

# IMPERIAL

**Centre for Higher Education Research and Scholarship**

**MEd in University Learning and Teaching**



**Student Handbook  
2025–26**

## Contents

<b>Welcome to Imperial</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Principles</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. Introduction to the Department</b>	<b>6</b>
Welcome from Dr Kate Ippolito, Director of Postgraduate Studies	6
Academic staff	7
Support staff	9
Departmental Information	9
Key dates 2025–26	10
<b>2. Programme information</b>	<b>11</b>
Programme Outline and Structure	11
Programme Aims	11
Programme Learning Outcomes	13
Provision for recognition of prior learning (RPL) or qualifications in Education	14
Roles and responsibilities	15
EDU staff	15
Students	15
Attendance and engagement	15
Programme fees	16
Changes to registration status	16
Interruption of Studies	16
Pausing between stages in the programme	16
Completing your course over two years	16
General course reading	16
My Imperial Campus	18
Imperial Success Guide	19
<b>3. Masters in University Learning and Teaching</b>	<b>20</b>
MEd Learning Outcomes	20
Training Schedule	21
Assessment	21
Supervision	22
Research Methods in Education	22
MEd Research Project & Publication	23
Assessment Deadlines	24
Previous dissertation titles	25

Programme attendance and expectations.....	28
Online Plagiarism Course.....	28
General course reading .....	28
Overall MEd grade guidelines .....	30
Research Methods Programme-Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 September 2025 .....	32
MEd ULT dissertation mark sheet.....	33
MEd grade guidelines: characteristics of performance for each grade .....	34
MEd oral exam .....	36
MEd research methods proposal.....	37
<b>4. Assessment .....</b>	<b>38</b>
Programme-level assessment information .....	38
Mitigating Circumstances.....	39
Extensions.....	39
Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct .....	40
Plagiarism.....	40
Collusion .....	41
Dishonest practice .....	41
Position Statement on Generative AI on MEd ULT .....	41
Informed choice .....	41
Transparency.....	44
<b>5. Board of Examiners .....</b>	<b>46</b>
Board of Examiners .....	46
External Examiners .....	46
<b>6. Location and facilities .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>7. Health &amp; Safety .....</b>	<b>50</b>
Imperial Safety Department .....	50
Occupational Health requirements .....	51
<b>8. University Policies and Procedures .....</b>	<b>52</b>
Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study .....	52
Academic Feedback Policy .....	52
Provisional Marks Guidance .....	52
Late Submission Policy .....	53
Mitigating Circumstances.....	53
Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures .....	54
Unsatisfactory Engagement .....	54
Fitness to Study .....	54
Academic Appeals Procedure.....	55
Arithmetic Marks Check.....	55

Student Complaints.....	55
Protecting our students from incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct.....	56
Copyright .....	56
Intellectual Property Rights Policy .....	56
Use of IT Facilities.....	57
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) .....	57
<b>9. Wellbeing, support &amp; advice.....</b>	<b>58</b>
In your department .....	58
Your Union.....	59
Student Hub .....	59
Student Support Zone .....	60
Useful support contacts .....	60
<b>10. Student Administration .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>11. Work-life balance .....</b>	<b>64</b>
Move Imperial .....	64
<b>10. Student feedback and representation .....</b>	<b>65</b>
Student representation .....	65
Staff-Student Committee .....	65
<b>11. Student Surveys.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>12. And finally .....</b>	<b>67</b>
Alumni services and benefits .....	67
<b>13. Appendix 1 Introduction from the President of Imperial College Union .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>14. Appendix 2 Early Career Researcher Institute .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>15. Appendix 3 College policy on research misconduct .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>16. Appendix 4 Statement on plagiarism.....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>17. Appendix 5 Submitting an assignment via Blackboard .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>18. Appendix 6 Referencing your work .....</b>	<b>73</b>

## Welcome to Imperial

Congratulations on joining Imperial College London, the only university in the UK to focus exclusively on science, medicine, engineering and business.

From Fleming's discovery of Penicillin to Gabor's invention of holography, Imperial has been changing the world for well over 100 years.

You're now very much a part of this community of discovery and we hope you will take this opportunity to make your own unique contribution. At Imperial, we expect all members of our community, whether students or staff, to share and demonstrate our values of respect, integrity, collaboration, innovation and excellence in all we do and strive to achieve.

Imperial provides a dedicated support network and a range of specialist support services to make sure you have access to the appropriate help, whether that's further training in an academic skill like note taking or simply having someone to talk to.

You'll have access to a range of professional development courses offered by the Early Career Researcher Institute, the Careers Service, Library Services and other support services teams throughout your time here, as well as opportunities to meet students from across the university at academic and social events.

We actively encourage you to seek out help when you need it and try to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Our choice of over 360 clubs, societies and projects is one of the largest of any UK university, making it easy to do something different with your downtime.

As one of the best universities in the world, we are committed to inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, clinicians and business leaders by continuing to share the wonder of what we do through public engagement events. Postgraduate students, alongside our academics and undergraduate students, make a significant contribution to events such as our annual Imperial Festival and our term-time Imperial Fringe events – if you're interested in getting involved then there will be opportunities for you to do so.

## Our Principles

In 2012 Imperial and Imperial College Union agreed 'Our Principles'. This series of commitments was developed by academic and support staff in partnership with undergraduate and postgraduate students and Imperial College Union.

### **Imperial will provide through its staff:**

- A world-class education embedded in a research environment.
- Advice, guidance and support.
- The opportunity for students to contribute to the evaluation and development of programmes and services.

### **Imperial will provide students with:**

- Clear programme information and assessment criteria.
- Clear and fair academic regulations, policies and procedures.
- Details of full programme costs and financial support.
- An appropriate and inclusive framework for study, learning and research.

### **Imperial students should:**

- Take responsibility for managing their own learning.
- Engage with the university to review and enhance provision.
- Respect, and contribute to, the Imperial community.

### **The Imperial College Students' Union will:**

- Support all students through the provision of independent academic and welfare assistance.
- Encourage student participation in all aspects of the university.
- Provide a range of clubs, societies, student-led projects and social activities throughout the year.
- Represent the interests of students at local, national and international level.

## 1. Introduction to the Department

### Welcome from Dr Kate Ippolito, Director of Postgraduate Studies



It is my great pleasure to welcome you onto Imperial's MEd in University Learning and Teaching (ULT) and I look forward to working with you during your studies. Our current ULT programme came into being in 2011. Since then, over 400 Imperial staff have taken the PG Cert ULT, with many of them continuing to study at Diploma or MEd level. Our aim is that all our graduates will be well equipped to make an enhanced contribution to teaching, learning and educational leadership throughout their careers at Imperial and beyond. Many of our graduates take on programme or module leader roles, act as year leads or directors of undergraduate/postgraduate studies, or have other roles that contribute broadly to student learning. In addition, students and graduates of our programme often feature prominently in the lists of departmental and faculty teaching awards, the ICU Awards, and at the University level, the President's Awards for Excellence.

The MEd in ULT is very well aligned to Imperial's Learning and Teaching Strategy. Our tutors were involved in developing the strategy and our programme is designed to help Imperial teaching staff to develop educational understanding and approaches required to enact the strategy. Given the increased institutional focus on strategic educational decision-making, MEd graduates will be well-positioned to take a lead on associated curriculum review and development.


For more details on the Imperial's Learning and Teaching Strategy see:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-aims/>


The ULT programme was reviewed both internally in 2021 and externally in 2014 and was rated as excellent. Student evaluations and the external examiners' reports consistently comment in particular on the high quality of feedback and support we provide. We believe an increased understanding of teaching and learning is beneficial to the experience of both staff and their students and work to model good practice throughout the programme. Each student has a personal tutor, and there are opportunities for you to give feedback to us throughout the programme, and via a staff-student liaison committee. You should also feel free to approach a member of staff at any time with any issues or concerns. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead, and hope you will find your programme both interesting and useful.


## Academic staff



 Professor Martyn Kingsbury

Director of the Centre for Higher Education Research and Scholarship

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus


 +44 (0)20 7594 1745


 m.kingsbury@imperial.ac.uk



 Dr Jo Horsburgh

Deputy Director & Principal Lecturer in Medical Education

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

 +44 (0)20 7594 8848


 j.horsburgh@imperial.ac.uk




 Dr Kate Ippolito

Deputy Director & Principal Lecturer in Educational Development


Director of Postgraduate Studies

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

 +44 (0)20 7594 8789


 k.ippolito@imperial.ac.uk




 Dr Monika Pazio Rossiter

Principal Teaching Fellow in Educational Development

ULT Programme Director  
MEd ULT Course Director

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

 +44 (0)20 7594 8780

 m.pazio@imperial.ac.uk





 Dr Mark Anderson


Senior Teaching Fellow in Educational Development

PG Diploma Course Director

STAR Framework Director

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

 +44 (0)20 7594 8781

 m.anderson@imperial.ac.uk





Dr Julie Moote

Senior Teaching Fellow in  
Educational Development

PG Cert ULT course Co-  
director



Level 5, Sherfield Building, South  
Kensington Campus



[j.moote@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:j.moote@imperial.ac.uk)



Dr Andréia Vargas-  
Seymour

Senior Teaching Fellow in  
Educational Development

PG Cert ULT Co-director



Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington  
Campus



[a.vargas-seymour@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.vargas-seymour@imperial.ac.uk)



Nikki Boyd

Senior Teaching Fellow in  
Medical Education

PG Cert in Clinical  
Education Course Director



Level 5, Sherfield Building, South  
Kensington Campus



+44 (0)20 7594 9956



[n.boyd@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:n.boyd@imperial.ac.uk)



Dr Tiffany Chiu

Principal Teaching Fellow  
in Educational  
Development

Academic Head of  
StudentShapers



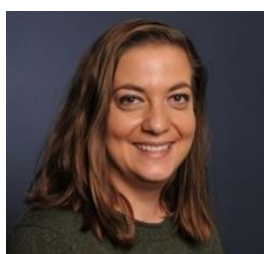
Level 5, Sherfield Building, South  
Kensington Campus



+44 (0)20 7594 8711



[t.chiu@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:t.chiu@imperial.ac.uk)



Dr Iro Ntonia

Principal Teaching Fellow  
in Educational  
Development

PG Research Programme  
Director



Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington  
Campus




+44 (0)20 7594 5891



[i.ntonia@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:i.ntonia@imperial.ac.uk)


## Support staff






 **Suyane Beasley**  
Workshops Coordinator


 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus  
 +44 (0)20 7594 8691  
 s.beasley@imperial.ac.uk



 **Ruth Stannard**  
Centre Manager (Part Time)


 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus  
 +44(0)20 7594 8785  
 r.stannard@imperial.ac.uk



 **Vilma Rupeikaite**  
Centre Manager (Part Time)


 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus  
 +44 (0)20 7594 8781  
 v.rupeikaite@imperial.ac.uk





 **Sheri Djafer**  
Communications and Research Coordinator

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus  
 +44 (0)20 7594 8787  
 sherif.djafer@imperial.ac.uk



 **Thomas Ross**  
Programme Support Coordinator

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus  
 thomas.ross@imperial.ac.uk

## Departmental Information

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/education-research/about/staff/>

## Key dates 2025–26

### Term dates

Autumn term:	27 September 2025 – 12 December 2025
Spring term:	03 January 2026 – 20 March 2026
Summer term:	25 April 2026 – 26 June 2026

### Closure dates

Christmas/New Year:	23 December 2025 – 02 January 2026 (Imperial reopens on 05 January 2026)
Easter Holiday:	02 April 2026 – 07 April 2026 (Imperial reopens on 08 April 2026)
Early May Bank Holiday:	04 May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday:	25 May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday:	31 August 2026

### Key events

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/whats-on/>

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/graduation>

## 2. Programme information

### Programme Outline and Structure

This programme, aimed at Imperial College London and associated staff, is a three-stage practice-based approach study of learning and teaching in the University setting. While focusing on the Imperial perspective, it uses this common starting point to engage participants in a scholarly study of the field of education. The aim is to facilitate a critical engagement with both generic and discipline specific educational theory and literature with a basis in the participants' need and practice to ensure relevance and utility.

This applied, work and evidence-based approach to learning and teaching provides participants, who are often experts in their own primary discipline, with an introduction to educational language, literature and theory. It does not attempt to produce experts in education but to help participants to take an evidence-based critical approach to engaging with the field of education as informed experts from other academic fields.

#### A three-stage programme: University Learning and Teaching

The MEd in University Learning and Teaching is designed as a flexible three-stage programme, meaning you can complete one, two, or all three stages of the programme. The first stage is a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert), that develops students as reflective practitioners. The second stage expands students' knowledge of teaching beyond their personal experience by critical engagement with wider generic and disciplinary educational theory. Together these two stages comprise the Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip). The last stage offers training and support in educational research and allows students to investigate and inform their practice through completion of an MEd research project. Completion of all three stages results in the full Master's degree (MEd) in University Learning and Teaching.

### Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- professionalise and recognise teaching and the support of student learning in all who undertake such roles at Imperial;
- offer a scholarly, evidence-based, practice related approach to professional development in learning and teaching up to the full Master's degree;
- attract highly motivated individuals who want to further their understanding and practice of teaching and learning in their personal and disciplinary context;
- enhance the ability of participants to:
  - reflect on their own teaching and learning;
  - search and read educational literature, critically engaging with it, judging its value for their own personal and disciplinary context;
  - carry out meaningful small scale educational enquiry projects;
- think creatively, from an evidence base, about education within and beyond their own practice;
- offer a foundation from which participants will be able to make, with confidence, a significant contribution to their institution, and the wider HE sector, in the area of learning and teaching.

## **UK framework for higher education qualifications - qualification descriptors**

The programme is a Level 7 qualification under the *QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards (October 2014)*

The following are descriptors for level 7:

### **Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:**

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
  - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

### **Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:**

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

**And holders will have** the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations;
- the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

### **On completion of the PG Cert, participants will be better able to:**

- constructively appraise their own and others' teaching practice and/or support for learning;
- critically reflect on teaching and learning in light of relevant educational principles and practice;
- evaluate a range of teaching and learning approaches and judge their effectiveness within different educational settings;
- develop teaching and learning that is informed by reflection on practice and educational principles.

### **On completion of the PG Dip, in addition to the learning outcomes above, participants will be better able to:**

- recognise the relevance of key educational concepts, theories, contextual issues and policy in higher education;
- critically engage with educational ideas and theories through the literature;
- take a theoretically informed approach to critically reflect upon educational practices and their impact on student learning;
- demonstrate effective writing in an educational style and context.

### **On completion of the MEd, in addition to the learning outcomes above, participants will be able to:**

- critically assess appropriate use of educational research methods;
- utilise a critically informed in-depth understanding of relevant educational theory to inform the development of an appropriate research question and design;
- use appropriate research methods for a meaningful, small scale, contextually relevant educational enquiry project.

The full MEd ULT programme specification can be found at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/educational-development/programmes/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/educational-development/programmes/)

The programme's competency standards documents can be found at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/staff/education-development-unit/public/Competence-Standards-for-MEd-in-ULT.pdf>

## Learning and teaching strategy

This Master's programme is based in participants' educational practice. It utilises a variety of educational methods to develop them as reflective practitioners and theoretically informed critical scholars capable of relevant educational research.

All aspects are enhanced by participants actually 'doing' them, reflecting and learning from this and then re-integrating their learning and the theoretical component with their actual practice. The intended learning outcomes are addressed through a combination of teaching and learning methods.

### Scheduled learning and teaching methods

- Interactive lectures
- Flipped classroom
- Team-based learning
- Practical work and exercises
- Reading and writing in an educational paradigm
- Active participation in seminars
- Work-based situated learning
- Supervision
- Literature-based and empirical research projects
- Self-directed study, supported as appropriate
- Peer-observation and peer-assessment (e.g. student-led mock ethics panel)

### Synchronous and asynchronous online and blended learning methods

- Blackboard used as a central information hub, including the provision of advance and additional material, and as a point of submission of assessed work.
- Use of synchronous and asynchronous online and blended learning as appropriate (e.g. modelled through Digital Learning module).
- Use of Panopto for flipped classroom preparation and video-based feedback.
- Teams for any synchronous sessions

## Provision for recognition of prior learning (RPL) or qualifications in Education.

Students who may have completed a PG Cert in education or teaching and learning in another institution and who wish to join the MEd ULT at Diploma level are encouraged to contact the Programme Director, Monika Pazio Rossiter ([m.pazio@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:m.pazio@imperial.ac.uk)), to discuss their transfer.

