

IMPERIAL



Imperial College Foundation

September 2025

Annual report

Imperial College Foundation

Imperial College Foundation continues to provide critical support for Imperial, enabling investment in areas that are central to our mission. This year, 30 funds benefitted from the Foundation's funding, reflecting the breadth and depth of its impact across the Imperial community and beyond. We remain deeply grateful for the unwavering generosity of our US-based donors.

Imperial has retained its position as 2nd in the QS World University Rankings for a second consecutive year, once again placing 1st in the UK and Europe. This continued global recognition is a testament to the drive and expertise of Imperial's staff and the ambition of its students. In particular, this year's ranking again recognised Imperial's innovative approach to sustainability, the employability of its graduates, and its academic excellence. Additionally, Imperial achieved an increase in student satisfaction in the National Student Survey, reflecting the University's commitment to balancing academic rigour with meaningful support. These results sit alongside Imperial being ranked top for graduate prospects in The Guardian University Guide 2025, and first for Graduate Employment in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025.

Earlier this year, we launched our new Schools of Convergence Science: Health and Technology; Sustainability; Space, Security and Telecoms; and Human and Artificial Intelligence. Designed to harness Imperial's world-class strengths across science, technology, and business, these Schools are fostering new research and innovation communities equipped to confront society's most complex challenges. Each School is home to adventurous thinking, entrepreneurial disruption, and independent inquiry, and together they form a focal point for deep, transdisciplinary collaboration that pushes the boundaries of conventional research.

Imperial takes great pride in being one of the world's most international universities, with long-term partnerships across the globe. In the last year, those ties were further strengthened through the launch of three new global hubs — in India, the USA, and Ghana — joining the already established hub in Singapore. Together, these hubs form a dynamic network for global collaboration, opening new opportunities to engage with alumni, industry, governments, and knowledge organisations worldwide. The most recent launch, based in India's tech capital Bengaluru, includes a liaison office that will serve as a platform for co-creating research, innovation, and education partnerships to enable a two-way flow of ideas and resources between the UK and India.

Alongside these institutional developments and achievements, Imperial's impact is also reflected in the remarkable accomplishments of our people. Professor Michele Dougherty, a leading space physicist at Imperial, has been appointed Astronomer Royal, and is the first woman to hold the role since its creation in 1675. Her appointment not only highlights her pioneering contributions to planetary science, including missions to Saturn and Jupiter, but also reinforces Imperial's global reputation for excellence in space research and public engagement. Further highlighting the strength of Imperial's academic community, three researchers were recognised with prestigious Royal Society medals. Professor Sir John Pendry received the Copley Medal for his work on the concept and designs of metamaterials; Professor Sir Martin Hairer was awarded the Sylvester Medal for his pioneering work in probability theory; and Professor Jason Hallett received the Mullard Medal in recognition of his work on the development of ionic liquids as commercially relevant solvents in biorefining. These honours reflect the international standing and rigour of Imperial's research, and stand as a testament to the dedication of the individuals behind it.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to be working toward the public launch of our comprehensive fundraising and alumni engagement campaign. Intertwined with the Science for Humanity strategy priorities, this transformative campaign will propel our strengths in STEM — providing cutting-edge resources, expanding opportunities, and positioning us to lead on global challenges with even greater ambition and reach.

The following updates highlight just some of the meaningful ways in which gifts to Imperial College Foundation have helped to make an impact across our community. We are incredibly grateful to the Board of the Imperial College Foundation for your ongoing dedication towards advancing our education and scientific research.

Widening access to an Imperial education

Student Assistance Fund

Support through the Student Assistance Fund ensures that disadvantaged and high-achieving students at Imperial can access the help they need. Contributions to the fund sustain a variety of programmes, including the hardship relief, bursaries, President's Scholarships and Faculty-level funds. In 2024-25, over £410,000 was raised toward the fund, helping to transform the experience of students who need it most by removing financial barriers.

Eleanor Bradley: 1st year President's PhD Scholar, Faculty of Medicine



"I chose Imperial due to it having a world class reproduction research department with academics that would be perfectly suited to support my research interests and PhD project. I was over the moon when I found out I was accepted to be a President's Scholarship recipient as it not only meant that I was granted the opportunity to pursue my own independent research, but it is a privilege to receive support from a such a respected institute and an honour to be acknowledged by the university in this way.

