more about the Academic Representation Network on page 16.

Imperial College Union also looks after a number of Constituent Unions and campus-based Student Communities that are run by postgraduates.

The Graduate Students' Union (GSU) is one of Imperial College Union's Constituent Unions, and is there specifically to cater for all postgraduates. It is run by postgraduate students who are currently studying just like you. The GSU President and Executive Committee are there to provide academic help and support, represent you to College and run social events so that you can take a well-deserved break from all the hard work. You can find out more about the GSU on pages 25-28.

Students based at the Hammersmith campus also have the Hammersmith Student Community (find out more on page xx) and Silwood students have the Silwood Student Community (find out more on page xx). Both run by students based at these campuses, they organise social events, outings, and academic representation.

You can run to become an Academic Representative, or volunteer for your Constituent Union or Student Community, at the start of the academic year – keep an eye on your email for details.

Events for Postgraduates

These include:

▀▀ Pub Quiz – run by the GSU on the last Thursday of every month in the Union Bar

▀▀ Field trips inside and outside of London

▀▀ Film nights with Imperial Cinema

▀▀ Five-a-side football tournaments at Hammersmith campus

Look out for emails from the Union and your Student Community about their events throughout the year.

My Postgraduate experience



Marily Nika

▲▲ I first came to London as an MSc in Computing student, in 2008. I then worked as a developer for a couple of years but couldn't forget about academia. I decided I wanted to do research in Computer Science, and more specifically in Social Network Analysis. I was looking for a topic that would involve concepts from various disciplines, and after a discussion with my supervisor, I applied for a PhD. That was the best decision I ever made. Apart from the academic excellence Imperial College has, the student life here is spectacular. There are many different societies and sporting clubs for everyone. I do realise that postgraduates need to study a lot, but Imperial has a fantastic community that supports each other, I have made some really great friends and colleagues here. Also, London is a vibrant city for a Uni, and South Kensington is an excellent location for a University. My advise to everyone would be: make friends, join the societies that interest you or even create your own if they don't exist, just like I did when I created the Women in Computing group at my department. Remember that the friendships that are created during these years are most likely to last forever, and also very much likely to turn into successful business partnerships. There are many opportunities around here, don't miss out.



Michael Pettit

▲▲ Imperial College provides a great environment for me to carry out my post-graduate studies. While life as a PhD student is obviously dominated by work, the Departmental cafés and Senior Common Room offer space to relax with friends or colleagues, and the area around the South Kensington campus is full of places to eat and drink. Imperial has a good selection of well-funded Clubs and Societies, lots of sports teams, and access to excellent recreational facilities, so there are plenty of things to do outside of the office.

In terms of the work itself, I've been presented with opportunities that I don't think I could have found anywhere else – I've taken part in collaborations, attended conferences and received job offers that have been made possible, in part, by my associations with Imperial and the high quality of research staff we have here. It's very motivating to be surrounded by so many bright young researchers, and even after nearly 4 years I'm still excited to face the challenges of PhD work that each day brings.



Imperial College Union - what we have to offer

Activities

Imperial College Union runs over 300 Clubs, Societies & Projects, the largest number of any Students' Union in the UK, so whatever you want to do here you're almost certain to find it! One of the best things about the range of Clubs & Societies on offer is that you can try anything at any level, whether you're professional standard or a complete beginner. Students at Imperial can have a rich student experience full of new skills and achievements, which can range from playing new musical instrument, a sporting trophy or even a qualification to SCUBA dive.

As a member of a Club, Society or Project, you have access to a range of facilities at the Union including media suites for TV and radio, snooker room, Union Gym for training and classes and even a Science Fiction, Fantasy and Gothic Horror Library!

The Student Activities Centre (SAC) is also available to all students and is your port of call for enquiries and club services. There are also networked computers and printing facilities available for club officers, as well as post boxes. The SAC is on floor 2M of the Union building.

Clubs & Societies offer a great way to meet people with similar interests, or find a new one to take your fancy! They're also a great way to try things out at a low cost, and gain new experiences and skills or develop old ones. You can see a full list of all our Clubs, Societies & Projects at imperialcollegeunion.org/a-to-z and read more about them in our 'A to Z of Activities' handbook.