Please note that if you are joining the MEd in ULT programme having been awarded the PG Cert at another institution, to receive a qualification from Imperial you will need to complete the full MEd in ULT. You cannot exit after the Diploma stage with an award of the Imperial because, in accordance with the <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/regulations/2024->

[25/Regulations\\_for-Taught\\_Programmes\\_2024\\_25-v1.1.pdf](#) you need to have completed at least 2/3 (i.e. 60 ECTS) of your Master's qualification at the awarding institution.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **EDU staff**

The EDU academic staff are responsible for the programme design and delivery of the modules and seminars you attend as part of the programme, as well as any learning resources which are distributed to you. Individual tutors are responsible for providing you with feedback on any assignments for modules which they have run. You may ask for advice and further information from your tutors/supervisor, and they are available for face-to-face meetings and telephone conversations, and will respond to your e-mails as soon as they can. In addition, a personal tutor is assigned to every student.

### **Students**

It is your responsibility to make a note of the dates, times and locations of seminars that you should attend. You are responsible for meeting assignment deadlines, or discussing extensions in advance of deadlines with your tutor. You are also responsible for arranging your teaching observations in good time, and for ensuring all submitted work is your own and that you have abided by the guidelines on plagiarism. The primary responsibility for managing your progress through the programme rests with you – however, email reminders will be sent about deadlines and other requirements and you are encouraged to contact the staff if you have any questions or queries.

### **Attendance and engagement**

Full attendance at all scheduled Master's in ULT sessions, including online sessions, is expected. The purpose of the sessions is twofold. Firstly, the content and activities within the sessions across the Med ULT programme will help you better engage with educational theories and reflect on your own practice. This is closely linked to assessment. Students may find successful completion of the assignments very challenging if they do not attend the taught sessions. Secondly, especially in person sessions aim to help the cohort develop a sense of belonging and encourage greater peer to peer support. This is important across all stages of the MEd. If you students are unable to attend the sessions it may be recommended that they postpone their entry on to the programme until they are able to commit to the time. Should you have any problems attending any part of programme, you are expected to contact the Programme Director.

**Full engagement in the programme is also expected from all students. We define engagement as:**

- Engaging with the suggested pre-reading or pre-recorded lectures/videos
- Engaging in the activities associated with the pre-reading or the videos, be it self-reflection, participation in discussions or debates, group or individual activities
- Contribution to in class discussions (be it face to face or online)
- Engaging with formative and summative assessment
- Being responsive to emails and calendar invites

In terms of online provision, whilst experience shows us that interaction is well supported by people having their cameras on, especially in small group discussions, we are aware that this might not always be possible. Similarly, please make use of the Chat function if you'd prefer not to speak out loud online.



Should you fail to attend or engage with the programme in the ways described above, you will be required to meet with the programme director to discuss your continuation on the programme. If have any concerns about your ability to engage with aspects of the programme, please discuss them with your Course Director.

## **Programme fees**

This programme is designed as professional development for all those who teach Imperial students, and as such is free for Imperial staff and those who provide substantial teaching to Imperial students.

## **Changes to registration status**

### **Interruption of Studies**

If you need to take a temporary break from your studies due to health-related, professional or other personal circumstances, you may want to take an interruption of studies (IoS). This would normally be for a period of 12 months and should be requested whilst programme teaching is still in progress. Please contact Monika Pazio Rossiter if you wish to discuss whether this would be a helpful option for you. For guidance on IoS see:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/changes-to-registration-status](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/changes-to-registration-status)

### **Pausing between stages in the programme**

The Master's in ULT programme is designed to be flexible and, as such, it is possible to pause between a stage of the programme for one year (i.e. between the PG Cert and PG Dip, or between the PG Dip and MEd stage). You will be emailed during the summer term to ask if you wish to continue directly to the next stage of the programme, pending a satisfactory assessment outcome.

### **Completing your course over two years**

In line with Imperial's Single Set of Regulations, the maximum period of registration on the Master's in ULT is normally 48 months. The PG Cert and PG Dip stages of the ULT programme are designed to be completed in one year each, but the programme flexibility allows for the final MEd stage to be taken over two years if needed. However, experience shows us that those who complete the MEd stage within a year tend to better maintain their engagement with the programme. We therefore encourage all students to complete it within the standard one-year period where possible.

If you would like to spread over the MEd over two years, you should first discuss this with your supervisor. If they agree that this is the best course of action for you, you will need to complete a form to action this – please contact [medult@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:medult@imperial.ac.uk) for details.

Note that your registration extension is not confirmed until this form has been submitted and you have received confirmation from the course team that your end date has been updated with Registry. To allow for this, the form should be submitted at least one month before the final submission deadline.

### **General course reading**

You will be directed to specific reading through the MEd in ULT and, as the programme progresses, will be increasingly expected to explore the field for yourself. You will find links to Leganto reading lists for each stage of the MEd on Blackboard Learn.

A number of useful educational texts are available as e-books and recommended Education Journals via the Imperial College Library: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/subject-support/education-and-teaching/>

## Discipline-specific reading

This list of educational journals is not exhaustive but may provide a useful starting point for exploring the discipline-specific educational literature:

Natural Sciences	Education and Computing
Biochemical Education	Education for Chemical Engineers
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education	Electronics Education
Chemical Education	Engineering Education
International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education	Engineering Science and Education Journal
International Journal of Science and Technology Education Research	European Journal of Engineering Education
International Journal of Science Education	International Journal of Mechanical Engineering Education
Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education	Journal of European Industrial Training
Journal of Science Education and Technology	Journal of Geoscience Education
Journal of Science Teacher Education	Medicine
Journal of STEM Education Innovations and Research	Advances in Health Sciences Education
Journal of Technology and Science Education	Advances in Medical Education and Practice
Microbiology Education	BMC Medical Education
Physics Education	Health Education Journal
Research in Science Education	Health Education Research
Science Education	International Journal of Medical Education
Science and Education	Journal of Medical Education and Research
Studies in Science Education	Medical Education
Engineering	Medical Teacher
Computer Education	Perspectives on Medical Education
Computers and Education	The Clinical Teacher

## My Imperial Campus

An app for students - designed by students!

My Imperial Campus is the beginning of a new mobile experience for the Imperial community. Built by students and alumni, the ambition is for the app to reflect the real needs and ideas of the people who use it every day. We're developing it iteratively, constantly learning from our community and evolving the features that help all of us succeed at Imperial.

This is just the beginning. The app is still growing, and we're adding new functionality all the time—so download it, explore what's already there, and keep an eye out for updates and chances to get involved.

Available now on the **App Store** and **Google Play**.

### What we've built so far:

#### **Search & AI Chatbot**

Chat with an in-app assistant that pulls information from within the app, across the university's website and resources—delivering quick answers when you need them.

#### **Maps**

Explore 2D maps of all campuses, plus immersive 3D maps of South Kensington and White City. See services, navigate buildings, and find your way around campus with ease.

#### **Events**

Discover what's on across Imperial—from public lectures to Union events and society meetups. Set your preferences in Settings to tailor your feed, or use the *Welcome Week* filter to see what's lined up for new students.

#### **Timetable & Check-In**

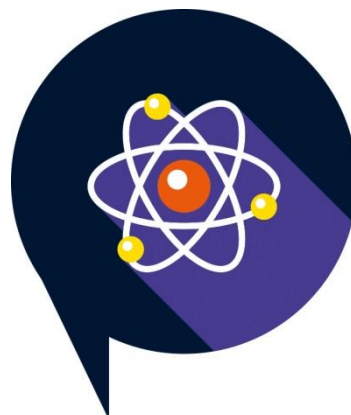
If your department requires check-in, just use the app to register your attendance when you're on site. You'll also find a quick link to your full timetable in the browser.

#### **Your Career**

Browse the latest internships and job opportunities from the Careers Service—updated regularly to keep you connected with what's new.

## Imperial Success Guide

The Imperial Success Guide is an online resource with advice and tips on the transition to university level study. More than just a study guide, it is packed with advice created especially for students, including information on support, health and well-being and ideas to help you make the most of London. The Success Guide also provides you with information about professional development opportunities available to you through the Early Career Researcher Institute, the Careers Service, Library Services and other support services.



 [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/pgt/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/success-guide/pgt/)

### Join the CHERSNet

If you are interested in exploring opportunities to develop and disseminate your own educational research interests (and in hearing hear more about the educational research that takes place across the College) you may wish to join CHERSNet: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/educational-development/networks-and-events/chersnet>

### 3. Masters in University Learning and Teaching

#### Duration and timing

The Master's in Education is a full Master's (90 ECTS) programme that is subdivided into three equal 30 ECTS stages. Completing the PG Cert gives you 30 ECTS units worth of 'credit'. The PG Diploma year adds a further 30 ECTS units worth of study bringing the ECTS unit 'credit' up to the 60 ECTS units required for a Diploma. Should you decide to continue to the full Master's a further 30 ECTS worth of study is required, bringing the total to the prerequisite 90 ECTS.

The MEd year comprises 30 ECTS units worth of study, where each unit represents a notional 25 hours study time. The MEd is therefore 750 hours of study, made up of face-to-face contact in workshops and seminars, supervision and self-study on an educational research project and final dissertation.

This is a significant commitment, especially given that some of you will be engaging with research in a new academic field and different literature than you may be used to in your own primary discipline. This also requires some continuity and therefore the MEd would normally be completed within 1-2 academic years.

#### Progression to the Master's

On successful completion of the PG Diploma, the student will carry the pass mark forward and will accumulate the credits towards the Master's level. Should they fail to achieve the requirements to pass at the Master's level, they will be awarded the PG Diploma qualification, provided the PG Cert was also completed at Imperial.

### MEd Learning Outcomes

**On completion of the MEd, in addition to the learning outcomes achieved at PG Cert and PG Dip level, participants will be able to:**

1. critically assess appropriate use of educational research methods;
2. utilise a critically informed in-depth understanding of relevant educational theory to inform the development of an appropriate research question and design;
3. use appropriate research methods for a meaningful, small scale, contextually relevant educational enquiry project.

#### Research methods taught component

The main taught component takes place in September and October, and involves:

- introducing students to Master's level educational research;
- providing basic information about research methods – mainly with respect to qualitative methods, as these are less familiar to most students than are quantitative methods;
- focusing on the design and implementation of research projects, including the consideration of the research ethics and the gaining of formal ethical approval.

## Training Schedule

Research Methods in Education	
Introduction to educational research methods	Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 September 2025 (09.30-16.30)
Meet your supervisor	Thursday 25 September 2025 (10.00-12.00)
Mock ethics session	Thursday 09 October 2025 (10.00-13.00)
MEd Research Project	
Writing your literature review	Tuesday 11 November 2025 (10.00-13.00)
Analysing qualitative data I	Friday 06 February 2026 (10.00-13.00)
Analysing qualitative data II	Tuesday 03 March 2026 (10.00-13.00)
Wrapping up the thesis	Wednesday 20 May 2026 (10.00-13.00)

You will receive calendar invitations for all taught sessions at the beginning of the academic year.

In addition to the above compulsory taught sessions, we will also hold **optional** online drop-in clinics throughout the year that are aligned with what you should be working on at a given time of the year. Dates and timings will be advertised in early Spring 2026.

There will be some online materials to complete prior to the first teaching block. The materials will be available via email in mid August 2025. The Blackboard pages for the MEd will be live by the end of August 2025. The autumn taught sessions include preparation for a written and oral presentation to a simulated Research Ethics Committee comprised of tutors and fellow students. Feedback from this is expected to inform the research design and application for ethical approval, via the University or the NHS, depending on which route is required or is most appropriate.

## Assessment

### Formative assessment and feedback

During the course students will receive formative feedback about their project and progress in the research methods sessions as well as the seminars. Supervisors will provide feedback as appropriate on written sections of the dissertation during the year.

### Summative examination

The PG Diploma and MEd are equally weighted stages and count as 30 ECTS each. The weightings are proportionate to the number of ECTS allocated to the components. Thus:

- Engaging with Educational Literature (Diploma Assignment One): 5 ECTS
- Writing Critically in Education (Diploma Assignment Two): 5 ECTS
- Library Project (Diploma Assignment Three): 20 ECTS
- MEd Research Methods in Education: 5 ECTS
- MEd Research Project: 25 ECTS

The summative assessment in the MEd is in the form of a research proposal (marked as pass/fail), dissertation (worth 90%) and an oral examination (worth 10%). The dissertation is expected to show critical engagement with educational theory and literature, appropriate educational research approach and methodology and be based in personal and disciplinary context. The word length for

the dissertation is a maximum of 20,000 (+10%). This word count excludes title pages, abstract, table of contents, acknowledgements, reference list, appendices and index.

Students' submissions for the dissertation will be double marked and in general it is expected that:

- students will have completed the required learning;
- students will have shown critical reading and understanding of appropriate generic and discipline specific educational literature;
- students will be able to write in an appropriate style and form a critical educational argument or thesis;
- students will have reflected on personal and disciplinary teaching and learning practice and integrate generic and discipline specific educational ideas and theories in their written work;
- all submissions will adhere to word limits and other criteria for submission.

The detailed marking scheme and grade criteria for the dissertation are shown on subsequent pages.

## **Supervision**

You will be allocated a member of the EDU academic team as your supervisor at the beginning of the academic year. You will be offered around 30 hours of supervision throughout the year, including time taken to read and provide feedback on your research proposal and any drafts.

The Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee has developed a set of roles and responsibilities documents for key positions within the University, including Master's project supervisors. These are available here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/tools-and-reference/quality-assurance-enhancement/roles-and-responsibilities/>

## **Research Methods in Education**

Module Lead: Dr Monika Pazio Rossiter ([m.pazio@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:m.pazio@imperial.ac.uk))

This module introduces students to research methods in education. Within the module different research paradigms and methodologies will be considered in light of your own planned research. There will be a requirement for you to develop an appropriate research question or questions for your own research as well as opportunities for you to gain peer and tutor feedback on this. You will be introduced to a range of data collection methods and critically consider the relative strengths and weaknesses of these. You will also have the opportunity to consider ethical issues in educational research as well as become aware of the different processes for gaining ethical approval for research.

On successful completion of this module, you will be better able to:

- Consider the aims and purposes of educational research and the role of the researcher;
- Develop and refine research question(s) for your own research project;
- Critically evaluate various data collection methods used in educational research;
- Make informed methodological choices in relation to your own research project;
- Critically consider educational research, including own proposed research in light of ethical issues and how these can be addressed or minimised;

In addition to the assignment brief below, students will be asked to undertake some pre-course work, details of which will be emailed to students in early August, and also complete a draft ethics application for the session on the 9th October 2025. Further details of this will be provided in the taught session on gaining ethics approval in September.

### **Research Methods in Education assignment brief - research proposal**

Students should produce a detailed plan for their research. The proposal should outline the background literature drawn upon, the proposed research question(s), methodology and methods (with appropriate justification), and consideration of relevant ethical issues.

See the detailed marking scheme for the research proposal for full details of the assessment criteria which you should read carefully when preparing your proposal.

The research proposal will be reviewed by your supervisor who will provide feedback. The proposal will be graded as pass/fail.

**Word limit** - 2,000 (+10%)

## **MEd Research Project & Publication**

Module Lead: Dr Monika Pazio Rossiter ([m.pazio@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:m.pazio@imperial.ac.uk))

This module provides you with the opportunity to develop, carry out and write up an empirical piece of educational research, normally based within your own practice. Having completed the research methods in education module, you will receive support from an assigned supervisor to complete your project including providing verbal and written feedback on your work.

In addition to supervision meetings, three in-person sessions throughout the year will help you keep on track and provide the opportunity for further tutor and peer feedback. Furthermore, these sessions will focus on various aspects of the research methods project such as writing the literature review and data analysis.

