Sherfield Level 3

Learning, teaching and study spaces

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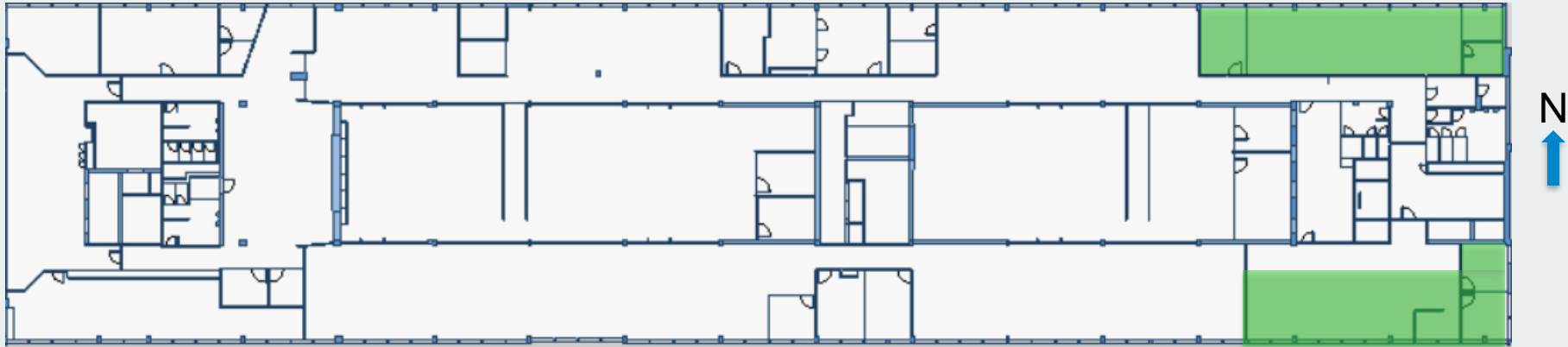**Imperial College London**

Background

- The move to flexible and hybrid work delivery by many professional teams in Sherfield has enabled the release of space on Level 3.

- Current pressures on space are having a negative impact on programme delivery[1] and the student experience[2].

- There is additional demand on the estate from the undergraduate Business School programme starting in October '23[3].

- The Frontline Student Services Review has recommended allocating more, co-located space for many student services[4].

1. Feedback from Faculties and Departments Autumn 2022
2. Informal learning and social space consultation Winter 2019/20
3. Business Space Requirements to support approved growth plans 23/24 and beyond
4. Student Facing Services: Recommendations report to the Operations Committee

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The space

- The maximum available space to be refurbished is 2,065m2

- If HR and Finance are excluded (shaded in green) there is 1,887m2 available

Current layout on Pythagoras

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Objectives

To utilise Level 3 of Sherfield to provide spaces that support our students' education, experience and wellbeing. Specifically to:

- Enable the delivery of the Business School UG programme
- Provide adequate spaces to support existing programmes, allowing teaching to happen in pedagogically appropriate spaces
- Provide adequate learning spaces for students outside of timetabled teaching
- Enable the enhancement and co-location of Student Facing Services
- Utilise the full capacity our estate to support plans for growth

Work so far

Following the development by Estates of an initial schedule and programme of works, with completion by Summer 2025, a period of three months (December – February) was added to the start of the project to gather evidence and consult with key stakeholder to capture requirements.

This requirements capture exercise involved:

– The analysis of CTSO data (Appendix 3)
– Initial discussions with Faculties and Departments (via Martyn Boutelle)
– CHERS recommended approach to incorporate best practice in space design (Appendix 1)
– Coordination with Frontline Student Services review team to enable their vision (Appendix 4)
– Consultation with Students via ICU Rep networks (Appendix 2)

In addition, alongside this activity additional enabling works have been taking place including:

– Estates have made a recommendation to appoint a professional team pending approval of funding
– Staff and teams on Level 3 have been moved elsewhere or have begun discussions about doing so

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Student Engagement

Academic Rep Forums

The two Rep Forums were attended and students were given the background to the project and asked for immediate feedback, to complete a survey and to attended or promote further focus groups.

- Taught Academic Rep Forum 6th February [15 students]
- Research Academic Rep Forum 14th February [8 students]

Focus Groups

Two focus groups were booked in to offer student reps the chance to further feedback and discuss proposals, however there were no attendees at either. Further opportunities will be arranged throughout the project.

- Tuesday 14th February, 17:00 – 18:00 (Meeting Room 5, Union Building)
- Wednesday 15th February, 12:00 – 13:00 (SALC6, Sherfield Level 5)

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Student Engagement

Academic Rep Forum Discussion summary

- It is difficult to book meeting rooms, especially as a PhD student. In many instances it requires going through departmental administrators.
- There is a lack of bookable space for planning CSP activities. Many of these activities happen outside of regular timetabled teaching.
- During the most recent exams students complained that because of a lack of exam rooms, multiple exams of different length were held concurrently, leading to disruption when students left.
- Level 3 should be temporarily made available to students once vacant.

Findings

1. Current demand and gaps in space provision
   - Very small teaching spaces (From timetabling data)
   - Bookable group study spaces (From student data)
2. Identify current high-demand, under-utilised spaces that could be freed up
   - Collective timetabling, and more small rooms will free up many larger spaces, inc. Read and Pippard (From timetabling data)
3. Future/unmet programme requirements
   - Business School UG programme has shared future demand profile
   - Discussions with CHERS confirm trends in teaching requiring flexible teaching spaces
4. Ensuring maximum utilisation by designing flexible spaces
   - Small (15 and under), bookable rooms are in high demand by all, and can be equipment for multiple uses
5. Student Experience and Wellbeing
   - Identity minimum standards and best practice – Ongoing, will be required at later steps
   - Imperial College Union has been engaged throughout and will continue to be.
   - Where appropriate, StudentShapers projects should be used to develop requirements of specific areas
   - Student Services requirements captured to enable the use of bookable spaces on Level 3 during peak demand.
6. The physical limitations of the available space
   - To be further explored in the next stage of the project

Why are we at Council?

- To update Imperial College Union and Student representatives on the project
- To gather any further feedback before initial requirements are confirmed
- To further discuss temporary uses for the vacated spaces this A/Y
- To discuss the best mechanisms to engage students throughout the project, for example:
  - Updates at ICU groups
  - Workshops/targeted surveys
  - Recruit a student user group
  - StudentShapers projects for specific areas