Academic Representation Network

The Union has over 400 Academic Representatives across undergraduate and postgraduate courses and research groups. Academic Representatives collect invaluable feedback from students about all aspects of their academic experience, which is then fed back to staff. With this knowledge we can help initiate changes and ensure quality is maintained.

New courses, changes to technology, teaching methods and student expectations will always mean courses and research opportunities need to adapt over time. Listening to feedback from students and acting on this information ensures Imperial's courses are the best they can be. Changes brought about by the Academic Representation Network in 2012/13 include the refurbishment of lecture theatres, the removal of coursework and reforms to marking schemes.

All students at Imperial whether undergraduate or postgraduate, full-time or part-time, international or home have at least one Academic Rep to speak on their behalf. If you have any teaching, resource or assessment concerns e-mail your Academic Rep with your problem. Reps will be able to assist with any matter relating to your academic experience and your feedback will remain anonymous. You can find your Academic Rep using the A to Z facility on the Union's



Union Rep Week

Love
your
rep

website by selecting your course or research group.

Academic Reps for each course or research group will be elected in October. No experience is required, and becoming an Academic Rep is an excellent way to develop your teamworking and campaigning skills, and participate in College's world-leading academic community. Look out for information nearer the time.

If you have any other questions regarding the Academic Representation Network or would like more information about becoming an Academic Rep, please contact Zoe Richardson, Representation Coordinator (z.richardson@imperial.ac.uk).

Campaigns

Imperial College Union runs a number of campaigns all year round. Some are one-off campaigns and others are continuous i.e. run from year-to-year. We are the voice for students at Imperial, and all of our campaigns are student-led. This ensures that we are addressing issues that directly affect you and that you are at the heart of any recommendations and decisions made as a result. Previous campaigns the Union have run have been:

Rep Week: we hold two Rep Weeks a year and they provide a platform to celebrate the great changes that have taken place with the help of your Academic Representative Network, as well as get suggestions from you as to what more could be improved at the College. Anything suggested by you is followed up by our Academic Reps. You can talk to them in person on campus during our Rep Weeks or send your suggestion online via email, Facebook or Twitter (keep an eye out for #loveyourep).

Stress Less: this campaign provided opportunities for students to relax and refocus during last year's exam period. There were a host of free events for students to attend, which included Yoga on the Queen's Lawn, Box Fit in Ethos, massages in the Library and even a Petting Zoo!

The Union has even campaigned for student discounts with certain businesses in and around South Kensington. The best way to see the outcomes of your suggestions and our campaigning is to visit the You Said, We Did page on the Union website. It tells you what feedback you gave to us and what you wanted to change, and shows you what we did to make it happen. Go to imperialcollegeunion.org/feedback to see what we've done so far.





way. The Imperial Plus Volunteer Accreditation requires completing 100 hours of volunteering, participating in four skills based workshops and produce a written account of how you have demonstrated these skills in your volunteer role, meeting a minimum standard against an assessment framework.

For more information, visit imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus.

Imperial Plus

Imperial Plus is the Union's new volunteer accreditation scheme. Volunteers play a huge part in running the Union and making the services we provide amongst the best in the country. Imperial Plus will support our volunteers to develop new skills and provide evidence how they have been used, enhancing their employability.

Any student volunteering hours with or via Imperial College Union can be used towards the Imperial Plus Volunteer Certificate or Volunteer Accreditation.

Why register for Imperial Plus?

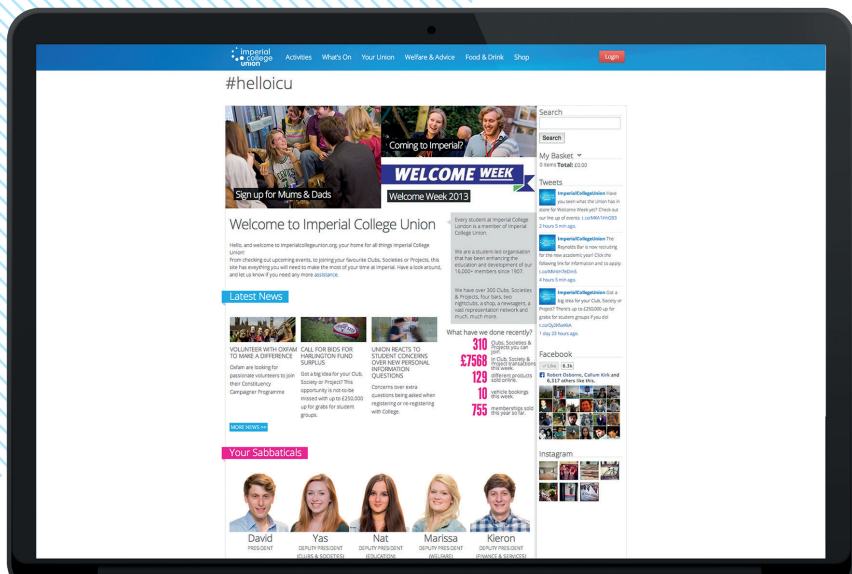
Get the recognition you deserve for the volunteering you do!