Neither of my parents went to university, and so they were elated when I went on to complete a BSc, MSc, and now onto a PhD! The scholarship has allowed me to live in London, a city I have always dreamed of living in. I am able to fully support myself through my PhD with thanks to the generous stipend which allows me to focus solely on my project.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the donors that have contributed in any way to the President's Scholarship fund. Scholarships cannot be overlooked for what they are, which is a truly lifechanging opportunity. Not only do scholarships open the doors for individuals that otherwise may not be able to go on to achieve amazing feats, they build confidence, which I believe is essential for making the next generation of forward thinkers. I feel so empowered and motivated by the generosity and acknowledgement of my scholarship and the wonderful donors behind it."

Imperial Bursary

The Imperial Bursary provides essential financial support to undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The cost of living levels in London continue to reach alarming heights, with expenses for a typical nine-month academic year reaching up to £16,530. Financial support for students is therefore more critical than ever. In 2024/25, more than 2,000 students received the bursary, giving them access to the vital assistance they need to thrive and fulfil their potential. Below are some of the students whose lives have been transformed by the Imperial Bursary.

Sean Miles: 2nd year Materials, Science and Engineering student



"Your donation does not just provide financial aid—it gives students the freedom to fully engage with their studies, pursue their passions and connect with new people at events. It is an investment in the future of science and engineering, and it has a profound impact on students like me. It has reinforced my belief that I can contribute to solving real-world challenges in sustainability and materials science. Knowing that others have invested in my education motivates me to give back, whether through research, industry work, or mentorship."

Josh Leung: 2nd year Biomedical Engineering student



"I would say the biggest challenge that this scholarship has helped me overcome is definitely mental challenges. I am guilty of over thinking and had I not received this scholarship; all I would be thinking about all day is how to save money and this would not have led me to live a healthy or happy lifestyle. This scholarship has allowed me to go on so many social events and generally let me focus on my studies and happiness rather than purely finances."

Enterprise

The Imperial College Foundation continues to strengthen Imperial's entrepreneurial ecosystem, particularly through initiatives that address underrepresentation in innovation. One such initiative is WE Innovate—Imperial's flagship pre-accelerator programme for women-led ventures.

Now in its eleventh year, WE Innovate supports up to 25 teams annually through a five-month programme of masterclasses, business coaching, expert mentoring, and pitch development. The programme culminates in a Grand Final, where finalists compete for a share of a £30,000 prize fund and additional awards. This year, WE Innovate ran in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, with the aim to further unlock the entrepreneurial potential held by women across the nation. The finalists pitched their exceptional innovations to an expert panel, who awarded first prize to two highly deserving ventures:



- [Aeropod](#) (Imperial College London)
A soil regeneration startup creating capsules designed to aerate and enrich soil. The capsules activate in response to heavy rain, helping provide a climate-proof alternative to intensive farming methods.
- [Dainty Grace](#) (Queen's University Belfast)
A lingerie startup that uses a more accurate sizing method for women typically misrepresented in the industry, creating a community that educates and empowers in the process.

This year marked a significant milestone with the launch of the WE Innovate National Network, a new collaboration that will initially bring together five universities across the UK to participate in future competitions together. This initiative builds on the success of Imperial's flagship WE Innovate programme, extending its impact by enabling support for 150 women-led teams annually across the participating institutions. By fostering cross-institutional engagement, the network opens doors of opportunity to a wider community of aspiring female entrepreneurs.

Since its inception, WE Innovate has empowered over 500 women, helping them develop the skills, confidence, and connections needed to transform bold ideas into thriving ventures. More than 60 startups have been incorporated at Imperial through the programme, many of which continue to grow and make meaningful contributions to society. Philanthropic support underpins this success by helping to provide ambitious founders with access to expert mentoring, funding opportunities, and a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Celebrating 50 years of outreach

This year marks a significant milestone: 50 years of outreach work focused on widening access to STEM education and empowering young people from all backgrounds. Launched in 1975 as the UK's first university-led mentoring scheme, the programme has grown into a nationally recognised model of engagement. Over the past five decades, it has reached more than 200,000 young people through a rich and evolving portfolio of initiatives designed to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and open pathways to higher education and careers in science.

Two dedicated facilities — the Wohl Reachout Lab in South Kensington and the Dangoor Reach Out Makerspace in White City — have welcomed nearly 50,000 young people. These spaces foster open-ended creativity and exploration, offering access to specialised equipment and an immersive learning environment that many schools cannot provide.

