

The  
**Postgraduate  
Handbook**

2014/15

**imperialcollegeunion.org**



**h** looking for a  
brilliant part-time  
job?

We are currently taking  
applications for bar  
staff in the new h-bar.

Have a look at the vacancies  
section at  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/jobs](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/jobs).

Find out more about the h-bar at  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/h-bar](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/h-bar).

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Get ahead with the Welcome section of our website. We have lots of information that will help you prepare for your start at Imperial including event listings, top-tips and more!

**[imperialcollegeunion.org/welcome](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/welcome)**

All information correct at the time of going to print (September 2014)



**We are Imperial College Union - and so are you.**

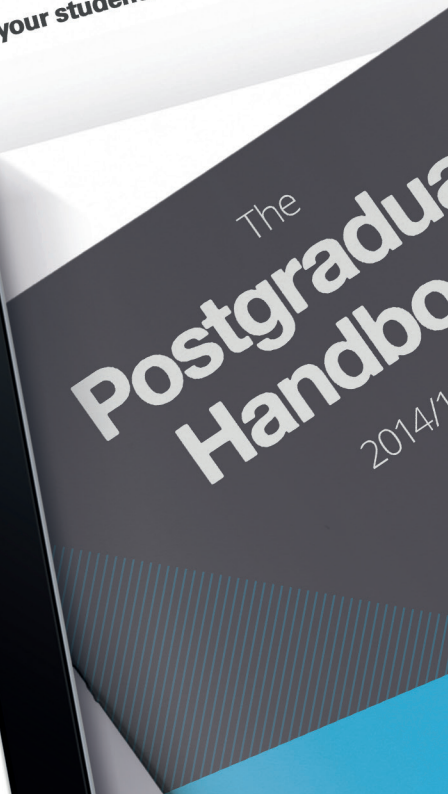
Every student at Imperial is automatically a member of Imperial College Union, one of the most vibrant and diverse students' unions in the UK!

**We are here to make sure your time at the College is the best it can be.**

Your Officer Trustees take a year out of their studies to lead the Union alongside over 2,300 other elected students. Our election turnouts are the highest in England and Wales - we are proud to be a democratic organisation.

From our Academic Representation Network to our 300+ Clubs, Societies & Projects, we are working hard to amplify the student voice and create a welcoming student community.

**Welcome to Imperial College Union, your students' union!**



## Who are elected officers?

Our main elected officers are called Officer Trustees. 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 the Union and their doors are always open. If you have any queries or problems whatsoever, make sure you get in touch with them.

The 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 its 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. Meet Nida, the GSU President for 2014/15, on page 7.

Students based at the Hammersmith campus also have the Hammersmith Student Community (find out more on page 31) and students based on the Silwood campus have the Silwood Park Students' Union (find out more on page 31). Both groups are run by students based at these campuses.



**As a Postgraduate student, you are also part of the Graduate Students' Union (GSU). The GSU are one of our Constituent Unions, and all the people responsible for running the GSU are elected Postgraduate students here at the College. The committee is responsible for all the activities of the GSU which include representing Postgraduates within the Union and the College, communicating closely with both the Graduate School and Postgraduate students and organising social events throughout the academic year for the postgraduate community. Find out more about them on page 7.**





## Tom Wheeler

President

union.president@imperial.ac.uk

@icu\_Pres 

Welcome to Imperial! Whether you're a first-year Undergraduate or final-year Postgraduate; it is the job of 50+ full-time staff, as well as hundreds of casual student employees at the Union to make your life great. As Imperial College Union President, it's my job to work in the team of Officer Trustees to make sure that's exactly what we are doing for you, our members.

Working closely with the Union has provided me with some of the most enjoyable moments of my time at Imperial, and as President, I am here to make sure that your experience at Imperial is as valuable as possible. Whether it's a problem in your department, personal welfare or whether you just want a chance to chill out, let us know.

We're here to represent you to your department and at every level of the College and even to the Government. So make sure

you check our Blogs, as well as the emails we'll be sending out in the coming weeks to see what we've been up to.

I'm looking forward to meeting as many students as I can, so if you want to get in touch, drop me an email, tweet me or if you see me around campus, come say hello.

Tom

▲▲  
**We are the voice for all Postgraduate students at Imperial and we want you to have the best possible time here!**

## Graduate students' Union (GSU)

The GSU has an Executive Committee that is responsible for all the activities that the GSU put on. The committee consists of:

- ▲ President
- ▲ Deputy President (Representation)
- ▲ Deputy President (Operations)
- ▲ Treasurer
- ▲ Secretary
- ▲ Events Officer
- ▲ Sports & Activities Officer
- ▲ Marketing & Publicity Officer
- ▲ Raise and Give (RAG) Officer

These officers run the GSU day-to-day, organise events and socials throughout the year, help you get involved in interesting activities and, probably most importantly, help represent you to the College.