On successful completion of this module, you will be better able to:

- Utilise a critically informed and in-depth understanding of relevant educational theory to inform the development of an appropriate research question and design;
- Use appropriate research methods to plan, carry out and write up a small scale piece of educational research, normally located within your own practice;
- Demonstrate awareness of different methods of data analysis and carry out appropriate analysis on data collected;
- Critically discuss ethical issues relevant to your research project and gain ethics approval;
- Set appropriate goals and targets in order to complete research within the given timescales.

In addition to regular meetings with their supervisor, five half day seminars will be held to provide you with additional guidance and support for researching and completing their dissertation. These seminars are likely to include input on writing the literature review section and analysing qualitative data but will also be tailored to students' needs.



### **MEd Research Project - dissertation (weighting 90%)**

The dissertation is expected to show critical engagement with educational theory and literature, an appropriate educational research approach and methodology, and be based in personal and disciplinary context.

Students' submissions for the dissertation will be double marked and in general we will be expecting that:

- students will show critical reading and understanding of appropriate generic and discipline specific educational literature;
- students will be able to write in an appropriate style and form a critical educational argument or thesis;
- students will have reflected on personal and disciplinary teaching and learning practice and integrate generic and discipline specific educational ideas and theories in their written work;
- all submissions will adhere to word limits and other criteria for submission.

See the detailed marking scheme and grade criteria for full details of the assessment criteria, which you should read carefully when planning and writing up your dissertation.

**Word limit** - 20,000 words (+10%)

The word limit excludes title pages, abstract, table of contents, acknowledgements, reference list, appendices and index.

### **MEd Research Project - oral examination (weighting 10%)**

All students will be invited to take part in an oral examination, which will provide the students opportunity to discuss their dissertation. The oral examination serves several purposes, although not all will be pursued in depth:

- authentication of the dissertation;
- locating the MEd in the broader context;
- checking understanding and ability to produce and present research to MEd standard;
- clarification of obscurities and areas of weakness;
- testing oral skills;
- advanced development: publication, further academic work etc.

Oral examinations will last approximately 30 minutes.

See the detailed marking scheme and grade criteria for full details of the assessment criteria which you should read carefully when preparing for this oral examination.

## **Assessment Deadlines**

The research proposal and the summative dissertation manuscripts should be submitted electronically using Blackboard Learn. The deadlines for submission are shown in the table below. Instructions on how to submit work via Blackboard can be found in the appendices. Oral examinations will take place after dissertation submission: dates will be confirmed nearer the time.

For late submissions and penalties, please see the 'Programme Regulation of Assessment' section.

MEd assignment	Final submission deadline	Students receive marks and/or feedback
Research proposal	Monday 24 November 2025 10.00am	Monday 9 December 2025
MEd dissertation	Formative deadline Monday 22 June 2026 10.00am  Summative deadline 1 September 2026 10.00am	TBA with supervisors  After examination board

## Previous dissertation titles

Below is a list of some past titles to indicate the range and type of dissertations. It is not intended to be prescriptive or limiting.

- "To Grant or Not to Grant?": Medical educators and students perspectives on grant writing as a formal assessment method.
- Pitching Pharmacology for Master's Level Learning: Purposefully Walking with Waymarks
- From PhD to entrepreneurial me: Validating EntreComp as a competency framework for the enterprising researcher
- The threshold that connects and separates, becoming and being a doctor: How do 5th and 6th year medical students at Imperial College London experience and manage uncertainty in clinical practice?
- Medical Educators' perception of the value of the longitudinal integrated F Zero clerkship
- What can concept maps reveal about Year Two MBBS student learning and understanding of Intra-Uterine Growth Restriction (IUGR) in their two-week Reproduction, Development and Aging (RDA) course?
- What's up with WhatsApp? Student perceptions of their use of informal digital communities of learning in a taught postgraduate degree.
- From islands to mountains: the experiences of final year STEMM doctoral students at a thesis writing retreat.
- Moan and groan no more: making reflection meaningful – learning from reflective practice to transform the teaching of reflection.
- "A bit of a doctor factory" – exploring medical students' sense of belonging through longitudinal integrates clerkships at Imperial College London
- Outside the box: developing creativity and transforming students' horizons.
- Junior doctors' experiences of consultants as role models during undergraduate medical training: an exploratory study using semi-structured interviews.
- Understanding how undergraduate students perceive and experience technology enhanced learning in the blended BSc Medical Bioscience programme at Imperial College London.
- Critical thinking in the community: newcomers' perceptions.
- Active learning in doctoral students' professional skills development: a case study of students' experiences of graduate school provision.
- Programmers are we! Teacher and student perceptions of programming skills and programmer identity within selected technical disciplines at Imperial College.
- 'Going into the unknown': perceptions of life science students of the transition to university.
- Going global: learning about the internationalisation of the master of public health curriculum.

- Student measures of teaching excellence and teacher esteem in a research intensive university: are they the same and what forms of capital do students value most?
- Identity Crisis? How do doctoral students negotiate meaning in an interdisciplinary bioscience research context?
- When 'light' dawns upon them: mapping the essence of conceptual understanding of physics learners.
- The world today: a space for disorientation, self-reflection and re-orientation towards a future ripe for transformation.
- Exploring perceptions of learning in the Operating Theatre
- Medical trainee's reflections on medical school and its impact on student to doctor transition
- "They show you how to be". The impact of self-selected role models on medical student professional identity dissonance.
- Conceptions of engineering leadership and the role of universities in developing engineering leaders.
- What it feels like for a medical student: exploring the emotional content of medical students' experiences during their psychiatry placement.
- Professional/transferable skills, doctoral alumni views, with hindsight: 'if I could go back and do it now'.
- Talking about sustainability: conversation as a pedagogy.
- Using a role play simulation in Second Life to teach child psychiatric assessment: do undergraduate medical students perceive it as a useful learning experience?
- Seeing behind the scenes: The value of coming to know how medical research is done.
- Training in radiology: How might individualist and sociocultural perspectives help explain learning and what are the implications for e-learning.
- What are the challenges and benefits of introducing self-reflection and peer feedback in formative assessment to enhance student learning in medical education.
- To make war against a sea of troubles: Troublesome knowledge in undergraduate pathology.
- What are dermatologists' conceptions of how undergraduate medical students learn their specialty?
- A study of loss aversion in learning through analysis of students' experiences on a physics degree.
- "It felt like I'd come home". Exploring the development of professional identity in renal physicians.

## Providing a bound copy of the dissertation

After the examination board meeting, you will have the option to provide a hard copy of your dissertation if you so wish. MEd theses should be bound in navy blue soft cloth with a sewn spine and the spine should include the student's name, the date and the word MEd. Your thesis will be kept in the EDU and will not be archived into the Library or Spiral. We hope to upload your thesis on Blackboard Learn, but will not do this without your permission.

**Details of companies providing dissertation-binding services can be found below.**

BLISSETT BOOKBINDERS	3 Roslin Road, London W3 8DH, Tel: 020 8992 3965 (Nr Acton Town Tube). Same Day/48 hour service copying service (Colour and B&W)  All to specification. <a href="http://www.blissetts.com">www.blissetts.com</a>
KEYPOINT BOOKBINDERS LTD	Unit 8, Balmoral Grove, Islington, London N7 9NQ, Tel: 020 7609 1050 Fax: 020 7609 1020  Folding, gathering, perfect binding, thread sewing, case binding, journal binding, ring binders.
R G SCALES DOCUMENT CENTRE	92 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0EX, Tel: 020 07928 9738, e-mail: <a href="mailto:bookbinder@mail.com">bookbinder@mail.com</a> . Copy from disc, email, or typed, copied on digital B&W, colour copiers. All types of binding, all to specifications.  <a href="http://www.document-centre.co.uk">www.document-centre.co.uk</a>
COLLIS-BIRD & WITHEY	1 Drayton Park, London N5, Tel: 020 7607 1116  Will do fast service, photocopying facilities available, typing free delivery. All to specifications. <a href="http://www.collisbirdandwithey.co.uk">www.collisbirdandwithey.co.uk</a>
A J B BOOKBINDING CO LTD	5 Athole Terrace, Bensham Grove, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 4NA, Tel: 020 8653 5877 (Will do fast service) <a href="http://www.ajbbookbinding.co.uk">www.ajbbookbinding.co.uk</a>
AVALON ASSOCIATES	23 Dunmore Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6RY, Tel: 01245 468706  <a href="http://www.avalon-assoc.co.uk/">www.avalon-assoc.co.uk/</a>
GRAYS (BOOKBINDERS) LTD	Widsor House, 26 Willow Lane, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4NQ, Tel: 020 8640 1449 <a href="http://www.graysbbb.co.uk/index.php">www.graysbbb.co.uk/index.php</a>
THE WYVERN BINDERY	56-58 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5PX, Tel: 020 7490 7899  <a href="http://www.wyvernbindery.com/">www.wyvernbindery.com/</a>
THE PRINTING CENTRE	30 Store Street, London WC1E 7QD, Tel: 020 7636 8723, Fax: 020 7363 8726  Guaranteed turnaround, copying service available B&W and colour from disk or hard copy. All to specifications.

## Programme attendance and expectations

### Attendance

Full attendance at the taught sessions is expected and students may find successful completion of the dissertation very challenging if they do not attend these sessions. If students are unable to attend it may be recommended that they postpone their entry onto the MEd until they are able to commit to the time. Should you have any problems attending any part of the taught sessions, you are expected to contact the course director.

### Making progress

On a termly basis, students will be asked to provide an update of their progress as well as action plans for the forthcoming term. The purpose of this is to help students monitor their own progress and set goals that will help ensure successful completion of the dissertation. This will also enable supervisors to keep up to date with students' progress and identify any issues that need support. Students will be sent a link to an online form to complete this. Students should be aware that emailed correspondence from the programmes team will be sent only to their Imperial email address.

### Progressing from the MEd

On successful completion of the MEd students will have a number of options open to them.

Dissemination would be a key part of the MEd journey and therefore students may look to in-house forums where they could share their work. Examples might include presenting at departmental meetings, at special interest groups such as the Medical Education Research Unit and the Physics Education Discussion Group, or at Imperial-wide events such as Festival of Learning and Teaching. There are also opportunities to present at national and international conferences, including both specific education ones such as the Society for Research in Higher Education (SRHE) and Advance HE and discipline specific conferences that often have an education strand or parallel sessions. Students may also seek to publish from their dissertation in education or discipline specific journals. EDU staff can help support this process and co-authorship should be discussed with the supervisor. Some students may wish to continue with an academic programme such as a PhD or EdD. EDU staff would be happy to talk through these options with students.

### Online Plagiarism Course

All Master's students will be required to self-enrol onto the course which is available via Blackboard. Information on the course and instructions on how to enrol can be found on the Graduate School's Plagiarism Awareness Online Course webpage:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/professional-development/masters-students/plagiarism-online](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/professional-development/masters-students/plagiarism-online)

The course will take approximately two hours to complete but can be saved and returned to later. There is no limit to the number of times students can take the course – it can be accessed anytime, so there will always be an opportunity to refresh understanding. Enquiries: [ecri@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ecri@imperial.ac.uk)

### General course reading

Students should refer to the PG Diploma reading list for texts on teaching and learning that may prove useful. We recommend that students have access to the following text on research methods. If you purchase a copy then you will also have access to some additional online resources.

Savin-Baden, M and Howell Major, C (2013) Qualitative Research. The Essential Guide to Theory and Practice. London: Routledge.

## **General research methods textbooks**

A number of general research methods textbooks are available via a Leganto reading list available on Blackboard Learn.

## **Educational research ethics resources**

Educational Ethics Review Process (EERP)

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/support-for-staff/education-ethics/>

Science, Engineering and Technology Research Ethics Committee (SETREC)

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-ethics-committee/committees/setrec/>

Imperial College Research Ethics Committee (ICREC)

[www.imperial.ac.uk/researchethicscommittee](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/researchethicscommittee)

British Educational Research Association (BERA)

<https://www.bera.ac.uk/>

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 2006 Research Ethics Framework (REF)

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics/>

## Overall MEd grade guidelines

### **GRADE A performance is characterised by:**

- deep understanding of key concepts and ideas relevant to the topic;
- integration and use of knowledge, theory, policy (when applicable) and practice;
- wide reading and understanding of relevant literature and research, demonstrating a critical stance;
- independence of thought and argument; creativity, innovation and solution finding;
- the exercise of sound, evidenced judgement in the education arena;
- complex and insightful reflection on and critique of own teaching practices and those of others;
- sophisticated reasoning, the discussion having a tight structure and the ideas being well substantiated in appropriate ways and presented lucidly and cogently;
- contrasting viewpoints evaluated and steady argument maintained;
- excellent use of appropriate research methods and modes of analysis, written up in an appropriate style and at a length commensurate to the extent and import of the findings.

### **GRADE B performance is characterised by:**

- accurate mention showing considerable understanding of main knowledge, concepts, theories, policy (when applicable), ideas and practice relevant to the topic;
- some connections made between theory, policy and practice;
- familiarity with mainstream texts and research findings; some critique of these, but lacking true penetration; well-reasoned and ordered arguments;
- reasonable grasp of technical and applied/practical aspects;
- reflection on and critique of own teaching practices and those of others;
- ability to offer a clear and solid argument, but showing little evidence of creativity;
- a clear structure and development of the exposition;
- some appreciation of different viewpoints;
- use of appropriate research methods and modes of analysis written up in an organised manner.

### **GRADE C performance is characterised by:**

- some but limited grasp of main knowledge, concepts, theories, issues policy, ideas and practice relevant to the topic and some connections made between them;
- evidence of knowledge of the basic literature and research findings;
- some evidence of ability to reflect and critique own teaching practices and those of others;
- acceptable discussion, but without substantial development;
- some structure;
- a little awareness of differing viewpoints and the relationship between them;
- little independence of thought, ideas and findings being uncritically accepted from the literature and research;
- limited ability to suggest solutions;
- use without major errors of recognised research methods and analysis;
- written up and organised in a manner that enables the work to be understood.

**GRADE D performance (fail) is characterised by:**

- limited grasp or flawed understanding of main knowledge, concepts, theories, issues policy, ideas and practice relevant to the topic and few connections made between them;
- poor knowledge of and use of literature and research findings;
- little evidence of ability to reflect and critique own teaching practices and those of others;
- little discussion and lacking adequate development and structure;
- poor awareness of differing viewpoints and the relationships between them;
- little independence of thought; ideas and findings being uncritically accepted from the literature or research;
- poor use of research methods and analysis;
- poor writing up and organisation such that the reader cannot readily trace what was done/found.

**UNGRADED (fail) performance is characterised by:**

- poor grasp or misunderstanding of main knowledge, concepts, theories, issues policy, ideas and practice relevant to the topic and failure to make connections between them;
- showing signs of not having read, or not having understood central texts and research findings relating to the topic in question;
- very little indication of awareness of key issues;
- very little or no evidence of ability to reflect and critique own teaching practice and those of others;
- poor or no discussion and lack of development and structure;
- very little or no awareness of differing viewpoints and the relationships between them;
- very little or no independence of thought with ideas and findings being uncritically accepted from the literature or research;
- poor or inappropriate use of research methods and analysis;
- poor writing up and organisation such that the reader cannot readily trace what was done/found.



## Research Methods Programme-Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 September 2025

	09.30 – 11.00	11.15 – 12.30		13.15 – 14.45	15.00 -16.30
<b>Wednesday 3 September</b> <b>ChemEng RM309</b>	Welcome to MEd Outline of MEd year Research paradigms and methodologies I  MPR & IN	Research paradigms and methodologies II  IN	Lunch 12.30-13.15	Writing your research question  MK	Data collection (1) - Interviews  NB
<b>Thursday 4 September</b> <b>ChemEng RM309</b>	Data collection (2) - Focus Groups  KI & MPR	Data collection (3) – Quantitative approaches to educational research  JM	Lunch 12.30-13.15	Data collection (4) – Learning Analytics  CKH	Data collection (5) – Ethnography & Observations  MA
<b>Friday 5 September</b> <b>ChemEng RM309</b>	Ethics in educational research and applying for ethical approval  MK	Ethics / Supported study session on drafting ethics application  MK	Lunch 12.30-13.15	Data collection (6) - Selecting and justifying your choice of methods  MPR	Peer review of project ideas  EDU Tutors

**EDU tutors:** **MA** Dr Mark Anderson; **NB:** Mrs Nikki Boyd; **KI:** Dr Kate Ippolito; **IN:** Dr Iro Ntonia; **MPR:** Dr Monika Pazio Rossiter; **CKH:** Dr Camille Kandiko Howson, **JM:** Dr Julie Moote

## MEd ULT dissertation mark sheet

Student CID:  
Title of work:  
Marker's name:

First/second marker *(delete as applicable)*

### Instructions

1. Please read the grade guidelines and enter comments under the headings below.
2. Then reach an overall judgement about the quality of the work, using the grade criteria for the programme and learning outcomes for the module to guide your judgement. 50% or more represents a pass mark.
3. Please tick one box below to indicate the grade that corresponds best to your overall judgement and indicate the percentage score.

