

Implementing full membership for postgraduates in faculty Constituent Unions

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**Union notes:**

1. Postgraduate students are currently 'Social Members' of their respective faculty Constituent Unions (RCSU, RSMU, CGCU, & ICSMSU).
2. Social Membership does not include the ability to run for Constituent Union positions or vote in Constituent Union elections.
3. Historically, the faculty Constituent Unions have included postgraduates as full members, with their membership having been revoked in 2012.
4. Postgraduate students are approximately 43% of full-time students at Imperial as of the 2018-2019 academic year<sup>1</sup>.

**Union believes:**

1. Constituent Unions are an essential part of building community within the student body, and an entryway for students to involve themselves in Union affairs.
2. Postgraduate engagement is essential for the Union to effectively represent the students of Imperial.
3. Through inclusion in faculty Constituent Unions, postgraduate engagement can be increased.
4. The Academic and Welfare representation network for postgraduates should be operated by the GSU.
5. The Academic and Welfare representation network for undergraduates should be operated by the respective faculty Constituent Union.

**Union resolves:**

1. Amendments should be made to the Bye Laws to remove the specification that the RCSU, CGCU, RSMU, and ICSMSU represent undergraduate students only.
2. To mandate the RCSU, RSMU, ICSMSU and CGCU to amend their constitution such as is necessary to establish the 'Postgraduate Member' membership category, which grants all the rights and privileges of Full Membership except:
  - a. The right to stand for, or vote in the election of, a position in the Undergraduate Academic and Wellbeing representation networks.
  - b. The right to Academic and Wellbeing representation within the framework of the Faculty Union.
3. To automatically grant Postgraduate Membership of the relevant faculty Constituent Union to all postgraduate students from the start of the 2020/2021 academic year. This would exclude Silwood Park Union members, as they are located too far to from

the South Kensington campus to actively engage in faculty Constituent Union activities.

4. At the end of the 2021/2022 academic year, to review these changes and determine their effect on postgraduate engagement, and Constituent Unions as a whole.

## **References**

1. Imperial College Statistics Pocket Guide 2018-2019. Imperial College London 2019. Available from: [https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/planning/public/statistics-guides/19-08-Stats-Guide\\_v7.pdf](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/planning/public/statistics-guides/19-08-Stats-Guide_v7.pdf)