There are also five Academic and Welfare Officers (AWOs) for the following subject areas: Medicine, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering, and the Business School. Each AWO is 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.

There are some positions free on the GSU Committee, and we'll be holding elections in the first term to fill these positions. Look out for news about that, and in the mean time, find out more about the GSU on our website, [imperialcollegeunion.org/gsu](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/gsu).

[gsu@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:gsu@imperial.ac.uk)  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/gsu](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/gsu)  
[facebook.com/imperialgsu](https://www.facebook.com/imperialgsu)



## Nida Mahmud

GSU President

[gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk)

Hello and welcome to Imperial. I'm Nida, the President of the Graduate Students' Union for the 2014/15 academic year.

The Graduate Students' Union (GSU) is the representative body within the Imperial College Union for the postgraduate community across all Imperial campuses. The GSU works alongside the Imperial College Union President to ensure that the requirements of postgraduate students are catered for. The GSU also ensures that postgraduates' social and recreational needs are met and holds a number of events during the year.

Postgraduate students at Imperial are at the forefront of the research done and the experience they have as a student should be the best. Therefore, at the GSU we ensure that this happens. The work we do focuses on the academic, welfare and social needs of postgraduates.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more please do not hesitate in getting in touch with me at [gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk).



## Abi de Bruin

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

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@icu\_DPCS 

Hi I'm Abi the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). I look after all of the 300+ Clubs, Societies & Projects that Imperial College Union has to offer – a pretty broad role considering we have everything from A Capella to Yoga and more for (almost) all the alphabet in-between.

All our Clubs, Societies & Projects will be showcased at the Freshers' Fair at our South Kensington campus on Tuesday 7 October where they will have stands with flyers and freebies accompanied by some exciting demonstrations. Clubs, Societies & Projects are one of the biggest factors in helping you enjoy your time at Imperial.

Our Give It A Go scheme (GIAG) should help you find the club for you by letting you try out a huge range of our activities before you become a member. Our groups put on a load of events, trips and taster sessions so get involved and join in.

Clubs, Societies & Projects are an integral part of your student experience, at a university like Imperial studying can easily take over your life if you let it. It is so important that you take some time off, and the skills you gain from taking part in activities such as teamwork, planning and organisation are hugely valuable to employers.

University is one of the only times you will have so many opportunities to try new things, meet so many new people and have so much fun! I can definitely say the Union's Clubs, Societies & Projects have been a huge factor in enjoying my time here so far and would urge everyone to take part in as much as they can.

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

Abi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Abi de Bruin'.





## Pascal Loose

Deputy President (Education)

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@icu\_DPE 

Hi everyone, I'm Pascal and I am your Deputy President (Education), for short DPE, for this year. I'm working together with the Union to amplify the student voice and to ensure you guys have the best academic experience during your time at Imperial.

The Union offers many exciting activities and as a Postgraduate student you have your own Graduate Student's Union, for short GSU. The GSU's president is Nida and together they are here to represent your academic and welfare concerns and to host social and careers events throughout the year.

You also have the chance to run as a representative for your course or research group. This is a great way to change your course by listening to feedback and to gain invaluable team working and campaigning skills. Plus you get to learn the structure behind your course and meet many of the staff members.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas or want to grab a coffee, come over to the Union building and say hi! I hope you guys have an amazing time here at Imperial and I'm looking forward to welcoming you!

Pascal

**We are amplifying the student voice, representing your views to College every day, making your academic life at Imperial the best it can be.**



## Chris Kaye

Deputy President (Welfare)

dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk

@icu\_DPW 

Hello and welcome! I'm Chris and I'm your Deputy President (Welfare). This means I want to ensure you are supported during your time at Imperial. This is now my 5th year at Imperial so I know a thing or two about what life here is like and so I'm confident you will have a superb time here.

Postgraduates are full members of the Union, and have all the rights, privileges and access to services associated with Union membership. The Union provides a wide array of social activities to help you settle in. There are many services provided by College and the Union to support you during your time here, such as your Personal Tutor, the Counselling Service, and the Union Advice Centre.


