



ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE UNION

RCSU

# Freshers' Handbook

2021/22



# CONTENTS

President's welcome .....	3
Dean's foreword .....	4
Events calendar .....	6
Our Mascots .....	7
Broadsheet .....	7
Welfare & Education Tips .....	8
Meet the Committee ..	10
Major events .....	13
Where to find us ....	14



# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

**A big congratulations to each and every one of you for making your offer and getting into Imperial!**

If you study Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Biochemistry, you are automatically a member of the Royal College of Science Union which is the union for all students in the faculty of Natural Sciences. The Royal College of Science Union is a strong community with long-standing traditions and a rich history. Our union is one of the four undergraduate constituent unions, and it was founded in 1881. Even though it has been 139 years since we were first founded, our main goal remains the same - to create a sense of community within the faculty by promoting interdisciplinary interaction, and to have a positive impact on students.

As a union we play various roles in your student experience. We have an education and



RCSU President  
Aparna Pillai  
[rcsu.president@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.president@ic.ac.uk)

welfare team who provide support by listening to your concerns and raising them with your departments and the faculty. We also have an activities team that is dedicated to organizing and running events for you this year! To keep up to date with all the events, follow us on Instagram (@imperialrcsu), Facebook (@RCSUnion) and Twitter (@RCSU).

Also please don't forget, your university experience is what you make of it, and when you aren't in teaching and studying hours, make sure to get as involved as possible. But in the meantime, I hope you have an excellent Freshers' Fortnight and an incredible first year.

# DEAN'S FOREWORD

## Welcome to Imperial College, the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Royal College of Science.

I am delighted to welcome you to Imperial College, and to congratulate you on achieving your place here - particularly this year. I was an undergraduate here back in 1986, and



Richard Craster  
Professor of Applied Mathematics, FIMA, FCGI

throughout my subsequent academic career I have not witnessed such turmoil before in education. I am sure many of you have had to overcome problems throughout this very difficult year, in order to be able to take up your place, and it has been a stressful time. It is a great opportunity, now you are with us, to grow academically and also through social activities



in student union societies.

We are here to support you on your academic journey and to help you make the most of your time as a student: meeting new people, taking part in societies and events. Much of the usual face-to-face activity will be online, at least for part of the year, and this

requires an extra effort to get involved and make new friends. Please do get involved in the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU), ICU (Imperial College Union) or one of the societies. There are lots of societies covering a vast range of sports, arts, social, religious, political activities, to join and I am sure you will find people with similar interests.



**I am sure you will  
make a great success  
of your time at  
Imperial College!**

Richard Craster

Professor of Applied  
Mathematics, FIMA,  
FCGI

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## October

*Freshers' fortnight*

week 1

5<sup>th</sup>

### ***The Welcome Fair – All Day***

Your chance to explore all the Clubs, Societies and Projects on offer at Imperial! Find the RCSU stall and try your luck at our Wheel of Fortune.

week 2

7<sup>th</sup>

### ***RCSU Pub Crawl – 6pm to late***

Join us on our journey around the local boroughs in the best pubs starting at our very own Union bar.

11<sup>th</sup>

### ***RCSU Induction – 5pm to 6pm***

Come and join our virtual introduction to what RCSU is all about and what we can offer you as your constituent union! – The link to the event will appear in your calendar very soon.

13<sup>th</sup>

### ***Scavenger Hunt, Beit Quad – 12pm to 3pm***

Join us at the Beit Quad before heading out to complete a scavenger hunt in teams around campus and London! Prizes will be given out to the winners, so get ready for some healthy competition!

14<sup>th</sup>

### ***Broadsheet Pizza Party, Blackett Level 8 – 6pm to 8pm***

Gather at the snazzy rooftop in Blackett for an introduction to RCSU's in-house science magazine over free pizzas and cocktails and learn how you can contribute!

15<sup>th</sup>

### ***RCSU Bookshop, Sherfield Foyer – 12pm to 2pm***

You'll be able to find copies of course textbooks from older students, at a fraction of the price of a new book!

