

IMPACT REPORT

2015/16 TERM ONE



imperialcollegeunion.org/impact

 imperial
college
union

WELCOME TO OUR IMPACT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Every year Imperial College Union welcomes over 5,500 new students to the Imperial community. Welcome Week is our annual chance to introduce all of these new students to the exciting range of activities and opportunities that we offer. From volunteering in the local community to becoming your course's Academic Rep, Imperial College Union has something for everyone.

This term in particular we are excited about some of the new services and opportunities on offer for our members. Our relaunched Student Development service has seen a record level

of engagement in our Imperial Plus scheme, Community Connections and the new Imperial Award. You can find out more about all of these schemes and more in this report!

In October we opened our new bar at Woodward Hall, The Foundry. Offering great value food and drink to the 700 students in Woodward Hall as well as other students living nearby, The Foundry is already a key part of the student experience in the area and we look forward to seeing it grow from strength to strength in the coming years.

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of the Union and ensuring they get the best possible induction to their roles led us to radically change the way we trained them this year. We delivered face-to-face training in small groups to over 500 elected students, a true commitment to our most precious resource.

Of course this report lists many, many more of the Union's achievements from our first term in office and we can't to see what the next two terms bring!

Officer Trustee Team

Visit our impact website for even more information!

imperialcollegeunion.org/impact

YOUR OFFICER TRUSTEES



From left to right

Chun-Yin

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

Jennie

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE)

Lucinda

PRESIDENT

Ben

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

Chris

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

Read more about Our Plan, the
Union's Strategy until 2016, online at:
imperialcollegeunion.org/strategy

ENHANCING THE
Student Experience



Imperial College Union plays a key role in how students learn, develop and grow during their time here, especially through the skills that they learn through involvement in our activities.



Community Connections

500+

500+ students attended our third Volunteering Fair

VOLUNTEERING FAIR

Over 500 students attended our third Volunteering Fair where 40 charities, community groups and student groups were exhibiting and promoting opportunities available. Our Volunteering Fair gives students the chance to find their ideal volunteering opportunity where they can use their skills, knowledge and free time to make a difference or bring about social change on a local or global scale. At our fair this year, one charity had 100 students register interest in just two hours!

79

Students have been recruited and trained as Pimlico Connection tutors

THE PIMLICO CONNECTION

The Union is delighted to be supporting the College this year in the delivery of its flagship tutoring programme The Pimlico Connection, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year!

15

Students have been placed into 15 local schools

79 students were recruited in the first term and trained as Pimlico Connection tutors. They were then placed into 15 local schools, volunteering on a weekly basis to lend their knowledge and expertise to provide dedicated support to children and young people in their maths and science studies. This gives Imperial students the chance to have a positive impact in the local community.

461

Students registered interest in 1,055 volunteering opportunities via Community Connections

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections continues to help connect our students with great volunteering opportunities in the local community. In the first term of 2015/16, we had 461 student register their interest for 1,055 volunteering opportunities. 39 of those students went on to actively volunteer with one of our partner organisations, gaining great experience and skills whilst helping these organisations deliver their events and activities and bring positive outcomes for their beneficiaries.

38

Students have participated in a mass volunteering opportunity

39

Students have confirmed with us they are actively volunteering with one of our partner organisations

The number of partner organisations we have as part of Community Connections grows every year. 20 new charities and community organisations became Community Connections partner organisations last term - that's a total of 118 organisations that our students now have the opportunity to help.

20

New charities and community organisations have become a Community Connections partner organisations

30

Volunteers gained the Volunteer Certificate for 25 hours of volunteering

10

Volunteers gained the Volunteer Certificate for 50 hours

13

Volunteers gained the Volunteer Certificate for 75 hours

13

Volunteers gained the Volunteer Certificate for 100 hours

2

Volunteers gained the Volunteer Certificate for 150 hours

7,543

In total 7,543 hours have been recorded so far this academic year



IMPERIAL PLUS

Imperial Plus is now in its third year and is going from strength to strength. There were some changes made to the Imperial Plus programme at the start of this year, one of which being that students could log up to 500 hours of volunteering (the limit in previous years had been 100 hours). This increase in hours for our Volunteer Certificate better reflects the huge contribution our volunteers make to life at Imperial and the local community. You can check out the statistics on the left to see how many students have logged enough hours for the Volunteer Certificate last term. In total, 7,543 hours have been recorded so far this academic year.

