

Programme Information		
Programme Titles	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Materials Science and Engineering	JF52	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
BEng (Hons)	3 years	Full time	October	180	360
DipHE* - JFM2D	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	240
CertHE* - JFM2C	N/A	N/A	N/A	60	120

\* The CertHE and DipHE are exit awards only and not accredited by any professional body. They may be offered to students, in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Engineering
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Materials
Associateship	Royal School of Mines (RSM)	Main Location(s) of Study	South Kensington Campus

External Reference	
Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement(s)</a> and/or other external reference points	<a href="#">Materials</a>
<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>	Level 6 - BEng
<a href="#">EHEA Level</a>	BEng - 1st Cycle

External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3)		
Accreditation received:	2023	Accreditation renewal:	2028

Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Specification Details	
Programme Lead	Dr Andrew Cairns
Student cohorts covered by specification	2024-25 entry

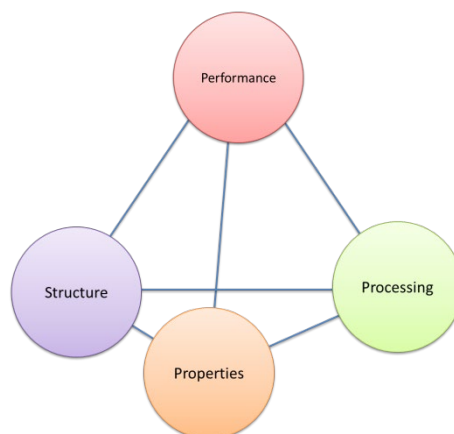
Date of introduction of programme	October 92
Date of programme specification/revision	August 23

## Programme Overview

The programmes delivered by the Department of Materials are designed to engage you in both the scientific and engineering aspects of the discipline.

The complex interrelationship between processing, structure, properties and performance lies at the centre of Materials Science and Engineering, see figure below. For example, for steel, the most commonly used metal, how it is processed will influence its structure, the structure affects its mechanical properties which in turn determine the material's performance in a particular application. A practitioner in the discipline may ask the question "how do I design a material for my system" or "why does this material exhibit these properties," the first question is Materials Engineering and the second Materials Science.

All undergraduate courses in the Department of Materials follow a common structure in years 1 and 2, allowing you, where visa conditions permit, to transfer between streams at set points within your degree. Core modules taught across the first, second and third years are designed to introduce you to the four foundations of the discipline: Processing, Structure, Properties and Performance (see figure below), plus Materials Characterisation, Mathematics and Computing, Business for Engineers and Engineering Practice. In the third year you will have the option to select electives that probe the Processing, Structure, Properties and Performance of particular classes of material in greater depth.



In the Processing modules you will learn how raw materials are converted into engineered products, the Structure modules consider how processing influences structure, across a range of length scales, which determines the structural and functional Properties of materials, that then defines their Performance in a given application, for example steel structures or battery systems. The Mathematics and Computing module introduces you, through science and engineering examples, to the tools that support the discipline. In the Engineering Practice modules you will work as a member of a team to design a processing system and to deconstruct an artefact. The laboratory sessions associated with the modules are structured to introduce you to the key practical skills required of a Materials Scientist and Engineer; then as the course progresses, you are given more opportunity to design your own experiments to test a hypothesis and investigate materials using electron microscopy and X-ray diffraction.

An extended laboratory project that investigates the relationship between processing, structure and properties of a material is a major part of the third year of the programme. There are also core<sup>1</sup> modules in Materials Processing, Theory and Simulation of Materials, Business for Materials Scientists and Engineers. In the third year you will have the opportunity to select electives from a list that map on to the Department's research themes and give you the

<sup>1</sup> **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. **Elective** modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

opportunity to study in more detail a particular class of material or underpinning principle. You will also broaden your educational experience by taking an I-Explore module.

### **MEng vs BEng**

The department offers both a three-year BEng programme and four-year integrated Master's MEng programme in Materials Science and Engineering. Both degree programmes involve substantial group and individual project work. The MEng has the added benefit of Master's level elective modules and the opportunity to undertake a research project in a cutting-edge Materials Research Group in the final year of the programme.

As the first two years are the same for all programmes, students can (visa issues permitting) transfer between all programmes up to the end of 2nd year and transfer between the MEng and BEng to the end of 3rd year, or transfer to the Biomaterials programme up to the end of 3rd year depending on subject choices.

For details of the other programmes offered by the department please refer to the individual programme specifications for:

- Materials Science and Engineering MEng
- Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering MEng
- Materials with Nuclear Engineering MEng

### **Accreditation**

These degrees are professionally accredited by the IOM3 (The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining) on behalf of the Engineering Council.

Achieving a professionally accredited degree demonstrates to employers that you have achieved an industry-recognised standard of competency.