21<sup>st</sup>

### ***Mums and Dads Bar Night, The Union – 6pm to 8pm***

This is an opportunity for you to hang out with your departmental parents and hang out with other RCSU families, with lots of snacks and drinks on us!

## November

11<sup>th</sup>

### ***Autumn Ball – 10pm till late***

The first glamorous ball of the year – you'll be partying in style at one the top London venues but remember to buy your ticket before they sell out!

# OUR MASCOTS

First up is Jezebel, our 1916 Dennis 'N' Type fire engine, who saw some action during Zeppelin raids in London in the First World War! You'll be seeing Jezebel at lots of our events throughout the year, but if that's not enough and you want some time up close and personal with Jez, check out the RCS Motor Club. No matter your experience, you'll be able to help keep Jez kicking and sometimes even take a trip around London with her!



Jezebel



Next is Theta, a 100lb+, seven-foot-long stainless-steel thermometer. She's currently Theta IV, since Thetas I - III have all sadly been thrown in the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens, as is tradition when Theta is violated by the other constituent unions. You'll be seeing Theta at our events as well – just be sure to keep an eye out that non-RCSU students don't kidnap her!

Theta the Thermometer

## BROADSHEET

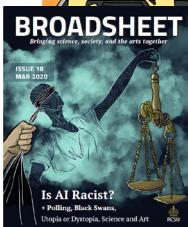
Broadsheet is the RCSU's magazine that is published termly (three times a year). It aims to bring together science, culture and the arts. It is designed & written by volunteers who are fuelled by many pizza nights on the house!



We're currently looking for **new writers, editors, photographers, designers & artists** but we welcome anyone who has a skill they think can apply to Broadsheet!

If you see something that interests you, please get in touch via our email ([broadsheet@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:broadsheet@imperial.ac.uk)) or walk up and say hi at the Welcome Fair! Browse past editions at our website: <https://rcsu.org.uk/broadsheet/>

Interested in becoming part of the team? Come along to our introductory social (Free Cocktail & Pizza Night: **14th October, Blackett Level 8, 6pm**) to meet the crew and get more info. There's no need to make a commitment so you can just come for the free pizza!



# WELFARE & EDUCATION TIPS



Vice President for Education  
Nicolas Barykin Pankevich  
[rcsu.education@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.education@ic.ac.uk)



Vice President for Welfare  
Tianyu Wen  
[rcsu.welfare@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.welfare@ic.ac.uk)

Hi! Nico and Tianyu here, and we are the RCSU Vice President for Education (VPE) and Vice President for Welfare (VPW). We work closely with the five departmental student rep teams (Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Maths, Physics) to ensure your academic concerns are addressed and your well-being is well taken care of. We also oversee the progress within each department and take a holistic view to implement changes across faculty. We want you to fulfil your academic goals but also to take good care of your mind and body.

Here are a few tips that we've learned after two years of uni life!

- **Stay active:** Exercise is a good way to start your day off, relieve stress after a long day, or boost your energy after a lethargic lunch. You can go to the gym at Ethos by Princes Gardens, try new sports at a society, or simply walk around in Hyde park!
- **Make friends:** Say hi and start a conversation with your flatmates, invite your coursemates for a cook up, explore South Kensington with someone from your

# WELFARE & EDUCATION TIPS

societies: take the time to make friends and you will be surprised at how diverse Imperial can be!

- **Reach out:** If you don't talk about it, nobody knows what you are experiencing. If you aren't sure about a lab procedure, ask the lab assistant - they are really passionate about their work; if you don't understand a concept, ask your classmates or professors - most love answering tough questions; if you are experiencing a well-being related issue, contact your well-being rep, personal tutor, or Mental Health First Aider - they will direct you to the right spot.
- **Follow the calendar,** even if it's an online lecture. Once you miss a lecture, you will continue to miss the 2<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lecture. It will become stressful to catch up

while doing the problem sheets before the tutorial class pertaining to these lectures. Having a routine helps to gain control of your life and to establish a good mental health state.

