

# IMPACT REPORT

**2015/16** TERM TWO



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

 imperial  
college  
union

# WELCOME TO OUR IMPACT REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

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Term Two was just as busy as Term One, if not more so! We're proud of what the Union has achieved so far this year and with one more term to go, we're keen to see it be as successful as the last two. We're grateful that Imperial College Union's relationship with Imperial College London is a positive and productive one. It allows us to work closely with them to make fundamental and sustainable changes that will improve the experience for current and future students at the College. Through this relationship, Term Two has seen us improve the bursary offer for Medical students, ensure a 14-day feedback deadline and help appoint the College's new Vice Provost (Education), a role that we

work closely with to ensure a high quality of education for our members. It's our job to ensure that students get the help they need, and this term saw us focus on housing and accommodation in particular. We worked with College for the first time on their annual Housing Fair, bringing in our Advice Centre to provide help and information; we managed to get Evelyn Gardens opened for returning students next year; and we partnered with a new organisation to help secure affordable and quality housing in London for our members. We are confident that this work will help our members get the best out of their accommodation for the next academic year. All of this work is underpinned by our commercial

outlets - the money made in our bars, shops and through external hires in the Union building goes back into the Union to maintain and improve those services, as well as provide funding for our non-commercial activities, such as our Clubs, Societies & Projects, Imperial Plus and Community Connections. This area is above budget so far this year, giving the Union a great amount of surplus funds that can be pumped back into improving students' lives at Imperial. You can find out more about all of this and more in this report - we hope you enjoy it and are looking forward to the rest of 2015/16 as much as we are!

Officer Trustee Team

Visit our impact website for even more information!

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

# YOUR OFFICER TRUSTEES

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From left to right

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## **Chun-Yin**

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

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## **Jennie**

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE)

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## **Lucinda**

PRESIDENT

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## **Ben**

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

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## **Chris**

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

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Read more about Our Plan, the  
Union's Strategy until 2016, online at:  
**[imperialcollegeunion.org/strategy](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/strategy)**

ENHANCING THE  
*Student Experience*



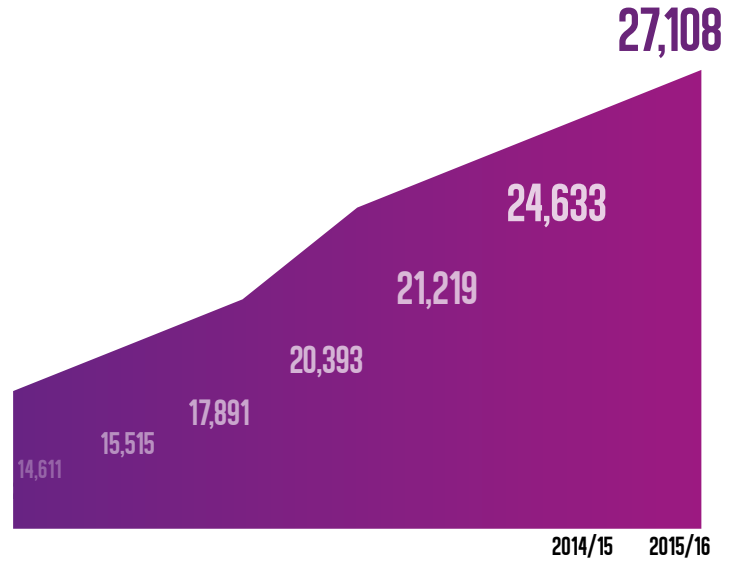
Imperial College Union plays a key role in how students learn, develop and grow during their time here, especially through the skills that they learn through involvement in our activities.

**27,108**

Memberships sold to our Clubs, Societies & Projects so far this year

## CLUBS, SOCIETIES & PROJECTS

Our Club, Society & Project memberships continue to grow year on year, and they have already surpassed last year's total. 27,108 memberships have been sold - this is 12.5% up on this time last year. The Union has almost doubled the number of memberships sold in the last five years, showing that we have one of the highest levels of engagement in Clubs, Societies & Projects in the UK.



**250+**

Medical and Biomedical students took part in a Circle Line collection

## FUNDRAISING FOR GOOD CAUSES

Term Two saw a number of great fundraisers from student volunteers take place. For example, 250+ Medical and Biomedical students took part in a Circle Line collection, where they toured the London Underground's Circle line volunteering to raise funds for charity. This venture saw a huge amount of good done for vulnerable communities across London. £56,359.44 has been raised for charity by 13 Clubs, Societies & Projects so far this year through events such as RAG Week and the ICSM RAG Fashion Show.

