

Imperial College Union
Response to the Education & Student Strategy Green Paper

1. Imperial College Union is happy to confirm that the Union Council broadly agree with the proposed actions.
2. In response to how we “would like to be involved” – it is integrally, at every level of the discussion and decision making.
3. We would like to thank the College in involving the Union and our academic representatives at various points within the process.
4. There is nothing in the paper that the Union disagrees with, but:
 - a. We would prefer if in MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) discussions the strategy outlined that we wish for a MOOC that plays to Imperial’s strengths, and as was discussed at the e-learning workshop on 26 February focusses on bridging the divide between research and teaching.
 - b. We are particularly glad Hall Wardening is mentioned in the strategy and look forward to a commitment for this being retained at its current levels (Wardens and Sub-Wardens per student).
 - c. We are keen to ensure that a review of PGT (Postgraduate Taught) courses won’t lead to a cut in choice, or options for students.
 - d. Would wholeheartedly support a growth of the Centres for Doctoral Training, particularly in the midst of rising PGT fees.
 - e. We were a little disappointed that the Union – and its activities - wasn’t featured more in the strategy regarding providing an ‘enriching student experience’.
 - f. We would like to see a College commitment to prompt, detailed and consistent feedback. As this is an area in which Imperial consistently performs appallingly in the National Student Survey.
 - g. We are upset that bridging the undergraduate and postgraduate communities and the role UROPs (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Placement) play in this was not discussed.
5. To help achieve some of the points outlined:
 - a. The Union would suggest the College use the ICU Bursary Survey results to determine how more can “be done to effectively promote the generous financial support” packages available.
 - b. The Union has undertaken 3 months of research into Accreditation schemes that are designed to work with the College.
 - c. The Union is keen to lead on developing the co-ordination of volunteering opportunities.
6. Whilst in broad agreement with everything as written, the Union can’t commit to agreeing any further at this stage without seeing more detailed plans. The Union is looking forward to further iterations of the paper with increased detail, focusing on changes that are being proposed to make a more complete strategy.