Our BEng degree counts towards the educational requirements for becoming a Chartered Engineer (CEng). While our MEng degrees fully satisfy the educational requirements of this professional qualification, BEng graduates will need to undertake further study on graduation to demonstrate that their knowledge is at Master's degree level. To gain Chartered status, you will need to demonstrate your ability to meet additional graduate level competences described in the Engineering Council's UK-SPEC.

A CEng is a highly respected qualification earned by professionals working in engineering, which can lead to higher earning potential and better career prospects.

Professional registration also brings international recognition of your qualification, which is particularly useful for students preparing for a career abroad.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon the successful completion of a **BEng** award, you will be able to:

1. Apply scientific and mathematical reasoning to explain Materials Science and Engineering phenomena.
2. Use a combination of scientific and engineering knowledge in processing/synthesis, characterisation and modelling to explore and control the structure, properties and performance of materials.
3. Collect, analyse and evaluate experimental or in-service data.
4. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, to a range of audiences.
5. Work as a member of a multi-cultural, international team across disciplinary boundaries to deliver a project.
6. Comply with and improve procedures to enhance your own safety and practice and that of others.
7. Develop creative and innovative solutions to problems in Materials Engineering.
8. Perform experiments to test a scientific hypothesis.
9. Demonstrate an awareness of the challenges of implementing Materials Science and Engineering solutions in a commercial environment.
10. Exercise independent scholarship and adapt your skillsets to keep pace with an evolving sector.
11. Demonstrate an awareness of the legal, social, ethical and professional principles associated with Materials Science and Engineering and act in a manner that respects those principles.

Upon successful completion of two years of study, leading to the award of a **Diploma (DipHE)**, you will be able to:

1. Illustrate the use of scientific and mathematical reasoning to explain Materials Science and Engineering phenomena.
2. Explain the relationships between processing, structure, properties and performance of materials.

3. Collect and analyse experimental data.
4. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
5. Work as a member of a team to deliver a project.
6. Comply with procedures to ensure your own safety and that of others.

Upon successful completion of one year of study, leading to the award of a **Certificate (CertHE)**, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the terminology of Materials Science and Engineering.
2. Understand the principal relationships between processing, structure, properties and performance of materials through solving MSE related problems.
3. Collect and analyse experimental data.
4. Write experimental reports.
5. Work as a member of a team to deliver a project.
6. Comply with procedures to ensure your own safety and that of others.

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/>

## Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	<p><b><u>A-levels</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Minimum entry standards</i></b> Our minimum entry standard is <b>AAA overall</b>, to include: Mathematics Either Chemistry or Physics And a 3<sup>rd</sup> subject General Studies and Critical Thinking <b>are not</b> accepted.</p> <p><b><i>Typical offer range</i></b> As a guide, here are the typical offers made in 2022 to at least 80% of applicants studying A-levels: Three A-level offer: AAA - <b>A*AA</b></p> <p><b><i>Practical endorsement (practical science assessment)</i></b> If you are made an offer you will be required to achieve a pass in the practical endorsement in all science subjects that form part of the offer. The practical endorsement is part of the reformed English linear A-levels.</p> <p><b><u>International Baccalaureate</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Minimum entry standards</i></b> Our minimum entry standard is 38 points overall, to include:  6 in Mathematics at higher level 6 in Physics or Chemistry at higher level</p> <p><b><i>Typical offer range</i></b> As a guide, the typical offer made in 2022 to at least 80% of applicants studying IB was 38 points overall.</p> <p>For further information on entry requirements, please go to <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/undergraduate/entry-requirements/">www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/undergraduate/entry-requirements/</a></p>
Non-academic Requirements	N/A
English Language Requirement	<p><a href="#">Standard requirement</a> Please check for other <a href="#">Accepted English Qualifications</a></p>

Admissions Test/Interview	There is no admissions test. All applicants who are shortlisted will be invited for an interview at Imperial, the interview will include an opportunity for students to tour the Department.
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The programme's competency standards document is available from the department.

## Learning & Teaching Approach

### Teaching

You will learn through a combination of entire cohort sessions, small group workshops, tutorials, a significant number of laboratory activities and independent study. Students will build on their core knowledge from Years 1 and 2 in specific areas through the selection of optional courses in Year 3.

The teaching methods used to deliver core and optional modules will vary from standard classroom teaching to more active learning in which, for example, you may be required to watch a short lecture on a subject online and then during the teaching session work on a structured problem set with the support of the academic in charge.

Professional skills development is supported in Years 1 and 2 through the personal tutorial system, where students work in small groups together with an academic.

In addition to individual learning students will participate in a number of group projects e.g. in Year 1 a Design Study, in Year 2 a Case Study and in Year 3 an extended laboratory exercise, these are designed to develop team work and also offer you opportunities to refine your presentation skills.

