Imperial College London

Imperial College London is one of the world’s leading science-focused universities, committed to making advances in research and education, to making lasting contributions to society, and with great ambition for its future. Multi-cultural, global in outlook and reach, Imperial consistently achieves one of the highest rankings nationally and internationally.

The College has three faculties: Engineering, Medicine and Natural Sciences and the Business School, as well as a significant number of interdisciplinary research centres which work on the great challenges of the day, such as climate and environmental change, energy supply, security and global health.

Established in 1907 in London’s scientific and cultural heartland in South Kensington, the College was initially a merger of the Royal College of Science, the City and Guilds College and the Royal School of Mines. The Faculty of Medicine was formed from a merging of St Mary’s Hospital Medical School, the National Heart and Lung Institute, Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.

In more recent years, the UK’s first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) was established. The College is also a founding partner of the Francis Crick Institute, an inter-disciplinary medical research institute opened in 2016. The Business School is a key player offering a full range of courses and degrees and conducting research that benefits from being in the world’s leading financial and business capital.

Facts and Figures
The College:

- is home to 17,000 students and 8,000 staff (half of whom are research and academic staff);
- ranks consistently in the top 5 universities in Europe and top 10 worldwide;
- is an international community, attracting undergraduates from over 125 countries and staff with 117 different nationalities;
- places excellence in education at the core of its ethos and is reflected in UK and international rankings.
- is home to the greatest concentration of high-impact research of any major UK university.
- has one of the highest incomes in the UK Higher Education sector;
- holds an Institutional Silver Athena Swan award, recognising women’s academic careers in science, technology and engineering
- has had many distinguished members, including 14 Nobel laureates, two Fields Medallists, and many members of the Royal Society and national Academies.
Travel information

Imperial College is at a few minutes of walk from South Kensington tube station (underground). The station is reachable from any international airport of London.

**Heathrow airport.** (Suggested transportation: underground.) From the airport, take the Piccadilly underground line towards South Kensington station. The journey takes around 55 minutes. Oyster cards (see ticket section) can be purchased directly at the airport at the underground gates.

**Gatwick airport.** (Suggested transportation: Southern railways train.) From the airport, take the train to London Victoria. There are two train companies serving the airport: Southern Railway and Gatwick Express. Southern Railway is cheaper and takes about the same time of the Gatwick Express. Moreover, if you take the Southern Express you can use the Oyster card and there is no need to buy an additional ticket. A dedicated ticket is required on the Gatwick express. The journey time is around 35 minutes. From London Victoria take the underground lines District or Circle towards South Kensington station. Alternatively, marginally cheaper coach options to London Victoria are available at the airport. Please consult the website of the airport for more information [https://www.gatwickairport.com/](https://www.gatwickairport.com/).

**Stansted airport.** (Suggested transportation: train, but advanced booking is needed to avoid expensive fares.) From the airport, take the Stansted Express to Tottenham Hale [https://www.stanstedexpress.com/](https://www.stanstedexpress.com/). The journey time is around 40 minutes. From there take the Victoria underground line toward Victoria station, then switch to the District/Circle for South Kensington. Alternatively, cheaper coach options to London Victoria are available at the airport. Please consult the website of the airport for more information [https://www.stanstedairport.com/](https://www.stanstedairport.com/).

**London City Airport.** (Suggested transportation: DLR+underground.) This airport is served by the DLR service (pay by Oyster card). Take the DLR towards Canning Town. Switch to the underground Jubilee line. From the Jubilee line go to Green Park to take the Piccadilly line or to Westminster station to take the District/Circle line. On the Piccadilly/District/Circle go to South Kensington.

**Luton Airport and Southend Airport.** These two minor airports offer a train towards a major London train station (London Liverpool Street or London St Pancras International). From there you take the tube to South Kensington. Coach options are available from Luton towards Victoria [https://www.london-luton.co.uk/](https://www.london-luton.co.uk/). Coaches towards Victoria are NOT available from Southend Airport.

The Eurostar train connects Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam to London St Pancras Station (next to King’s Cross station). From the train station take the Piccadilly underground line towards South Kensington.

There are many major train stations in London connected to the rest of the UK. Please check google maps for details on how to reach South Kensington station.

Travel by car (rented or personal) is discouraged. Uber or cabs are available. They may be your only option if your arrival flight is after midnight or your departure flight is before 7am.

Underground map [https://tfl.gov.uk/maps/track/tube](https://tfl.gov.uk/maps/track/tube)

**Tickets**

Cash is not accepted on London public transport. It is advised that you buy an Oyster card for bus or tube transportation. You can buy an Oyster card at the underground stations. When you leave London, you can return your Oyster card and obtain your deposit back (5 pounds + any remaining credit). The only other way to pay is by contact less or smartphone pay systems. However, be aware of your exchange rate fees.

We are unable to advice on how much to load on the Oyster card. It will depend on your travel plans and location of accommodation. Please check the tfl website for information about the fares [https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster](https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/oyster).

You can buy it in advance if you wish so [https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/visiting-london/visitor-oyster-card](https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/visiting-london/visitor-oyster-card)
From South Kensington to Imperial College

Once you reach South Kensington follow the indication for the museum. The College is on Exhibition Road after you pass the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

In the following page there is a map of the campus. The Control and Power group, which hosts the course, is at the 11th floor of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department, indicated with the number 16 on the campus map.
Accommodation

We recommend booking your accommodation as early as possible. Given the short-term duration of the course, the university is not able to provide student accommodation to the participants. A list of suggested hotels by the College is available at this page http://www.imperial.ac.uk/visitors-accommodation/local-hotels/

Note that you can find cheaper options on external websites (Booking.com, Expedia or Airbnb).

London is a large city. A place at 30 minutes from College is considered close, so be careful to check your commuting time before booking your accommodation.

Food

Coffee breaks during the course will be provided by the organisation.

Many lunch options are available in campus https://www.imperial.ac.uk/food-and-drink/

Note that most outlets in campus do not accept cash. You will have to use your debit/credit card (no AMEX) or an app such as http://www.imperial.ac.uk/food-and-drink/yoyo/

Further Information

Local organization

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If you have any question, do not hesitate to contact me.

WiFi

Wireless internet will be available at the meeting location for all days.

Electricity Adapter

Please note that most European electricity plugs are not compatible with the UK system. You most likely will need an adapter (which you can buy at the airport)
Visa requirements

Non-EU nationals may require a visa for staying in the UK. For more information please check https://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa

EU nationals and Brexit: on the 29 of March 2019 the UK is set to leave the EU. At the time this document is written EU nationals do not require a Visa and it is expected that Visas will not be required. However, this may change at a later date.

Liability and Insurance

The local organizers are not able to take any responsibility whatsoever for any kind of injury or damage involving persons and property during the duration of the Graduate School. Participants are therefore advised to obtain personal travel and health insurance for their trip.

Invitation Letter

Upon request, the local organizers will send a personal invitation to a participant. This invitation is only meant to help visitors to raise travel founds or to obtain a visa and is not a commitment of the local organizers to provide any financial support to the participant.