**£56,359**

Raised for charity by 13 Clubs, Societies & Projects

**59**

Students have participated in a regular volunteering opportunity through Community Connections

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections continues to help connect our students with great volunteering opportunities in the local community. In the Term Two, we had 59 students partaking in regular volunteering through Community Connections, demonstrating the diversity of volunteering our students are getting involved in on a regular basis around their studies.

**150**

Opportunities to volunteer with Community Connections

The number of partner organisations we have as part of Community Connections grows every year. Nine new charities and community organisations became Community Connections partner organisations last term - that's a total of 127 organisations that our students now have the opportunity to help. There are now 150 volunteering opportunities to get involved with too.

**9**

New charities and community organisations have become a Community Connections partner organisations



13

Students helped to plan and run SVW16

## STUDENT VOLUNTEERING WEEK 2016

Student Volunteering Week 2016 (SVW16) returned for another year in Term Two. The aim of SVW is to bring together individuals and organisations across the UK to celebrate the achievements and impact of student volunteers in their local communities, encouraging and inspiring more students to volunteer.

112

Students took part in SVW16

13 students helped plan and run all of the events for SVW16 at Imperial this year, ensuring that it was student led and relevant to the student community. This allowed them to gain skills in different areas of planning such a huge event.

11

Different events were held during SVW16

95%

Of students who took part in SVW16 said they enjoyed it

112 students took part in 11 different opportunities that helped them find new activities, make new friends, do some good in the community and develop their skills. 95% of students that took part said they enjoyed making a difference, showing that our students are volunteering for a great reason.

1,107

Messages of thanks in our Great Volunteer Thank You

Our Great Volunteer Thank You also returned, giving people a chance to thank volunteers that have made a difference to their time at Imperial. We received 1,107 thank yous this year compared to 453 last year!

21

Mass volunteering events so far this year

## MASS VOLUNTEERING

This academic year so far, has seen the Union host 21 mass volunteering events filling 186 volunteering spaces with 150 students. This includes events during Student Volunteering Week. Through these events, we're giving our members the chance to experience volunteering in different sectors, as well as providing valuable opportunities to students who don't have the time to volunteer regularly.

150

Students filled 186 spaces at our Mass Volunteering events

£1,500

Funding was awarded to student led social enterprises

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

This year we launched a programme to inspire, engage and support Imperial College London students to lend their skills, talents, passion and interests to help tackle a social problem. This term, £1,500 of funding was awarded to student led social enterprises, helping facilitate and encourage students to start up their own social enterprises and provide support to make their ideas a reality.

7

Volunteers gained the Imperial Plus Volunteer Qualification

## IMPERIAL PLUS

Imperial Plus is now in its third year and is going from strength to strength. This term, seven volunteers gained the Imperial Plus Volunteer Qualification, an ILM Level 5 Award in the Management for Volunteers. This shows that not only are they putting in a huge amount of work to improve their own knowledge and skills, they are applying what they have learnt to improve the experience of those they volunteer alongside and have responsibility for. Not only this, but in total, 13,535 hours have been recorded so far this academic year.

13,535

Hours logged through Imperial Plus so far this year





# 160

Pre sale tickets for the Spring Carnival sold online

## — SPRING CARNIVAL

This year's Spring Carnival saw FiveSixEight, Metric and the Union Bar turned into a carnival! 160 tickets were sold online before the event, a 237% increase on last year. Six student groups also performed at the event including GuitarSoc, Jazz & Rock, MagicSoc and Jugglingsoc, as well as contortionists and even firebreathers! This Spring Carnival was our best one yet, involving student groups and giving our members an evening to remember.

# 237%

Increase in tickets sold online for the Carnival compared to last year

# 100

Students that attended the Volunteer Dinner

## — VOLUNTEER DINNER

As part of Student Volunteering Week, Connect organised a Volunteer Dinner on 29 February, a black-tie event to celebrate all the hard working volunteers at Imperial. The dinner saw 100 volunteers enjoy a drinks reception and three course dinner, receive awards and enjoy performances from student a capella group Mockingbird and a jazz band. This was the first of many events organised by students that will celebrate volunteers in local communities, awarding prizes and funding for charitable projects at home and overseas.