Please tick appropriate box					
Grade	Ungraded 39% or less	D (fail) 40-49%	C 50-59%	B 60-69%	A 70-100%
Percentage mark					

### Comments

Literature – Is there an appropriate breadth and depth of literature cited (minimum 20 references)? Is this literature used critically and appropriately to support the rationale for the work and the conclusions drawn?
Is the research question / Hypothesis clearly defined with personal &/or institutional context and position stated? Is there a clear rationale for the work that shows appropriate knowledge and understanding?
Have appropriate methods been used to attempt to answer the research question & have they been adequately described and supported by theory and context?
Are the data well-presented and used to form appropriately reasoned and evidenced discussion with judgement &/or conclusions as appropriate?
Are the conclusions appropriate to the methods, data and personal/disciplinary context? To what extent are the limitations and generalisability/impact discussed?
To what extent are the theory and participant's context and practice integrated? Is there appropriate reflection on the chosen topic? (Reflection may focus on participant's own educational practice &/or wider institutional, disciplinary or HE sector practice.)
Organisation and structure of the work – Is the work appropriately structured with an abstract (<500 words) and within the word limits (maximum 20,000 words+10%)?
Standard of presentation, clarity of expression, use of appropriate educational language, correct referencing and overall accuracy?
Overall comments

## MEd grade guidelines: characteristics of performance for each grade

Criteria	Ungraded: 0-39% (Fail)	Grade D: 40-49% (Fail)	Grade C: 50-59% (Pass)	Grade B: 60-69% (Merit)	Grade A: 70-100% (Distinction)
<b>Understanding &amp; Relevance</b>	Presents very little evidence of, or misunderstandings of main concepts, theories, issues, policy and practice relevant to the research; makes very few or no connections between them.	Presents limited evidence of, or flawed understandings of main concepts, theories, issues, policy and practice relevant to the research; makes limited connections between them.	Presents modest understanding of concepts, theories, issues, policy and practice relevant to the research; makes some relevant connections between them.	Presents a good understanding of concepts, theories, issues, policy and practice relevant to the research; makes relevant connections between them and some links to practice and wider context.	Presents an excellent understanding of concepts, theories, issues, policy and practice relevant to the research; makes evidenced connections between them and to practice and the wider context.
<b>Appropriate reading and critical use of literature</b>	Little evidence of having identified or read relevant literature and/or little or no awareness of differing viewpoints, or of relations between them; demonstrates very little or no critical engagement.	Limited identification and reading of relevant literature with limited awareness of differing viewpoints and the relations between them; demonstrates little critical engagement.	Ability to identify and read appropriate literature showing modest awareness of differing viewpoints, and of relations between them; demonstrates limited critical engagement.	Ability to identify and read an appropriate range of relevant literature showing good awareness of differing viewpoints, and of relations between them; demonstrates appropriate critical engagement.	Ability to identify and read a good range of relevant literature showing excellent awareness of differing viewpoints, and of relations between them; uses this criticality to analyse &/or form narratives and demonstrates critical engagement.
<b>Research methods</b>	Makes little, or inappropriate, use of research and analytical methods.	Limited use of research and analytical methods; poor appreciation of methodological context.	Appropriate use of standard research and analytical methods with awareness of methodological context.	Good use of appropriate research and analytical methods with appropriate methodological appreciation and theoretical underpinning.	Excellent use of well-chosen research and analytical methods and theoretically supported methodological context.
<b>Data analysis and interpretation</b>	Inaccurate or confused analysis and interpretation with poor or disjointed conclusions.	Limited analysis and interpretation with poor, superficial &/or unsupported conclusions.	Appropriate analysis and interpretation of reasonable quality data generating supported conclusions.	Effective analysis and interpretation of quality data generating thoughtful evidenced conclusions.	Insightful analysis and interpretation appropriate to data and context with convincing, evidenced contextualised conclusions.
<b>Technical accuracy* of writing</b>	Considerable error in level of technical accuracy in written work.	Some errors in level of technical accuracy in written work.	An acceptable, if fairly basic, level of technical accuracy in written work.	Considerable accuracy and correctness in technical presentation in written work.	Very few flaws in accuracy and correctness in technical presentation in written work.

<b>Reasoning, Structure &amp; Argument</b>	Little or no rationale or narrative argument; work has very little or no structure; develops few or no arguments, presents flawed, unsustained or mutually contradictory arguments with poor or disjointed conclusions.	Little information about the research rationale and narrative argument within the research report; work with little structure; develops weak &/or incomplete arguments with poor, superficial &/or unsupported conclusions.	Appropriate research rationale and a narrative that develops and sustains some appropriate arguments from the data generating supported conclusions.	Clear research rationale and structured narrative argument that develops clear and sound arguments from the data that is critically supported by literature and generates thoughtful evidenced conclusions.	Rigorously structured research with a clear rationale and a lucid, cogent and sophisticated narrative arguments that are substantiated by data, literature and context with convincing, evidenced contextualised conclusions.
<b>Reflection, insight and evaluation</b>	Presents very little or no evidence of reflection and evaluation of own and others' research, practices or of how the literature and educational ideas may be relevant.	Presents little and/or unclear evidence of reflection and evaluation of own and others' research, practices or of how the literature and educational ideas may be relevant.	Presents modest evidence of reflection and evaluation of own and others' research, practices and makes some connection between this and educational ideas and literature.	Presents clear evidence of reflection and evaluation of own and others' research, practices and makes appropriate connection between this and educational ideas and literature.	Evidence of insightful reflection and penetrating evaluation of own and others' research &/or practice showing criticality and insight in linking this to appropriate educational theory and literature.
<b>Independence</b>	Demonstrates very little or no independence of thought; accepts as given ideas and findings from the educational literature and research. Fails to recognise or utilise advice and guidance from peers and tutors. Does not generate recommendations.	Demonstrates little independence of thought; accepts without question most ideas and findings from the educational literature and research. May recognise and utilise advice but superficially and without critical engagement. Generates at best superficial or simplistic recommendations.	Demonstrates modest independence of thought; questions some ideas and findings from the literature and research; shows some ability to use advice and guidance from others and generate recommendations.	Demonstrates independence of thought; critically questions ideas and findings from the literature and research, thoughtfully engages with advice and guidance; shows an ability to extrapolate ideas and generate recommendations.	Demonstrates independence of thought and argument; challenges ideas and findings from the literature and research; actively engages in critical dialogue giving and questioning advice and guidance; shows an ability to extrapolate and synthesise relevant ideas and generate convincing and critically evidenced recommendations.
<b>Integration &amp; application of appropriate literature &amp;.or theory to wider context</b>	Little evidence of integrating the research with literature and theory or relating these to practice or wider context.	Limited or fragmented integration of research with literature and theory with no or superficial linking of these to practice or wider context.	Partial integration of research with some relevant literature and theory with modest application of these to direct practice and perhaps to a lesser extent to wider context.	Appropriate integration of research with relevant literature and theory with pertinent applications of these to practice and wider context.	Good integration of research with an appropriate range of relevant literature and theory and insightful application of these to a range of practice with evidenced extrapolation of these to wider context.

\*Technical accuracy is taken to include: punctuation, essay organisation, paragraph and sentence structure, spelling, tone, word usage, referencing

## **MEd oral exam**

**Student name:**

**Assessor:**

**Mark awarded:**

Is the student able to discuss the work in the wider context of the literature and locate it within the broader practice of university learning and teaching?
Is the student able to provide clear justification for the choice of methodology and methods?
Is the student able to identify and discuss key findings from the research?
Is the student able to discuss appropriate dissemination at local or wider levels?
Other questions asked and student responses to these

## MEd research methods proposal

# IMPERIAL

Student name:

Supervisor:

1. Does the proposal have clear aims and appropriate research question(s)?
2. Has appropriate background literature been referenced? Is it clear how the research question(s) links to the background literature?
3. Are the proposed methodology and methods appropriate? Is there appropriate justification for these methods?
4. Have relevant ethical issues been considered and addressed? Has the appropriate ethics committee been identified?
5. Is the timeline appropriate and achievable?

Summary comments:

## 4. Assessment

### Programme-level assessment information

The following list refers to assessment across the three stages of the MEd. Full assessment details (including assessment criteria, grade guidelines and assignment briefs) for this stage of the programme are provided in Section 3.

- To qualify for their award (PG Cert, PG Dip or MEd), students must complete all the appropriate programme requirements, and must normally achieve a pass mark in each module's assessed work.
- Assessed work is weighted in proportion to the ECTS credit for the overall degree mark.
- **Formative feedback** is returned two weeks after submission, provided the submission deadline has been met by the student. When this is not possible you will be told why and given an explicit timescale for your feedback. Feedback is aligned to the marking criteria. We strongly encourage you to feed forward your feedback to future work, and it is written with this purpose in mind. All summative assessment on the PgDip and MEd is **double marked**. PgCert portfolios are check marked. A marking meeting is then held to discuss each summative assessment.
- The PG Cert and PG Dip will be awarded as 'pass' and are therefore not classified. The first 30 ECTS credits from the PG Cert do not count towards the final grade awarded in the MEd. However, work submitted for the PG Dip is marked with a percentage grade that will be weighted as 50% of the final MEd classification. The MEd qualification will be awarded as 'pass', 'merit' or 'distinction'.
- The pass mark for this postgraduate taught programme is an overall weighted average of 50% across the programme. To be awarded a final result of merit, a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 60%, plus at least 60% in the dissertation component; for a result of distinction a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 70%, plus at least 70% in the dissertation component.
- The Board of Examiners consider any borderline cases with mitigating circumstances for uplift to the higher classification. For details of borderline uplift consideration see the Imperial's Single Set of Regulations: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/>
- **Upper word limits** are clearly stated for each assignment and deviation from these will result in penalties of 5%.
- **Deadlines** have been provided for your benefit, so that feedback can be provided and so that you are well-supported towards successful completion of the programme. You are therefore expected to meet these deadlines. Should you miss a summative assessment deadline, in accordance with the College regulations, work submitted up to 24 hours after the assessment deadline (date and time) will be marked but capped at 50%. Work submitted more than 24 hours after the assessment deadline will not be accepted as a valid attempt and a mark of zero will be recorded. For full details see 'Marking and moderation regulations' at [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/). To request an extension to a deadline, see details on 'Extensions' in the section below.
- If no work is submitted for summative assessment then, in line with Imperial College London regulations, a mark of not commended/fail will be recorded.

- Students are entitled to an **opportunity to resubmit** an assessment. The resubmission will be capped at 50%. The overall final mark for the programme is not capped and will be calculated in the normal way.

For further information please see the Imperial's Academic and Examination regulations:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

## Mitigating Circumstances

There may be instances during your studies when you are affected by unforeseen circumstances that affect your ability to submit assignments on time or to the standard expected. As well as health or personal issues, an unexpected increase in workload (for example, covering for the unplanned absence of a colleague) may also be considered grounds for mitigation given your status as a staff-student. In these cases you can make a claim for mitigation by submitting the mitigating circumstances request form, available at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/>. You should submit the mitigating circumstances request form within 10 working days of the assignment deadline and, where possible, in advance of the assignment being due. This completed form should be emailed to the relevant course inbox: ([pgcertult@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:pgcertult@imperial.ac.uk)/[dipult@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dipult@imperial.ac.uk)/[medult@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:medult@imperial.ac.uk))

For further information and a link to the mitigating circumstances request form, please see the mitigating circumstances policy and procedure, available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/>

If the claim is accepted one of the following options will be applied:

- An additional attempt at the assessment for an uncapped (deferred) or capped (resit) mark – this would allow you to resubmit your assignment without the mark being capped at 50%. If you fail to submit an already capped resubmission due to mitigating circumstances, this would allow a second attempt at resubmission.
- For a late submission to be accepted and marked as though 'on time' – this would allow a submission after the deadline **without** the usual penalties for late submission (capped at 50% up to 24 hours after the assessment deadline or a mark of 0 thereafter). This extension will not normally be longer than two weeks. See 'Extensions' below.
- For the Board of Examiners to extend consideration at the borderline for an uplift in classification, in accordance with the regulations, or where a qualifying mark is required for continued progression.

## Extensions

We acknowledge that our students are usually working full time and have busy professional lives. If there is a problem meeting a deadline, you are expected to contact the course director as soon as possible to discuss the situation. Extension requests will normally be handled as follows:

- **Formative assessment:** you should speak to your tutor/supervisor or the module lead to agree a mutually convenient time for you to submit your work. Extensions must be agreed in advance of the original deadline. An extension would normally not be longer than two weeks after the original due date. An extension at formative stage does not automatically result in an extension at summative stage.



- **Summative assessment:** extensions to summative assessment are normally only granted in cases of mitigating circumstances. Please follow the mitigating circumstances guidance above.

## Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct

As your programme of study continues, you will be taught the concept of academic integrity and how you can ensure that any work that you complete now, or in the future, conforms to these principles. This means that your work acknowledges the ideas and results of others, that it is conducted in an ethical way, and that it is free from plagiarism. Academic integrity is fundamental to learning, teaching and research and it is important to understand what it means for you and the international community of research that you are joining.

Academic misconduct is the attempt to gain an academic advantage, whether intentionally or unintentionally, in any piece of assessment submitted to the university. This includes plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, exam offences or dishonest practice. Full details of the policy can be found at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

Definitions of the main forms of academic misconduct can be found below:

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts, words, images, research or diagrams as though they were your own. Another form of plagiarism is self-plagiarism, which involves using your own prior work without acknowledging its reuse. Plagiarism may be intentional, by deliberately trying to use another person's work by disguising it or not citing the source, or unintentional where citation and/or referencing is incorrect.

Plagiarism must be avoided, with particular care on coursework, essays, reports and projects written in your own time but also in open and closed book written examinations. You can support your understanding of proper referencing and citation by using the resources available from the university such as the Library Services learning support webpages at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/plagiarism-awareness/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/plagiarism-awareness/)


For group work, all members have responsibility for the integrity of the work submitted. Therefore, if plagiarism (or another form of academic misconduct) is proven, all group members may be liable for any penalty imposed.

Imperial requires you to complete mandatory training on plagiarism awareness. You can access this training online via the Early Career Researcher Institute's website:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/professional-development/masters-students/plagiarism-online/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/professional-development/masters-students/plagiarism-online/)

TurnitinUK is an online text matching service which assists staff in detecting possible plagiarism. The system enables institutions and staff to compare students' work with a vast database of electronic sources. Your programme team will explain how it is used in your programme.

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/digital-education-services/digital-education-platforms/turnitin/turnitin-for-students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/digital-education-services/digital-education-platforms/turnitin/turnitin-for-students/)

## **Collusion**

This is the term used for work that has been conducted by more than one individual, where this has not been permitted in the assessment brief. Where it is alleged that there has been collusion, all parties will be investigated initially under the Academic Misconduct procedure. Please be aware that this includes working with others in or outside the Imperial community, not just students on your programme.

You should note that whilst Imperial encourages students to support each other in their studies you should be careful to ensure that you do not go beyond the assessment brief with regards to individual work, always acknowledge the contributions of others in your work, and do not leave yourself open to allegations that you have supplied answers to enable another student to commit academic misconduct.

