

# Imperial College London

## Summary of 2020-21 to 2024-25 access and participation plan

### What is an access and participation plan?

Access and participation plans set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. You can see the full access and participation plan for Imperial College London on our [website](#).

See pages 7 to 10 of the full plan

### Key points

The focus of our plan is on improving access and participation for specific groups of students. Data shows that the following groups of students are less likely to secure entry into the College:

- Black students
- Students from areas of high deprivation and students from areas where participation in higher education is low

In addition to access gaps, the following group of students is less likely to complete their studies once they join the College:

- Disabled students

See page 24 of the full plan

### Fees we charge

At Imperial College London, the maximum fees charged are £9,250 for full-time home students. You can see a full list of fees for courses at Imperial College London at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/>

See pages 15, 19 to 21 of the full plan

### Financial help available

We offer financial support to students from disadvantaged or underrepresented groups. This helps students access higher education and continue studying until their course is completed.

The support includes:

- The [Imperial Bursary](#), one of the most generous schemes of its kind in the UK, helps Home students with the cost of studying in London, up to a value of £5,000 per year.
- A [hardship fund](#) to support students from households with an income below £40,000 who experience an unexpected financial hardship during their time at university
- A [travel bursary](#) for low-income households to attend open days/ interviews.

We also have a number of other [loans and grants](#), [scholarships](#) and [allowances for disabled students](#) available.

See page 23 of the full plan

### Information for students

- For prospective students, we give details of the [undergraduate funding](#) available to students in the College Prospectus. Students can also find information on the Imperial bursary on the College website. The [bursary pages](#) set out the eligibility criteria and the levels of financial support available to students in each year of their studies.
- The College website provides fees and funding information to [applicants and new entrants](#) and for [continuing students](#).

## What we are aiming to achieve

See pages 7 to 10 of the full plan

Imperial College London specialises in Science, Engineering, Medicine and Business. The entry grades normally required for our programmes are high – typically between AAA and A\*A\*A, and normally in specified subjects. Our curriculum takes this level of prior attainment into account, and rapidly accelerates our students' learning to enable them to achieve excellent academic and employment outcomes.

The College encourages applications from students with less advantaged backgrounds. We make specific adjustments to our admissions processes, varying by department, to ensure the offers we make are fair. The College website has further details on our [admissions policies](#).

We aim to admit those students who are best able to benefit from a degree at Imperial, and to ensure that, once here, students are supported to enable them to flourish, regardless of their background. In particular, we are targeting the following improvements:

- Increase the proportion of Black applicants enrolling at the College
- Increase the proportion of students from areas of high deprivation and areas with low participation in higher education enrolling at the College
- Reduce the proportion of students with a registered disability discontinuing their studies before their second year.

See pages 10 to 17 of the full plan and Annex B

## What we are doing to achieve our aims

Because we expect our students to have achieved good grades at A-Level, we are committed to **working with schools** to help raise school- and college-age attainment. We work with school students from Year 6 to Year 13 – in the earlier years, we aim to inspire students about science.

We hope to encourage as many young people as possible to embrace science at school, and to have the opportunity to go on to study science, engineering and medicine at university, even if only a small number of the students that we have helped choose to come to Imperial.

Our [online programmes](#) to support students studying A-Level Maths and Further Maths are designed to help students achieve the best grade they can. Our proposed [Mathematics School](#), currently at an advanced stage of development, will offer an opportunity for Year 12 and 13 students in London to study Maths and another STEM subject at A-Level in a specialised environment, with support from Imperial's academic community.

Our **support for our students** continues once they have met their offer, and after they have arrived at the College. We know the transition from school or college to university is enormously challenging, and that it can be particularly difficult for students who don't have lots of friends or family who have been to university, so may be less clear what to expect. Those who have not lived in a city before have the additional challenge of moving to London. Many of our students – from all backgrounds – will have been among the brightest in their class at school or college, and now find themselves in a large group of equally accomplished students.

All these factors make the first weeks and months at university challenging, as so we offer a range of programmes to help students make the transition. For some students, enhanced pastoral support may be what they need most. As our programmes are rigorous, we recognise that many students may at some point need additional academic support in one or more aspects of their curriculum. We have a range of mechanisms, mostly delivered locally in departments, to offer this support. We also offer a generous programme of [financial support](#).

At Imperial, we are committed to embedding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion into every part of our work, culture and decision-making. When it comes to our undergraduate programmes, this means doing everything we can to ensure that students with the capacity to succeed at Imperial are given the opportunity to do so, and that the student voice is heard throughout that process. By maintaining our focus and investment in these areas, we will continue to foster a diverse, creative and entrepreneurial community.

See pages 17 to 18  
of the full plan

### **How students can get involved**

The College continues to work in close partnership with Imperial College Union in the development of its plan. The Union has prioritised the development of the roles of Liberation & Community Officers, which have historically had a lower profile at Imperial than at some other institutions. There are officers covering: Black & Minority Ethnic (BME), Disabilities, Ethics & Environment, Gender Equality, Interfaith, International, LGBT+, and Mental Health.

The Access and Participation Compliance Group also has representation from two sabbatical officers of the Imperial College Union and are fully included in the decision making and monitoring of our plan. Through our Student Shapers programme, our students are given the opportunity to work with us to create new ways of working together to support learning.

See pages 21 to 22 of the  
full plan and Annex B

### **Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved**

As an institution we place high value on taking evidence-based decisions, even outside of the classroom or laboratory. Our [Centre for Higher Education Research and Scholarship](#) undertakes research to help us understand how we can improve the support we offer, and as an innovative, entrepreneurial university, we are always keen to try new ways of supporting our students.

We have appointed additional staff to develop and coordinate our activities and will deploy more of our resources towards external evaluation. We have a new APP evaluation delivery group, including expert lay members and representation from all Faculties. This allows us to monitor our programmes on a termly basis and, where appropriate, realign our work to meet the aims and objectives of our plan. We assess the experience of participants on outreach activities, considering aspects such as confidence and their increasing readiness for university. The academic progress of all students at Imperial who have been flagged as having attended one of our outreach programmes is also assessed.

We have begun commissioning more targeted external evaluation of our activities and progress against benchmarks. We will employ experts to review our existing events so that they will be welcoming for students from target groups.

We also evaluate the effectiveness of our bursary annually, to ensure it is effective in helping students to access and succeed at the College.

The plan is monitored by [Council](#), the College's governing body, on an annual basis. They monitor the College's performance and progress towards targets. In addition to this, the plan will continue to be monitored by the Access and Participation Compliance Group.

### **Contact details for further information**

You can contact our team at [admissions.enquiries@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.enquiries@imperial.ac.uk)