There's no extra work to gain the Imperial Plus Volunteer Certificate - just record your hours and complete a short skills questionnaire, or

Develop new skills by registering for the Imperial Plus Volunteer Accreditation, participating in skills based training workshops that will support you in your role and boost your employability

The Imperial Plus Volunteer Certificate requires 25, 50 or 75 hours volunteering, reflecting on the key skills you have developed along the





Website

The Union website, imperialcollegeunion.org, is your essential destination for all things Imperial College Union. The first thing to do is log in to the site using the big red button at the top, you use your normal College username and password. In fact do it now!

On our website, you to do anything from joining a Club, Society or Project to finding out what events are going on around campus, seeing what your Sabbaticals have been getting up to, to getting involved with the latest campaigns.

Once you have elected your Academic Representatives you'll be able to quickly find out who they are and contact them. The 'My Academic Reps' box on the right hand-side of every page will show you names and email addresses should you need to contact them.

We update the site daily with the latest news stories and information so it's worthwhile checking back regularly.





Volunteering pages of the Union website and the What's On emails for more information.

Imperial Hub

Imperial Hub believes that students have the power and potential to shape a better world. Informing and inspiring you about the issues that matter through conferences and speaker events, we can connect you to opportunities to make a difference and support you to volunteering in community projects or setting up your own social enterprises.

Imperial Hub support student led activities in the areas of Community Volunteering, Educational Disadvantage, Environment and Sustainability, Social Enterprise, International Development and Ethical Careers.

Their website, imperialhub.org is full of information on our latest volunteering opportunities. Recent and ongoing projects for 2013/14 are:

Schools Plus: volunteer to be a tutor in a local schools or community organisation to improve pupils' understanding, confidence and passion for a subject, including Engineering, Science, Maths, Coding and English.

Coder Dojo: teach children how to code at a monthly Saturday afternoon coding club. We invite 8-12 year olds from the local community to Imperial, and you do the rest... Past activities have included making computer games, animations and websites.

LinkAges: you'll be matched up with local charities that support older people, from one-off opportunities like making cocktails in carehomes, or cooking lunch at a community centre to befriending an isolated older person.

Volunteering

In late October 2013 we will be launching a brand new Volunteering Service for our members, bringing you an abundance of volunteering opportunities that can be easily searched and accessed via the Union website, as well as the option to sign up to regular Volunteering Service email bulletins.

We will be working with local community organisations, small charities and the larger not-for-profit organisations that thrive on skills, enthusiasm, creativity and passion that students can bring to their work, connecting you to the best volunteering opportunities London has to offer.

Whether you're looking to give your CV a boost, keep yourself occupied during College holidays, a one off experience or you want to meet new people, there will be opportunities for all interests that will fit in with everyone's timetable.

We'll be working with a number of student groups and our colleagues in Imperial Hub to bring you the best opportunities from the local community and further afield in London. What's more, you can use these volunteering hours towards Imperial Plus! Keep an eye on the

Here to help

The Advice Centre is your free service for confidential, impartial, independent advice and information. If you experience any problems during your time at Imperial, the Advice Centre is there for you. The sooner you contact the Advice Centre the more can be done to help.