Another aspect of my role is to facilitate campaigns on issues affecting Imperial students. The definition of what affects Imperial students is pretty broad – it can be an

issue on your course, on campus, or even in the wider world. Come and have a chat about it and we'll try to get it going!

Have a fantastic start to your time here and remember to look after yourself. If you ever need pointing in the right direction, or just a friendly chat, I'm only an email or door-knock away.

Chris

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris".

 **We are building a student community that is welcoming and diverse.**



## Alex Savell

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

[dpfs@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpfs@imperial.ac.uk)

[@icu\\_DPFS](https://twitter.com/icu_DPFS) 

Hi I'm Alex, your Deputy President (Finance & Services) for this year. I started at Imperial in 2006 with my undergraduate degree and have stayed here all the way through – doing both an MRes and a PhD; so I know the College and the Union pretty well by now, and the provision for PG students that ICU gives is really close to my heart.

My job this year primarily involves the finances of all the Clubs, Societies & Projects we have to offer as well as overseeing how our licenced venues are run and the entertainment we put on there. Particularly at our new postgraduate venue h-Bar where I have worked as a staff member and have a lot of ideas for in the coming year.

I really want to help get more Postgraduates involved in Clubs, Societies and Projects; and a couple of the ones that I've been personally involved in over the years have been Riding

and Polo and Sci-Fi. Part of my job is to be your student voice, so please come and find me if you have any thoughts ideas or concerns.

Good luck with all your degrees and activities,

Alex



**We want you to be proud of Imperial College Union, one of the most active Students' Unions in the UK.**

# Life as a Postgraduate at the College

## Study Type

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**44%**

**6,839**

Postgraduate

**23%**

**3,555**

Postgraduate Taught

**21%**

**3,284**

Postgraduate Research

**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 also has an active student community, and Postgraduates are a big part of that. Imperial has hundreds of social and extra-curricular opportunities for Postgraduates run by the Union and the College, including its own postgraduate Union, which results in us having the UK's highest level of Postgraduate participation in students life at university.

The big difference between Postgraduate and undergraduate life is not just the complexity of the subject matter, but the independence and maturity expected of students - 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 (e.g. MSc or MBA qualification), which usually last for one year, and doctoral research (e.g. PhD qualification), which can last for four or more years. A small but growing number of students are on a combined MSc and PhD programme for four years.

## Representation for Postgraduates

The 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 20.

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 emails for details.

Postgraduate student life requires a higher level of independence and self-motivation than undergraduate study. 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'll have with College and your department is, again, different from that undergraduates have. Your responsibilities to College, and their mutual responsibilities to you, are set out in the 'Postgraduate Precepts' – a set of expectations determined by College. 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.

For all Postgraduates, a good working relationship with your supervisor or course leader is paramount. If you have any issues or concerns the Union can help. There are many 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 20.

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 Welcome Week.



Alex Savell

Deputy President (Finance & Services)  
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@icu\_DPFS 

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.** 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!



# Imperial College Union - what we have to offer

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! Our members tell us that being part of a Club, Society or Project is one of the best things about being at Imperial. You can get involved whether you are a beginner, expert or just interested in trying something new.

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

Our Clubs, Societies & Projects also get involved in Give It A Go, a scheme that lets you try something new. Last year, 71 of our Clubs,

Societies & Projects and over 3,000 students took the opportunity to try new activities such as Synchronised Swimming, Cinema projecting, Meditation and Greek dancing. Look out for more information online at [imperialcollegeunion.org/giag](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/giag) about our Give It A Go activities when it runs in October and January.

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

Our Clubs, Societies & Projects 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, gain new experiences and skills or develop old ones. See a full list of all our activities at [imperialcollegeunion.org/a-to-z](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/a-to-z) and read more about Activities in our Activities Handbook.

## Volunteering

Volunteers are at the core of everything the Union does. From our Academic Representation Network to our Club, Society & Project Officers, over 2,500 volunteer positions are filled by elected students. There are a number of opportunities to volunteer with and through the Union via Community Connections, our volunteer brokerage scheme, and Imperial Hub, a national volunteering organisation based at the Union. We recognise the hours our volunteers put in through Imperial Plus, our volunteer accreditation scheme.



## Community Connections

Community Connections connects Imperial students to the community in which they study and live through volunteering opportunities.

Make a difference to an issue you care about; ignite a passion you didn't know you had; develop new skills; meet new people or find out what it would be like to work in charity, social enterprise or local community organisation by volunteering with them. Whatever you study or the year you are in, if you have a couple of days to spare each month or just a few hours, if you want to volunteer by yourself or participate in a mass volunteer event - there's a volunteering opportunity to suit everyone's interests and timetables.