- **Be realistic:** There will be tons of opportunities for you at Imperial: societies, undergraduate research opportunities, competitions, internships; but you are a human who needs rest and whose mental/physical health always comes first. Try a bit of everything and see what you really want and enjoy. Life is long, you don't have to do everything within 3 years.

GOOD  
LUCK!

# MEET THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Secretary  
Tharanyaa Balasundaram  
[rcsu.honsec@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.honsec@ic.ac.uk)



RCSU President  
Aparna Pillai  
[rcsu.president@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.president@ic.ac.uk)



Treasurer  
Susan Rutter  
[rcsu.treasurer@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.treasurer@ic.ac.uk)



Vice President of  
Operations (VPO)  
Trinity Stenhouse  
[rcsvpo@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsvpo@ic.ac.uk)



Vice President of  
Activities (VPA)  
Priantha Pretheshan  
[rcsu.activities@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.activities@ic.ac.uk)



Vice President of Education  
(VPE)  
Nicolas Barykin Pankevich  
[rcsu.education@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.education@ic.ac.uk)



Vice President of Wel-  
fare (VPW)  
Tianyu Wen  
[rcsu.welfare@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.welfare@ic.ac.uk)

## ACTIVITIES



Events Officer  
Bahram Keshtmand  
[bahram.keshtmand18@ic.ac.uk](mailto:bahram.keshtmand18@ic.ac.uk)



Events Officer  
Yong Lee  
[yl5119@ic.ac.uk](mailto:yl5119@ic.ac.uk)



Sports Officer  
Chinny Lee  
[chinny.lee19@ic.ac.uk](mailto:chinny.lee19@ic.ac.uk)



Publicity Officer  
Walter Shen  
[walter.shen19@ic.ac.uk](mailto:walter.shen19@ic.ac.uk)

# COMMITTEE

## OPERATIONS



Broadsheet Editor  
Lucy Wayne  
[broadsheet@ic.ac.uk](mailto:broadsheet@ic.ac.uk)



Deputy Broadsheet Editor  
Avi Aggarwal  
[broadsheet@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:broadsheet@imperial.ac.uk)



Science Challenge Chair  
Lingyi Wang  
[lingyi.wang18@ic.ac.uk](mailto:lingyi.wang18@ic.ac.uk)



Webmaster  
Jingrou Zeng  
[jingrou.zeng18@ic.ac.uk](mailto:jingrou.zeng18@ic.ac.uk)



Alumni Officer  
Mrunal Tamhankar  
[rcsu.sponsorshipalumni@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.sponsorshipalumni@ic.ac.uk)



Sponsorship Officer  
Xavier Keogh  
[rcsunion@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsunion@ic.ac.uk)

## DEP. SOC



BioSoc President  
Milun Nair  
[rcsu.biosoc@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.biosoc@ic.ac.uk)



MathSoc President  
Amir Rahman  
[rcsu.maths@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsu.maths@ic.ac.uk)



RAG Officer  
Mingxin Shen  
[mingxin.shen20@ic.ac.uk](mailto:mingxin.shen20@ic.ac.uk)



BioChem Soc President  
Kathleen Gunardi  
[biochemsoc@ic.ac.uk](mailto:biochemsoc@ic.ac.uk)



PhySoc President  
Jacob Edginton  
[physics.society@ic.ac.uk](mailto:physics.society@ic.ac.uk)



ChemSoc President  
Ben Moss  
[bam19@ic.ac.uk](mailto:bam19@ic.ac.uk)

# ACADEMIC



Biology Rep  
Erica Zhao  
[erica.zhao19@ic.ac.uk](mailto:erica.zhao19@ic.ac.uk)



Physics Rep  
Stefano Fiocca  
[physics.arn@ic.ac.uk](mailto:physics.arn@ic.ac.uk)



Maths Rep  
Priscilla Yip  
[hby19@ic.ac.uk](mailto:hby19@ic.ac.uk)



Biochem Rep  
Tianyu Wen  
[tw919@ic.ac.uk](mailto:tw919@ic.ac.uk)