Nigel Cooke, our Student Adviser, offers free confidential and impartial advice on a number of welfare issues including:

- ▲ **Academic Issues:** Appeals and complaints within your department or generally in the College.
- ▲ **Accommodation:** Tenancy Deposit Scheme, court claims, repairs, unfair terms within contracts, tenancy agreement checking service and general advice on your housing rights.
- ▲ **Money Advice:** Writing to credit companies to negotiate payment plans, negotiating with College over nonpayment of tuition or accommodation fees, rent, help with looking for extra funding.
- ▲ **Employment Rights:** Break entitlement, minimum wage, National Insurance Numbers, bullying and harassment at work.
- ▲ **Consumer Rights:** Taking products back, internet buying, distance selling and general statutory rights on purchases in any area.
- ▲ **Legal Help:** Advice with any legal situations that students find themselves in such as court summons or any other legal matter.
- ▲ **Health:** Personal safety, sexual health, alcohol and drug issues.

Nigel has experience in all these areas and can help with a multitude of issues. During any appeal or disciplinary issue in College, he is available as an advocate to ensure that processes are carried out in a fair manner. He also has close links with welfare services both within the College and externally. You can contact him directly by phone on 020 7594 8067, email advice@imperial.ac.uk or leave a message at the Union Reception on floor 2M.



Bars and Catering

The Union runs a number of bars on two of Imperial's campuses. Metric, FiveSixEight and The Union Bar are based at South Kensington, and Reynolds is based at the Charing Cross campus in Hammersmith.



Metric is home to the Union's most exciting music events, from Club Nights and live bands to social nights. It has played host to acts such as DJ Semtex, Jo Whiley, Scratch Perverts, Jamella Jamil, alongside a range of up and coming artists and on-campus talent. The venue features a superb sound system, state of the art lighting and everyday great value drinks prices and deals.



FiveSixEight is the perfect place to head for lunch between lectures or for a lively drink with a group of friends in the evening. Our food service is available Monday – Friday, 12:00 – 15:00 and 17:00 – 21:00, serving up a range of burgers, pizzas, salads and main meals such as hand-battered fish and chips, stir fried chicken fajitas and even curries! You can also get small sides if you're looking for a quite bite to eat and platters to share with friends. With a mixture of indoor and outdoor seating, we show all major sporting events on the big screens. A gathering place for all students, it is truly the main social place at Imperial.

FiveSixEight.



The Union Bar is a great place for a chilled out drink with friends. It is a traditionally themed pub that is renowned on campus for its selection of real ales and guest beers. Every month there is guest ale available, voted for by you. Choices go up online at imperialcollegeunion.org/realales at the beginning of every month, and the ale with the highest votes is stocked in our bar the following month. The winning ale is announced online, so look out for our winners and a new poll every few weeks.

THE UNION BAR
est. 1907

Events include:

There are a number of regular events in our venues during term time. These include Indigo, our monthly indie music night offering the best in new Indie, Rock 'n' Roll and carefully selected Alternative Classics, and our Super Quiz in FiveSixEight every Tuesday from 20:00 – entry to the quiz is free and there are always prizes up for grabs! Check out imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on to see all the regular and one-off events in our venues.



Hidden from view behind Charing Cross Hospital, the Reynolds Bar is a gem in the heart of the Charing Cross campus. Reynolds is run entirely by student volunteers during term time, and open weekday evenings from 18:00 till 23:00 with late opening on Wednesdays and Fridays. Newly refurbished this summer, there is a huge variety of alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks available.

Wednesday is Sports Night where all of the Medics' sports teams and supporters celebrate or commiserate the day's results, and Fridays play host to our legendary BOPS, where 450+ students (often in fancy dress) dance the night away. Sports, films and television shows are also shown throughout the week, so you need not miss your favourite programmes to have a good night out.

Reynolds will be having two weeks of events at the start of term. Make sure you pop down once Welcome Week is over to carry on the fun and don't forget to visit the rest of the year as well!



What we have to offer

Shop and Newsagent

The Union runs a shop and a newsagent, which can be found on the Sherfield walkway. Both outlets stock a wide variety of goods at competitive prices, and because they're controlled by the Union, every penny you spend is reinvested back into the Union's services, Clubs & Societies and staff, so that you get the full benefit.

The Union Shop is opposite the Senior Common Room and is the place to get all your stationery and study products as well as a great range of Imperial College London branded merchandise and memorabilia.