## **Dishonest practice**

This is the most serious category under the procedure. Examples of dishonest practice include bribery, contract cheating, purchasing essays or other materials from other sources (which is now illegal in the UK) or other individual to submit as your own, taking an exam for someone else or getting someone else to take an exam for you, attempting to access exam papers before the exam, making a false claim for mitigating circumstances or providing fraudulent evidence, falsifying documentation or signatures in relation to assessment or a claim for mitigating circumstances.

## **Position Statement on Generative AI on MEd ULT**

We are committed to the ethical and responsible use of Generative AI (GenAI). We are open to the positive educational possibilities that GenAI presents, while making sure it does not shortcut the process such that learning is reduced, and ensuring academic integrity and rigour are upheld. Our approach to AI on MEd in ULT is informed by institutional values of respect, collaboration, excellence, integrity and innovation and Imperial principles of:

- Promoting critical use of Gen AI
- Adopting a consistent ethical approach to the use of GenAI
- Building a proactive research community around the use of GenAI

Our approach is underpinned by informed choice and transparency, and we will unpack each of those pillars below.

### **Informed choice**

Any decision to use GenAI involves considerations of integrity, ethics and practicality and these should be informed by an understanding of what the implications of these are. Following this, students should:

1. Understand the strengths and limitations of any tools they use in the context of their discipline and its pedagogy
2. Understand how/where its use can provide efficiencies that enhance learning without short-cutting key processes in idea generation and iterative improvement, and compromising learning
3. Recognise ethical implications of GenAI
4. Distinguish the difference between appropriate and inappropriate use

## **1. Understanding the strengths and limitations of GenAI tools in the context of the discipline and its pedagogy.**

AI is constantly changing and different GenAI tools will have different strengths and limitations. Different discipline contexts have different expectations of when/how it is appropriate to use GenAI and it is important to be aware of, and aligned with, these disciplinary expectations; being aware of the fast-changing nature of this area. While AI may on the surface speed up some aspects of your learning, it should not completely replace your thinking either in generating or improving your ideas. It is important to understand that iteratively engaging with information to integrate it into a personalised narrative frequently drives learning; some struggle to understand that this is educationally productive. Replacing this effort with GenAI may provide a short-cut to the desired output without learning gain. When using GenAI the efforts shift onto reviewing, repairing and reworking AI outputs to improve quality, personalise/contextualise outputs and maintain learning potential. It is important to consider efficiency benefit in light of that.

## **2. Understanding how/where its use can enhance learning without compromise.**

We want GenAI to support your learning and help you advance your thinking rather than short circuit what is important for your learning. At each stage of the MEd there are important learning points that we do not want students to lose. Those learning points contribute to transformative nature of the MEd, help you to develop as a practitioner and an emerging educational researcher. Those learning points include:

- Ability to reflect on your own practice in light of reading to critically evaluate how your teaching, learning and assessment benefits your students' learning. Using AI to generate any reflection would be counterproductive to your learning on the programme and would result in shallow meaningless reflection.
- Ability to make connections between concept, theories and own practice – this is the aspect that allows some creativity in your writing and your thinking. While AI can suggest connections it can't make sense of them through the lens of your practice. This will greatly disadvantage your work at the point of marking.
- Engaging in educational evaluation/research to investigate aspects of practice. Using GenAI tools to design/interpret evaluation will likely reduce integration to personal context and limit value. While in research, the research questions that you will compose and investigate are rooted in your own disciplinary practice at Imperial. Outputs by GenAI tools are usually superficial and generic, and will lack the specific context in which your research will be situated.
- Navigating a level of discomfort and struggle is built into the programme. We consider this element of liminality to be important for learning because learning happens when students cross the threshold between what they know, their way of thinking and structuring their ideas, and the 'new way' they encounter on the programme. Some of our students describe this as akin to learning a whole new way of thinking, or learning a completely new language. In liminal phases some struggle to understand is educationally productive. Replacing this effort with GenAI usage? may provide a short-cut to the desired output without learning gain,

### 3. Recognising ethical implications of GenAI

- AI still is known for its bias and reinforcing stereotypes around race, gender, sexuality etc. Instead of encouraging critical reflection it presents biased statements as facts. With increasing use/acceptance of GenAI there is a risk that an unquestioning use of biased perspectives will be accepted as a norm.
- The use of AI poses environmental issues with its high electricity and water usage and high carbon releases. The sustainability of AI as an everyday tool therefore comes under question.
- The legality of the dataset that is used to train AI can also be questioned. Furthermore, the origins, 'ownership' and intellectual property rights of both the source material and generated outputs becomes harder to be clear about, making both fact checking and attribution a challenge.
- Some uses of AI might undermine research integrity and bypass acquiring important graduate capabilities such as abilities to form research questions and hypothesise, interpret data and/or use them to form conclusions/recommendations and through this short-circuit meaningful/productive educational 'struggle'.
- Whilst being a potentially useful tool to support access and participation through moderating linguistic and stylistic barriers, there is a risk that in the longer term, the somewhat neutral, flat and impersonal linguistic style that results might limit individual 'voice' and create pressure towards a neutral but uninspiring 'norm'.

The majority of the discussion of ethical issues above is based on the guidance provided by LaTrobe University (Position Statement on Generative AI in teaching and research - Google Docs)

### 4. Distinguishing the difference between appropriate and inappropriate use

Acceptable uses (uses that speed up efficiency without compromising learning)

- Understanding concepts, deepening your understanding and clarifying
  - GenAI tools can be used in the same way as any other search engine as a first step to clarifying a concept or a theory. You may quote (if appropriately referenced – please see the Transparency section) a response from an AI tool but please be aware that, as is the case with Wikipedia, those sources are not considered reliable or reputable, particularly in discipline or scholarly contexts.
- Correcting grammar – GenAI can be used to suggest some level of language improvement, however, it is important to maintain your individuality, context and narrative voice throughout your essays.
- Finding new literature – locating further reading and sources of research
  - But be mindful of hallucinations, and of the potential difficulty in correctly attributing source material when using GenAI. The library catalogues offer a much more reliable way of searching for new sources (see subject-specific search tools).
- Early stages of brainstorming and refining ideas before any assessment
  - Peer discussions are an integral part of any level on the MEd ULT. While GenAI can be a good source for summarising and organising broad topic areas to help with the initial formation of ideas, these should then be refined

through personal reflection and integration with individual context and experience and, importantly, through peer discussions and working with your tutor(s).

- Using GenAI to tidy up reference list
  - While the ability to reference appropriately is a key skill, the real learning lies in understanding how to interpret and integrate other people's ideas and not present them as your own. GenAI can speed up the process of formatting the final reference list, freeing up time and resource to focus on engaging with sources and incorporating them meaningfully into your own narrative.
- Summarising sources
  - It is acceptable to use AI to provide summaries of papers and other sources, however you should be careful deciding when a summary is better instead of reading the full source as this might impact the quality of your learning. Please also note that in the field of Higher Education a 20 page paper is considered standard. Remember that while a GenAI produce summary will be quicker, you neither gain nor demonstrate the deeper understanding that you would if you had completed the process yourself. Try and make informed strategic choices recognising the pros and cons of each approach.
- Unacceptable use
  - Asking GenAI to complete your assessment and using this content in your assignment
  - Copying and pasting ideas generated by AI (even with paraphrasing of content) without any integration to your understanding and context or representation of your voice and positionality. This superficial use is unacceptable, even if appropriately cited.
  - Using AI to structure your work (e.g., generating the sequence of arguments or organising the logical flow of sections) ? and uncritically copying and pasting that structure (without acknowledgment)
  - Using work generated by AI without appropriate citation or acknowledgment.

## Transparency

We expect from our students to be transparent about when AND how GenAI was used to inform their work. Therefore, any use of GenAI in any work, be it formative or summative, needs to be declared. What is considered a declaration is indicating in the text where AI was used AND explaining in a footnote exactly how GenAI was used. Examples of this can be found below:

### Example 1

Although there is a large indication supporting the usefulness of feedback to promote student learning however, different student surveys across the world have also emphasized that students are dissatisfied with the feedback they receive on their course works (Nicol, 2010). Student claim a lack of adequate, timely feedback and their teachers claim that students fail to apply the advice given (Orrella, 2006).\*

\*I used ChatGPT-4 to find sources that looked into student experiences and satisfaction with feedback. I then decided from the abstract whether the paper was relevant to my argument.

### Example 2

Belonging is essential for both mental and physical well-being. It fosters resilience, improves mental health, and contributes to a sense of purpose and meaning in life. Feeling connected to others and having a place where one feels accepted and valued is a fundamental human need, impacting everything from academic performance to physical health.

\*I used Copilot to look for synonyms to avoid repetitive language in this section.

### Example 3

In the context of my course, students hardly reach the centre of the community of practice. Instead, their engagement is more in line with what Wenger (2008) referred to as Legitimate Peripheral Participation (LPP).\*

\*I used Deepseek R1 to clarify the concept of legitimate peripheral participation to make sure I am applying it well to my context.

Please check the Library resources for <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/generative-ai-guidance/>

In addition to the footnote, any direct copying and pasting from GenAI needs to be appropriately acknowledged with quotation marks and source in brackets, as is the case with any other verbatim use from any source:

*"Liminality is a term, derived from the Latin word 'limen' meaning 'threshold'," that describes a state of being 'betwixt and between'" — a transitional phase where individuals or groups are in a state of flux, suspended between a past state and an as-yet-to-be-defined future state" (AI, Google).*

Please check the Library resources for correct referencing of AI sources. Please note that copying big chunks of text from any source is never good practice and will impact on the grade outcome, not to mention one that hasn't been peer reviewed.

### The importance of draft stage

The draft re-draft assessment design on the MEd has a double purpose. Firstly, it is designed as a scaffolding tool to help you develop skills necessary to conduct research in the field of Higher Education in a safe environment. Secondly, it becomes evidence of how your thinking has developed enabling personalised, scaffolded feedback dialog AND serving as one of the tools that can be used to determine authenticity of your work contributing to transparency around GenAI. This is also the stage where the difference between poor academic practice with GenAI and cheating can be clarified and rectified. This is why all drafts on the MEd are mandatory. A draft does not have to be a fully developed essay. It can be a snapshot of your thinking at a given time. Not submitting a draft means you are denying yourself an opportunity for discussion, clarification and there is no evidence of your thinking.

### Dealing with suspected cases

If the marking team suspects that AI was used to support the development of the assignment in any way listed above as 'allowed use', but that this use was not acknowledged, further action will be taken. This would include: using marking schemes to reflect poorer understanding or academic writing and narrative development and/or invoking established process related to academic integrity. The onus to prove that GenAI was not used will be on the student usually through appropriate transparency, citation and evidence of idea development over time

## 5. Board of Examiners

### Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners meets twice annually - in July to confirm progression and awards for PG Cert and PG Dip students and in October to agree the awards for students on the MEd programme.

Listed below are all the assessors for the programme:

 Professor Martyn Kingsbury


 Dr Mark Anderson

 Dr Andréia Vargas-Seymour


 Dr Julie Moote

 Mrs Nikki Boyd

 Dr Tiffany Chiu


 Dr Jo Horsburgh

 Dr Kate Ippolito

 Dr Iro Ntonia

 Dr Monika Pazio Rossiter

### External Examiners

 Dr Rebecca Turner, University of Plymouth

External examining acts as an essential part of the Imperial's quality assurance and enhancement process, serving to ensure that academic standards are maintained. The knowledgeable and independent views of external examiners are invaluable in certifying that the College's awards are appropriate and comparable as well as highlighting good practice and potential areas of enhancement.

During your programme you may be invited to meet your external examiners to discuss how you have found the programme or for a type of assessment called a viva voce (verbal exam). It is not appropriate, however, for you to seek to submit complaints or representations directly to external examiners or to seek to influence them other than by giving feedback in a meeting. Inappropriate communication towards an examiner would make you liable for disciplinary action.

A summary of external examiners reports from the previous academic year can be found here:


 [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/external-examining/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/external-examining/)



## 6. Location and facilities

Imperial has a number of campuses in London and the South-East. All have excellent travel links and are easily accessible via public transport.

### Your main location of study will be:

 South Kensington Campus  
Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2AZ

### Facilities

Computer access and printing is available at The Abdus Salam Library. The Department's postgraduate office is located the Educational Development Unit, Level 5 Sherfield Building.

If you notice any facility defects or maintenance issues, please contact the Customer Services Centre (CSC):

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities/customer-services-centre/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities/customer-services-centre/)

### Library Services

The Abdus Salam Library at South Kensington is open 24 hours for study space, and further space is available to all students in GoStudy on levels 4 and 5 of the Chemistry Building.

Make sure you find out who your subject librarian is as they'll be able to help you find books and online resources for your assignments. Also, don't forget to check out the library's skills support and other campus libraries for access to specialist medicine and life sciences resources. You can borrow up to 40 books and, whether you're working on or off site, you'll be able to access e-books, e-journals and databases from their collection of over 637,000 titles. If they don't have what you need, they can get it for you, simply ask them to buy it or request a copy through their free Document Delivery service.

For any questions library staff will be happy to help, simply chat with them online or contact them via email, phone or social media, just check the website for details:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/library](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/library)

### Shuttle bus

A free shuttle bus runs between our South Kensington, White City and Hammersmith Campuses on weekdays. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. You need to show your Imperial ID card to board. You can download the timetable and check the latest service updates at:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities/travel/shuttle-bus](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities/travel/shuttle-bus)

### Maps

Campus maps and travel directions are available at:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/visit/campuses](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/visit/campuses)



## Accessibility

Information about the accessibility of our South Kensington Campus is available online through the AccessAble access guides:



[www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/imperial-college-london](http://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/imperial-college-london)

## Smoke-Free Policy

All Imperial campuses and properties are smoke-free. This means that smoking and the use of e-cigarettes, including vapes, by staff, students or visitors is not permitted on or within 20 metres of Imperial. The policy covers all university properties, including student accommodation and sports grounds.



[www.imperial.ac.uk/smoke-free](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/smoke-free)

## Security and Community Safety team

The Security and Community Safety team are here to help and support you 24/7. Our priority is protecting our students, staff and visitors from harm and making sure that the campus is a safe, welcoming and inclusive space.

How our team can help you:

- Assist in an emergency
- Deliver first aid
- Offer advice on personal safety
- Provide high-quality D-locks
- Issue ID cards
- Lost and found
- Signpost to mental health support

How can you contact us?

In case of an emergency, contact us through the SafeZone app (more below)

If you need to speak with us in-person, our Security and Community Safety Hub for all enquiries, parking requirements, and services including lost property and bike security is located at:

- Chemistry Building, Level 1, Room 171A (Use Chemistry 2 Main Entrance)
- Open Monday–Friday, 8am–4pm. Visit Wells Way Cabin (Located behind the Abdus Salam Library and Sherfield) for out-of-hours enquiries.

Our ID Card Services Office is located at:

- Sir Alexander Fleming Building G53

## SafeZone

SafeZone is an Imperial app through which you can quickly and directly contact the Security and Community Safety team whenever you need them. Whether you're in an emergency situation, in need of First Aid or want to report an incident on campus, SafeZone allows you to be immediately put in touch with a member of our Security and Community Safety team and, at the touch of a button, can share your location and personal profile so that they can respond quickly and effectively to your specific needs. It also allows the entire Imperial community to stay informed in the event of a major incident in London or wherever you may be in the world. Safezone also provides information on other services, such as real-time updates on the university shuttle bus.



SafeZone is optional to register for and is now available to download on the Apple and Android App stores. Visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/security/safezone/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/security/safezone/) for more details about SafeZone.

All existing phone numbers for the Security and Community Safety team are still operational. In the event of an emergency, you can still call 4444 from any internal Imperial phone.

## 7. Health & Safety

Keeping you safe is a top priority for us.


The Imperial Health and Safety Policy can be found at:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/safety-management/health-and-safety-policy-statement/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/safety-management/health-and-safety-policy-statement/)

### Your Departmental safety contact is:

 Vilma Rupeikaite/Ruth Stannard

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus

 +44(0)20 7594 8781/+44(0)20 7594 8785

 [v.rupeikaite@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:v.rupeikaite@imperial.ac.uk) / [r.stannard@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:r.stannard@imperial.ac.uk)

### Imperial Safety Department

The [Safety Department](#) offers a range of [specialist advice](#) on all aspects of safety. This includes anything which you feel might affect you directly, or which may be associated with teaching, research or support service activities.

