

Programme Overview

[The International Research Opportunities Programme \(IROP\)](#) is an exchange programme which takes place over ~8 weeks in the summer from 29th June – 21st August 2026. Selected undergraduate students work on a research project under the supervision of researchers at [Imperial College London](#). Participants will share the experience with students from other institutions and have the opportunity to explore London and the United Kingdom during the summer. Participants will gain practical research experience in an area of interest whilst experiencing student life at Imperial.

There are a maximum of 8 IROP places available for Science Tokyo students across 4 Imperial departments:

Host Department at Imperial	Home Department/Major at Science Tokyo
Chemical Engineering (maximum of 2 places)	Chemical Science and Engineering
Physics (maximum of 2 places)	Physics
Dyson School of Design Engineering (maximum of 2 places)	Engineering Sciences and Design Mechanical Engineering Industrial Engineering and Economics Information and Communications Engineering Systems and Control Engineering
Materials (maximum of 2 places)	Materials Science and Engineering

Research project

Participants will be matched with a host supervisor at Imperial College London according to interest areas. It is not guaranteed to be matched with a particular supervisor and participants may need to be flexible. Once matched, the research project is planned and carried out independently between the student and supervisor.

Projects will take place on Imperial's [South Kensington](#) or [White City campus](#) depending on the research project and host supervisor.

Intercultural experience

Students from MIT, the Technical University of Munich, Institute of Science Tokyo, Cornell University and the University of Toronto will participate in IROP next summer. There will be a social programme, including a welcome afternoon tea, local trip and celebration event, where participants can get to know fellow IROP students and explore London.

Programme dates (Variation to these dates will not be possible).

Monday 29th June 2026: IROP begins. Orientation session with the IROP Team, followed by lab induction in the department

During IROP: Organised events as part of the social programme

21st August 2026: IROP ends

IROP Information Session

[Register to attend](#) the IROP Information Session on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 11:00-11:45 am GMT to learn more about this opportunity. A calendar invitation and joining link will be sent to all registered attendees a few days before the session.

How To Apply

Eligibility

- Be fully enrolled as a student at Science Tokyo during IROP
- Be able to commit to the full duration of the programme 29th June – 21st August
- Be enrolled in one of the departments that is participating in the exchange (please see table above)
- Have completed at least 2 years of studies before beginning IROP (this is a recommendation)
- Be enrolled in one of the departments that is participating in the exchange (please see table above)
- Any other home institution eligibility criteria

Language Requirement

- English language proficiency of CEFR B2 or above (TOEIC 785, TOEFL ITP 543, TOEFL iBT 72, IELTS 5.5). English language proficiency may be checked in an interview if necessary.

Application Process

There are two stages to the application process:

1. Selection by Science Tokyo

Upload the following documents to the application URL ([External site](#)), which must be submitted as a single PDF file by 23:59, 17th December 2025.

- 1) Application form from [Science Tokyo web site](#)
- 2) Transcripts of academic achievements
- 3) Language test scores

Applicants who pass the document screening will be contacted by e-mail separately.

2. If selected, the Imperial IROP Team will request application documents to begin matching selected students to a host supervisor at Imperial for the research project

The application documents include:

- Statement of motivation (research areas/labs of interest, motivation to take part in IROP)
- CV and academic transcript
- 5 Imperial supervisors of interest who you would like to work with on a research project. Supervisors of interest must be from the Imperial department you have been nominated to (host department). An academic's online biography page will state if they are based at South Kensington or White City Campus. **Please do not contact any academics.**

This information will be used to match selected students to a suitable host supervisor for a research project. Information about current research areas and potential supervisors can be found under the 'Research' tab on the host departments webpage. Follow the link in the table on page 1 for the host

department which applies to you. If you are not sure which department a faculty member is in, you can check [here](#).

Follow the links in the table on page 1 for the host department which applies to you. Please note, if you are selected for IROP it is not guaranteed that you will be matched with a chosen supervisor.

Whilst Imperial College London will make every effort, final acceptance to IROP will depend on a suitable supervisor and research project being agreed.

Practical Matters

Accommodation

Accommodation will be arranged for all participants in student halls of residence. Selected participants will be given further information to book and pay for their room. Participants should expect to commute to either the South Kensington or White City Campus each day – a typical London experience!

Suggested Budget

Guide only: actual costs will depend on personal preferences and updated costs in 2026.

