

Imperial College Union  
Islamic Society Prayer Room  
*A paper by the President*

The Islamic Society co-ordinates daily prayers on campus for Muslim staff and students. During the week they use a dedicated prayer room in the basement of 9 Prince's Gardens, which is available for the five daily prayers. Growing student numbers (the number of people registered for swipe access to the Prayer Room almost doubled between 2002 and 2008 from 280 to 535) have put considerable pressure on this room, in particular during the winter months when, due to the lecture timetable, two prayers are required between the hours of noon and 2pm.

Over the past 18 months a suitable room in the basement of 10 Prince's Gardens has been made available for use as a second prayer room, subject to external building works in the surrounding area. Ideally the room would have an internal refurbishment, but can be used without this taking place. Commissioning the room is the priority at present.

The works and costs required to make the area good are:

| <i>Work to be completed</i>                         | <i>£</i>      |
|---|---------------|
| Damp treatment to walls in corridor                 | 2,000         |
| Supply and install new partition & door in corridor | 3,000         |
| Supply and install new access control to 2nr doors  | 4,500         |
| Sub-total   | 9,500         |
| <b>Total including Construction On-Costs</b>        | <b>14,421</b> |

The damp treatment need not be completed at this stage, so the total required is around £12,000. The previous Rector was looking for a donor, but this did not produce any results before his departure.

The Islamic society has so far raised £3,500 towards this goal, and I have offered to ask the Executive Committee for a contribution. My suggestion is that we use £2,500 of Exec Reserve as a contribution towards the commissioning of this room.

The College has offered a guarantee that they will provide a room of the same standard, should this room be reclaimed within 5 years.

**Decision Required:** To allocate £2,500 from Exec Reserve as ICU's contribution towards the prayer room.