Visit Community Connections online at [imperialcollegeunion.org/volunteering](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/volunteering) where you will be able to:

- ▲ Register for our Community Connections fortnightly newsletter, bringing the latest volunteering opportunities straight to your inbox
- ▲ Search the hundreds of volunteer opportunities available to Imperial students, filtering your search dependent on your interests
- ▲ Sign up for a Mass Volunteering activity individually or as a group, where you'll take part in a fun and rewarding volunteering activity where you'll see the difference your efforts make immediately.
- ▲ Alternatively, visit us at the Community Connections Volunteering Fair on 14 October 2014 in the Great Hall on the South Kensington Campus.

The time spent volunteering through Community Connections can be counted towards the Imperial Plus Volunteer Certificate or Volunteer Accreditation.

Make the most of your time at Imperial and get to know the community you study and live in!

# Imperial Plus

Developing your skills

## Imperial Plus

Imperial Plus is a Union programme that acknowledges and celebrates the volunteering students undertake either with the Union, with College or through Community Connections volunteering activities.

The Union has over 3,000 volunteers who play a huge part in running the Union, making the services we provide amongst the best in the country. We acknowledge our volunteers' efforts, success and achievements through Imperial Plus and at our Union Awards each year.

By registering for the Volunteer Certificate or Volunteer Accreditation, Imperial Plus encourages volunteers to reflect on the skills they gain through volunteering, providing them with a downloadable record of their volunteer experience, demonstrating how they have applied the key skills sought after by graduate employers.

The Volunteer Accreditation, externally accredited by awarding body ASDAN, provides free training opportunities for volunteers to

develop skills that will assist them in their role whilst enhancing their employability.

Completing the Volunteer Certificate will acknowledge volunteering for 25, 50 or 75 hours in each academic year. Logging volunteering hours will take no more than 10 minutes each week.

The Volunteer Accreditation requires 100 hours to be logged, attendance at four Introduction to... skill based workshops and producing a short reflective assignment based on the learning outcomes of each workshop.

For anyone with a key volunteer role with or via the Union in the subsequent academic year, they are eligible to apply for the Volunteer Qualification, an ILM Level 5 Award in the Management of Volunteers.

Register for Imperial Plus online at [imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus).

29

29 Students have completed the Volunteer Accreditation.

98

98 Students have completed the Volunteer Certificate.

OVER  
14,000

Over 14,000 hours of volunteering have already been recorded for Imperial Plus.

## Imperial Hub

As a student at Imperial, you have the power and potential to shape a better world. Imperial Hub can support you to gain the skills and experiences that will allow you make a difference with your time here.

University is the perfect time to meet new people, step out of your comfort zone and gain new skills. Each year Imperial Hub organises a range of conferences and talks, volunteering opportunities and training programmes to help you learn more about some of the greatest challenges the world is facing, make a difference to peoples' lives, and start up your own social businesses. From volunteering in

local schools to teaching Coding, Engineering, Sports, Maths or Science to organising a conference on International Development, to helping College to reduce its environmental impact: there are so many ways for you to gain new experiences and do something good.

Last year over 1300 students came together to make a difference. How will you make your mark? Find us at Freshers' Fair or sign up to our newsletter for more: [www.imperialhub.org](http://www.imperialhub.org)

@ImperialHub 

[facebook.com/ImperialHub](https://facebook.com/ImperialHub)

[hello@imperialhub.org](mailto:hello@imperialhub.org)



## Campaigns

Imperial College Union runs a number of campaigns all year round. Some are one-off campaigns and others are continuous i.e. they run 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. Some of our continuous campaigns we run are:

**Rep Week:** we hold two Rep Weeks a year to celebrate the great changes that have taken place with the help of your Academic Representation 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 [#loveyourrep](https://twitter.com/loveyourrep)).

**Stress Less:** this campaign provides 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, free massages in the Library and even a giant bouncy castle!

The Union has even campaigned for student discounts with certain businesses in and around South Kensington, details of which can be found on our website at [imperialcollegeunion.org/discounts](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/discounts).

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](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/feedback) to see what we've done so far.

## Academic Representation Network



### Representation

Over 500 students come together in our Academic Representation Network, making sure you're represented and heard at every level in the College. Our Academic Representatives work closely with the College to make your education is the best it can be. The Academic Representation Network spans all Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses and research groups, and collect invaluable feedback from students about all aspects of their academic experience, which is then fed back to College staff. This helps us to initiate changes and guarantee 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 2013/14 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 Representative to speak on their

behalf. If you have any teaching, resource or assessment concerns e-mail your Academic Representative with your concern. 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 website by selecting your course or research group [imperialcollegeunion.org/representatives](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/representatives).