The university's activities range from the use of hazardous materials ([biological agents](#), [chemicals](#), [cryogenics](#), [gases](#) and [ionising/non-ionising radiation](#)) to field work, heavy or awkward lifting and driving.

All of Imperial's activities are covered by general health and safety regulations, but higher risk activities will have additional requirements.

The Safety Department helps departments and individuals ensure effective safety management systems are in place throughout the university to comply with specific legal requirements.

Sometimes the management systems fail, and an accident or a near-miss incident arises; it is important that we learn lessons from such situations to prevent recurrence and the Safety Department can support such investigations. All accidents and incidents should be reported online at:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/accidents--incidents/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/accidents--incidents/)

[To report concerns or to ask for advice you should contact your programme director, academic supervisor or departmental safety officer in the first instance. You may also contact the Safety Department directly.](#)

## Occupational Health requirements

Imperial's Occupational Health Service provides services to:

- protect health at work
- assess and advise on fitness for work
- ensure that health issues are effectively managed

The Service promotes and supports a culture where the physical and psychological health of staff, students and others involved in the university is respected, protected and improved whilst at work.

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/occupational-health](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/occupational-health)

## 8. University Policies and Procedures

### Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study


All registered students of Imperial are subject to the university Terms and Conditions as well as the Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study. The relevant set of regulations will depend on your programme and year of entry, please see our Regulations webpage to determine which apply to you:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations)


 [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/terms-and-conditions](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/terms-and-conditions)

### Academic Feedback Policy

We are committed in providing you with timely and appropriate feedback on your academic progress and achievement, enabling you to reflect on your academic progress. During your study you will receive different methods of feedback according to assessment type, discipline, level of study and your individual need. Further guidance on the Policy of Academic Feedback can be found on the Academic Governance website:


 [www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/academic-feedback/Academic-feedback-policy-for-taught-programmes.pdf](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/academic-feedback/Academic-feedback-policy-for-taught-programmes.pdf)

Please note that your examination scripts once completed belong to the university under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Please see the Imperial GDPR webpages for further information at:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/policies-and-guidance/guidance/guide-2---exam-records/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/policies-and-guidance/guidance/guide-2---exam-records/)


### Provisional Marks Guidance

Provisional marks are agreed marks that have yet to be ratified by the Board of Examiners. These results are provisional and are subject to change by the Board of Examiners. The release of provisional marks is permitted except in certain circumstances. Further information can be found in the Guidelines for Issuing Provisional Marks to Students on Taught Programmes:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/mark-and-moderation/Guidelines-for-issuing-provisional-marks-to-students-on-taught-programmes.pdf](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/mark-and-moderation/Guidelines-for-issuing-provisional-marks-to-students-on-taught-programmes.pdf)

## Late Submission Policy

You are responsible for ensuring that you submit your assessments (including timed remote assessments) in the correct format and by the published deadline (date and time). Any piece of assessed work which is submitted beyond the published deadline (date and time) would be classed as a late submission and will incur a penalty (a cap at the pass mark, or it is classed as a fail). Further guidance on Late Submission of Assessments can be found on the Academic Governance website:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/markings-and-moderation/Late-submission-Policy.pdf](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/markings-and-moderation/Late-submission-Policy.pdf)

If you submit late due to mitigating circumstances, the cap on your mark may be lifted if a claim for mitigating circumstances is accepted. Please see below.

## Mitigating Circumstances

During your studies you may be affected by sudden or unforeseen circumstances. You should always contact your Personal Tutor for advice and support. If this happens at the time of, or immediately preceding, your assessments you may be able to make a claim for mitigating circumstances. If successful this claim enables the Board of Examiners when reviewing your marks at the end of the year to have greater discretion with regards to offering repeat attempts (either capped or uncapped), a repeat year, or with your progression or final classification. Please note, the Board are not permitted to amend the marks that you were awarded, only to take your claim into account when making decisions.

All claims must be supported by independent evidence and submitted within 10 working days of the assessment deadline. Any claim made after this deadline is likely to be rejected unless there is a good reason (such as you were still unwell) until the point of submitting the claim. Details of the university's Mitigating Circumstances procedure can be found under the Mitigating Circumstances tab on the page below:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

Through the procedure you may also be able to request an extension deadline to some forms of assessment. Wherever possible it is expected that this is used as it will enable you to complete your studies within the same academic year (rather than over the summer holiday or in the next year).

Your department will have specific instructions for making a claim for mitigation or for requesting an extension. Details can be found in section 4.

Support for ongoing or long-term conditions, or for registered disabilities would not normally fall under the remit of mitigating circumstances and students should be supported through their studies with additional examination arrangements. More details can be found at:

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service/support-available/adjustments-and-support/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service/support-available/adjustments-and-support/)

## Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures

As has been highlighted under the Academic Integrity section, it is important that you learn how to properly attribute and acknowledge the work, data and ideas of others. Any proven form of academic misconduct is subject to penalties as outlined in the university's Misconduct Policy and Procedures.



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

## Unsatisfactory Engagement

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, sometimes students struggle to meet the university's expectations with regards to their engagement with their studies. Imperial has a process to identify and support students by reaffirming these expectations with an action plan. If a student does not engage satisfactorily with these supportive measures, they can be withdrawn from their studies. The full details of this process, and the appeals procedure relating to it can be found at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline)

## Fitness to Study

Imperial expects students to participate within the university community, such as by fully engaging and studying to the academic level required and working and living cooperatively. If there are concerns that a student is unable to engage as expected, due to an underlying physical and/or mental health difficulty, the university has a process to ensure that decisions about a student's ability to study are made through a supportive, timely and transparent process which operates in the best interests of the student:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline)

## Mutual Expectations

The mutual expectations document provides a suggested starter list of expectations that master's students and their project supervisors might expect from each other. It is designed to facilitate conversations to establish effective partnerships and it is recommended that the document is discussed at the first meeting between a main project supervisor and a new student. It should be noted that this is not exhaustive, and that departments may have variations in roles and responsibilities; supervisors should be aware of any such variations and will feed this into their discussions with students. Further, it is recognised that supervisors may not always be best placed to meet all the expectations laid out in the document, but should be aware of who, in their department, can. Students and project supervisors are encouraged to discuss, tailor and personalise the document further to suit. It is also recommended that students and their project supervisors revisit the document throughout the duration of the project.

The Mutual Expectations document is available here:



[www.bb.imperial.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/xid-12494962\\_1](http://www.bb.imperial.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/xid-12494962_1)

## Academic Appeals Procedure

We have rigorous processes and procedures in place to ensure assessments are conducted with fairness and consistency, claims for mitigating circumstances have been considered reasonably and in line with the regulations of the university, and that the decisions of the Boards of Examiners maintain the integrity of our academic awards. Should you believe that you have grounds to appeal these decisions, we have laid out clear and consistent procedures through which appeals can be investigated and considered:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline)

The [ICU Advice service](#) can help you with understanding this policy and supporting you through the process.

## Arithmetic Marks Check

If you consider that there may have been an error in the adding up of your marks, you may request an arithmetic mark check. Please note that this must be requested within 10 working days of the official notification of your results from the Assessment Records team in Registry. You may not request marks check for a previous year of study. Please note that a marks check is not a remark of your work, but an administrative check that the marks have been accurately recorded.

## Student Complaints

Imperial strives to ensure that all students are well supported in their studies and receive a good experience of their programme and the wider university activities. If you feel that your experience has not lived up to these expectations Imperial has an agreed Student Complaints process through which your concern can be investigated and considered.

If you have any concerns about your experience at Imperial and have been unable to address these informally, you should contact Student Complaints who can provide advice about what is the appropriate way to seek to resolve this at:



[student.complaints@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:student.complaints@imperial.ac.uk)



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline)

## Student Disciplinary Procedure

Imperial has the right to investigate any allegation of misconduct against a student and may take disciplinary action where it decides, on the balance of probabilities, that a breach of the Student Code of Conduct has been committed. The general principles of the Student Disciplinary Procedure are available on the university website:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline/)



## Protecting our students from incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct

Imperial is committed to supporting students and preventing incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct.

Our dedicated website page outlines a range of information and resources, including:

- Information about what harassment and sexual misconduct is
- How to make a report
- What happens when you make a report
- Disciplinary procedures for staff and students
- Resources for advice and support

Visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/preventing-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/preventing-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/) for more information.

## Copyright

Copyright is an automatic right given to creators that allows them to control who copies, adapts, translates and makes public their work. Unless you have the copyright holder's permission, you cannot do these things unless permitted by law or licence.



[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/copyright-guidance/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/copyright-guidance/)

## Intellectual Property Rights Policy

Imperial's Intellectual Property (IP) policy governs the ownership and management of the university's Intellectual Property and its discretionary Reward to Inventors Scheme.

Further guidance on the Imperial Intellectual Property Rights Policy is available on the university website:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/research-policies/research-related-policies/ip-policy/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/research-policies/research-related-policies/ip-policy/)

Confidentiality is critical in research, especially when collaborating in shared laboratory spaces. Research students must protect sensitive information diligently to preserve trust, collaboration, and academic integrity. Your funding arrangements may also require that confidentiality is maintained. You should strictly protect sensitive, personal or research-related information. Confidential information must only be shared with authorised individuals. Breaching confidentiality is considered as misconduct with disciplinary consequences.

Further information about the Imperial Enterprise Lab, a dedicated support service for students who want to develop their entrepreneurial mindset, skills, and networks, can be found at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/enterprising-students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/enterprising-students/)

## Use of IT Facilities

View the Conditions of Use of IT Facilities:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/computers-printing/conditions-of-use-of-it-resources/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/computers-printing/conditions-of-use-of-it-resources/)

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

All staff and students who work with personal data are responsible for complying with GDPR. Imperial will provide support and guidance, but you do have a personal responsibility to comply.

In line with the above please see the university's Privacy Notice for Students which form part of the Terms and Conditions of registration with Imperial.



[www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/admissions/Privacy-Notice-for-Students-and-Pro prospective-Students.pdf](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/registry/academic-governance/public/academic-policy/admissions/Privacy-Notice-for-Students-and-Pro prospective-Students.pdf)

## 9. Wellbeing, support & advice

### In your department

Your department has a system of academic and pastoral care in place to make sure you have access to the appropriate support throughout your time at Imperial.

#### Your Personal Tutor

You will be allocated a member of academic staff from the EDU as your personal tutor at the beginning of the academic year. Your personal tutor is your first point of contact for pastoral support and advice. You can arrange to have a meeting with them at any time during your studies by emailing them.

If necessary, they will direct you to an appropriate source of support.

The Senior Tutor is Prof Camille Kandiko Howson ([c.howson@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:c.howson@imperial.ac.uk))

#### Departmental Disability Officers

Departmental Disability Officers are the first point of contact in your department for issues around disability. They can apply for additional exam arrangements on your behalf and will facilitate support within your department.

Your Departmental Disability Officer is: Dr Kate Ippolito

Email: [k.ippolito@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.ippolito@imperial.ac.uk)

Telephone: 020 7594 8789

More information on Departmental Disability Officers is available at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service/support-available/departamental-disability-officers/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service/support-available/departamental-disability-officers/)

More information about how to request additional exam arrangements for exams if you have a disability is available at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/additional-exam-arrangements-in-respect-of-disability](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/additional-exam-arrangements-in-respect-of-disability)

#### Inclusive teaching and learning:

The MEd in University Learning and Teaching programme is designed to be inclusive and supportive of all students' learning. However, if you have any additional needs due to a disability, such as dyslexia, that may impact on your study and that you would like to make the teaching team aware of please contact Kate Ippolito ([k.ippolito@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.ippolito@imperial.ac.uk)). All information will be handled confidentially within the teaching team.

Through the programme we will support you to develop the necessary skills for reading and writing in the Education discipline. Additionally, as Imperial students, you are entitled to access support offered by the [Disability Advisory Service](#), [Centre for Academic English](#), [Graduate School](#) or [Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service](#).

Imperial also has a suite of inclusive technologies: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/training-and-resources/inclusive-technology/> that may be useful to all students and

training in how to use these can be arranged by Diversity and Ability. Please contact the Disability Advisory Service for details.

## Your Union

All Imperial students automatically become members of Imperial College Union when they register at the College. The Union provides a range of independent support.

### Imperial College Union Advice Centre

The ICU Advice Service delivers free, confidential, and impartial advice covering academic issues, complaints and disciplinaries, university accommodation, and internal and external signposting.

Contact the ICU Advice Service: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/help-and-support> and complete the registration form to speak with a member of the team.



[www.imperialcollegeunion.org/advice](https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/advice)

### Student representatives

Imperial College Union operates two Representation Networks of 500+ elected student representatives – the Academic Representation Network and the Wellbeing Representation Network. Reps represent the voice of students and can direct you to internal and external support services. The Union's Liberation & Community Officers also work to make sure that the views of under-represented and interest groups are heard at Imperial. The student representatives are elected in one of ICUs election cycles that take place throughout the year so keep an eye out for your chance to get involved.

If you have any feedback about issues in your department relating to academic or wellbeing issues, you can speak to one of your student representatives.



[www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/your-representatives/a-to-z](https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/your-representatives/a-to-z)

### Officer Trustees

The Union is led by a team of Officer Trustees who are elected every year by the students of Imperial. They work full time at the Union and either take up their role after their studies have concluded or take a year out of their studies to represent the voices of students in the Union, the university and the wider community.

The Officer Trustees represent students in a variety of roles, including Education, Welfare, and Activities. These elected students are here to represent your views as a student body - do make sure you get in touch with them if there's something you would like to discuss or change.

## Student Hub

At the Student Hub, you can access advice about accommodation, admissions and financial support and get help with international student enquiries, questions about student records, and exams.



[www.imperial.ac.uk/student-hub](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-hub)

## Student Support Zone

If you have moved home to take up your place at Imperial, you will need to register with a new doctor (also known as a General Practitioner or GP) so that you can access NHS healthcare. It's important that you register with a doctor soon after you arrive – don't wait until you are sick, as this could delay your access to treatment.

Student Support Zone has lots of information about the resources available at Imperial and beyond to help you to stay healthy and happy. It's a great place to start when you're looking for some support – it covers advice about housing and money, health, wellbeing and maintaining a good work-life balance, and provides the details of who you can contact if you need some extra support.

 [www.imperial.ac.uk/student-support-zone](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-support-zone)

## Centre for Academic English

As a student at Imperial, you want to be good at your science and you also want to be good at communicating it. CfAE can help you:

- communicate your science more easily and more effectively in writing and in speaking
- increase your chances of better grades
- improve your employability prospects through enhanced communication skills

The CfAE team are experts in academic STEMM communication and work with all students and academic staff at Imperial. They understand how busy your timetable is, as well as what support you need and when you need it. CfAE provide a range of options which accommodate different learning styles from personalised self-study resources to live group activities to 1:1 coaching sessions.

To find out how CfAE can help you throughout your degree, [visit their website](#), [email the team](#) or come meet them on Level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus.



Level 3, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus



[english@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:english@imperial.ac.uk)



[www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/academic-english)

## Useful support contacts

### Health and wellbeing

If you have moved home to take up your place at Imperial, you will need to register with a new doctor (also known as a General Practitioner or GP) so that you can access NHS healthcare. It's important that you register with a doctor soon after you arrive – don't wait until you are sick, as this could delay your access to treatment.

### Imperial College Health Centre






40 Prince's Gardens, South Kensington Campus






020 7584 6301

 [imperialcollege.hc@nhs.net](mailto:imperialcollege.hc@nhs.net)  
 [www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk)




### **Imperial College Dental Centre**

 Prince's Gardens, South Kensington Campus  
 020 7589 6623  
 [www.imperialcollegedental.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegedental.co.uk)



### **Student Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service**

 020 7594 9637  
 [counselling@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@imperial.ac.uk)  
 [www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling)

### **Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Service**

 15 Prince's Gardens, South Kensington Campus  
 [chaplaincy@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@imperial.ac.uk)  
 [www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy)

### **Disability Advisory Service**

 020 7594 9755  
 [disability@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:disability@imperial.ac.uk)  
 [www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/disability-advisory-service)

### **International Student Support**

 020 7594 8040  
 [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/)

### **Careers Service**

 Level 5, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus  
 020 7594 8024  
 [careers@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:careers@imperial.ac.uk)  
 [www.imperial.ac.uk/careers](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/careers)

### **Accommodation**

Information and guidance around private housing and private halls for PG students is available from the Student Accommodation Office. Online you can find a Private Housing Masterclass that guides you through each step of your private housing search. The team also hosts private housing events, pop-ups and contract-checking services.



