



# StudentShapers Recruitment: Calling all first-year undergraduate students

*Reshaping how we empower students to communicate their science more effectively in alignment with the new undergraduate curriculum*

Bursary: £600 per student partner

Who should apply:

We are looking for 6 student partners in total; 3 from the Faculty of Engineering, 2 from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and 1 from the Faculty of Medicine. Only full-time first-year undergraduate students enrolled in these three faculties only should apply.

Campus/Location: all – we will meet mostly on Microsoft Teams

Project details:

The Imperial undergraduate curriculum review has been implemented this year with first year students. The Centre for Academic English therefore aims to align our provision more closely with students' changing needs in terms of both 'what' tasks they now need to undertake and 'how' they need to communicate their science clearly and effectively. This high standard of communication is key to their success at Imperial and in their later careers.

This student/staff partnership through the StudentShapers programme will be a key aspect of data collection for our review. The aim is for student partners to collaborate in our curriculum review through:

- researching the current academic literacy and oral communication skills needed by the students who faced these recent changes in assessment tasks
- maximising the number of students participating in our program through identifying
  - the overall time and frequency they feel they can invest in developing these skills
  - their preferred modes of delivery (online, shorter workshops, writing centres, face-to-face, flipped sessions)
  - the constraints the students face (time, availability)

This student engagement is one way we will ensure that the student voice is embedded into our review. The research will include both quantitative and qualitative data collection through a survey and running focus groups within faculties.

Timescale:

- Student partners write the questionnaire and focus questions immediately after the summer term with support from staff partners – 3 half days
- Student partners draft the ethics application with staff partners – 2 half days
- Start of Autumn term – student partners distribute the questionnaire 1 half day
- From week 2, organise 4 focus groups to be completed by the end of term – 2 half days
- At the end of Autumn term student/staff partners analyse data using NVivo 12 and prepare a presentation of the data – 4 half-days

Expected skills, knowledge and professional development for student partners:

- Valuable experience which will enhance their communication, teamwork skills, and both qualitative and quantitative research skills. These are all highly transferable skills which are invaluable in seeking future employment

- Experience of the Educational Ethics Approval process
- The opportunity to co-present the research internally at internal Imperial College learning and teaching seminars/events/workshops and educational research networks (e.g. CHERSNet). Students partners will also be invited to co-author any output and present at conferences (such as BALEAP in Glasgow in April 2021)
- This collaboration will empower the student partners to become active contributors to a more student focussed provision
- Skills development in a range of software in the Microsoft Office suite and NVivo 12 data analysis software which will further enhance their suitability to their workplaces

### How to apply:

Email [june.hammond@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:june.hammond@imperial.ac.uk) with a short 300-500 word of expression of interest summarising why you wish to engage in this project and why you should be considered for this StudentShaper role. A CV may be attached; however, this is not compulsory as no previous experience is required. You may be invited to an informal meeting as part of the application process.

**Deadline: 9:00am on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Contact details: [june.hammond@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:june.hammond@imperial.ac.uk)**