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 [representation@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:representation@imperial.ac.uk).

### Who represents me?

#### MY DEPARTMENTAL REP

Rachel Hounslow

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE

#### MY FACULTY REP

James Murphy

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

#### MY SABBATICAL

Pascal Loose

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

This is an example of what you would see if you were in Chemistry.

# The Advice Centre

## Advice

If you experience difficulties with any aspect of your College life, be it your studies, accommodation, wellbeing, finances - anything that might affect you as a student - then we are here to help. Our Advice Centre is your free service for confidential, impartial, independent advice and information.

We offer 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. We can provide an advocate to ensure that processes are carried out in a fair manner.
- ▲ **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.

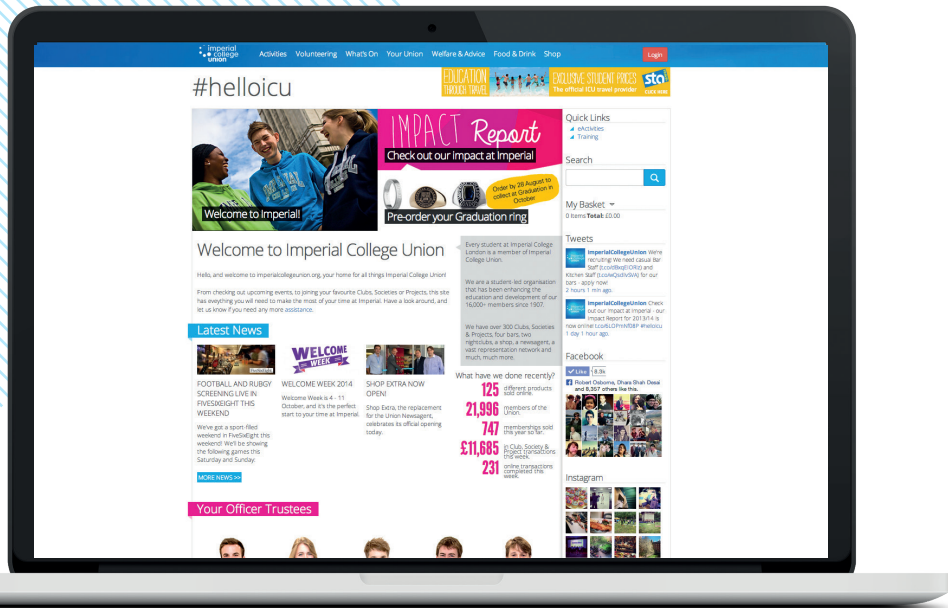
▲ **Employment Rights:** Break entitlement, minimum wage, National Insurance Numbers, bullying and harassment at work.

▲ **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.

Get in touch with the Advice Centre by phone on 020 7594 8067, email [advice@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:advice@imperial.ac.uk) or leave a message at the Union Reception on floor 2M. You can also find useful advice and information in our Very Helpful Handbook.



## Website

The Union website, [imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org), is where you'll find 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 can do anything from joining a Club, Society or Project to finding out what events are going on around campus, seeing what your Officer Trustees have been doing, to getting involved with the latest campaigns and volunteering opportunities.

Community Connections and all of the great volunteering opportunities we offer can be found on the Volunteering tab. You can also find out more about our Imperial Plus scheme and how to register your volunteer hours.

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.

The website is also the place to find out about all of the Union's facilities including our bars and nightclubs. Our online Shop let's you buy tickets for events, join our Clubs, Societies & Projects or even get branded Imperial clothing!

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

# Food, Drink, Events & Entertainment

## Food & Drink

We run a number of bars on our South Kensington campus and one bar on our Charing Cross campus. They do everything from lunchtime food service, to big nights out as part of big events like our Summer Ball. Our spaces are truly the main social places at Imperial.

## Events and entertainment

There are a number of regular events in our venues during term time. At the h-bar, you'll find stand-up comedy, open mic nights with our music societies, chilled out acoustic sessions and lively Friday nights with a live DJ. The GSU also run a regular pub quiz, so get a team together to test your knowledge. Metric plays host to regular club nights such as Indigo, our indie music night, Roquefort, our cheesy rock night, and iPop, our cheesy pop night! Check out [imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on) to see all the events in our venues.

