

IMPACT

Report

TERM  
2  
2014/15



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

imperial  
college  
union

# Welcome

## TO OUR IMPACT REPORT FOR TERM 2

Term 2 saw a number of big campaigns, projects and events take place, making it our busiest term yet! We had great success lobbying the College on a number of campaigns surrounding student accommodation and bursary support. It will now be more affordable for all students to attend the College in future, giving students more freedom and security whilst they're here. This is just one example of how every day of the year we are working for current and future students of Imperial and ensuring their voice is heard at the highest levels in the College.

Student-led campaigns were at the forefront this term also, and we hope you've seen details about them on College campuses and have taken part in their surveys and events. The feedback given as part of some of these campaigns is already making a difference to students at the College, and is informing the work that we do as a Union in future.

Our Big Elections in March were our biggest yet, earning us the highest turnout in England and Wales once again, showing that our student voice is one of the strongest in the country. Over 7,000 students cast their vote and elected new officers for 2015/16. Like us this time last year, we bet they can't wait to get started in their roles!

We had some great events in our venues during term 2 as well – we saw our first annual Battle of the Bands, a great wild west themed Spring Carnival, and Wine Tastings at the h-bar in January and March were very popular amongst Postgraduates and staff alike. We also said a big thank you to our volunteers during Student Volunteering Week, whilst they took part in volunteering events that made a difference in the local community.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Imperial College Union achieved Investors in People status during Term 2. We are the only part of the College to hold this award and it really shows that the Union is a great place to work. The passion shown by the Union's staff members throughout the process really demonstrates that delivering exciting and innovative services to our members is what makes the whole Union tick. We are proud to be a member-led organisation and we think it enables us to achieve our aim of making all of our members' time at Imperial the best it can be.



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

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



Pascal Loose

Deputy President (Education)

Tom Wheeler

President

Abi de Bruin

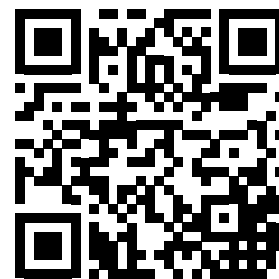
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Alex Savell

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Chris Kaye

Deputy President (Welfare)



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.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Term 2 saw 77 students register with Community Connections - a 10% increase on last term. We also had 13 new organisations join Community Connections - an 18% increase from last term. This increase created more volunteering opportunities for our students to use to develop their skills, and make a difference in the local and wider community.

Community Connections has been keeping our Student Development

team busy! 113 volunteer roles were advertised this term on our website for volunteers to take up, and our Student Development team organised and ran six mass volunteering activities which have seen 59 volunteers take part. These events are helping to bring together members of the student community here at Imperial - at one event, two students on the same course met for the very first time!



10% INCREASE

on students registering for Community Connections from Term 1 to Term 2



18% INCREASE

in organisations joining Community Connections from Term 1 to Term 2



3,962 TERM 1  
+ 3,948 TERM 2  
-----  
7,910

Number of volunteering hours recorded this academic year.



Percentage of volunteers have said that they are doing things differently in their volunteer role as a result of the Imperial Plus qualification training.

## IMPERIAL PLUS

Imperial Plus is now in its second year, and there are currently 173 students actively in progress for achieving Volunteer Certificate for 25, 50 or 75 hours of volunteering. 10 volunteers have already completed their Volunteer Certificate so far this year.

There are also 64 students actively in progress for achieving Volunteer Accreditation for 100 hours of volunteering, and three volunteers have already completed their Volunteer Accreditation.

3,948 volunteering hours were logged through eActivities in Term 2, just 14 hours shy of the hours

logged in Term 1. Combined, the volunteering hours logged so far for this academic year is a whopping 7,910!

Our Imperial Plus qualification started last year, and so far, 11 volunteers achieved the ILM Level 5 Award in Management of Volunteers, with more volunteers still in progress to finish this year. 89% of those volunteers have said that they are doing things differently in their volunteer role as a result of the qualification training, including delivering training to their own committees.

# STUDENT VOLUNTEERING WEEK

Student Volunteering Week (SVW) took place nationwide from 23 February - 1 March. Working together with Imperial Hub, we saw 65 volunteers take part in 13 one-off volunteering activities held throughout the week.

96% of volunteers taking part during SVW felt it enhanced their student experience and everyone plans to volunteer again.

As part of SVW, we launched the Great Volunteer Thank You, an

opportunity for students (and staff) to let our volunteers know the difference they've made at Imperial. Thank You's could be written on postcards or online, and all the thank you's were passed on to our volunteers.

Over 30 volunteers took part in our Great Volunteer Thank You videos, telling us their motivations to volunteer and the impact they have made. In total, We received 453 thank you messages for 377 volunteers!