Imperial Plus



57

Students are engaged in the Imperial Award pilot

IMPERIAL AWARD

This year we are working with College to deliver a pilot of the Imperial Award. It's a new programme that rewards and recognises students exceptional talents outside of academic success, encompassing all extracurricular activity throughout their duration at Imperial where they articulate how these experiences have been transformative in their development. Our Student Development team are working in collaboration with a range of departments and offices at the College and so far, 57 students are engaged with the scheme.

138

Tickets sold to Imperial College Climate Symposium

IMPERIAL COLLEGE CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

This year we supported the Imperial College Climate Symposium to deliver a hugely successful conference in November. Selling 138 tickets, the event delivered an exciting line-up of interactive workshops and talks that brought together leading thinkers from politics, academia, industry, think tanks and social movements to present their innovative approaches to the climate change issue, engaging and inspiring our students.

273

Students attended the seven events on offer

INTRODUCING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO THE UK

The International Student Support team at College organise activities to help international students settle in at the College and explore the UK. The Union collaborated with the team this year to publicise their seven trips for Term One including a theatre trip, checking out the Southbank Christmas market and visiting the filming location for Downton Abbey! 273 students attended the seven events on offer which were all offered at a discounted price. They were a great chance for participants to meet other international students.

340+

Clubs, Societies & Projects
and still growing

62K+

Hours of activity took place

377

Of club officers attended
the new training sessions
last term

40

Events ran last year
including the first LGBTQ+
bar night

100

Sign-ups to IQ Family
Scheme which paired old IQ
members with new ones

240

The Culinary Society went
from 0 to 240 members

50+

Attendees to the first Data
Science Society event

CLUBS, SOCIETIES & PROJECTS

Our Clubs, Societies & Projects provide opportunities for students to get involved in a range of indoor and outdoor sports, arts, cultural, departmental and social activities. Last term saw 62,000+ hours of activity take place including classes, trips, rehearsals, training and outreach in the local community. Students run these groups with support from the Union which includes newly designed induction and training sessions to give better information about the Union, relevant policies and health & safety, as well as Funding Opportunities, Finance, Event planning, Marketing & Publicity. 377 club officers attended these new sessions last term.

There were some great achievements by our groups in first term. IQ, Imperial's society for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning (LGBTQ+) students, ran over 40 events last term including the first LGBTQ+ bar night at Reynolds. It also launched a 'Family Scheme' to pair old IQ members with new ones to help introduce them to the society. There were over 100 signups and 'Families' are still meeting regularly.

Interfaith Week took place in November and involved the Ahlul Bayt, Buddhist, Christian Union, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Interfaith, Atheist, Secularist & Humanist Societies. Events included the Jewish Society dinner, a temple visit by the Buddhist Society and a 'Speed Faithing' event, allowing participants to exchange ideas about faith and spirituality.

Some of our groups grew significantly in the first term. The Culinary Society went from 0 to 240 members. Their mingles and cocktail master-classes were great chances for their members to get involved. One of our newest groups, the Data Science society, hosted a successful first event which was attended by over 50 people.

1,100

Students attended the
Winter Carnival

286

Pre sale tickets sold online

WINTER CARNIVAL

1,100 students attended the Winter Carnival in a galaxy far far away! The Star Wars themed event sold 286 pre-sale tickets online at £2.50, half the price of the door entry fee. Six of our Clubs, Societies & Projects were involved in the event - DramSoc, Sci-Fi Soc, GuitarSoc, Jazz and Rock, Cinema and MusicTech all had a hand in helping at the event and making it a success, so a big thanks to them!