## Our Promises

Imperial College Union is not-for-profit charity; every penny we make goes back into our services and venues. Our aim is to offer you great value for money on all of our products, provide excellent customer service in all of our outlets and venues, and deliver a range of events to cater for the diverse student community at Imperial. These are our promises to you.

Imperial College Union will always:

- ▲ ensure you are treated with respect and provided with the best possible service.
- ▲ ensure the safety of our customers at all times.
- ▲ defend equal opportunities and promote a welcoming and diverse student community for all.
- ▲ seek feedback from our customers and respond promptly.

Visit [imperialcollegeunion.org/ourpromises](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ourpromises).



## h-bar

For our Postgraduate students, the h-bar is our brand new bar and café in the Sherfield building with Postgraduate and staff events and offers. Open on weekdays from 10:00 to 23:00, offers international grab and go lunch options in the café and traditional fare from hearty pies to favourite tipples in the pub.

We work hard to make sure that the h-bar is the best place for all Postgraduates and staff to socialise. Events such as the Graduate Students' Union Pub Quiz, comedy night and three-minute thesis are some of the highlights of the calendar. Of course, as with all of the Union, we are student-led so if you have an idea for an event let us know!

Every month, you can vote for guest ales to be stocked in the h bar. Choices go up online at [imperialcollegeunion.org/realales](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/realales) every month, and the products with the most votes is stocked in our bar for the following month.

The entrance to the h-bar is in the Sherfield Building foyer on level 0 opposite the lifts and down the steps.







# FiveSixEight.

## THE UNION BAR

est. 1957

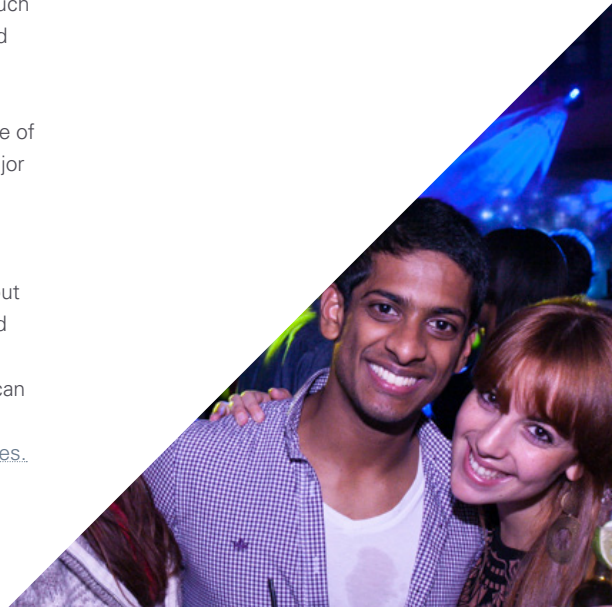
### FiveSixEight

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 – Sunday at lunchtimes and evenings, serving up a range of burgers, pizzas, salads and main meals such as hand-battered fish and chips, burritos and even chicken fajitas! You can also get small sides if you're looking for a 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.

### The Union Bar

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. You can also vote for guest ales to be stocked in the Union Bar at [imperialcollegeunion.org/realales](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/realales).

FiveSixEight and the Union Bar are located on the ground floor of the Union Building to the left as you come in through the main entrance from the quad.



The logo for Metric, featuring the word "metric" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are white and are set against a dark, irregularly shaped background that resembles a stylized camera lens or a film frame. The background is dark blue and black, with some light blue highlights.

## Metric

Metric is home to the Union's best music and social events, from club nights and live bands to social nights. It has played host to big name acts alongside a range of up and coming artists and on-campus talent. The venue features a superb sound system, a big screen to show major sporting events, state of the art lighting and every-day great value drinks prices and deals.

During Welcome Week you will get to see events such as Comedy Night and our very own IC Big Band. The Freshers' Ball on the Friday of Welcome Week is held across all of our Union Building bars with Metric hosting the headlining acts and DJs.

Regular events include iPop for all your cheesy classics, Roquefort our new rock night and our regular Wednesday night CSP Wednesdays with a different decade of music each week!

Clubs, Societies & Projects also host regular nights at Metric with a wide range of events such as Imperial's Got Talent, showcases and even Wikipedia races.

Metric is located on the ground floor of the Union Building to the right as you come in through the main entrance from the quad.





## Reynolds Bar

Hidden from view behind Charing Cross Hospital, the Reynolds Bar is a gem in the heart of the Charing Cross campus. Reynolds is open weekday evenings from 18:00 till 23:00 with late opening on Wednesdays and Fridays, and has 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 over 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!

