

Postgraduate Certificate in University Learning and Teaching

Information For Line Managers

The PGCert ULT is the first of a three-stage master's programme in Education which is open to all Imperial staff who have a significant teaching load. The course is part-time and is practice-based and is designed with the needs of Imperial staff in mind. This information sheet is intended to address common questions the line manager of a staff member may have about their participation on the course.

What are the benefits of doing the PGCert ULT?

The course provides a solid foundation in teaching and learning practice in HE, and is practice-based. This means it is designed to support staff to improve their teaching and learning practice, with the benefits this brings for their students and departments. The individual also gains a qualification which may be of use to them as their career develops and which offers the further opportunity to continue to study for a Diploma and MEd if they wish. There are many examples of where those holding the PGCert in ULT have important positive impact on students' learning experiences and their colleagues' teaching practice.

What is the time commitment required?

The course represents 30ECTS, or one-third of an Imperial Master's degree. However, the PG Cert has a relatively low number of contact hours, most of which are arranged in half-day teaching sessions. Much of the work is centered on the reading which is provided and in preparing topic assignments. As such much of the work for the PGCert can be done at different times to suit individual workload and requirements.

How is the PGCert related to STAR?

The PGCert is an Imperial qualification that is aligned to the UKPSF and forms part of the HEA-accredited STAR framework. Those taking the PGCert would normally have their final portfolio considered for the appropriate level of Fellowship at the same time as it is assessed academically. It is not necessary to take the PGCert in order to gain Fellowship of the HEA, this can also be achieved through the other pathway. For details, please see: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/star-framework/>

Are there any costs involved?

The course is free of charge for those holding an Imperial contract and teaching Imperial students. They must be employed by Imperial for the full duration of the course.

What support can a Department offer to someone taking the PGCert?

Some flexibility to allow your staff member to attend taught sessions and complete the reading can be very helpful.

If you require further information about any aspect of the course, please contact Ms Kate Ippolito (k.ippolito@imperial.ac.uk) or Dr Tiffany Chiu (t.chiu@imperial.ac.uk) for a discussion.