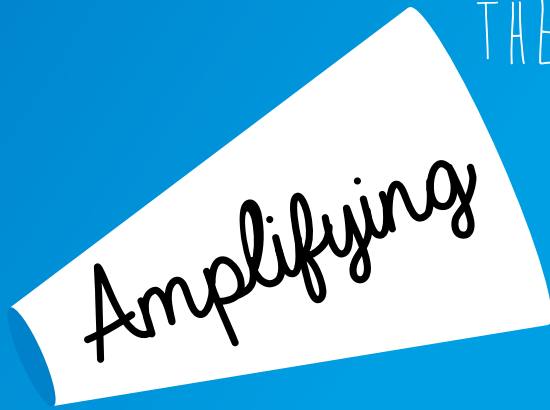
H-BAR

The h-bar has continued to offer great events for Postgraduates and staff to enjoy at the College. During the first term, the h-bar had over 40 Postgraduates attend two Wine Tasting sessions. These nights have provided a great way for Postgraduates to meet like-minded individuals from across the College departments. They also won over £350 worth of prizes in the fortnightly Pub Quiz and over 40 teams have entered so far! This year these events have become a key activity in increasing engagement with Postgraduates.



OUR NEW BAR AND KITCHEN

The Foundry is our bar and kitchen at Woodward Hall, the College's new halls of residence in North Acton. Launching in Welcome Week, The Foundry offers great value food and drink for students as well as local businesses and residents. The Union is working alongside College to run The Foundry and it is the first time that the College have opened an outlet outside of South Kensington. This term, The Foundry played host to regular pub quizzes, daily food offers popular with local workers, and hosted a stream of Christmas parties for local businesses ensuring the opening months were a huge success.



THE STUDENT
VOICE

One of our primary functions is to represent our members to the College and the wider community. The Union should be champions for excellent teaching, research and feedback, and play a key role in helping the College improve students' experiences in this area.

100+

Nominations for the SACAs in Term One

RECOGNISING GREAT TEACHING

Our Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) allow students and academics to come together to celebrate excellence in teaching and academic support at Imperial. Nominations for this year's SACAs opened in December, and they started flocking in. Over 100 nominations were made in just a couple of weeks, drawing from teaching talent across all spectrum's of the College. We look forward to seeing the final tally when nominations close this term.

42

Students trained in Mental Health First Aid

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course teaches techniques to provide help to someone experiencing a mental health problem before professional help is obtained. The Union offered this training at a subsidised rate to our student volunteers to spread awareness of mental health issues and give them the tools to help others. 42 student volunteers completed the course last term, helping them identify, support and signpost peers facing mental health issues. We hope this training will help them to help others in future.

Academic Representation Network

imperial college union

20+

Training sessions were run for our Academic Reps

TRAINING OUR REPS

Imperial College Union has over 450 academic representatives, covering every department, Master's course and PhD research area in College. Feedback on last year's training led us to review and redesign the training offered. As a result, a new programme was created and delivered by our Deputy President (Education) and Education & Welfare team last term. We went from three mass training events to over 20 small training sessions last term, training over 150 Academic Reps. College departments have seen the effects of this new training first hand - they've commented that our Reps have a better understanding of the support available to them and are being more challenging and innovative in the issues they tackle.

150+

Academic Reps have trained in these sessions

"Reps have brought more issues to the table than before"