# 82

Students have been recruited and trained as Pimlico Connection tutors

## — THE PIMLICO CONNECTION

The Union is delighted to be supporting the College this year in the delivery of its flagship tutoring programme The Pimlico Connection. 82 students continue to volunteer as tutors lending their knowledge and expertise to provide dedicated support to children and young people in their maths and science studies in 14 schools. This gives Imperial students the chance to expand on their communication skills and enable them to grow in confidence.

# 14

Schools using tutors from the Pimlico Connection

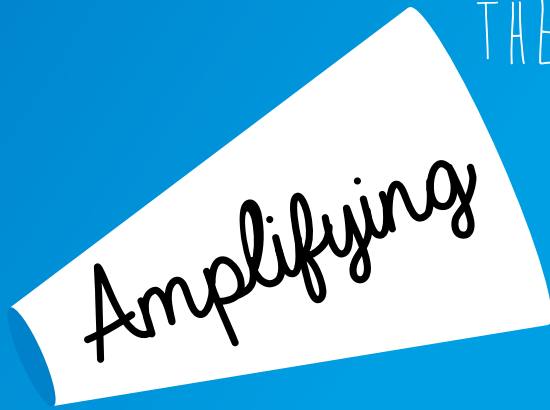
# 7x

Number of times more students engage with our social media

## — SOCIAL MEDIA

Since the end of February, we have worked hard to improve our presence on social media, enabling us to reach over seven times the amount of students as we did before. We reach an average of over 6,400 people per day on Twitter and, over the course of a calendar year, we've gained 1,746 extra likes on our Facebook page. Not only that, our Instagram followers have increased by 20%, helping showcase the Union to students that might not have otherwise heard of us.





THE STUDENT  
VOICE



One of our primary functions is to represent our members to the College and the wider community. The Union should be champions for excellent teaching, research and feedback, and play a key role in helping the College improve students' experiences in this area.

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**614**

Total number of nominations for the SACAs this year

**68,131**

Words were written about students' favourite members of staff

## RECOGNISING GREAT TEACHING

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The Student Academic Choice Awards - or SACAs for short - are Imperial College Union's flagship event for empowering students to recognise, reward and celebrate excellence amongst College staff. This year, students made 614 nominations and, in total, wrote 68,131 words about their favourite members of staff - our biggest turnout yet. More than 325 mugs wrapped in 0.5 km of ribbon were delivered to all nominees.

## IMPROVING ACADEMIC STANDARDS

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The Union has been engaging with College's Academic Standard Framework initiative in order to improve Appeals and Complaints practices and change the way in which feedback is distributed across College. A successful series of talks between us and the College have meant that their Academic Standards Framework Group have endorsed our definition of quality feedback from our National Student Survey and Postgraduate Research Experience Surveys, adopted the Union's 14-day deadline for returning marked coursework and agreed that detailed provisional marks should be made available to students well in advance of current practice.

# STUDENT ACADEMIC CHOICE 2016 AWARDS

**12**

Academic Reps received training from the Executive Education team in the Business School

## TRAINING OUR REPS

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In this term, 12 of our Academic Reps were selected from a range of applicants to receive leadership training from the Executive Education team in the Business School. They were selected through a brief application process in which they detailed what they wanted to get out of the sessions and how they would help with their personal development. The Reps that took part in the training were from all departments at the College and were both Undergraduate and Postgraduate Reps. Overall, 86% of participants rated the training four or five out of five, saying that the sessions were "very insightful" and successfully demonstrated "aspects of being a good and bad leader".

# The **LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

## 45%

Of students voted in The Leadership Elections

### **NEW LEADERS, NEW RECORDS**

March saw our annual elections to elect our Officer Trustees, Part-Time & Liberation Officers, Academic Representatives and Constituent Unions for 2016/17. We have been setting the standards for student elections nationally for the past few years and this year is no exception.

## 780

Students ran for 400 positions

An unbelievable 7,966 students, 45.47% of our members, took part in the election of Imperial's student leaders for 2016/17. This was a new record for Imperial and was the highest turnout of any students' union in the UK this year. That's 700 more students than took part than last year, an amazing increase of almost 10% year-on-year. There were over 147,000 votes cast and a higher percentage of women voted than men, for the first time ever.

## 147,869

Votes were cast through our voting website, [imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

This was the most contested and heavily-fought election in Imperial's history. A record thirty students stood up to become Officer Trustees of Imperial College Union, including eleven candidates for President and seven candidates for Deputy President (Welfare). Altogether, 780 students ran for 400 positions, including Officer Trustees, Student Trustees, Liberation Officers, Academic Representatives, and the leaders of our biggest Clubs, Societies & Projects.

