

# IMPACT Report

TERM  
**1**  
2014/15



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

imperial  
college  
union

# Welcome

## TO OUR IMPACT REPORT

We are fiercely proud of the diverse and welcoming community at Imperial and we believe the Union plays an essential role in building that community. Every year over 5,500 new students start at the College arriving for Welcome Week and all the events that we run. This year was our biggest ever with even more activities going on across all of our campuses.

We have also been busy working with College to improve the academic life for both Undergraduates and Postgraduates. We published our first ever Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey Response which is intended to make real changes to how Taught Postgraduates are supported and served at Imperial. Our fourth National Student Survey Response, published in December, made 20 recommendations to the College with a particular emphasis on quality feedback.

It was also a busy first term for our Community Connections service with over 500 students registering to volunteer in the local community. Alongside a record number of students joining up to our Clubs, Societies & Projects it's clear that the Imperial student community is thriving. This report summarises some of the highlights of our first five months in office - enjoy!



Read more about  
Our Plan, the Union's  
Strategy until 2016,  
online at:

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





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Tom Wheeler

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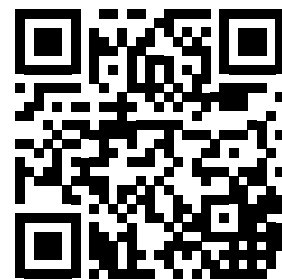
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

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VISIT OUR IMPACT  
WEBSITE FOR  
*even more information!*

**imperialcollegeunion.org/impact**

# 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.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Our Student Activities team hit the ground running with a number of schemes and events this term, as well as supporting our Clubs, Societies & Projects. Term 1 has seen the Union have more Clubs and memberships than ever before. There are now 343 Clubs for students to join, resulting in 20,137 memberships compared to 17,598 last year and 21,298 for the full year.

## FRESHERS' FAIR

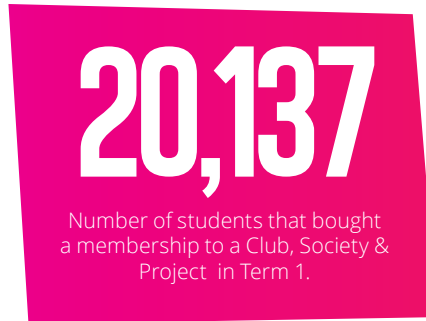
Our Freshers' Fair was bigger and better this year than it's ever been! Held on Tuesday 7 October on the South Kensington campus, it housed 400 stalls in total across 13 locations.

There were over 300 stalls for Clubs, Societies & Projects, and we had an increase in external stalls to 74 from 51 last year. Some of the attractions at the fair included a glider, sports demonstrations and performances from some of our arts and dance societies.



343

Number of Clubs,  
Societies & Projects in  
Term 1.



## TRY SOMETHING NEW

Give It A Go is now in its second year and is the perfect way to try out something new with our Clubs, Societies & Projects before buying a membership.

In October, almost 3,000 students attended 100 taster sessions and activities on offer from our Clubs, Societies & Projects. Sessions included Fencing taster sessions, Floorball tryouts, broadcasting with IC Radio, and a mini beekeeping session!

## LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIAL

International Imperial was launched in November to celebrate the culture and diversity at the College, and it provided a week full of activities that were a huge success.

Many of our groups got involved and ran a range of activities, including the Japanese Society hosting an Origami Workshop, to BanglaSoc demonstrating a traditional Bangladeshi game by running a Carrom Tournament, and Kung Fu hosting a taster session, to name a few. From this we have had many non-members becoming members and learning something brand new!



International  
Imperial

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Our volunteer brokerage service has gone from strength to strength since its launch in 2014. We currently have over 500 students have registered with Community Connections, receiving the fortnightly e-bulletin featuring the latest volunteering opportunities in the local area and across London.

Our Student Development team have also been receiving hundreds of requests for more information about the volunteering opportunities advertised through Community Connections with students wanting to find out how they can get involved.

This term, the Union has worked with 12 London universities to deliver London Student Volunteer Fortnight, where Imperial students volunteered alongside students from across London in eight amazing volunteering events.

We also held our second Volunteering Fair in October, hosting 40 partners and student groups who were looking for Imperial students to volunteer with them. The Fair was attended by over 500 students across the day.



522

Students registered with Community Connections so far this academic year.

664

Number of requests for more information about volunteering through Community Connections.

## IMPERIAL PLUS

Our volunteer accreditation scheme started this academic year with a number of briefing sessions at the start of the term to introduce Imperial Plus to students at the College.