News+ is our newsagent and confectionery shop situated opposite the Union Shop and adjacent to the Senior Common Room. Grab a paper, snacks and drinks at any time during the day. News+ will be moving to a bigger space on the Sherfield Way in January 2014 and will sell a much wider range of products.

shop

imperialcollegeunion.org/shop





Andreas Thomik, GSU President

gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk

Graduate Students' Union (GSU)

The GSU has an Executive Committee that is responsible for all the activities that the GSU put on. There are also six elected Academic and Welfare Officers (AWOs) who cover various different subject areas: Medicine, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering, Business and Humanities. Each of the AWOs are responsible for chairing meetings which bring together all the student representatives within their subject area, to discuss issues they are facing and share best practice across the learning community.

As a postgraduate student you are part of the Graduate School. The Graduate School is a College body responsible for Quality Assurance of all postgraduate programmes and also provides award winning transferable Professional skills courses. The GSU President and Officers also attend a range of Union and Graduate School committee meetings, representing the interests and needs of Imperial's postgraduate community.

gsu@imperial.ac.uk

imperialcollegeunion.org/gsu

facebook.com/imperialgsu

Hi! I am Andreas, this year's President of the Graduate Students' Union and third year PhD student in the Department of Bioengineering. As President, my job is to both oversee the smooth running of the GSU committee and represent the interests of all postgraduate students on various Faculty committees. In this role, my top priority is to ensure that your feedback is heard and acted upon. You came to Imperial College London expecting excellence in teaching and supervision, and I will do my best to make sure that is exactly what you get. If there is anything you think falls below these standards or you would like to see changed, don't hesitate to contact me or your Faculty's AWO.

Of course there is more to life than your degree, but it is sometimes difficult to drag yourself away from "that one last experiment" or "this paper I absolutely need to submit before 5am". That's why the rest of the GSU and I work hard to bring you a range of interesting and exciting events tailored to your busy life. Movie nights, parties and daytrips are only a sample of what you can look forward to in the future!



Boshuo Guo, Deputy President (Representation)

gsu.dprepresentation@imperial.ac.uk

Hi, I'm Boshuo, your GSU Deputy President (Representation) and am here to ensure that you are heard. My role in the GSU is to coordinate the Academic and Welfare Officers' work, including coordinating some of their meetings and communication with our university and, more importantly, learning your needs and working with AWOs (Academic and Welfare Officers) to protect your welfare. If you would love to be a student representative, you are more than welcome to join us!

I'm currently a second year PhD student. Last year I was the AWO of Humanities and was once the student representative during my MSC studies in the same department.

Feel free to find me if you think there is something we can help you with. Also, we will be more than glad to meet you on GSU events!



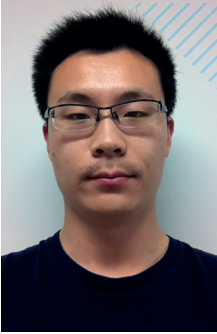
Ollie Dean, Deputy President (Operations)

gsu.dpopersations@imperial.ac.uk

Hello! My name is Ollie and I'm doing my PhD in the EEE department. I'm working with micromachines (NOT the toy cars. That would be awesome but probably not the best use of my funding...) and nanomachines and in particular, making tiny electromagnetic levitation devices.

I'm this year's Deputy President (Operations) which means I'm responsible for coordinating the efforts of the GSU Events team, Marketing and Publicity officer and the Treasurer to provide events and activities that appeal to busy, hard working Imperial postgrads. We'll work to provide a wide range of exciting things to do throughout the year such as parties, inter-uni networking events, theatre trips, the postgraduate Pub Quiz and whatever else we come up with! If you don't have time for everything, at the very least you should be able to enjoy some free food and drinks on us!

In case you're the kind of person who likes to be involved with societies, there will be opportunities for Masters and PhD students to join this year's events team and help organise the postgrad events and activities. You'll be notified about this in due course.



Qize Ding, Secretary

gsu.honsec@imperial.ac.uk

Hello, I am Ding, a 2nd year PhD student in Cancer biology in the department of experimental medicine. I have been in Imperial since my undergraduate studies in biochemistry in 2005. I enjoy being an Imperial College student and my study for many years. This year I am very glad that will be taking on the position of Secretary in GSU. In this secretary position, I will be responsible to ensure agendas and papers for every meeting are circulated, our minutes are published for everyone to read. I am very happy to help if you have any issues that will be added in the agenda of GSU meeting and hopefully we can address them.