Level 4, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus



020 7594 3300



[accommodation@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@imperial.ac.uk)



[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/accommodation/prospective/pg/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/accommodation/prospective/pg/)



[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/accommodation/private-accommodation/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/accommodation/private-accommodation/)

## **ICT and software**

ICT Service Desk



Abdus Salam Library, South Kensington Campus



020 7594 9000



[www.imperial.ac.uk/ict/service-desk](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/ict/service-desk)

Software shop



[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/computers-printing/devices-and-software/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/computers-printing/devices-and-software/)

## 10. Student Administration

The Student Administration team are responsible for the administration and maintenance of the student records for all students studying at Imperial. This includes enrolments, programme transfers, interruption of studies, withdrawals and processing of examination entry for research degree students. The team also use this information to fulfil reporting duties to the Student Loans Company and Transport for London, as well as other external bodies.

The team are responsible for the processing of student results and awards on the student record system as well as the production and distribution of academic transcripts and certificates of award. The 'My Documents' online portal allows you to access your documents, including proof of enrolment and award documentation. You can then digitally share these documents with third parties such as an employer or university.

Each document has a unique QR code with the official university watermark, making it easier for employers and others to verify your credentials. This online document sharing is a legitimate service, introduced and authorised by Imperial.

We would like to encourage you to use this online service in place of paper-based documentation. You can access the 'My Documents' portal here:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/request-an-official-document/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/request-an-official-document/)

### Student Records



+44 (0)20 7594 7268



[student.records@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:student.records@imperial.ac.uk)

### Degree Certificates



+44 (0)20 7594 7267



[certificates@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:certificates@imperial.ac.uk)



## 11. Work-life balance

The pace and intensity of study at Imperial can be demanding so it's important to find time for outside interests.

### Imperial College Union

The Union's range of 370+ student-led clubs, societies and projects is one of the largest of any UK university, opening up lots of ways for you to enjoy your downtime.



[www.imperialcollegeunion.org/about-us](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/about-us)



[www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/a-to-z](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/a-to-z)

### Move Imperial

Imperial has a wide range of sports and activities on offer that cater for all experience levels and abilities. We have a recreational activity offer, competitive sports teams and an elite sport programme. We are dedicated to ensuring we have a diverse, inclusive and exciting offer for all.

More information about Imperial student memberships and updates to our services can be found at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/ethos/memberships/students/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/ethos/memberships/students/)

For an annual fee you will get use of the gym and swimming facilities on our campuses. More information about Imperial student memberships and updates to our services can be found at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/sport](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/sport)

We have a huge collection of online resources, home workout videos, healthy recipes and playlists available to all as part of our Move More campaign, more information can be found at:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/sport/get-active/move-more/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/sport/get-active/move-more/)

## 10. Student feedback and representation

Imperial and Imperial College Union are committed to continually improving your education and wider experience and a key part of this is your feedback. Feedback is thoroughly discussed by your student representatives and staff.

Examples of changes implemented as a result of student feedback include:

- More varied assessment, including groupwork and digitally enhanced assessments.
- Alternative assessment forms
- Increased support for applying for HEA Fellowship.
- More time to respond to draft feedback on PG Dip assignments
- Pre-session reading sent a greater time in advance of taught sessions and more closely aligned to in-session tasks
- Introduction of progress tracking forms at MEd level to support students with their time management.

### Student representation

Student Representatives are recruited from every department to gather feedback from students to discuss with staff. Student representatives for each level of the programme are invited to volunteer at the beginning of the academic year and are required to attend the Staff Student Liaison Committee (in January 2026) and to meet to discuss their experiences of the programme with the external examiner at the end of the academic year.

### Staff-Student Committee

Staff-Student Committees are designed to strengthen understanding and improve the flow of communication between staff and students and, through open dialogue, promote high standards of education and training, in a co-operative and constructive atmosphere. Imperial good practice guidelines for staff-student committees are available here:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/student-feedback](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/student-feedback)

## 11. Student Surveys

Your feedback is important to your department, university and Imperial College Union. Whilst there are a variety of ways to give your feedback on your university experience, the following surveys give you regular opportunities to make your voice heard:

- **Module Evaluation Questionnaire (MEQ)**

The MEQ is your chance to tell us about the modules you have attended. The questionnaire is open to students across all years of study and runs at the end of the autumn, spring and summer terms.

- **Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)**

The PTES is an annual survey which asks you to rate a range of aspects of your experience, such as teaching, assessment and feedback, organisation, and learning resources. The survey runs in the summer term and is open to postgraduate taught students. Results of this national survey help inform enhancements to the student experience.

If you would like to know more about any of these surveys or see the results from previous surveys, please visit:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/student-surveys/pg-student-surveys](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/student-surveys/pg-student-surveys)

## 12. And finally

### Alumni services and benefits

When you graduate, you'll become a member of a lifelong global network of more than 262,000 incredible people. You'll have access to an exclusive range of services and benefits, designed to support you in your next steps, wherever you are in the world, including:

**Lifelong learning:** from discounts on further study to mentoring, career support, online resources and events, we're here for you throughout your career to support your professional development.

**Connections:** Imperial's alumni community can be a source of friendship and professional contacts. Whether you're looking for top tips for a new city, to find a business partner or mentor, or get to know your local community, we've got you covered.

**Perks:** discounts, access to the library, Imperial College Union, and a dedicated co-working and lounge space in the heart of London – there are plenty of perks on offer for Imperial alumni whether you're based near campus or further afield.

Visit the alumni website to find out more about your new community, how to access your benefits, and how to get in touch with fellow alumni around the world.



[www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/benefits/recent-graduates/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/benefits/recent-graduates/)



[www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni)

## 13. Appendix 1 Introduction from the President of Imperial College Union



Welcome to Imperial! To begin with, a huge congratulations on joining us here at Imperial– this is where you belong! This is a globally renowned institution and offers much more than just the degree you are looking to leave with. You will come across countless opportunities and meet an array of compelling people amongst your peers, accomplished academics and the wider university community. Imperial attracts the best talent from around the world - making it here is already a testament to your academic zeal and ambitious character. Now, what you make of your experience at Imperial has the potential to shape your future.

Being located in London is a true perk of being an Imperial student. Right on our west London doorstep are landmark museums and iconic venues, including the Royal Albert Hall which has hosted Imperial graduations for over 60 years. Beyond our campuses, the city has something for everyone; be that the West End, sporting arenas or diverse cuisines. I strongly encourage you to explore where and when you can – London is a fantastic place for your university memories to call home.

You will likely have chosen to come to Imperial for its academic reputation as an outstanding university, and it will deliver on this. The facilities for research and your learning are terrific. To accompany this, there are hundreds of student-led societies and events available to you outside of your degree. These are overseen by your students' union – Imperial College Union. The Union is led by students, for students. The three deputy presidents and I have all been democratically elected to work full time on improving your student experience at Imperial. We have a large team of permanent staff behind us, running the many functions of the Union such as supporting clubs and training student representatives.

The Union also runs the Advice Service, where guidance and support can be provided on issues such as life in halls, complaints, and academic appeals. This is a free and confidential service that is independent from the university. You can access this by emailing [advice@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:advice@imperial.ac.uk).



University is a new stage of life. For many, this stage presents itself with newfound freedom and control over what you do. As daunting as it may seem, take advantage of it! Immerse yourself in your degree, your extra-curricular activities and in the connections you make.

No matter what problems you have or opportunities you're looking for, we're here to help. Our office is on Level 2 in Beit Quadrangle, and you can check out our website for more information.

Wishing you an incredible year ahead,

Nico Henry

Imperial College Union President 2025-26

 [union.president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:union.president@imperial.ac.uk)  
 [imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org)

## 14. Appendix 2 Early Career Researcher Institute

### Welcome to Imperial and to the Early Career Researcher Institute!

The Early Career Researcher Institute works closely with Imperial College Union to enhance your experience and to ensure that when decisions are being made which affect your time at the university, your voice is heard.

Another important aspect of our role is to provide you with a free and exciting programme of professional development opportunities, delivered through a range of modes, so you can access these wherever you are in the world.

Our staff have a variety of research and other career experiences. Our professional development opportunities are designed to support you as you progress through your programme, but also to help you improve your personal impact, and be prepared for your chosen career, whether that is within academia, industry, government or something completely different!

Importantly, by attending our courses and workshops, you will meet students from other academic departments, enabling you to start building your research connections. We also deliver exciting competitions throughout the year which are an opportunity to broaden your knowledge as well as to have some fun!

Our primary way to communicate with you will be through our monthly e-newsletter and our weekly professional skills email bulletins. However, do check our website, blog and social media platforms to keep up to date with all the latest activities available to you.

Finally, Imperial is an extremely exciting, stimulating and diverse environment in which to work, to study and to research. Do make the most of all that the university and your programme has to offer.

Please note that the Early Career Researcher Institute was formerly known as the Graduate School. We are working hard to update all our resources with our new name, so please bear with us as we continue to work through this task. For now, you can find out more about us via the website:



[www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/)

## **15. Appendix 3 College policy on research misconduct**

The University considers any allegation of research misconduct to be a matter of great concern and will investigate any such allegation fully. Given its international reputation and status, Imperial has a responsibility to the scientific community and to the public at large and therefore, where appropriate, will make public the outcome of any such investigation.

### **Definitions**

Imperial has adopted the Royal College of Physicians' definitions of research misconduct as including piracy, plagiarism and fraud. The following definitions give indicative descriptions of the types of activity covered by this regulation. These descriptions are neither exclusive nor exhaustive:

- piracy is the deliberate exploitation of ideas and concepts from others without acknowledgement;
- plagiarism is the copying of ideas, data or text (or a combination of these) without permission or acknowledgement;
- fraud involves deception—usually, but not exclusively, the invention of data. This could also include the omission from analysis and publication of inconvenient components of a data set.

Other types of research misconduct may be separately defined, but the University views them as combinations or sub-types of those defined above. In addition to research misconduct, these procedures will also apply to cases of scientific negligence.

### **Procedures for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct**

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-integrity/misconduct/>

## 16. Appendix 4 Statement on plagiarism

You are reminded that all work submitted as part of the requirements for any examination (including coursework) of Imperial College and the University of London must be expressed in your own words and incorporate your own ideas and judgements. Plagiarism, that is, the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as though they were your own, must be avoided, with particular care in coursework, essays and reports written in your own time. Note that you are encouraged to read and criticise the work of others as much as possible. You are expected to incorporate this in your thinking and in your coursework and assessments. But you must acknowledge and label your sources. Direct quotations from the published or unpublished work of others, from the internet, or from any other source must always be clearly identified as such. A full reference to their source must be provided in the proper form and quotation marks used. Remember that a series of short quotations from several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism just as much as a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source. Equally, if you summarise another person's ideas or judgements, figures, diagrams or software, you must refer to that person in your text, and include the work referred to in your bibliography. Departments are able to give advice about the appropriate use and correct acknowledgement of other sources in your own work. The direct and unacknowledged repetition of your own work that has already been submitted for assessment can constitute self-plagiarism. Where group work is submitted, this should be presented in a way approved by your department. You should therefore consult your tutor or course director if you are in any doubt about what is permissible. You should be aware that you have a collective responsibility for the integrity of group work submitted for assessment.

The use of the work of another student, past or present, constitutes plagiarism. Where work is used without the consent of that student, this will normally be regarded as a major offence of plagiarism.

Failure to observe these rules may result in an allegation of cheating. Cases of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with under the University's Examination Offences Policy and may result in a penalty being taken against any student found guilty of plagiarism.

### **Cheating offences policy and procedures**

[www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/)

### **Plagiarism advice for postgraduate taught course (Master's) students**

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/plagiarism-awareness/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/plagiarism-awareness/)

### **TurnitinUK Plagiarism Detection Service at Imperial College:**

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/digital-education-services/digital-education-platforms/turnitin/>



## 17. Appendix 5 Submitting an assignment via Blackboard

You should submit both your research proposal and dissertation via Blackboard. The research proposal will be submitted directly via the Blackboard assignment function, while the dissertation will be submitted via Turnitin.

Guidance on using Blackboard as student can be found at the following website:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/digital-education-services/digital-education-platforms/blackboard/>

Guidance on using Turnitin can be found at the following website:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/ict/self-service/digital-education-services/digital-education-platforms/turnitin/turnitin-for-students/>

### Research proposal

To submit your research proposal, navigate to the assignment submission area of the 'Research Methods in Education' Blackboard course and click on the 'MEd ULT research proposal' link.

Click on 'Browse my computer', select your file and click 'Submit'. Remember to include a completed cover sheet and submit as a single file. If you submit the incorrect file, please contact your course coordinator.

### Dissertation

To submit your dissertation, navigate to the assignment submission area of the 'MEd Research Project' Blackboard course. Click on 'View/Complete' under 'MEd ULT dissertation'

You will be taken to the Turnitin assignment inbox where there will be details of the assignment and its due date. Click on the blue submit button and fill in the submission title field before clicking 'Choose from this computer' to select the file you want to submit.

If you choose the incorrect document, click the 'Clear file' button to the right of the document name. When you are ready to submit, click the blue 'Upload' button at the bottom of the screen.

Once the document has been uploaded, you will be shown a screen that asks you to confirm that you would like to submit this file. Click on the blue 'Confirm' button at the bottom of the screen to complete your submission. You will receive a Digital Receipt via email from Turnitin containing a submission ID.

If you have any problems using Blackboard or Turnitin, please contact your course coordinator.

## 18. Appendix 6 Referencing your work

### Plagiarism

The detailed and accurate referencing of work is important in academic contexts and serves multiple purposes within professional communities and communications. One of the purposes of referencing is to avoid appearing to present others' work as your own – i.e. plagiarism.

Given that most students on this programme are Imperial or NHS employees, it is expected that you will be familiar with plagiarism and how to avoid it. Nevertheless, it has to be stated that plagiarism will not be accepted and severe action may be taken against students who have plagiarised the work of others. To avoid inadvertent plagiarism, it is important that you understand what constitutes a problem or offence. You have access to an online information literacy guide:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/plagiarism-awareness](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/plagiarism-awareness)

College regulations on scientific misconduct and plagiarism are provided in this handbook. The detection of plagiarism by members of Imperial or NHS staff can have severe consequences for their professional careers, over and above the regulatory consequences of plagiarism by typical taught postgraduates.

All assignments, dissertations, and portfolios submitted for summative assessment will be via Blackboard Learn and will be sent for checking by plagiarism detection services.

### Harvard-style Referencing

There are many styles that can be used for referencing, this information is based on the Imperial Library guide and introduces the Harvard referencing style:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management/harvard-style](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management/harvard-style)

The Harvard style of referencing, which uses an 'author-date' approach, is required for all work submitted for the PG Cert, PG Dip and Master's in University Learning and Teaching.

When you begin your research for any piece of work, it is important that you record the details of all the information you find. You will need these details to provide accurate references, and to enable you to locate the information again at a later date, should it be necessary to do so. It can also be useful to keep a record of your literature search strategy and process, where did you search? What key words and search terms did you use? What key authors did you follow-up? This information can help you discussing your literature searching with your supervisor or other students or members of the academic team. The literature search strategy can also be required as part of the assessment on some assignments.

### What is referencing?

The following section is adapted from the Library's guide to referencing, found here:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management/what-is-referencing/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management/what-is-referencing/)

At its most basic referencing is used to demonstrate to your readers that you have conducted a thorough and appropriate literature search, and reading. Equally, referencing is an acknowledgement that you have used the ideas and written material belonging to other authors in your own work. Perhaps most importantly, and different from a scientific style, when writing in an academic way about a qualitative subject like education arguments and narratives consist of ideas from many authors often with your particular interpretation of these ideas. This type of work is best referenced

in the Harvard style, which shows authors' names and year (and for quotes, page numbers) in the text helps the reader make sense of how the argument develops.