Since then, 177 volunteers have signed up to work toward the Imperial Plus Volunteer Certificate to acknowledge 25, 50 or 75 hours of volunteering, and 65 volunteers are working toward the Imperial Plus Volunteer Accreditation to acknowledge 100 hours of volunteering.

As well as logging their hours with us, they have been attending one of 15 workshops focusing on skills such as effective team working, communication and problem solving, delivered across three campuses.

We also had students taking our Imperial Plus Qualification, a Level 5 Award in Management of Volunteers that volunteers could apply for. Through workshops and assignments, participants learn how to effectively promote volunteering, managing their motivation, develop key relationships and provide effective leadership skills.

3,962 hours of volunteering have already been recorded for Imperial Plus this academic year (as of 16 December). That's a 20% increase on this time last year!

3,962  
20% INCREASE



## SUMMER BALL 2015 - YOU CHOOSE THE THEME!

We are already starting preparations for our Summer Ball this year, and we wanted to get you involved from the get go. We took your feedback from last year's Summer Ball survey and ran a poll for you to vote on what the theme of next year's ball should be.

Over 900 people cast their vote and chose between Moulin Rouge, Vegas, Bond, Hollywood, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The winning theme, Bond, got 35% of the vote.

Total number of votes cast in the Summer Ball theme poll in November.



923

Visit the Summer Ball website at:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball)



Amplifying

# 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.

## NSS RESPONSE 2014

This year is our fourth NSS Response, and is an important element of our ongoing dialogue with College and our members about continually improving education at Imperial College London. A constant theme of past NSS Responses (as well as our PTES Response, Rep Week suggestions and the Academic Representation Network) is student dissatisfaction with the feedback they receive on their coursework and exams. Reflecting the importance of this issue, we have themed this whole Response around feedback.

This document is extremely useful to academic and professional staff, and provides a useful toolkit for any College staff member or student representative who wants to address feedback across the institution.

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

20

QUALITY  
Feedback

15

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



Read our 2014 PTES Response on our website.

## PTES RESPONSE 2014

The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) is a national survey that takes place every two years, measuring the satisfaction of taught postgraduates - students on MSc, MBA and MPH courses at Imperial College London. Imperial College Union, as the voice of Imperial Postgraduates, has generated a Response to the survey results, including 15 specific recommendations.

Covering areas such as teaching quality, skills development, resources and projects, the PTES Response is intended to make real changes to how Taught Postgraduates are supported and served at Imperial.



Read our 2014 NSS Response on our website.



# REPRESENTATION

Our Academic Representation Network has elected Representatives (or Reps) across all departments at the College, and their job is to collect invaluable feedback from students about all aspects of their academic experience, which is then fed back to staff. This year, we have 494 (455 this time last year, 517 in total) Reps across the network and they're already doing great work. For example, fourth year exams in the school of Medicine were rescheduled, affecting students' travel and revision plans during the Term 1 break. However, the Academic Representatives successfully lobbied the Faculty to have their fourth year exams moved back to the original timescale.

This year, 125 Reps attended our Rep Training sessions in October. Feedback from the training was positive; some of our Reps said the training "was very helpful and gave me the general idea and insight about all the facilities, groups and institution, where to go seek help and bring change" and inspired them to develop their roles.

## Academic Representation Network



# 218

Number of Undergraduate Reps.

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

# 276

Number of Postgraduate Reps.

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

# LIBERATION & CAMPAIGNING

The Union and our representatives are here to campaign on behalf of all students, and our committee of Liberation Officers are at the forefront of that campaigning.

For example, our Gender Equality Officer is running a campaign looking at sexism at Imperial College, and our LGBT Officer is looking at increasing participation in sports teams from LGBT students.

At The Mingles during Welcome Week, we distributed hundreds of safer sex packs to students and engaged in conversation with them about consent.

We've also spoken to hundreds of students about proposed bursary changes through our Higher Education Funding Survey run throughout October and November, and taken the responses to College to give them students' feedback.

# YOUR REP & COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In October, we elected our Year and Course Representatives, the 16 Ordinary Members of Council, Campaigns Officer, Disabilities Officer and the Graduate Students' Union Reps for 2014/15.

A massive 4,600 students participated, with 350 candidates from all across the College competing for their vote. Imperial College Union sets the pace nationally for student elections – for three years we have had the highest turnout in England & Wales for Officer Trustee elections, and now we are first in the UK for Academic Representative & Council elections.