## 7,966

Students took part in the election of Imperial's new student leaders





## 6 BURSARIES FOR MEDICS

Number of years the bursary for Medical students will be paid over from October 2016, rather than four years

After years of talks, Imperial College Union succeeded on a long-running campaign to improve College bursaries for Years 5 and 6 Medics. Students studying five and six year courses currently get their bursary paid over their first four years only; from October 2016, students will now have the option to have their bursary payments spread over all six years, making sure that they have funding for the duration of their course. Jennie Watson, Deputy President (Welfare) and Maredudd Harris, ICSMSU President have been instrumental in getting College to make this change that will help thousands of incoming Medical students.

## 250 BRINGING BACK EVELYN GARDENS

Bed spaces are now available to returning students at Evelyn Gardens

Evelyn Gardens in Chelsea are part of College's accommodation portfolio that were previously closed before partially reopening this year. Lucinda (Union President) has been campaigning this year to get Evelyn Gardens offered as an option for returning students. As a result of her efforts, over 250 bed spaces are now available to returning students at Imperial. Applications opened in Term Two and exceeded the number of bed spaces in a matter of hours.

## GREEN PAPER RESPONSE

In Term Two, we wrote a comprehensive response to the Government's green paper on the future of Higher Education. The document focuses on responding to each of the points in the green paper especially with regard to the rushed nature of the consultation and waek proposals. Our Green Paper Response was submitted to the Government's Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in January 2016 as part of our ongoing work to challenge changes to higher education that we feel will have a negative impact on our members.

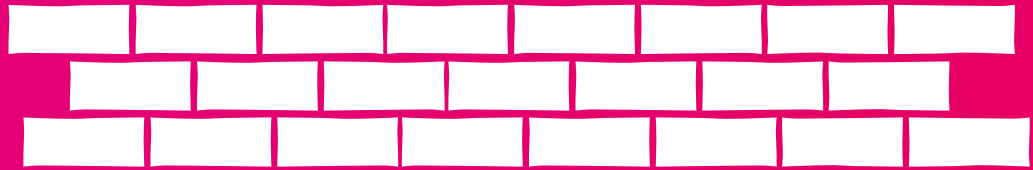
## 3 CHOOSING IMPERIAL'S LEADERS

Officer Trustees were involved with choosing Imperial's new Vice Provost (Education)

Three of our Officer Trustees played vital roles in the recruitment of College's new Vice Provost (Education). The Vice Provost is ultimately responsible for the quality of the education provision at College, and works with the Union to help ensure this. Lucinda helped choose the candidates for interview before sitting on the final interview panel and being part of the decision process of who to appoint. Cyin, Deputy President (Education), and Jennie were responsible for arranging a student panel to grill the four finalists. We received excellent feedback from College who considered our input professional and extremely valuable. This has set the stage for a productive relationship with the new Vice Provost (Education), Professor Simone Buitendijk.



BUILDING



*a Student Community*

The Union should be the hub of the student community – ensuring that students are happy in their surroundings; feel supported by their peers and can seek advice when they need to.



**500+**

Advice Centre accommodation guide distributed to students, offering help, advice and useful information

## HOUSING FAIR

Lucinda and Jennie collaborated with the Student Hub on their Housing Fair in Term Two. During the fair, our Advice Centre distributed over 500 of their new accommodation guide to students, offering help, advice and useful information about renting after leaving College's halls of residence. Lucinda and Jennie presented at the event, giving details about finding flatmates, moving out of halls, when and where to start looking, the most popular areas to live in London as an Imperial student, safety and security, as well as rent and other costs.

Lucinda says, "It was the first time that the Union and Student Hub have collaborated on the delivery of the evening, and the Student Hub said it was the most successful Private Housing Evening they have ever had!". Through work like this with the College and through our Advice Centre, we are providing students with helpful information so that they can make the right decisions.