### **Why should I reference?**

- Accurate referencing is a key component of good academic practice and enhances the presentation of your work: it shows that your writing is based on knowledge and informed by appropriate academic reading.
- You will ensure that anyone reading your work can trace the sources you have used in the development of your work, and give you credit for your efforts and quality.
- When writing in an 'Educational style' and building a narrative/argument from multiple ideas and contexts and showing how they are relevant to your thesis it is imperative to keep track of this process and train of thought by proper referencing.
- Your marks will reflect not just the content of your assignments but the sources you use and how you use and reference them.
- If you do not acknowledge another writer's work or ideas, you could be accused of plagiarism.

### **Referencing using the Harvard style**

There are three main things to consider when referencing, citing the reference in the text, quoting from a reference in the text and correctly citing it and lastly writing the reference list and possibly a bibliography.

There are a number of rules relating to citations depending on the number of authors of a work, and if you are citing a quotation.

When you use another person's work in your own work, either by referring to their ideas, or by including a direct quotation, you must acknowledge this in the text of your work. This acknowledgement is called a citation.

When you are using the Harvard style, your citation in your text should include:

- The author or editor of the cited work
- The year of publication of the cited work

Examples are shown below in blue.

#### **Citing one author**

Vygotsky (1978) sees learning as situated: inextricable from, and influenced by, cultural and social settings.

*or*

Learning can be seen as situated: inextricable from, and influenced by, cultural and social settings (Vygotsky, 1978).

#### **Citing two or three authors**

If the work has two or three authors, include all names in your citation.

An advantage of PBL is that the practice of medicine involves dealing with uncertainty and PBL students may be advantaged by early exposure to this (Jones, McArdle & O'Neill, 2002).

### **Citing four or more authors**

If the work has four or more authors/editors the abbreviation 'et al' should be used after the first author's name.

In fact, recent evidence suggests that students retain 15% less information delivered verbally by the lecturer during PowerPoint presentations versus a more traditional lecture presentation (Savoy et al., 2009).

### **Citing works by the same author written in the same year**

If you cite a new work which has the same author and was written in the same year as an earlier citation, you must use a lower case letter after the date to differentiate between the two.

Freire specifically argued that the problem with lectures is that the teacher feels that they need to complete the 'act of knowing' before they are in a position to deliver the lecture (Freire, 1974a; Freire, 1974b).

### **Citing from chapters written by different authors**

Some books may contain chapters written by different authors. When citing work from such a book, the author who wrote the chapter should be cited in the text, not the editor of the book.

### **Secondary referencing**

Secondary references are when an author refers to another author's work and the primary source is not available. When citing such work the author of the primary source and the author of the work it was cited in should be used.

The student furthermore can gain a sense of control over his/her learning (Bernstein, 1977 cited in Reay & Arnot, 2004).

You are advised that secondary referencing should be avoided wherever possible and you should always try to find the original work.

### **Citing a direct quotation**

If a direct quote from a book, article, etc., is used you must:

- use single quotation marks (double quotation marks are usually used for quoting direct speech);
- state the page number.

... from this perspective learning is situated and inherently social in character: 'Legitimate peripheral participation is proposed as a descriptor of engagement in social practice that entails learning as an integral constituent.' (Lave & Wenger, 1991, p 35).

### **Good quotation practice using the Harvard style**

Quotations longer than two lines should be inserted as a separate, indented paragraph.

Lave and Wenger (1991) note that the role of the master is principally to provide legitimate access of the apprentice to the learning opportunities present in the community of practice, and not to teach.

'In all five cases there is very little observable teaching; the more basic phenomenon is learning. The practice of the community creates the potential 'curriculum' - that which may be learned by newcomers with legitimate peripheral access.' (p 93)

*or*

The role of the master is principally to provide legitimate access of the apprentice to the learning opportunities present in the community of practice, and not to teach.

'In all five cases there is very little observable teaching; the more basic phenomenon is learning. The practice of the community creates the potential 'curriculum' - that which may be learned by newcomers with legitimate peripheral access.' (Lave and Wenger, 1991: p 93)

If you want to insert a long quotation (over two lines) but do not want to include all of the text, you can remove the unnecessary text and replace with '...'.

Lave and Wenger (1991) note that the role of the master is principally to provide legitimate access of the apprentice to the learning opportunities present in the community of practice, and not to teach.

'In all five cases there is very little observable teaching ... the community creates the potential 'curriculum' - that which may be learned by newcomers with legitimate peripheral access.' (p 93)

You should only do this when you use a quotation taken from one paragraph.

When you use quotations within your text, sometimes you may want to insert one or two words in the quotation so that your complete sentence is grammatically correct. To indicate that you have inserted words into a quotation, these have to be enclosed in square brackets.

Lave and Wenger (1991) note that the role of the master is principally to provide legitimate access of the apprentice to the learning opportunities present in the community of practice, and not to teach.

'It implies participation in an activity system about which participants share understandings concerning what they are doing [and] what that means in their lives and for their communities.' (p 98).

### **Citing an image/illustration/table/diagram/photograph/figure/picture**

You should provide an in-text citation for any images, illustrations, photographs, diagrams, tables or figures that you reproduce in your work, and provide a full reference as with any other type of work.

They should be treated as direct quotes in that the author(s) should be acknowledged and page numbers shown; both in your text where the diagram is discussed or introduced, and in the caption you write for it.

For example:

Table illustrating differences between Piaget's and Vygotsky's theories (Woolfolk, Huges & Walkup, 2008, p 56).

*or*

Diagram 'Teaching in the magic middle' (Woolfolk, Huges & Walkup, 2008, p 57).

### **Citing from works with no obvious author**

If you need to cite a piece of work which does not have an obvious author, you should use what is called a 'corporate' author. For example, many online publications will not have individually named authors, and in many cases the author will be an organisation or company.

[A European Union Directive, which makes a default right to work no more than 48 hours per week \(Working Time Directive, 2003\), limits the training time available to surgeons.](#)

If you are unable to find either a named or corporate author, you should use 'Anon' as the author name. Be careful: if you cannot find an author for online work, it is not a good idea to use this work as part of your research. It is essential that you know where a piece of work has originated, because you need to be sure of the quality and reliability of any information you use.

### **Citing from multi-media works**

If you need to cite a multi-media work, you would usually use the title of the TV programme (including online broadcasts) or video recording, or title of the film (whether on DVD, online, or video) as the author. This would include, for example, videos posted on YouTube or other video-streaming web services.

Therefore, your citation should use the title that you identify as the author.

[Cynics might argue that the experiment is another headline-grabbing TV stunt by brand Jamie Oliver, but might there actually be some serious lessons here for educationalists? \(Dream School, 2011\)](#)

### **Citing from an interview or personal communication**

Always use the surname of the interviewee/practitioner as the author.

[MIT are also planning on reviewing their undergraduate research scheme \(Bergren, 2008\).](#)

### **Writing a reference using the Harvard style**

To write your own references you need different bits of information about each item that you read when you are researching a piece of work. These bits of information are called 'bibliographic' information.

For all types of references the key bits of information you need to start with are:

1. **Author/editor:** This means the primary (main) person who produced the item you are using. If you are using a website or web page, and there isn't an author, you can use what is called a 'corporate author'. This will usually be the name of the organisation or company to whom the website or web page belongs.
2. **Date of publication/broadcast/recording:** This means the date the item was produced. It is usually a year, but if you are using a newspaper article, an email, or a television recording, you will have to include a full date (day/month/year) in your reference.
3. **Title of the item:** This means the primary (main) title of the item you are using. That sounds very obvious, but have a look at a web page and try to work out what the main title is. We would advise common sense in this situation – you have to identify the key piece of information that describes what you have used, and will allow the reader of your work to identify that information.

It is worth keeping track of this information as you go and with any notes you make on a reference. This makes referencing work produced from your notes much easier. You may find this advice even

more important when writing about education as you will generally be less used to the literature than you are in your 'primary discipline' and forming a written narrative often relies less on data and fact and more on ideas and argument. This requires you to 'unpack' and use references in a different way and ideas can all too easily get divorced from the source material when you assemble the final work.

The table below tells you about some of the variations you should look for when you are collecting your reference information.

<b>Medium</b>	<b>Primary author/editor</b>	<b>Date of publication</b>	<b>Primary title of item</b>
<b>Email</b>	Name of the person who wrote the email	The full date the email was sent: day/month/year	Subject of the email. This may include RE: or FWD
<b>Journal article</b>	Name of the person or persons who wrote the article	The year the journal issue was published	Title of the article (not the title of the journal)
<b>Newspaper article</b>	Name of the journalist, or if there is no journalist name, the name of the newspaper	The full date on which the article was published: day/month/year	Title of the article (not the title of the newspaper)
<b>Website</b>	This can be tricky. Use an individual name if you can find one, or the name of the organisation or company to whom the website belongs	Usually the current year, the year when the website was last updated, or the latest date next to the copyright statement/symbol	Title of the website
<b>Web page</b>	This can be tricky. Use an individual name if you can find one, or the name of the organisation or company to whom the website belongs	Usually the current year, but if the web page has a full date of publication, you may also need that: day/month/year	Title of the web page. You will need to use the title of the website if the web page doesn't have an individual title
<b>TV broadcast</b>	Title of the programme, or if the programme is part of a series, use the series title	The year the programme was broadcast	Title of the programme (it does not need to be written twice if you used it as the author information)
<b>Personal interview</b>	Name of the person being interviewed	The full date on which the interview took place: day/month/year	No title needed
<b>Book chapter</b>	Name of the author of the chapter	The year the book was published	Title of the book chapter (not the title of the book)

Depending on the type of material you want to reference you will also need other items of information, such as:

- Name of publisher
- Place of publication
- Page numbers
- Volume number
- Issue number
- URL (website or web page address)
- DOI (link for journal articles)
- Title of conference proceedings
- Report number
- Book or conference editor (if not your primary author)
- Book or conference title (if not your primary title)
- Journal title (the journal article title will be your primary title)
- Date of access (for online material)

### **Writing a reference list using the Harvard style**

This is your list of all the sources that have been cited in the work. The list is inclusive showing books, journals, etc., listed in one list, not in separate lists according to source type.

- The list should be in alphabetical order by author/editor.
- Books, paper or electronic journal articles, etc., are written in a particular format that must be followed.
- Your reference list contains all the items you have cited or directly quoted from.
- When you have used more than one piece of work by the same author, in your reference list you should list the works in date order, beginning with the most recently published work.

Sometimes, especially when writing in a new field using an unfamiliar literature you read around the module considerably before settling on the references that you quote and cite to form your narrative argument. Should you wish to include this reading to indicate to your examiner items you have consulted but not cited, the addition of a bibliography might be useful. These items should be listed in alphabetical order by author and laid out in the same way as items in your reference list. If you can cite from every work you consulted, you will only need a reference list.

### **How to write references for your reference list (and bibliography): Harvard style**

Below is a list of the information required to write a reference in the Harvard style for a number of commonly used sources; each with an illustrative example.

#### **Book: print**

- Author/Editor (if it is an editor always put (ed.) after the name or (eds.) if there are multiple editors)
- (Year of publication)
- Title (this should be in italics)
- Series title and number (if part of a series)
- Edition (if not the first edition)
- Place of publication (if there is more than one place listed, use the first named)
- Publisher

Vygotsky LS. (1978). *Mind in Society: the development of higher mental process*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.



**Book: online/electronic**

- Author/Editor (if it is an editor always put (ed.) after the name or (eds.) if there are multiple editors)
- (Year of publication)
- Title (this should be in italics)
- Edition (if not the first edition)
- [Online]
- Place of publication (if there is more than one place listed, use the first named)
- Publisher
- Available from: URL
- [Date of access]

James, W. (1907) *Pragmatism*. [Online] Indianapolis, Hackett Pub. Co. Available from: <http://www.authorama.com/pragmatism-1.html> [Accessed 1st September 2011].

**Book: chapter in an edited book**

- Author of the chapter
- (Year of publication)
- Title of chapter followed by In:
- Editor (always put (ed.) after the name)
- Title (this should be in italics)
- Series title and number (if part of a series)
- Edition (if not the first edition)
- Place of publication (if there is more than one place listed, use the first named)
- Publisher
- Page numbers (use 'p.' before a single page number and 'pp.' where there are multiple pages)

Berthiaume, D. (2009) Teaching in the Disciplines. In: Fry, H., Ketteridge, S. & Marshall, S. (eds.) *A Handbook for Teaching and Learning*. 3rd edition. New York, Routledge. pp 215-225.

**Journal article: print**

- Author
- (Year of publication)
- Title of journal article
- Title of journal (this should be in italics)
- Volume number
- Issue number
- Page numbers of the article (do not use 'p.' before the page numbers)

Wink, DJ. (2006) Connections between pedagogical and epistemological constructivism: Questions for teaching and research in chemistry. *Foundations of Chemistry* 8(2), 111-51.

**Journal article: online/electronic**

If an electronic journal article has a DOI (digital object identifier), you can use this instead of the URL. The DOI is a permanent identifier provided by publishers so that the article can always be found online. Your lecturer may ask you to include the DOI, not a direct URL, in your written references.

To find the DOI, when you read an article online, check the article details as you will usually find the DOI at the start of the article. For more help, contact your librarian.

If you read the article in a full-text database service, such as Factiva or EBSCO, and do not have a DOI or direct URL to the article you should use the database URL.

- Author
- (Year of publication)
- Title of journal article
- Title of journal (this should be in italics)
- [Online]
- Volume number
- Issue number
- Page numbers of the article (do not use 'p'. before the page numbers)
- Available from: URL or DOI
- [Date of access]

Eva, KW. & Lingard, L. (2008) What's next? A guiding question for educators engaged in educational research. *Medical Education [Online]* 42(8), 752–754 Available from: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2923.2008.03135.x/full> [Accessed 1st September 2011].

*or*

Eva, KW. & Lingard, L. (2008) What's next? A guiding question for educators engaged in educational research. *Medical Education [Online]* 42(8), 752–754 Available from: DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2923.2008.03135.x [Accessed 1st September 2011].

Note: articles published online may not have page numbers.

### **Web page/website**

- Author/Editor (use the corporate author if no individual author or editor is named)
- (Year of publication) (if available; if there is no date, use the abbreviation n.d.)
- Title (this should be in italics)
- [Online]
- Available from: URL
- [Date of access]

General Medical Council (2009) *Tomorrow's Doctors* [Online]. Available from: [http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/tomorrows\\_doctors\\_2009.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/tomorrows_doctors_2009.asp) [Accessed 1st September 2011].

### **Personal communication**

- Name of practitioner
- Occupation
- (Personal communication, followed by the date when the information was provided)

Riley, D. (2011) Senior Lecturer in Educational Development. (Personal communication, 1st September 2011).

### **Lecture/presentation**

- Name of lecturer/presenter
- (Year of lecture/presentation)
- Title of lecture/presentation (this should be in italics)
- [Lecture/Presentation]
- Title of module/degree course (if appropriate)
- Name of institution or location
- Date of lecture/presentation (day month)

Riley, D. (2011) *Introduction to Cognitive Approaches to Learning*. [Lecture] Imperial College London, 1st September.

### **Thesis/assignment/portfolio (an unpublished piece of work)**

Name of author

(Year of writing)

Title of thesis, assignment, portfolio (this should be in italics)

(Unpublished thesis/assignment/portfolio)

Name of institution for which the work has been written, (if appropriate)

Riley, D (2011) *The Use of Metaphors in Educational Literature* (Unpublished thesis, submitted for PG Diploma in ULT) Imperial College London.

## **Sources of further help**

For more referencing examples:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management)

## **Want to use reference management software?**

The Library recommends RefWorks for undergraduate and Master's students, and EndNote for postgraduate research students and staff. We would recommend using some reference management software, but would suggest that you use whatever you are used to; although perhaps this course would give you a chance to try something new - and it can be an advantage to keep your educational referencing database separate from that of your primary research field.

## **Information and training**

Library services learning support:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/workshops](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/workshops)

Contact the Professional Services and non-academic staff librarians for more advice:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/contact-us/your-librarian/professional-services-and-non-academic-staff/>