453  
THANK YOUS

We received 453 thank you messages for 377 volunteers in our Great Volunteer Thank You videos!

# GIVE IT A GO

This January saw more Give It A Go (GIAG) events than ever before, from learning how lighting and sound works at events to learning how to belly dance.

Feedback from our Clubs, Societies & Projects about participating in GIAG was very positive – 66% agreed that their activity had led to an increase in members.

We also received positive feedback about the ease of registering an activity, the helpfulness of the Student Activities team, and additional promotion offered via the Union for GIAG.

Percentage clubs that agreed that GIAG activity had led to an increase in members.



# REFRESHERS' FAIR

Our second Refreshers' Fair took place in the Great Hall, Sherfield Foyer and Queen's Lawn Terrace on Wednesday 28 January. Previously known as the New Year Fair, this year's event saw 23 College departments and external companies

and 25 Clubs, Societies & Projects take part. 500+ students attended over the day, and feedback from stallholders was overwhelmingly positive.



Q: What was the best thing about the Refreshers' Fair?

A: Quality and returning potential of the smiley and enthusiastic students we met and very accommodating team running the fair – thanks guys!

*Tutorfair*

# UK'S MOST IMPROVED STUDENTS' UNION

The Times Higher Education's (THE) Student Experience Survey 2014 measures students' opinions of their university experience.

This year Imperial College Union was the second most improved students' union in the UK rising 24 places.

We were rated 5.6 out of a possible 7 - an increase from 5.2 in 2013. This is a great result and a real measure

of the hard work of our student volunteers, elected officers and staff in making our members time at Imperial the best it can be.

Since 2010 Imperial College Union is the most improved students' union in the UK in the survey. Overall, we are ranked 24th in the UK, and the College rose 15 places from 43rd to 28th.

Number of places we've risen in the THE Student Experience Survey from last year.

24





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.

## BURSARY SUCCESS

Last year, a lobby campaign was started by Marissa Lewis, Deputy President (Welfare), to increase College's level of bursary support to students who's household income was under £50,000. This lobbying was continued by the current Officer Trustee team, and this has resulted in some significant changes to bursaries in the future.

to cover cost of living over 39 weeks. Students with a household income of under £16,000 will receive over £14,000 to cover cost of living for 52 weeks. Imperial is the only university in the country to offer a guaranteed 39-week income to all families under the £50,000 threshold – truly sector leading.

Due to this hard work, from 2016/17, any student attending Imperial with a household income under £50,000 will receive £4,000 a year. Combined with other funding (e.g. Maintenance Loan and Grant from the Government), each of these students is guaranteed at least £11,223 a year

**£4,000**

Guaranteed annual amount to a student attending Imperial with a household income under £50,000 from 2016/17.

## STUDENT CAMPAIGNING GAINS DISCOUNTS FOR STUDENTS

As of 1 March, our range of feminine hygiene products in our shops was discounted to cost price, a request that was raised at a Union Council meeting. It was suggested by a student to Chris Kaye, our Deputy President (Welfare), that these products were sold at cost price, and after agreement with the Management Team and Council members, the change came into effect.

This is a great example of changes made at the Union as a result of feedback from our members. Chris Kaye commented, "For many women, sanitary products are an essential rather than a luxury. It seems right therefore that these should be sold at minimum cost to our students and wider Imperial community. The Union management team were very amenable to the idea, for which I am very grateful."

## ALL ABOUT FEEDBACK AT THE REP CONFERENCE

Our second Rep Conference took place in Term 2, bringing together academic staff and student representatives.

Themed 'Feedback at Imperial', it reflected Pascal's key election promise and addressed one of the most important academic issues our members raise.

The conference included breakout sessions on Undergraduate and Postgraduate Feedback, led by Academic & Welfare Officers and Departmental Representatives, and a panel session with Professor Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education).

The conference was attended by staff from all faculties, as well as

Educational Development, Graduate School, and College leadership, and we received very positive reception from College staff in particular.



## NEW ROOM MOVE POLICY

Our Deputy President (Welfare) has been busy this term, leading on a campaign to have a formal process for students to swap rooms in halls through the College. A new Room Move Policy will apply for the

2015/16 academic year. Students will be able to swap rooms within halls after two weeks from the start of the year via the Student Hub, and we will be pushing for swaps to be between halls in the future.



## UNION VICTORY ON HALLS RENTS

As a direct result of Union lobbying and campaigning, the College has adopted a new approach to Halls of Residence pricing that will deliver savings to thousands of new students.

Tom Wheeler, Union President, presented a paper at Union Council that he had worked on with the College's Chief Financial Officer. It outlined a number of options for how the College should set halls rents. Council chose the option where the average rents in Wilson and Woodward halls were reduced, thus making the point of entry to living in halls considerably lower.