**100**

Reviews left within the first week of Move'm launching

## MOVE'M

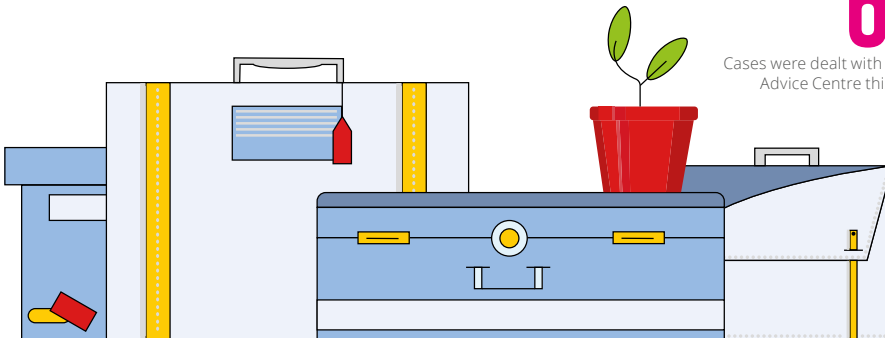
In Term Two, Imperial College Union collaborated with Move'm to provide an online housing and landlord accreditation platform. The campaign we ran to introduce the student body to Move'm quickly proved to be very successful, with over one hundred reviews left within the first week! Move'm is helping us challenge one of the biggest issues affecting our membership; securing affordable, quality housing in London. It will help students to pick and choose the best houses, subsequently resulting in fewer issues with rogue landlords and poor quality housing.

**68**

Cases were dealt with by the Advice Centre this term

## ADVICE CENTRE

Our Advice Centre dealt with 68 cases in Term Two and helped a number of students who had been withdrawn from College to stay on their course, allowing students to complete their studies successfully. The Advice Centre grew during this term with the addition of a second Adviser to give guidance on housing, money, consumer and employment issues. This will allow us to help even more students with independent and impartial advice.





## 3 — WOMEN @ IMPERIAL WEEK

Societies got involved with Women @ Imperial week

International Women's Day saw the collaboration between the College and the Union to organise Women @ Imperial Week (7 - 11 March). Students got involved in the International Women's Day celebration through exhibition stands and entertainment society performances from Imperielles, Dance Society and Belly Dancing.

Students also featured in the major publicity campaign, raising awareness of all the fantastic work women do at Imperial. We also had student volunteers help out at the schools outreach event on the Friday. The Union also put on a cocktail night to celebrate women at Imperial, past and present. More than 30 students attended the event and, as a result, achievements and stand-out students were recognised.

On the Tuesday (also International Women's Day), Lucinda discussed the importance for female students of having female role models at the College to look up to, and the focus she had placed in her role on the issue of gender equality. The event, called Celebrating Women in STEM at Imperial, was a huge success!

## 30+

People attended the Women @ Imperial cocktail night in Metric

## 18

Events and shows were put on during ArtsFest

## — ARTSFEST

In February ArtsFest, Imperial's student-led arts festival, returned for another extremely successful year. Across five days, 18 events were put on, organised by 22 participating societies. The successful week demonstrated that Imperial has a wealth of talent across the arts as well as STEM subjects; so much so that 100 people attended the shows displaying the wealth of collaboration with societies and the Imperial community.

## 100

Students attended the events and shows

## £60,000

Investment from the Union for Reynolds Bar

## — REYNOLDS REFURBISHMENT

With a substantial £60,000 investment from The Union and an additional £30,000 investment by the College, Reynolds Bar was refurbished just after Term Two and reopened in May 2016. After a huge amount of student feedback and collaboration with our Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union (ICSMSU), the refurbishment will transform the service the bar offers.

## £30,000

Additional investment from College

It isn't just the fixtures and fittings that have changed - we have reinvigorated the products we offer, introduced a new events programme and pizzas on sale! The refurbished bar is the new home of the School of Medicine, and we look forward to welcoming staff and students into the venue.



# REYNOLDS BAR



# 75

Students have helped shape the new Sports Strategy

## SPORTS STRATEGY

The Sports Review is a joint project between Imperial College Union and Sport Imperial, aiming to create a joined up, more effective and more inclusive sporting offer at Imperial. The strategy will be adopted for the next three to five years, and have funding and resource impacts on students, Clubs, Societies & Projects, Sport Imperial and the Union. The aim is to get more students taking part in more sport and physical activity in more places.

In Term Two, Union staff, Officer Trustees and student volunteers took part in reworking our Sports Strategy. More than 75 students got involved with the feedback sessions and as a result, a draft strategy will now going out to student consultation in June.

# 460

People attended h-bar's first Retro Gaming Night in March

## H-BAR RETRO GAMING NIGHT

The h-bar is our Postgraduate and staff pub and cafe. In March, the team there worked hard to put on their first Retro Gaming Night - a night of playing on classic game consoles, such as the Playstation, SNES and Megadrive. The one-off event was hugely popular with 460 people attending and the event will continue to be offered to students and staff in future.