The Reynolds Bar is Situated in Charing Cross hospital off Dunstan's road on the ground floor of the Reynolds building. The closest tube stations are Hammersmith and Barons Court.



shop  
extra



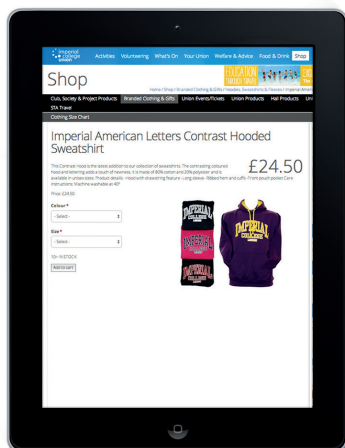
## Shop and Shop Extra

The Union runs two shops, which can both be found on the main walkway near the Senior Common Room. Both outlets stock a wide variety of goods at competitive prices, and because they're controlled by the Union, every penny you spend will be reinvested into services, societies and staff that will directly benefit you over the coming years.

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

Shop Extra is our newsagent situated opposite the Union Shop and sells confectionery, drinks, tobacco, newspapers and magazines, everyday essentials such as toiletries and batteries, and gift and cards.

You can also shop online! Visit [imperialcollegeunion.org/shop](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/shop) or [imperialcollegeunion.org/unionshop](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/unionshop) to buy everything from an Imperial hoodie, to an 'I heart Imperial' mug!





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# Imperial Mobile



Enabling students to access College information and services  
anytime, anywhere.

- Find Welcome Week schedule
- View new student information
- Access your course timetable
- Explore a guide to College services and facilities
- Search campus maps
- Search the Library catalogue and view your account
- Find staff and students in the people search
- View Library and Department PC availability
- Get live travel information
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[www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/horizons)

## Student Communities

Alongside the GSU, there are two more student communities for Postgraduate students: Hammersmith Student Community based at Hammersmith Hospital, and Silwood Park Students' Union at the Silwood Park campus.



### Hammersmith Student Community (HSC)

The Hammersmith Student Community (HSC) organises social events and extra-curricular activity opportunities for the 800+ post-graduate students based at Imperial College's Hammersmith hospital, Hammersmith campus. As well as our termly parties, previous events include sports tournaments, movie nights, pub quizzes and the summer boat party, hosted in conjunction with the Graduate Students Union (GSU).

HSC have a packed line-up of events for the upcoming year kicking off with our Halloween party on 30 October. Keep an eye out for our posters and like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/HammersmithStudents](https://www.facebook.com/HammersmithStudents)) to be first to know what's happening on your campus, or email them at [hammersmithstudents@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:hammersmithstudents@imperial.ac.uk).

[facebook.com/hammersmithstudents](https://www.facebook.com/hammersmithstudents)  
[hammersmithstudents@imperial.ac.uk](mailto: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 that are based at Silwood Park. 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](http://union.ic.ac.uk/silwoodpark)  
[silwood.chair@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:silwood.chair@imperial.ac.uk)

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

# CYCLING IN LONDON? IT'S FREE! LEARNING TO CYCLE SAFELY IS TOO

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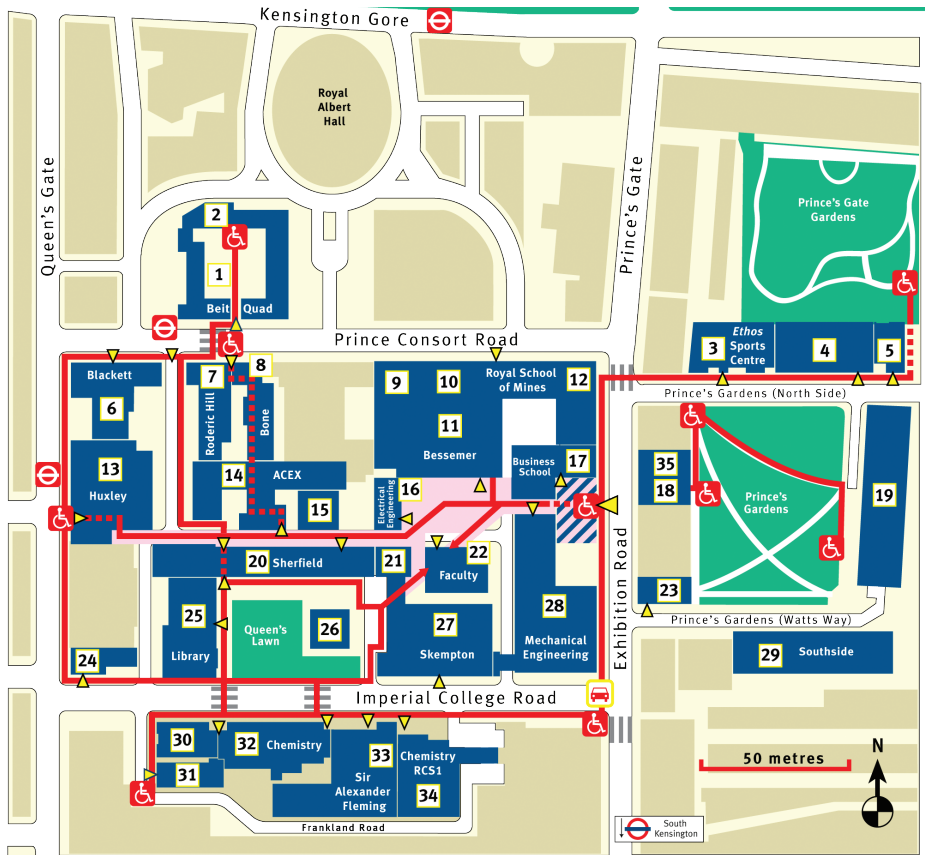