Gheorghe-teodor Bercea,
(Treasurer)

gsu.treasurer@imperial.ac.uk

Hi everyone, I am this year's Treasurer of the GSU. I am a second year PhD student in the Department of Computing. I have started at Imperial in 2008 as an undergraduate and after finishing my MEng degree in Computing, I decided to carry on as a PhD in the Software Performance Optimisation group. In my role as Treasurer I hope to use the many years of experience at Imperial to help the GSU fund many successful social events throughout the year. If you have any questions or just want to chat about new event ideas please feel free to get in touch.





Marily Nika, Marketing & Publicity Officer

gsu.publicityandmarketing@imperial.ac.uk

Hi, I'm Marily, the Marketing & Publicity Officer for the GSU. My job is to advertise of all GSU events, and promote the GSU to postgraduate students within Imperial College London. I work with all members of the committee and report to the GSU Events Officer regularly to make sure that all of our events and activities are promoted effectively. Keep an eye out for our publicity around the College campuses, and online via our website and Facebook page [facebook.com/ImperialGSU](https://www.facebook.com/ImperialGSU).

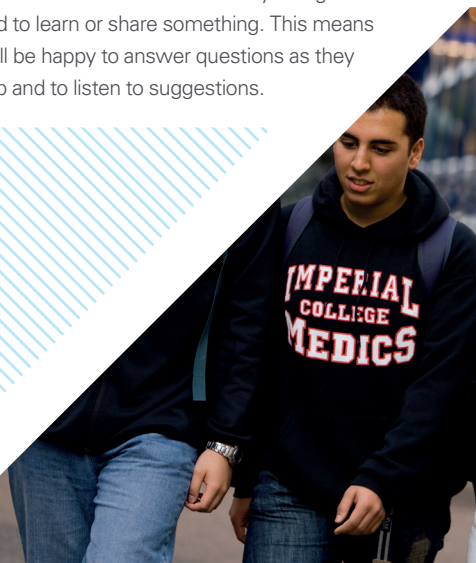


Ruxandra Luca, AWO - Business

awo-bus@imperial.ac.uk

Hi, I'm Ruxandra. I am a second year PhD student, specialising in consumer behaviour. As AWO of the Business School, I am interested in helping students feel comfortable during their time here, whether they are at the beginning of their programme or nearing the end. I will be looking after issues regarding both the different Master's programmes and the Doctoral programme.

In my time as AWO, my aim is to get students involved in social activities across the programmes and disciplines. I think it is helpful to get feedback from students as they recognise the need to learn or share something. This means that I will be happy to answer questions as they come up and to listen to suggestions.





Mohammad Hassan Ahmadzadeh, AWO - Engineering
 awo-eng@imperial.ac.uk

Hi everyone, I am this year's Academic and Welfare Officer (AWO) for the Faculty of Engineering. I am currently a first year PhD student within the Biomechanics group at Bio-engineering department. In our group we work hard on very interesting research topics to improve the quality of healthcare and my research focus is on validation of human biomechanical models. My role as AWO is to collate information regarding academic experience from the Faculty of Engineering representatives, initiate change on the back of feedback and ensure the quality of all postgraduate-facing services.

I will represent the masters and PhD students in the GSU and try to make sure the postgraduate voices are heard at College committees and sort out any problems you may have. Engineering students are welcome to contact me with questions, suggestions, complaints or any other issues about their education. I can raise your queries or suggestions or let another rep raise them at the relevant committee and therefore enhance the postgraduate student experience.



Marta Sawicka, AWO - Life Sciences
 awo-lifesci@imperial.ac.uk

Hi, my name is Marta and I am your Academic and Welfare Officer for Life Sciences. I am a 2nd year PhD student in the Division of Molecular Biosciences, and I have been at Imperial since my undergraduate studies. As your AWO, I will represent all postgraduate students in the department and do my best to provide a smooth communication between you and the College. As your welfare is a priority for the College, I will try to help you resolving your problems and concerns. If you have any questions, need more information or simply want to share some ideas, please feel free to email me.

▲
The Events Officer and AWOs for Medicine Physical Sciences will be elected in the Autumn Elections in October 2013.





Hammersmith Student Community (HSC)

Hammersmith Hospital campus is home to over 600 postgraduates, all in the Faculty of Medicine. The Hammersmith Student Community (HSC) is there to run socials and events for all the postgraduates based there. Examples of past events include five-a-side football tournaments and a summer boat party in conjunction with the GSU.