Chemistry Rep  
Chris Oliwa  
[chemistry.edrep@ic.ac.uk](mailto:chemistry.edrep@ic.ac.uk)

2021-22



Welfare Events Officer  
Marusha Filippova  
[rcsuwoa@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsuwoa@ic.ac.uk)

# WELFARE



Physics Rep  
Anthea MacIntosh-  
LaRocque  
[physwrn@ic.ac.uk](mailto:physwrn@ic.ac.uk)



Maths Rep  
Desmond Lin  
[desmond.lin20@ic.ac.uk](mailto:desmond.lin20@ic.ac.uk)



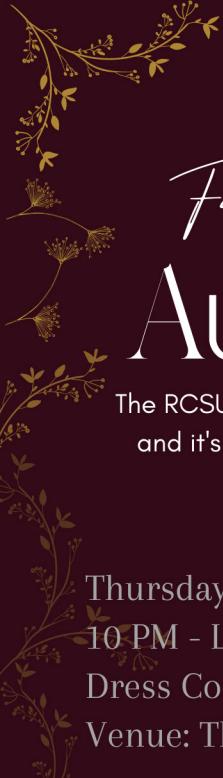
Biochem Rep  
Pansy Pan  
[biochem.wbrn@ic.ac.uk](mailto:biochem.wbrn@ic.ac.uk)



Chemistry Rep  
Chinny Lee  
[chemistry.wbrn@ic.ac.uk](mailto:chemistry.wbrn@ic.ac.uk)



Biology Rep  
Coco Benriassa  
[biology.wbrn@ic.ac.uk](mailto:biology.wbrn@ic.ac.uk)



RCSU PRESENTS...

# Fancy MEETS Party

# Autumn Ball



The RCSU's flagship annual club night event is back  
and it's **BIGGER and BETTER than ever before!**

Thursday, 11th November

10 PM - Late

Dress Code: Black tie

Venue: The Steel Yard



RCSU 2021

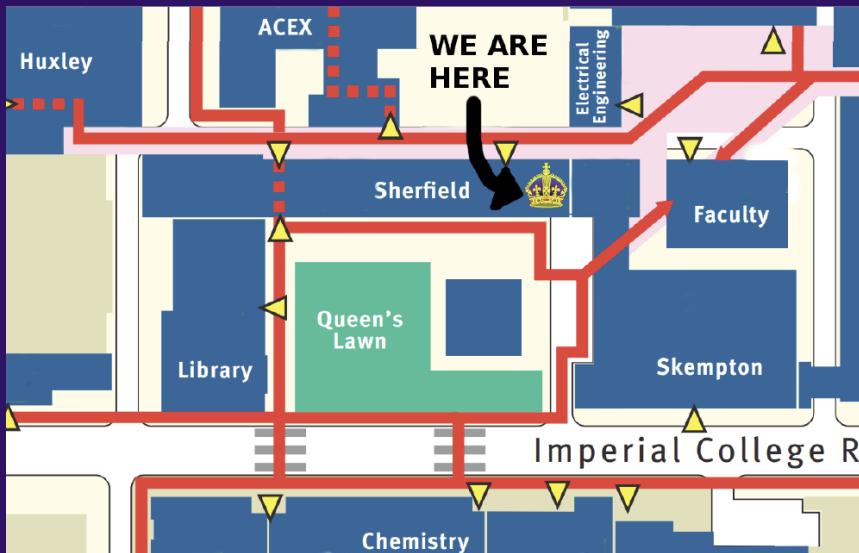
## ANNUAL PUB CRAWL

Thursday **7 October @ 18:30**  
Start at Eastside bar!

Route to be revealed  
soon!



# COME MEET US!



We're located right next door to the Junior Common Room (JCR) on the Sherfield Walkway - go through the brown double doors and we're opposite the climbing wall.

Follow our socials to keep up with the latest news and activities!



[facebook.com/RCSUnion](https://www.facebook.com/RCSUnion)



@imperialrcsu



@RCSU

Website: [www.rcsu.org.uk](http://www.rcsu.org.uk)

Email: [rcsunion@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rcsunion@ic.ac.uk)