# VarsityFest 2016

# 1,200

Tickets sold for the VarsityFest this year

## VARSITYFEST 2016

This year's Varsity was spread throughout March with Hockey and Ice Hockey matches played before the main event on Saturday 19 March at Heston Sports Ground, and it was our biggest and most successful Varsity to date. The event this year was more sports festival than sports competition with live entertainment, inflatable fun activities, chill out zones, face painting and a food and drinks court. In March, 1,200 tickets were sold and 28 games took place overall. 800 students participated in a range of sporting activities demonstrating the great partnership between Sport Imperial and the Union.

# 28

Games took place at the event

# 800

Students participated in a range of sporting activities at VarsityFest

# 30+

Club, Society & Project events held in Union bar spaces

## STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD

We Are Metric (WAM) nights are our avenue for Clubs, Societies & Projects to host an event in our nightclub Metric to showcase their activities, talents and interests, as well as potentially growing their membership and income. Over 30 Clubs, Societies & Projects held more than 40 bar nights and WAMs across the second term. Events included an Open Mic Night with GuitarSoc and Freeze Friday with Imperial Snowsports.



Creating a

SUSTAINABLE  
ORGANISATION





**Imperial College Union should be recognised as a charity that is financially sound, is a great place to work, and makes the most of the resources that are available to it.**

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## BEIT VENUES

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Beit Venues, run by our Events Team, continues to be a strong area of growth for the Union. They are currently over £30,000 ahead of budget year-to-date. This income contributes to many areas of the Union and helps us provide services to our members. Our spaces have been growing as a popular film space for external events, appearing on the One Show and creating interest for future film crews. Look out for the Union building in a film coming soon! Not only do Beit Venues offer a great service to external clients, they help facilitate student-led events as well. In Term Two, they booked in events ranging from talent shows for our student groups to large formal dinners for College alumni.



# 6,228

500ml bottles of One Water sold in Shop Extra this year

## SUCCESS IN OUR SHOPS

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Our Retail team are always looking for new and interesting products for the Union Shop and Shop Extra. Last year, they introduced healthier food and drink into Shop Extra, and the products have been flying off the shelves! Sales of healthy snacks have increased by 71% against the corresponding period last year, and we have introduced over 50 new healthy lines. Shop Extra has also sold 6,228 bottles of 500ml One Water bottles - that's 3,114 litres of water!

Both our Retail and Licensed Trade teams rely on casual student staff to offer a great service to the Imperial community. With a range of shifts available, the Union Shop and Shop Extra have seen 1,399 hours worked by students since the beginning of the year.

# 1,399

Hours worked by our casual student staff in Shop Extra and the Union Shop since the beginning of the year

# 200+

Number of student staff employed at the Union so far this year

## STUDENT STAFF AT THE UNION

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The Union has a commitment to provide as many employment opportunities as possible to its members to help them supplement their income whilst they study, and grow this number year on year. At present, over 200 students are employed at the Union in a number of roles including Bar and Retail Staff, student DJs, Receptionists, Porters, Promo Staff and Minibus Drivers to examine students and staff to drive our minibuses! As a result there are a number of employment opportunities at the Union and there are more being added throughout the year.



# £37,000

Ahead of Licensed Trade budgeted income already!

# £22,000

Ahead of Catering budget for the year

# 100%

Of surplus funds get pumped back into the organisation to help run our services

## GROWTH IN THE UNION'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Our Licensed Trade team look after our five bars and nightclub on the South Kensington and Charing Cross campuses and at Woodward Hall. So far, they are £37,000 ahead of budgeted income.

Our Catering team continue to deliver outstanding figures and are on course to deliver their first ever annual surplus. They are currently £22,000 ahead of budget for the year, with particular success in functions for this team in conjunction with Beit Venues. These functions range from small meetings and presentations to three course dinners. We're delighted in the growth of this area, and our Catering team are to be congratulated for their hard work. We look forward to seeing continued progression over the rest of the year and beyond.

As with surplus money made through Beit Venues, this surplus is pumped back into the organisation to help maintain and improve services to our members.

# 1.9 M

## IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION ONLINE

Number of page views imperialcollegeunion.org has had so far this year

We've seen a growth in how many times our website has been accessed during Term Two, as well as our social media reach. Since 1 January, our website has had 1.9 million page views - 13% more than the same period last year.

Our voting website used during our Leadership Elections recorded 147,869 votes over the course of a week, all of which were counted in a matter of seconds.





**Imperial College Union**

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