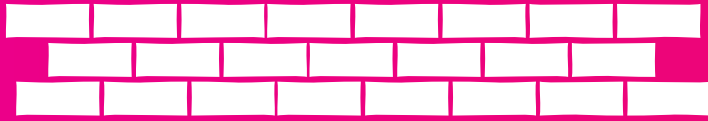
The Departmental turnout battle was won by Civil & Environmental Engineering, where a massive 47.8% of students – including Undergraduate and Postgraduate – cast their vote. The runners-up were Chemical Engineering, School of Public Health, and Electrical & Electronic Engineering, each of which had over 40% of their students take part.

# 4,600

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



# 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.

### #HELLOICU CREW

56 students became this year's #helloicu crew, volunteering during the International Orientation programme and throughout Welcome Week. They helped students move in to halls, were at Mingles and welcome events, ran tours and provided advice, helping new students settle in to life at Imperial. They deserve a massive thank you!

88%

Percentage of students satisfied or more with their Welcome to the College.

90%

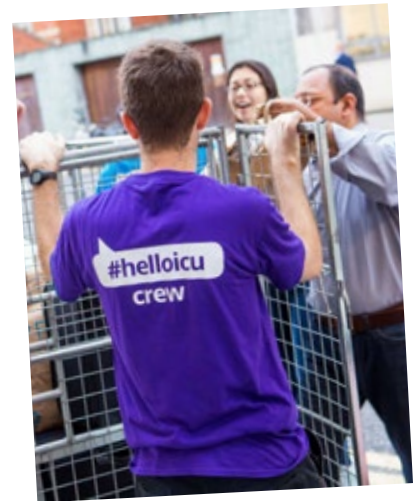
Percentage of students that agreed that the Union improved their experience of Welcome Week.

92%

Percentage of students satisfied or more with our #helloicu crew during Welcome Week.

100%

Percentage of #helloicu members that said they would recommend being a #helloicu crew member to their friends.



### THE ROYAL MIXER

Imperial College Union is in the middle of a number of other institutions including the Royal College of Music (RCM), the Royal College of Art (RCA) and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). The Unions for each of these institutions and ourselves held The Royal Mixer Thursday 13 November in Metric, and had over 590 attendees – a mix of students from all Unions involved. Entertainment on the night was provided by student bands, including the band the Pocket Squares from the RVC.

Tom Wheeler, Union President, said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and really enjoyed the opportunity to meet students from other students unions' at our first collaborative event of the year. The next Royal Mixer will be hosted by one of our neighbours, and we are planning to host another Mixer in the Spring Term".



590+

Attendees of the Royal Mixer in November from Imperial, Royal Veterinary College, Royal College of Art and the Royal College of Music.



## WELCOME WEEK 2014

Welcome Week took place 4 – 10 October this year, and it was jampacked full of events and activities. Alongside our usual Undergraduate and Postgraduate Mingles, Freshers' Fair and live music and comedy in the Union building, there was a fresh line up of events for Postgraduates at the h-bar, featuring an Open Mic Night, live comedy, Graduate Students' Union Pub Quiz and PGI Friday DJ night. Over 8,600 students attended our Welcome Week 2014 events.

We launched the Welcome section of the Union website in August and it was the one-stop shop for starting students, containing helpful and fun information about life at Imperial and being a new student. Our 'Top-tips' news articles were viewed over 22,000 times, dispensing essential advice such as what to bring with you to halls and, more importantly, what not to bring. The Welcome site also included online versions of our Union Handbooks and they were viewed over 8,000 times.



# 8,600+

Number of students that attended one of our Welcome events during Welcome Week. That included our Freshers' Ball headlined by Finn Jones from Game of Thrones!

# 22,218

## 7,000+ INCREASE FROM 2013!

Number of students that viewed one of our 'Top-tips' news articles, dispensing essential advice and information about Imperial.



## MUMS & DADS

Every year we run the Mums & Dads scheme, where we match incoming first year students (or Children) with returning students (or Parents) based on their department and interests. We then give these matchings to our Departmental Societies to run Mums & Dads themed events during Welcome Week.

This year's Mums & Dads scheme matched 1832 new students with 532 parents across 12 departments. The Faculty of Earth Science and Engineering had the most Parents signing up overall – we had double the number of Parents than we needed.

# 565

Families across the whole of Imperial (excluding Faculty of Medicine).

# 92%

Percentage of students satisfied or more with our Mums & Dads scheme.

## FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Raising and Giving, or RAG, and Bike Users Group held their first bike auction of this academic year in November. There was a great turnout, and they raised an impressive £4,500 after selling roughly 30 bikes, and the funds were split between three charities - twenty20, Kids UK and Lively Minds. This impressive sum will support a broad scope of people.

This year's Charity Week saw the Islamic Society raise over £83,000, raising more money than both UCL and Kings combined. Imperial has nearly half the number of students that either institution has, so this was a tremendous effort by all those who participated and donated.