There are 2,419 rooms available in halls at Imperial. With 788 rooms now available at the £130 per week price point or below, compared to

only 96 before, we think this makes Imperial's Halls of Residence much more accessible to future students - whatever their financial situation.

The Union is proud that it has been able, through constructive lobbying and a joint approach with the College to make a positive, member-led change to thousands of future Imperial students.



Number of rooms available at the £130 price point or below in the new halls pricing structure.

## WE REGAINED OUR DEMOCRATIC CROWN!

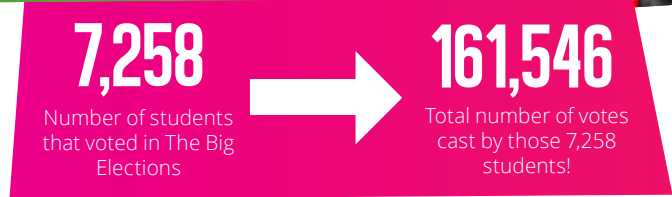
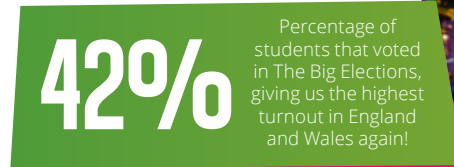
The Big Elections build up started in January and culminated in the voting week from Friday 6 – Friday 13 March. It was our biggest Big Elections yet with more positions and voters than ever before.

With over 42% of students at Imperial voting, we once again have achieved the highest turnout in students' union elections in England and Wales. 7,258 students took part and cast 161,546 votes, our highest ever amounts.

Amongst that, we had an increase in our Postgraduate student community. 50% more Postgraduate students voted in this year's elections than in 2014, and in total 22.5% voted overall, alongside 59.5% of Undergraduates.



The elections culminated in our Results Party in Metric on Friday 13 March where we announced the results and finished off the evening with our signature confetti launch surrounding our newly elected Officer Trustees! All of the results for the elections are online on the Union website.



## RECORD NUMBER OF SACAS NOMINATIONS

Nominations for our Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) opened in November 2014 and closed in February 2015. A last minute surge saw a record number 808 nominations submitted! Nominations were submitted by 586 students, resulting in 407 members of staff receiving a nomination. Candidates have now been shortlisted and invited to the ceremony on Monday 11 May. All nominated staff get a coveted SACAs mug as a little gift from us, and they are receiving them as we speak!



# 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.

### OUR CAMPAIGNS

The new Campaigns section of the website was launched this term, featuring an A to Z of campaigns, and information on how to create a campaign, and our Liberation Zones. 24 campaigns launched last term, and some are ongoing into Term 3, and possibly beyond!

Notable campaigns include Mentality, looking at mental health at Imperial. They survey had 1,115 responses by the end of Term 2. A report will be combined from the results and it will be presented to College and the Union about what the issues face students. Key findings so far include that 4 out of 5 of the top causes of mental distress are academic, including coursework, exams, and academic performance.

Another notable campaign is ICSEXISM, aimed at raising awareness and combating sexism on campus. This campaign is still active, and it has already gather details of a number of experiences from harassment to comments made by academics.

Some of our campaigns are part of national movements as well. For example, Fossil Free Imperial is part of a wider campaign to lobby universities to cut ties with the fossil fuel industry. So far, the campaign has managed secured a meeting with fund managers in College to discuss divestment and ethical investment.



Passionate about something? We can help you campaign about it! Visit our new Campaigns section on our website.

1,115

Number of responses to the Mentality survey so far about mental health at Imperial.



### REYNOLDS' BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Our first Battle of the Bands saw 16 bands compete over four heats in February and March, with the winner of each band competing in the final on Thursday 26 March. Bands were all made up of Imperial students, and they came from a cross section of faculties at the College.

Overall, 250 people attended in all four heats and the final, voting for the bands they wanted to win. The final was an energetic night and the audience provided great support for the bands competing. All the bands were of a great standard, and this

year's winners are Wolf Cellar, a three piece rock band. They were presented with a £500 prize and will be playing at the upcoming Summer Ball!

Battle of the Bands was a great example of the new range of events and activities at Reynolds, diversifying what it offers to all students at Imperial. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

250

Number of attendees to all of the heats and final for Battle of the Bands.



Congratulations to Wolf Cellar, the winning band!



# THE SPRING CARNIVAL TAKES OVER SOUTH KENSINGTON!

The Spring Carnival at the end of term took over FiveSixEight, Metric and the Union Bar with its Wild West theme!

and Metric on the night, including four student acts and our very own India from our Student Activities team!