Imperial's outreach has played a pivotal role in expanding access to STEM education within the local community and further afield, working in partnership with schools, communities and educators. The wide-range of initiatives reflect a commitment to nurturing talent and ambition, each designed to make a long-term difference in a young person's education, confidence, and future. The stories of Fatiha Tabassum and Irena Rozycka highlight the lasting impact of engaging in Imperial's outreach activities, and how early support inspired them to return and help others benefit from the same opportunities.

Fatiha Tabassum: 3rd year Physics student



Fatiha, currently an undergraduate physics student and Outreach Student Ambassador, took part in Imperial’s mA*ths Online Programme and Year 12 Work Experience scheme while at school. She credits these programmes for her place at Imperial, as they provided the academic support and exposure she needed to aim high and apply.

Arriving in the UK just before her GCSEs, and facing the challenge of adapting to a new language, education system, and social environment, left Fatiha unaware of her potential to flourish in the world of science. Initially placed in bottom classes and given low predicted grades, she had limited access to STEM related opportunities. Thankfully, her teachers soon recognised her talent and she began to learn about subjects like Engineering and Computing – and first heard of Imperial.

As she progressed into her final years of school, Fatiha’s passion for science was truly unleashed when her teachers signposted her to Imperial’s outreach programmes. Designed to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in achieving top grades and exploring university life, the mA*ths Online Programme was a transformative experience for Fatiha. It was followed by the Year 12 Work Experience scheme, which gave her critical insight into the world of research and brought the idea of studying at Imperial within reach. “The reason why these outreach activities are so important is that they give you exposure”, she says — a reflection of how critical visibility and access are for students without established pathways into higher education.

Now a Student Ambassador, Fatiha mentors A-level students through the same programmes that helped to shape her path. She is committed to enabling other young people like her to have the opportunity to engage in STEM and receive the guidance and support needed to take the leap into higher education. Her story is a powerful example of how targeted outreach can unlock potential and create lasting impact for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Irena Rozycka: Makerspace Technical Assistant



Irena first joined the Maker Challenge in 2019 whilst at school, drawn to the programme by her love of design and through encouragement from her sister. Growing up near Imperial’s White City Campus, she was familiar with the university, but the Makerspace offered something new: hands-on access to tools like 3D printers and laser cutters, and the freedom to build her own project.

The experience sparked a deeper interest in engineering and helped shape her university application. Irena went on to study Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Leeds, crediting the Maker Challenge with opening her eyes to the possibility of a future in STEM. After graduating, she felt drawn back to the space that had inspired her and so in 2024, she returned to Imperial as a Technical Assistant at the Makerspace.

Now supporting the next generation of makers, Irena helps run the space and train students, but says the most rewarding part is seeing young people grow in confidence, just the way she had in the past. Reflecting on her journey, she shared: “I remember how transformative it was for me, so it’s amazing to now be part of that journey for someone else.” Irena shared that she takes pride in the Makerspace being a place of inclusivity and belonging, creating an environment for those of all needs and backgrounds to feel supported. Her story is a testament to the lasting impact of Imperial’s Outreach activities — not only in shaping individual futures, but in building a community of role models who return to inspire the next wave of bright young minds.

“I remember how transformative it was for me, so it’s amazing to now be part of that journey for someone else.”



Maker Challenge Final



Saturday Science Club



Mathematics Support

Imperial remains deeply committed to opening doors to science education and empowering young people from all backgrounds to pursue their potential. With programmes that continue to evolve in response to the needs of schools and communities, the future of Outreach is full of promise. The newly launched Centre for Societal Engagement will strengthen this work further, embedding Outreach within the university's broader mission to drive inclusive recruitment and participation. Many of these initiatives are made possible thanks to the generosity of donors, whose support ensures these programmes continue to thrive and reach even more young people in the years ahead.

Economics of Pandemic Preparedness Initiative

The Jameel Institute-Kenneth C. Griffin Initiative for the Economics of Pandemic Preparedness (EPPI) is an international collaboration launched in a bid to strengthen global pandemic preparedness through data-driven modelling, decision-support tools, and capacity building. The initiative combines distinguished talent and resources from Imperial, the World Health Organization, Singapore's Programme for Research in Epidemic Preparedness and Response, and Umeå University in Sweden to reliably inform public health decisions with critical data and analysis.

Now approaching the end of the third year, or halfway point, the EPPI has made strong progress across all four of the deliverables set out at its launch. The work to date reflects a steady build-up of tools, partnership and insights that are shaping a real-world approach to global pandemic preparedness.