The campus is located next to Hammersmith Hospital. Just behind the campus there is a large green space and nature reserve, the Wormwood Scrubs Common, and Linford Christie Stadium. For sport fans, Premiership club QPR are just down the road, and the Janet Leisure Centre is a five minute walk. Shepherd's Bush and the Westfield centre are the nearest areas to relax with friends, have a drink or have a meal out.

The HSC are always keen for more volunteers to get involved with planning and running events. If you're based at the Hammersmith campus, get in touch via email and find out more about them and their activities through their Facebook page.

[facebook.com/hammersmithstudents](https://www.facebook.com/hammersmithstudents)
hammersmithstudents@imperial.ac.uk

The Commonwealth Building,
The Hammersmith Hospital,
Du Cane Road,
London, W12 0NN



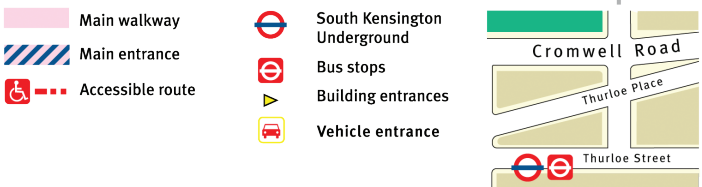
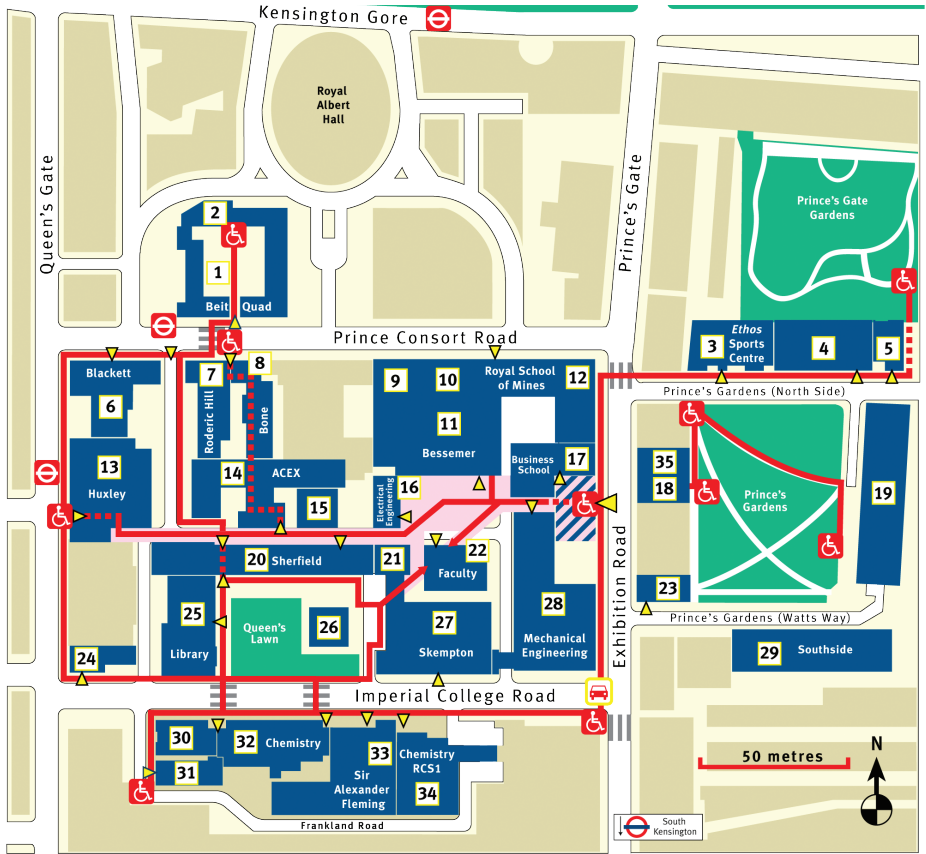
Silwood Park Students' Union


Silwood Park Students' Union caters for students on Masters courses run by the Life Sciences Department. Like all of our other Constituent Unions, they are run by elected students. They organise events and run clubs and societies at the Silwood Park campus, and have reps that can provide help with your course, accommodation and welfare.





union.ic.ac.uk/silwoodpark
silwood.chair@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College London
Silwood Park Campus
Buckhurst Road
Ascot
Berkshire, SL5 7PY