Faculty Education Manager, Faculty of Engineering



26%

Of students voted in the
Your Representative &
Council Elections

13,182

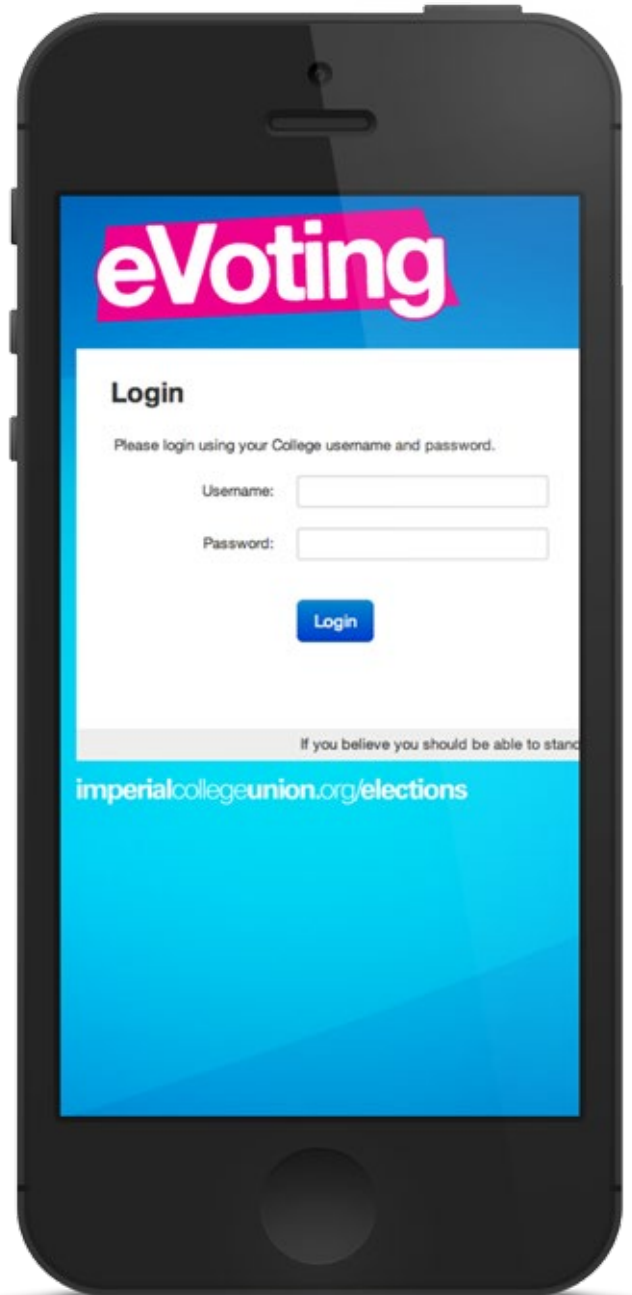
Votes were cast overall

YOUR REP & COUNCIL ELECTIONS

October saw our annual elections to elect our Year and Course Representatives, the 16 Ordinary Members of Council, Ethics & Environment Officer and Graduate Students' Union Reps for 2015/16. We have been setting the standards for student elections nationally for the past few years and this year is no exception.

25.96% of you voted this year – that's 4,513 students and a total of 13,182 votes cast overall! This keeps us first in the UK for Academic Representative & Council elections. Chemical Engineering won the Departmental battle this year with 39.2% of their students voting. They were closely followed by Electrical Engineering and Civil Engineering with 38.1% and 35.7% of their students voting respectively.

These elections help fill roles that are essential to our representation work at the Union. Year and Course Reps are part of our Academic Representation Network which is instrumental in making positive changes to academic life at the College; Union Council allows students to have their say and set policies on topics that matter to our members; Liberation Officers ensure the voices of under represented students and interest groups are heard; and the Graduate Students' Union helps represent a large portion of the student body at Imperial.





OUR RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

Every year, thousands of final-year students complete the National Student Survey, giving their views of quality of the teaching, feedback and support they have received throughout their degree. For the past four years we have released a response document based on the results making recommendations on improvements that we think will benefit our members. Our responses to this and other surveys are an important part of our relationship with the College, providing an ongoing dialogue about how to improve the academic experience that our students are getting.

This year's response looks at ways to reduce over-assessment and over-work for students, focusing instead on the transformative and developmental benefits of a high-quality education. This is something that Chun-Yin, our Deputy President (Education) has been and will continue to work on this academic year. As a result, there are 31 recommendations covering topics such as online learning resource, course assessment structures and exam timetabling. They set out how Imperial students want to see their education improve in a manner befitting a globally-respected institution, and they have so far been received well at senior College committees.

ADVICE CENTRE

There was a complete reform of our Advice Centre last term. It offers free, impartial and professional advice to our 17,000+ members. Last term saw the Advice Centre deal with 122 cases between September to December and 43% of these were academic queries. That's 120+ students that we've been able to help have a better experience at Imperial. We are expanding and reviewing the service to provide even better support. This, together with a review of the regulations, will provide clearer procedures and better resolutions to student issues.