Laboratory and computing sessions get progressively more complex through the programme. Initially key skills such as sample polishing, polymer synthesis and python programming are taught. This progresses to core characterisation laboratories, modelling workshops and an extended processing exercise in Years 2 and 3.

You will be expected to spend significant time on independent study outside of face-to-face contact time. This will typically include reading journal articles and books, undertaking research online and in the library, reviewing lecture notes and watching lecture recordings, working on individual and group projects, working on coursework assignments and revising for exams. There is also a programme of extra-curricular lectures delivered by guest speakers from industry (e.g. Shell and Rolls-Royce) designed to introduce you to some of the key technical challenges in industry.

### Overall workload

Module size at Imperial is measured in ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits. One ECTS represents about 25 hours of student effort for a typical conscientious student, including formal teaching, practical work, private study, examination preparation and assessment. A full academic year involves 60 ECTS, or about 1500 hours of study in total.

Core modules in Years 1 and 2 are worth 10 ECTS. Some of these modules have a very high component of coursework, e.g. Engineering Principles 1 is 100% coursework. However, the majority involve about 60 hours of lectures, tutorials and workshops, 40 hours of laboratory work, 100 hours of coursework, problem solving, private study and project work, and about 50 hours of revision for an end of module examination. There is significant variation in this balance between different modules, but all modules of equivalent value involve similar levels of commitment and workload. Electives in Year 3 are typically worth 5 ECTS and will involve 30 hours of lecture or workshop time, 60 hours of coursework, problem solving, private study and project work, and about 35 hours of revision for an end of module examination.

Lectures, practicals and other formal activities take place on weekdays only, with Wednesday afternoons normally remaining free. We do not normally schedule teaching out of term time.

## Assessment Strategy

### Assessment Methods

You can expect a variety of different types of assessment, such as:

- Performance in the Teaching Laboratory

- Laboratory reports
- Online programming tests
- Written coursework
- Group project reports
- Written examinations
- Poster Presentations
- Research thesis
- Oral presentations

You will have already experienced various forms of academic assessment during your previous education. At Imperial, we use assessment in two ways: Formative assessment is used to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding, and to help you judge your own progress; formative assessment does not contribute to your final marks and class of degree awarded. Summative assessment involves formal assessment of your work, through examination, coursework and project work; summative assessment does contribute to your final result.

Year 1 and 2 core modules are either year-long (and run in every term of the year) or run for a single term. The year-long Mathematics and Computing and Performance of Structural Materials modules will be assessed by a combination of coursework and end of term tests. The Engineering Practice modules will be both formatively and summatively assessed by coursework throughout the year. Care is taken when setting coursework to distribute deadlines through the year. The Processing, Structure and Property modules will be assessed by an end of module examination in the term in which they are taught. It is important to note that the final activity in the Engineering Practice modules will consider how mathematics, processing, structure, property and skills taught during the year influence the performance of a material system. To perform well in the final assessment of the Engineering Practice module will require a knowledge of all material introduced across the entire course to date.

In Year 3 the core modules will all be coursework only or a combination of coursework and examination whilst the electives will be assessed by a combination of coursework and examination or examination only.

The exact balance of the summative assessment through the programme depends upon which elective modules are taken, but is likely to be:

	Coursework	Examination
Year 1	40%	60%
Year 2	35%	65%
Year 3	38% - 45%	55% - 62%

#### Academic Feedback Policy

Academic feedback to students on coursework is primarily returned by Blackboard Learn portal and internal departmental systems within the timeline identified in the student handbooks. Feedback will also be given (where appropriate) verbally following assessment or during interactions with GTAs, Teaching Staff, Personal Tutors, the Senior Tutor or Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Feedback may be provided in a number of formats, including:

- Oral (during/after lectures, workshops, labs);
- Personal (during academic discussions e.g. personal tutorials, office hours);
- Interactive (during workshops with academic staff/GTAs);
- Written (solutions to coursework, comments on laboratory reports).

Feedback on written examinations is provided in the form of written commentaries which comment on the performance of the entire cohort on each individual question.

During the academic year indicative results will be provided to students, the results are ratified at the Board of Examiners.

Feedback from students is imperative to helping us improve the course - particularly via the Module Evaluation Questionnaire (MEQ) and through the department Staff-Student Committee.

Imperial's Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Re-sit Policy

Imperial's Policy on Re-sits is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Mitigating Circumstances Policy

Imperial's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Additional Programme Costs

This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.

Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
<p>You will need a laptop for some classes and coursework. The laptop must meet a minimum specification.</p> <p>Windows 10 capable Intel i5/i7 6th/7th generation processor 16GB RAM 256 GB SSD HDD Webcam</p>	Mandatory	N/A

**Important notice:** The Programme Specifications are the result of a large curriculum and pedagogy reform implemented by the Department and supported by the Learning and Teaching Strategy of Imperial College London. The modules, structure and assessments presented in this Programme Specification are correct at time of publication but might change as a result of student and staff feedback and the introduction of new or innovative approaches to teaching and learning. You will be consulted and notified in a timely manner of any changes to this document.