A huge amount of effort went into the fundraising with a variety of creative methods from pamper sessions, football tournaments and whole host of other activities and even selling cupcakes!

# £83,401.70

The amount of money raised by the Islamic Society during Charity Week 2014.



# Creating a

## SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION



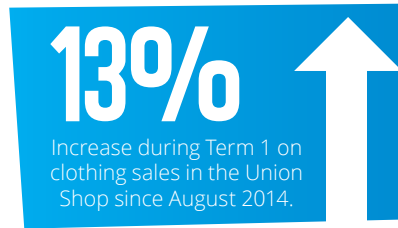
Imperial College Union should be recognised as a charity that is financially sound, is a great place to work, and makes the most of the resources that are available to it.

### OUR NEW SHOP

Shop Extra, our new outlet on the Sherfield walkway, opened in August selling confectionery, drinks, tobacco, newspapers and magazines, everyday essentials such as toiletries and batteries, and gift and cards.

Shop Extra is a bright and bold addition to the walkway, and has earned praise from College staff and students alike. The Union worked closely with the College to review the services available to students on the Sherfield Walkway, and this enabled the enlargement and development of the retail space for Shop Extra, and has also created space for more catering to be provided in our former newsagent space.

In our efforts to remain a solvent and sustainable organisation, the sales from Shop Extra and the Union Shop are vital, and both shops are performing very well so far this academic year. The Shop and Shop Extra are showing a bottom-line surplus above that of the three outlets we were running last year (The Union Shop, Newsagent and the Imperial Gift Shop). This is due to an increase in sales in Shop Extra, increase in clothing sales and a very successful day at the Undergraduate Graduation in October.



Of Pick 'n' Mix bought since the shop opened in August!



## OUR ONLINE HOME

imperialcollegeunion.org is the online home of Imperial College Union. It continues to be an integral part of the services we offer, and last year we introduced new functionality in Club, Society & Project pages and easier to find information on who your Academic Reps are.

Traffic is up on the Union website by 18% year-on-year, with Tuesday 7 October - the day of our Freshers' Fair - the most popular day so far this academic year when 9,000 users logged on to the site.

This term also saw the launch of a new Volunteering section of the website that houses Imperial Plus and Community Connections, and at the time of producing this report, a new Campaigns section has gone live on our website, providing a new online home for student action, lobbying and campaigning at Imperial.

eActivities continues to be an essential tool for both staff and students at the Union. Term 1 saw 2,714 unique users login since 1 August, 11% more than last year. This includes Club, Society & Project Officers logging on to manage their group and students logging their hours with Imperial Plus.

## BEIT VENUES

Beit Venues, run by our Events Team, continues to be a strong area of growth for the Union. Last year, it surpassed budget by a considerable margin and it is currently £20,000 ahead of its annual income budget. This income contributes to many areas of the Union, such as helping to fund the capital projects mentioned below. Bookings through Beit Venues are also spreading further afield, seeing a number of one-off and regular events in our main building in South Kensington and at the Reynolds Bar at Charing Cross Hospital.

**£20,000**

Amount ahead of Beit Venues annual income budget for the year in Term 1.

**18%**

Increase in traffic to imperialcollegeunion.org year-on-year



**2,714**  
11% INCREASE

Unique users login on eActivities since 1 August.

**9,000**

Users online on the Union website on Tuesday 7 October, our busiest day ever!

## WE ARE METRIC

We Are Metric (WAM) nights, 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. We had 13 WAMs in Term 1 that were all huge success for the Club, Society or Project involved. These included the Chemical Engineering Society's Cocktail night, the Tri-Union Bar Night for the CGCU, RSCU and RSMU, and the BioChemistry Halloween Party – all events had 200+ people in attendance, with the Tri-Union Bar Night hitting 500 people!

Attendees of the We Are Metric (WAM) Tri-Union Bar Night for the CGCU, RSCU and RSMU.

**500**

## OUR SPACES GET A MAKEOVER

The College and the Union made a massive investment in the west basement of the Beit Quadrangle with the opening of our new Media Suite and club storage space in September. A brand new radio studio, darkroom, performance space, studio, edit suite and newspaper office will allow our media clubs the opportunity to create better content than ever before. The Union has invested £100,000 directly in software, computers and recording equipment to ensure that it will be one of the best student media centres in the UK.

As part of continuing work in the main Union building, the Concert Hall was refurbished and was finished off during Term 1. As well as updated decor and new floor, the Concert Hall has also gained a new fly gallery and stage arch. Both refurbishments have been received well by students so far!

**£100,000**

Of Union funds invested in the Media Centre, creating one of the best in the UK.



**Imperial College Union**

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