1,758

Number of votes cast in the Varsity poll

967

Voted for Men's Football

791

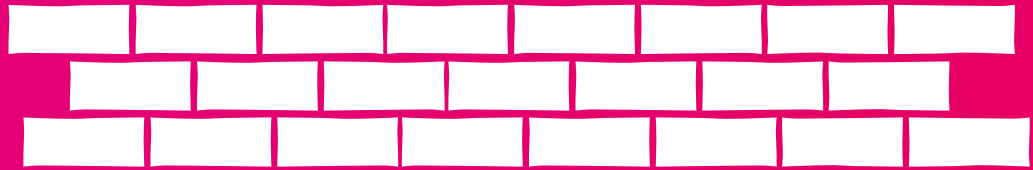
Voted for Men's Rugby

VARSITY – YOU CHOSE THE HEADLINING SPORT...

...and you chose football! For the first time ever students were able to vote for the sport for the headline match at Varsity 2016. Men's Football and Men's Rugby went head to head in an online vote lasting nine days. The level of engagement was extremely high with 1,758 votes being cast in total! The process was run in collaboration with Sport Imperial and we look forward to working with them on what's set to be the biggest Varsity yet!



BUILDING



a Student Community

The Union should be the hub of the student community – ensuring that students are happy in their surroundings; feel supported by their peers and can seek advice when they need to.

WELCOME WEEK

21%

Increase from 2014 in #helloicu crew members

#HELLOICU CREW

There were more #helloicu crew volunteers this year than ever before with 71 students volunteering throughout Welcome Week, 21% more than the year before! #helloicu volunteers welcomed students during their orientation activities, when moving into halls and at our Undergraduate and Postgraduate Mingles. They also helped the Freshers' and Volunteering Fairs run smoothly, being a friendly face pointing students in the right direction around campus. Their hard work helped set the academic year on the right foot and show that the College and Union are welcoming places to be.

800+

Number of hours the #helloicu crew volunteered throughout Welcome Week

£50K

We beat our income target of £170,000 by £50,000

WELCOME WEEK

Welcome Week is arguably the biggest week of the year for us at Imperial College Union – it's our chance to say hello to the 5,500 new students starting their degrees at Imperial, and put on the best welcome we can give them. This year we ran our largest ever programme of events for Undergraduates and Postgraduates which included the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Mingles, Bandedoke in Metric, Wine, Whisky and Spirits Tasting at the h-bar, Live Comedy and the Freshers' Ball with Alex Mytton from Made In Chelsea as our guest DJ.

Not only did we beat our attendance targets for all of our Welcome events, but over the two weeks at the start of term we beat our income target of £170,000 by over £50,000! This money will be pumped back into the Union to help us provide better services for our members.