<b>Programme Structure</b>					
<b>Year 1 – FHEQ Level 4</b> <b>You will study all modules.</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group*	Term	Credits
MATE40001	Mathematics and Computing 1	Core	N/A	Autumn-Summer	10
MATE40002	Performance of Structural Materials	Core	N/A	Autumn-Summer	10
MATE40003	Engineering Practice 1	Core	N/A	Autumn-Summer	10
MATE40005	Fundamentals of Processing	Core	N/A	Spring-Summer	10
MATE40004	Structure 1	Core	N/A	Autumn-Spring	10
MATE40006	Properties 1	Core	N/A	Spring-Summer	10
Credit Total					60
<b>Year 2 – FHEQ Level 5</b> <b>You will study all modules.</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
MATE50001	Mathematics and Computing 2	Core	N/A	Autumn-Summer	10
MATE50002	Performance of Functional Materials	Core	N/A	Spring-Summer	10
MATE50003	Engineering Practice 2	Core	N/A	Spring-Summer	10
MATE50004	Structure 2	Core	N/A	Spring	10
MATE50005	Materials Characterisation	Core	N/A	Autumn-Spring	10
MATE50006	Properties 2	Core	N/A	Spring	10
Credit Total					60
<b>Year 3 - FHEQ Level 6</b> <b>You will study all core modules. If you are following the BEng programmes in Materials Science and Engineering you should select four electives from groups A and B.</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits



BUSI60044	Managerial Economics (Online)	Core	N/A	Autumn-Spring	5
MATE60002	Theory and Simulation of Materials	Core	N/A	Autumn	7.5
MATE60003	Processing Laboratory	Core	N/A	Autumn-Spring	5
MATE60004	Research Techniques	Core	N/A	Autumn-Summer	7.5
MATE60005	Transport Phenomena for Materials Processing	Core	N/A	Spring	10
	I-Explore	Compulsory	N/A	Autumn &/or Spring	5
MATE60006	Biomaterials	Elective	B	Autumn-Spring	5
MATE60007	Engineering Alloys	Elective	A	Autumn	5
MATE60008	Ceramics and Glasses	Elective	A	Spring-Summer	5
MATE60009	Mathematics and Quantum Mechanics	Elective	A	Autumn	5
MATE60010	Optoelectronic Materials	Elective	A	Autumn	5
MATE60011	Surfaces and Interfaces	Elective	A	Autumn	5
MATE60012	Nanomaterials	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
Credit Total					60

## Progression and Classification

For each year a mark for the year is determined by aggregating the weighted module marks, the weighting is by the ECTS associated with each module.

To proceed from Year One

A BEng student must:

- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 40.00% in each module.
- Achieve a mark for the year of at least 40.00%.

To proceed from Year Two

A BEng student must:

- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 40.00% in each module.
- Achieve a mark for the year of at least 40.00%.

To be awarded a BEng after Year Three

A BEng student must:

- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 40.00% in each module, failure in an elective module may be compensated provided that you have been awarded 30.00% or higher. No more than 15 ECTS may be earned as compensated passes across the degree programme.

### Transferring between programmes

As the first two years are the same for all programmes, students can (visa issues permitting) transfer between all programmes up to the end of 2nd year and transfer between the MEng and BEng to the end of 3rd year, or transfer to the Biomaterials programme up to the end of 3rd year depending on subject choices.

### Classification

The marks from modules in each year contribute towards the final degree classification.

In order to be considered for an award, you must have achieved the minimum number of credits at the required levels.

Your classification will be determined by your year weighted mark:

For a BEng award, Year One is weighted at 7.50%, Year Two at 35.00% and Year Three at 57.50%.

The university sets the class of undergraduate degree that may be awarded as follows:

First	70.00% or above for the average weighted module results
Upper Second	60.00% or above for the average weighted module results
Lower Second	50.00% or above for the average weighted module results
Third	40.00% or above for the average weighted module results

Please find the full Academic Regulations at [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/). Please follow the prompts to find the set of regulations relevant to your programme of study.

## Programme Specific Regulations

Provided a student has passed the year a student may be allowed the opportunity to be reassessed on failed modules in Years 1, 2, and 3, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

As an accredited degree, students on this programme are subject to the standards set by the Engineering Council in relation to compensation: a maximum of 15 ECTS credits can be compensated across the entire programme.

## Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available from the department.

The Module Handbook is available from the department.

Imperial's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/accepted-qualifications/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/accepted-qualifications/)

Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance)

Imperial's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations)

Imperial College London is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of Imperial's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established Imperial as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/)

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)

[www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/)

**This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.**