The event was a great success from start to finish, seeing a 140% rise in ticket sales online before event compared to last year.

20 student staff and DramSoc crew worked on the event to make it a great success, three of them being Student Supervisors. Seven acts performed in FiveSixEight

20

Number of student staff and DramSoc crew worked the event, three of them being student supervisors.



140% INCREASE

In tickets sold online before the Carnival, compared to last year.



## WELCOMING STAFF AND STUDENTS TO THE H-BAR

There was an increase in events and offers at the h-bar this term, aimed at reaching out to the staff and Postgraduate community. This is an area of constant development for us, and we've seen some great events attended by both students and staff so far this year.

The Graduate Students' Union currently running a Departmental Challenge at the h-bar – up to eight teams representing their department

compete in monthly quizzes to win £200 and be crowned Department Champions.

The Union also launched its own Wine Tasting events – the first event was trialled to staff in January, and was then opened out to staff and students in March. March's event at the end of term saw 20 people attend, and the events are running monthly for the rest of the academic year.

## #IMPICS

In conjunction with Sport Imperial, we introduced #impics to our Clubs, Societies & Projects in the new year. Spearheaded by Tom and Abi, our President and Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) respectively, #impics is getting our Clubs, Societies & Projects involved on social media.

All our groups need to do it post a picture on their Twitter page and add the hashtag #impics. Tom or Abi then pick a picture each week to feature in

the Union's weekly newsletter. The hashtag was introduced to help show a positive side to our groups and their activities, and help us to spread the word about what they do to the student community at Imperial.

#impics has been used over 30 times by our groups since Tom and Abi launched it in January, and nine pictures have been featured in our newsletters so far.

30

Amount of times #impics has been used since introduced to our groups in January.



# 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.

### NUS GREEN IMPACT

One of the Union's objectives from its strategy was to work towards our improvement in University Green League. Part of that work included taking part in the NUS Green Impact scheme, going for the Bronze Award.

Headed up by our Commercial Services Manager, a team of staff reviewed current practices and implemented changes at the Union to the scheme's criteria in order to better measure and reduce our environmental impact.

Results of the scheme have included development of office and venue shut procedures to save energy, increased recycling facilities and targets for saving resources such as paper consumption.

**nus**

**green impact**



Read about our Green Impact online on our website.

28

Number of criteria we had to complete for our Green Impact award submission.

### CASUAL STAFF PAYROLL

eActivities is one of our most important tools at the Union. A recent development to it is a payroll system for the 267 of casual student staff we currently employ at the Union. Students are currently employed in a numbers of roles including Bar and Retail Staff, student DJs, Receptionists for our Student Activities Centre, Porters to help set up and clear down events, Promo Staff to distribute leaflets on campus, and even Minibus Drivers to examine students and staff to drive our minibuses!

Through our new online payroll system, departments will be able to enter hours that staff have worked, and those staff will be able to see those hours in eActivities.

This functionality will help centralise and streamline the process, as well as providing a record that our student staff can easily access. It is currently being trialled by the h-bar, with a view of rolling it out across the organisation within the next month.

267

Number of Casual Student Staff we currently employ in a range of roles at the Union.



## OUR SHOPS

Shop Extra and the Union Shop, both on the Sheffield Walkway, are an important income stream for the Union, and they have been performing well so far this academic year.

Shop Extra has sold a total of 48,600 drinks since opening in August. The Union Shop has sold a total of 5,206 Bic biros since August.



Number of drinks sold on Shop Extra since August 2014.

In March, 5p charge for plastic bags was introduced to encourage customers to go green and bring their own. 1,666 carrier bags have been purchased since the start of the charge. This was introduced as part of our Green Impact work, and has had a good response from our customers so far.



Number of Bic biros sold in the Union Shop since August 2014.



**We're going green and you can too!**

From Monday 9 February 2015, we will be issuing a small charge for our plastic bags in the Union Shop and Shop Extra. **A plastic bag for your purchase will cost only 5p.**

**1,666**

Number of plastic bags sold since the start of the charge for them in March.

bring a bag with you, and you can use it in our shops. In turn, we will use the money and help the environment.

**your continued custom cooperation.**

shop



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shop

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## INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Another of the Union's strategic objectives was to "demonstrate our commitment to being an excellent employer by securing and retaining Investors in People status".

Investors in People (IIP) is a world known accreditation, and is a management framework for high performance through people. Union's IIP application was submitted in February, and a number of staff were interviewed by an external assessor.

Subsequent to all of the interviews, the Union achieved IIP status and is a holder of the Standard Award.

A detailed action plan for continued improvement is being written using feedback from our written assessment. This action plan will ensure that staff at the Union continue to do great work for our members at Imperial.



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

**Imperial College Union**

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