590

Students attended and 22% were non-Imperial students

215

Tickets sold online in advance

THE ROYAL MIXER

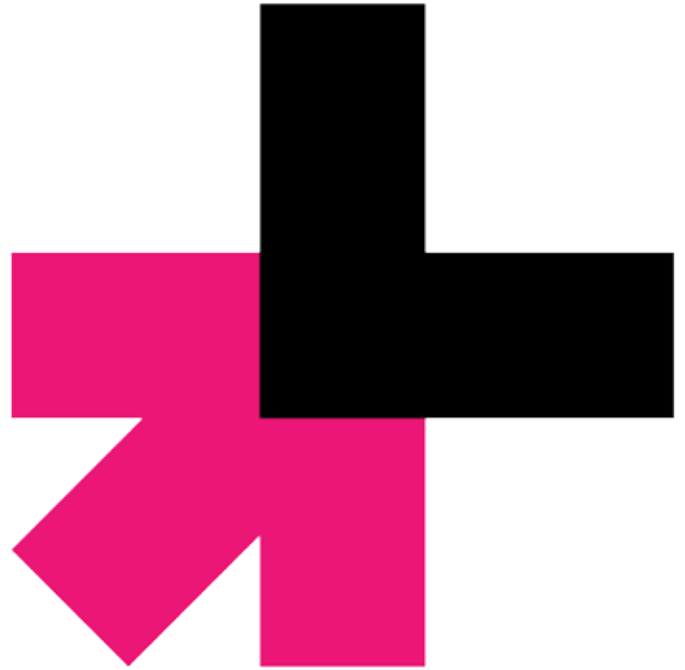
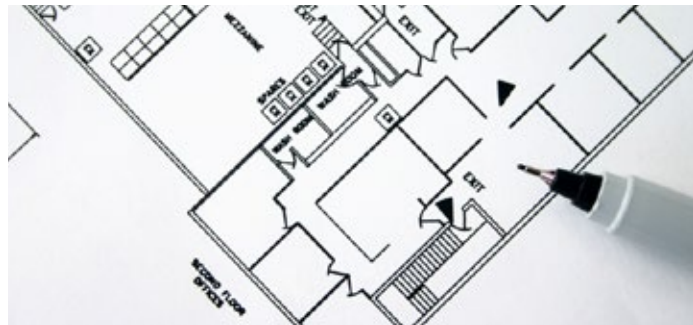
Our second annual Royal Mixer invited students from neighbouring 'Royal Institutions' to enjoy live music and meet Imperial students at Metric. The Royal Mixer was a great way for us to collaborate with other institutions and form stronger links with them. The Royal Mixer was even more successful than last year's event. It was jointly organised by the unions at Imperial, the Royal College of Music (RCM), the Royal College of Art (RCA), the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and the University of the Arts. Over 215 tickets were sold in advance and around 590 students attended, 22% of which were non-Imperial students.

429

Responses to online consultation about the Reynolds refurbishment

REYNOLDS REFURB CONSULTATION

The Union is investing money into a refurbishment of the Reynolds Bar at Charing Cross, and we have put students right at the heart of the operational plans. We ran an online survey last term to get your opinions and feedback on what you thought the refurbishment should look like. There were an incredible 429 responses to the online consultation, which has so far been really effective in shaping the project and final designs for the space. The refurbishment aims to reinvent the Reynolds Bar to make it the true home of both staff and students in the School of Medicine.



HeForShe

UN Women Solidarity Movement
for Gender Equality

HEFORSHE

Imperial was one of the five universities chosen for the inaugural UN Women's HeForShe #GetFree Tour! The tour brought the global conversation on gender to young people around the world, enabling them to express themselves and explore their own understanding of gender.

The HeForShe bus came to Imperial as part of our Welcome Week events. Visitors had the chance to meet campaigners and find out more about the UN's HeForShe movement and how they can get involved.

Students were also invited to join a Panel Discussion on gender in the Union Concert Hall which included the Union President Lucinda Sandon-Allum. The event was a great success in raising more awareness on gender issues and was well received by students on the day.



30+

Club, Society & Project events held in Union bar spaces

STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD

We Are Metric (WAM) nights are our avenue for Clubs, Societies & Projects to host an event in our nightclub Metric to showcase their activities, talents and interests, as well as potentially growing their membership and income. Over 30 individual WAM events were held in the Union building during the first term – that’s more than double for the same term last year! Events included the ChemEng Cocktail Party, Sangria Night held by the Spanish society, a charity concert for the UNICEF society and the Snowsports Launch Party.

15

Bop events held at Reynolds in the first term

There are also a number of student-led events at Reynolds every term. Student groups are able to put on Bop events – in the same vein as WAM events, they are a great way for groups to earn an extra source of income for themselves whilst raising awareness about their Club, Society or Project. Last term saw over 15 Bops at Reynolds, and engagement with student groups and the (Imperial College School of Medicine Students’ Union) ICSMSU to jointly deliver events continues to be high, so expect more events throughout the year.

£61K

Raised by the Islamic Society for charity week

CHARITY WEEK

Charity Week is an annual campaign to raise money for orphans and needy children across the globe. Our Islamic Society took part again this year following their great success last year. They raised over £61,000 all of which will go towards great causes to help children in need.

**IMPERIAL
GIRLS
CAN**

1,386

Number of attendees for the whole week

IMPERIAL GIRLS CAN

This Girl Can was an national campaign launched by Sport England last year to encourage and celebrate women getting active. As part of this, Imperial Girls Can launched in November to celebrate that at the College. Between 30 November and 4 December, there were a range of seminars, special classes, events and an epic BUCS sporting Wednesday fixture at Heston and Harlington. 10 of our clubs took part in the initiative, helping play host to some of the 1,386 attendees for the whole week. Overall, 840 were female and there were 238 new participants to sport over the week, making it a great success!