 Buildings where wheelchair access is not possible at this time

1	Beit Quadrangle	11	Besemer Building	27	Skempton Building
2	Imperial College Union	12	Goldsmiths Building	28	Mechanical Engineering Building
3	Ethos Sports Centre	13	Huxley Building	29	Southside
4	Prince's Gdns, North Side Garden Hall	14	ACE Extension	30	Sir Ernst Chain Building
5	Weeks Hall	15	William Penney Laboratory 	31	Flowers Building
6	Blackett Laboratory	16	Electrical Engineering	32	Chemistry Building
7	Roderic Hill Building	17	Business School	33	Sir Alexander Fleming Building
8	Bone Building	18	53 Prince's Gate	34	Chemistry RCS1
9	Royal School of Mines 	19	Eastside	35	52 Prince's Gate
10	Aston Webb				
		20	Sherfield Building Student Hub Conference Office		
		21	Grantham Institute for Climate Change		
		22	Faculty Building		
		23	58 Prince's Gate 		
		24	170 Queen's Gate 		
		25	Imperial College and Science Museum Libraries		
		26	Queen's Tower		



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- Explore a guide to College services and facilities
- Find out what's on at the College
- Search campus maps
- Search the Library catalogue
- Find staff and students in the people search
- View current PC availability
- Get live travel information
- Get the latest College and Union news
- Get help and advice
- Complete and submit your Student Online Evaluation
- **And more...**



Who is here to help me?

All of the following services are free. They will keep anything you say confidential, and you will not have to share your personal details.

Crime and emergencies



On campus (South Kensington)	4444
Open 24 hours a day	
Security	020 7589 1000
Open 24 hours a day	
Police	police@imperial.ac.uk
Sexual Assault Helpline	women: 0808 800 0123
Open Monday–Friday 19.00–22.00	men: 0808 800 0122

Need to talk?



Nightline	020 7631 0101
Run by students, available for students to use 18.00–08.00	
Samaritans	0845 790 9090
Open 24 hours a day	
London Gay and Lesbian Switchboard	0300 330 0630
Lines are open 10.00–23.00, 365 days a year	
College Counselling	020 7594 9637
Call to make an appointment	
College Tutors	college-tutors@imperial.ac.uk
Chaplaincy	020 7594 9600

Your body



College Health Centre	020 7584 6301
Line open 24 hours a day	
John Hunter Sexual Health Clinic	0203 315 6699
Open Monday–Friday, various times	
Brook Sexual Health Advice Line	0808 802 1234
Lines are open Monday–Friday 11.00–15.00	
Free contraception and pregnancy tests are available from the Union, the Health Centre and the John Hunter Clinic.	

People problems



Is someone or something troubling you? Feeling harassed? Worried about a friend? Concerned by someone's actions? College tutors offer confidential, impartial help on any academic or personal issue.

college-tutors@imperial.ac.uk

Drugs – Talk to Frank	0800 77 66 00
Alcohol – Drinkline	0800 917 8282
Lines are open Monday–Friday 09.00–20.00, Saturday and Sunday 11.00–16.00.	

Support your learning



College Disability Advisory Service	020 7594 9755
Reception open Monday–Friday 09.00–16.30	
English Language Support	020 7594 8748
For students wishing to improve their English	

Money problems



National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Lines are open Monday–Friday 09.00–21.00, Saturday 09.30–13.00	
College Student Finance	020 7594 8047
Reception open Monday–Friday 09.30–17.00, Wednesday 10.00–17.00	
Student Adviser	020 7594 8067
Available Monday–Friday 10.00–17.00	

If you don't fit into any of the above...

The Advice Centre	020 7594 8067
For advice on any issue	
The Deputy President (Welfare)	020 7594 8060
	58064 (internally)

work at the union

**Register online for your opportunity to join us
at our Student Staff Recruitment Day!**

There are plenty of opportunities for casual work in the Union. With different pay rates and shifts available at all times of the day, there is sure to be a position that fits in with your studies.

Positions Available

Bar Steward Team
Catering
Function Team

Go online at **imperialcollegeunion.org/jobs** and register your interest. You will need to be available on 25 September.

Imperial College Union

Beit Quadrangle
Prince Consort Road
London
SW7 2BB

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Twitter: @icunion