Integrated Economic-epidemiological model

In 2022, the team developed DAEDALUS, an integrated economic-epidemiological model that estimates the return on investment of pandemic preparedness under hypothetical pandemic scenarios. The model continues to evolve through ongoing refinements aimed at improving its functionality and relevance. A key area of current focus is the integration of behavioural effects, such as absenteeism from work due to fear of infection, into the model through collaborative efforts between The Jameel Institute and Imperial Business School.

In-depth case studies

Two major research collaborations are advancing the development of locally grounded case studies. In the Philippines, a partnership with Ateneo de Manila University is underway to build a new 'stock flow consistent' economic model with an epidemiological model. This will enable model components to be contextualised to the Philippines, allowing for epidemic modelling, policy options and consequences, and therefore pandemic preparedness to be enhanced for the country. Separately, work with CEPI and Linksbridge Consulting is modelling the costs and benefits of global vaccine investment, with a report nearing completion and a third phase now exploring region-specific impacts.

The DAEDALUS Explore Dashboard



Significant progress has been made on DAEDALUS Explore, the initiative's online dashboard tool designed to help decision-makers assess the health and economic impacts of pandemic preparedness. Users will have the ability to select a country, one of seven respiratory pathogens, a mitigation strategy, vaccine investment level, and hospital capacity to simulate pandemic scenarios. The dashboard runs the DAEDALUS model in real time, projecting GDP loss, education-related income, loss, and lost life years. By adjusting inputs, users can explore the societal trade-offs involved in pandemic preparedness decisions.

Capacity building

Recent steps to support the next generation of pandemic preparedness leaders have included two real-time modelling workshops using the DAEDALUS model. In January, senior UK policymakers took part in scenario-based exercise simulating an outbreak of a novel respiratory pathogen, prompting discussion around uncertainty, mitigation strategies, and trade-offs. A second workshop in June adapted the exercise for a wider audience of civil servants, generating valuable feedback to inform future model development and communication planning.

Next steps

In the months ahead, the EPPI team are gearing up toward the hard launches of DAEDALUS Explore, the submission of several publications on integrated modelling research, and the initiation of the next phase of work with CEPI.

Thank you

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to our US-based donors for their generosity and support, which continues to fuel Imperial's excellence across research and education. From advancing scientific discovery to widening participation and fostering innovation through outreach and enterprise programmes, the work highlighted in this report reflects Imperial's commitment to shaping a more inclusive and impactful future. We are especially grateful to the Foundation board members for your ongoing commitment to Imperial's work and mission.

Financial Summary

Funds supported – 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025

Fund	Amount
Economics of Pandemic Preparedness Research Programme	\$ 804,825.00
Postgraduate scholarship within the Department of Computing	\$ 323,625.00
Infectious Disease Research Fund	\$ 300,000.00
Department of Bioengineering	\$ 171,888.96
Student Assistance Fund	\$ 134,166.10
Amyloid research	\$ 102,078.45
The Imperial Enterprise Lab	\$ 50,000.00
Partial PhD Scholarship in the Centre for Psychedelic Research	\$ 46,475.00
Advisory Scholarship at Business School	\$ 40,000.00
MSc Scholarship for Sikh students	\$ 25,000.00
Scholarship for women in EEE	\$ 25,000.00
Dean's Fund - Faculty of Engineering	\$ 18,467.00
Imperial Bursary Fund	\$ 11,985.75
Research High Five for Life	\$ 10,718.58
Named PhD scholarship for female students within the Department of Computing	\$ 10,000.00
Silicosis and Tuberculosis Research (NHLI)	\$ 5,000.00
Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering	\$ 4,000.00
Department of Physics	\$ 3,616.75
Department of Chemical Engineering	\$ 3,000.00
Student Hardship Fund	\$ 2,670.00
Dean's Fund - Faculty of Natural Science	\$ 2,030.00
Outreach Programs Fund	\$ 2,000.00
President's Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,882.36
Dean's Fund - Faculty of Medicine	\$ 1,650.00
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	\$ 1,500.00
Department of Mechanical Engineering	\$ 650.00

Rocky Fund within the Faculty of Engineering	\$ 600.00
Roger Sargent Student Support Fund	\$ 500.00
Dean's Fund - Imperial College Business School	\$ 400.00
Presidential Scholarship for Black Students	\$ 100.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,103,828.95

Areas supported

Areas of support	Amount
Departmental support	\$ 257,202.71
Student support – scholarships, bursaries, hardship funding	\$ 622,004.21
Research	\$ 1,224,622.03
TOTAL	\$ 2,103,828.95