840

Were female

238

New participants to sport over the week

Creating a

SUSTAINABLE
ORGANISATION



Imperial College Union should be recognised as a charity that is financially sound, is a great place to work, and makes the most of the resources that are available to it.

shop



160+

Number of student staff employed in our outlets so far this year

STUDENT STAFF AT THE UNION

The Union has a commitment to provide as many employment opportunities as possible to its members to help them supplement their income whilst they study, and grow this number year on year. As a result there are a number of employment opportunities at the Union and there are more being added throughout the year.

Our Licensed Trade team employ over 130 student staff in FiveSixEight, the h-bar and Reynolds, including 10 student bar managers and 10 student supervisors. All of our bar staff are fully inducted and trained and there is a strong emphasis on personal development with lots of opportunities to take on more responsibility. Working in one of our bars offers flexible and engaging work around students' studies.

Our Retail Team currently employs 35 student staff in the Union Shop and Shop Extra to help them provide a great service and sell great value goods to Imperial's student, staff and the general public.

5,562

500ml bottles of One Water sold this year

SUCCESS IN OUR SHOPS

So far this academic year, the Union Shop has seen sales of its clothing soar. It launched an Imperial Christmas sweatshirt in store and online which proved extremely popular and sold out before the end of term! Shop Extra is also doing well providing everyday essentials for students at staff at Imperial. Last term saw it sell a total of 5,562 500ml bottles of One Water alone!

£23K

Over £23,324 was total income was taking during graduation

GRADUATION SALES

Our Retail Team always work hard to make sure that there is a great service for students to buy College memorabilia on both Commemoration Days in the year. There was an improved range of items for students to purchase on the day in October from the Union Shop and two stalls on campus. The income smashed its previous record from last year, with sales totalling £23,324, an increase of £6,294 (up 37% on last year). This money goes towards our efforts to keep the Union solvent and sustainable and ensuring that we are able to provide great value offers and services for all students at Imperial.

37%

Up by 37% on smashing last year's income that's £6,294

BEIT VENUES

Beit Venues, our venue hire service used by students and external clients, has started this academic year with a bang. At the end of last term it was approximately £28,000 ahead of budget for the year. This money helps contributes to our reserves and allows us to invest in spending in capital projects and more resources for our members.



11,041

Users on our website on Tuesday 6 October, over 1,100 more than last year!

— VISITING US ONLINE

Students can access the Union in a number of different ways online - they can visit our website, imperialcollegeunion.org; use eActivities, our online administration tool; or interact with us on social media through Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

52K+

Logins made by 2,867 users since 1 August on eActivities

Our website is the go-to destination before and during Welcome Week to find details about all of our events and student groups. The day of the Freshers' Fair is usually the busiest day of the year on our website and last term was no exception. Over 11,000 people visited our website that day, and our A to Z of Activities was the most popular page with 14,045 pageviews.

7,305

Likes for the Facebook pages for our venues

eActivities is an essential tool for students and staff at the Union, and last term saw 52,237 logins made by 2,867 users since 1 August. These users logged on to their Club, Society or Project, log volunteering hours and input hours for our casual student staff, amongst other things!

Last term saw the addition of social media pages at the Union. All of our venues now have their own Facebook pages where they post details about their events and regular food and drink offers. This enables them to have more reach and interaction with their patrons from particular campuses or student groups. Pages for FiveSixEight, Metric and The Union Bar, the h-bar, Reynolds and The Foundry have 7,305 likes between them! Our Activities team also has their own Twitter feed to help publicise the events and activities of our 340+ Clubs, Societies & Projects, answer queries regarding our activities and spread the word about schemes such as Give It A Go. Following feedback from some of our Academic Reps, there is also a Facebook group for our Academic Reps so that they can better communicate with one another as well as the Union, and find out more about the work that the Reps in our network are doing.

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