If you've already got a bike (if not, it costs so little to hire one), get clued up on how you can cycle in London more safely and more smartly – for nothing. Visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/cycletraining](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/cycletraining) and book our free, one-to-one training.



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA





Main walkway  
 Main entrance  
 Accessible route

⊘ South Kensington Underground  
⊘ Bus stops  
⬆ Building entrances  
🚗 Vehicle entrance

Cromwell Road  
 Thurloe Place  
 Thurloe Street

Buildings where wheelchair access is not possible at this time

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Beit Quadrangle</li> <li>2 Imperial College Union</li> <li>3 Ethos Sports Centre</li> <li>4 Prince's Gdns, North Side</li> <li>5 Weeks Hall</li> <li>6 Blackett Laboratory</li> <li>7 Roderic Hill Building</li> <li>8 Bone Building</li> <li>9 Royal School of Mines </li> <li>10 Aston Webb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 Bessemer Building</li> <li>12 Goldsmiths Building</li> <li>13 Huxley Building</li> <li>14 ACE Extension</li> <li>15 William Penney Laboratory </li> <li>16 Electrical Engineering</li> <li>17 Business School</li> <li>18 53 Prince's Gate</li> <li>19 Eastside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 Sherfield Building</li> <li>21 Conference Office</li> <li>22 Grantham Institute for Climate Change</li> <li>23 Faculty Building</li> <li>24 58 Prince's Gate </li> <li>25 170 Queen's Gate </li> <li>26 Imperial College and Science Museum Libraries</li> <li>27 Queen's Tower</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27 Skempton Building</li> <li>28 Mechanical Engineering Building</li> <li>29 Southside</li> <li>30 Sir Ernst Chain Building</li> <li>31 Flowers Building</li> <li>32 Chemistry Building</li> <li>33 Sir Alexander Fleming Building</li> <li>34 Chemistry RCS1</li> <li>35 52 Prince's Gate</li> </ul>
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Imperial College  
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This partnership brings together two schemes working to enable local schools to benefit from having Imperial students in the classroom as tutors.

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**Then come along to the Outreach stand at the  
Freshers' Fair, Tuesday 7 October, ground floor  
Sherfield Foyer.**

**DROP INTO THE**

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Level 3 Sherfield Building**

**E-MAIL US AT:**

**pimlico@imperial.ac.uk**

**[www.imperial.ac.uk/pimlico](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/pimlico)**

**ThePIMLICO**CONNECTION

Schools<sup>+</sup>

**outreach**  
**/raising aspirations/**



Buy one hoodie and get a free T-Shirt  
**£19.95**  
 price subject to change

You can find us on the Sherfield Walkway or online at [imperialcollegeunion.org/shop](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/shop)

**shop**

[imperialcollegeunion.org/shop](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/shop)



FRESH hairdressers are offering the **best haircuts, prices and service in South Kensington.**

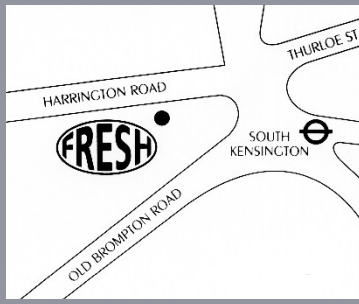
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**Imperial College Union**

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