	GBP– weekly	GBP – total 8 weeks (in London)
Return travel to London	-	Varies
Standard Visitor Visa (if applicable)	-	£127/ £16 ETA
Single en-suite room in Imperial hall of residence *based on 2024 costs **estimate Room rents are subject to change each year and vary depending on room type.	~ £300 *standard stay rate (5 –9 weeks). Exact room cost varies by size and students can choose when booking. Information for summer 2026	£2,400
Food *estimate	£80	£640
Local travel (zone 1-2 travelcard , all buses for 2 months)	-	£343.40
Personal and leisure *estimate	£70	£560

Note: IROP is an extra-curricular research experience and Imperial cannot provide formal assessment, awarding of credit or monitoring processes. Please direct any queries about funding to the home institution as Imperial is not able to advise or provide funding to incoming students taking part in IROP at Imperial.

Communication

Any questions about nomination to IROP should be directed to: Science Tokyo

Once selected, participants are then supported by Beth & Laura, the IROP Team at Imperial, who are available to answer questions and provide support during IROP.

IROP Tips

Ideal participants will be willing to develop skills in proactivity, organisation and independence, which will support you well in preparing to come to London and make the most of the research project.

Tip from previous participant: 'To get the most out of the placement requires resilience, adaptability and an open mind as it is probable that things will go wrong or will not be as you had expected. Despite this, I enjoyed every moment of the trip and could not imagine a better way to spend the summer.'

Student Experiences: Watch MIT student Claire's [IROP day in the life](#) vlog and see our [YouTube channel](#) for more student experiences.



‘Before living in London, I expected the summer to be full of tea, scones, and British accents. While I did devour some delicious scones, I didn't realize how much more there is to London. Within the first few weeks, I tried Ethiopian cuisine for the first time in Greenwich Market, heard more languages than I thought existed while standing in the Tube, and met my fellow lab members from around the world. I didn't just live in London; I got a taste of global perspectives. Even lunch conversations with lab mates were enlightening as I heard politics, education, and global issues discussed outside the context of my country. My London experiences, both academic and social, have strengthened my ability to connect with others and explore my interests.’ - **Previous Participant**



‘As an IROP student, I greatly appreciated the opportunity to evaluate my past and current experiences through an international lens. This exposure to diverse mindsets and a global work culture in my field has enabled me to pinpoint key areas I seek to impact throughout my career. The IROP program fostered connections not only between Imperial students and me but also with participating students from other institutions worldwide. Moving forward, I will leverage the various personal and professional perspectives I've gained to better understand how I can achieve my ambitions.’ - **Previous Participant**

‘The IROP-program was an unforgettable experience. I met new people, made friends, and gained valuable research experience that will promote me in my future journey. All of this was made even better by the opportunity to explore the beauty and vibrant culture of London as a local. I highly recommend IROP to anyone looking to expand their comfort zone and traveling to another country.’ - **Previous Participant**

‘Participating in the IROP program was an incredible experience that helped me grow both personally and professionally. It allowed me to develop my research skills and provided valuable insight into what a career in research entails. This experience inspired me to consider applying to graduate school here. Additionally, living in London was amazing. It was a unique opportunity to immerse myself in a new culture and live abroad. I truly love it here, and the full immersion experience was one of the highlights of my time in the program. I highly recommend the IROP program to anyone interested in expanding their horizons and gaining hands-on research experience.’ - **Previous Participant**

‘London is a very stunning city that offers incredible cultural diversity alongside its historical sights. It was a great experience to meet and socialise with the other IROP students and Imperial staff. I made many new friends and made plans to visit them - from Tokyo to Toronto. It was very interesting to see how the Chemistry lab is organised here and I saw many useful things. I have also deepened my knowledge and learnt how to use different and new lab equipment. I am very grateful that I was able to take part in this experience.’ - **Previous Participant**

‘My experience has been transformative. Living in London and studying at Imperial allowed me to immerse myself in a vibrant academic environment, where I developed invaluable research skills and met incredible people from around the world. The combination of cutting-edge research, supportive mentors, and cultural experiences has significantly enriched both my academic and personal growth.’ - **Previous Participant**

‘I had the most wonderful time being a part of IROP this summer! My project, which focused on recycling techniques for fiber-reinforced thermoplastic composites, was exactly the kind of hands-on experience I was hoping for. I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to work in Imperial's state-of-the-art laboratories and testing facilities alongside such kind and brilliant faculty, technicians, and students.

Aside from the research, living in London was just so much fun! I could never run out of restaurants to try, museums to visit, parks to walk through, or theatre to see, and I met so many new people everywhere I went. Travelling around the city on the tube was a breeze, and I even managed to take a few weekend trips to France and Italy while I was there.

The IROP coordinators worked hard to make this entire experience smooth, fun, and rewarding. I highly recommend the program to all!’ - **Previous Participant**