

Imperial College Union's Stance on Imperial Horizons

A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

1. Imperial College Union Council discussed issues surrounding Imperial Horizons on Tuesday 13 October in the presence of the Pro Rector (Education).
2. Personal beliefs, ideas, issues, suggestions were taken from the floor, and the popularity of these points assessed by an online survey.

Beliefs

1. Imperial College Union is supportive of Imperial Horizons and its purpose of diversifying the curriculum, offering **choice** for students **who wish** to broaden their field of study.
2. Imperial Horizons should not be compulsory.
3. Subject to caveats on compulsory courses being integrated into the Horizons programme, any attempt by College to make Imperial Horizons **for credit** should be a College wide decision.
4. Imperial College Union would like to see Imperial Horizons fulfil the dual aims of:
 - a. Offering breadth and variety for students who wish to experiment with different modules
 - b. Offering progression modules that allow students to build on previous year's courses

And suggests that entry to all strands, courses be open to students of all year groups is encouraged, though accepts the logistical and resourcing issues this brings. Imperial College Union, beyond all else, believes students should be offered the widest choice possible.

5. Imperial College Union suggests the course offerings should be diversified to include:
 - a. Arts
 - b. Computer programming
 - c. Teaching
 - d. Design
 - e. Patent Law
 - f. British culture
 - g. Sport science
6. The Union believes there is a larger problem with the College's curriculum to be addressed, but strongly believes that Imperial Horizons is not *the answer*.
 - a. Students come to the College to pursue their chosen discipline and adding Imperial Horizons courses *solely* will not solve these problems
 - b. The College should consider thoroughly the appropriateness and 'point' of work set
 - c. Other recommendations set out in the Union's NSS Response should be considered

Resolves

1. Further work is necessary to determine whether or not the student body thinks Imperial Horizons should be for credit, as the survey of Council members found 44.4% in favour and 51.9% against.