Why safeguarding matters

Safeguarding is action taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and to protect them from harm.

This can include staff and students, as well as anyone directly affected by our researching and teaching activities on campus or at fieldwork sites in the UK or overseas.

It is important to be mindful of safeguarding responsibility when working abroad, particularly where certain dynamics, for example, relating to gender, race, sexuality and faith can make people vulnerable in circumstances where they otherwise would not be.

It is therefore necessary to be aware of safeguarding policy, its implications and what is required of you regardless of whether you expect to be working directly with children or vulnerable adults in the course of your research.

International support

It can be difficult to understand what is expected of you regarding safeguarding and welfare when operating abroad; this leaflet is designed to provide clarity on what safeguarding is, your responsibilities and who can provide you with support.

If you are concerned about any student, member of staff or participant that you come into contact with whilst working abroad contact your local or lead safeguarding officer and they will be able to provide you with the best advice for your situation and country.

Imperial College London

Safeguarding Internationally

- What safeguarding is
- What your responsibilities are
- What to do
- Imperial College values and behaviours:
  Behaviours Framework
  Student Code of Conduct

Your responsibilities

Safeguarding relates to any sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment of research participants, communities and research staff, plus any broader forms of violence, exploitation and abuse relevant to research such as:

- ‣ Bullying
- ‣ Psychological abuse
- ‣ Physical violence

· Make yourself aware of the signs that someone is being abused, harassed or bullied.

· Make yourself aware of Imperial's safeguarding policies as well as any policies at your partner institution.

· If someone makes a disclosure, stay calm, listen carefully, ask open questions and take the situation seriously.

· Be mindful of confidentiality but aware that disclosures must be reported and convey this to anyone making a disclosure.

· If you have any concerns, report these to the local or lead safeguarding officer at Imperial who will be able to provide advice.

If a safeguarding concern comes to your attention:

· Make a written record, dated and signed, of what you have been told and what you did – in their words, not yours.

· Discuss it with as few people as possible.

· Report the disclosure to the local or lead safeguarding officer.
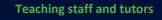

Imperial College values and behaviours

Our behaviours framework of Respect, Collaboration, Excellence, Integrity and Innovation applies to all elements of our working lives. Working internationally may have particular challenges. Staff and students are effectively ambassadors of Imperial College when overseas. Interactions with others should always be respectful and professional both during working hours and in social and after work events. Participants should respect the social and cultural beliefs of the host country and seek advice and training if there is any uncertainty on appropriate behaviours. Unsafe working practices or inappropriate behaviour should always be reported to a supervisor or via this link if preferred:
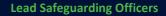Report and Support | Administration and support services | Imperial College London

Reporting

Teaching staff and tutors

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