

**Purpose:** To provide a review of the mums and dads buddy scheme service for students.

### 1. Introduction

Imperial College Union (ICU) has run a 'mums and dads' buddy scheme over a number of years. The scheme aims to support community cohesion and transition for first-year students ('children') into life at Imperial, by pairing them with current students on their course ('parents').

'Parents' can provide academic, social and signpost to pastoral support, as well as creating families with additional 'children' so that first years can benefit from peer support.

Currently, this scheme is run both centrally by ICU, as well as by department societies. This year, owing to staffing changes within the ICU and a later timeline of activity, department societies ran the schemes independently.

The review is a key objective on the manifesto of the Deputy President Education (DPE), and there is an interest in how the scheme supports student mental health, continuation at the College, and academic attainment.

### 2. Key Questions

- Is the scheme achieving its current aims of community cohesion and transitional support for students?
- Does the scheme support student mental health, as well as continuation and attainment?
- Is the scheme working operationally for parents and children, as well as department societies?
- Should the scheme be expanded to include more activity?

### 3. Timeline of review activity

The review will consist of a number of steps. Because the review is not time sensitive, there is a long timeline to allow for some flexibility

Activity	Lead	Date
Interview department presidents	DPE (with support from ICU staff team)	November-December 2021
Ask questions relating to the Mums and Dads scheme through the annual student experience survey (SES)	DPE, Deputy President Welfare (with support from the ICU staff team)	Feb 2022
Focus groups with students who have participated in the scheme	DPE (with support from the ICU staff team)	Feb 2022
Present findings to Union Council	DPE	April 2022
Implement any agreed changes for the next academic year	DPE (with support from the ICU staff team)	June 2022

### 4. Next steps

If the review is agreed upon, ICU will commence this review as soon as possible. If you would like to be involved in the review, please contact Daniel at [dpeducation@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpeducation@imperial.ac.uk)