

StudentShapers Recruitment: BMB/MBBS Y2/3 students

Enhancing transitional learning and communal spaces in the Faculty of Medicine

Bursary: £325 per week, for 5 weeks.

From 26th June for 5 weeks, but alternative models of engagement may be mutually agreed, e.g. half-time engagement for longer

Who should apply:

We are seeking 2 undergraduate students, from BMB/MBBS programmes currently in years 2 or 3

Campus/Location: Charing Cross/South Kensington/Remote Collaboration as necessary

Project details:

The re-development of new learning spaces marks a significant financial investment for the College to create modern and interactive learning spaces that reflect our modern and innovative teaching and learning. Making this design student-centred, i.e. placing the end users of the spaces at the heart of the design process is key to ensuring longevity and robustness of outcomes. This ethos is most pertinent to the redesign of informal learning spaces – like transition and communal spaces - where the use is more fluid and responsive to student need.

This project will create a multi-dimensional partnership to re-design two key areas used by Medical students:

- on the Charing Cross campus:
 - the first-floor mezzanine in the Reynolds building, and ground floor entrance foyer (this area will have a particular focus on creating an educationally productive space with a symbiotic relationship to other (formal) learning spaces.
- on the South Kensington campus
 - The entrance foyer, including orange sofa area to SAF building, not including café area. (Similar in ethos to the Brian Drewe area above)

Each student will focus on one of the areas, with each having its own particular focus and nuances, while significant cross over and continuity of approach and principles will be ensured across each area. The project also comes at a time when the future use of space on campus has been thrown wide open by the COVID-19 pandemic. Bringing students into the design process as we transition to the 'new normal' is imperative.

The partnership is multi-dimensional; between students and between students and staff from both the School of Medicine and centrally, including from the Centre for Higher Education Research and Scholarship (CHERS). The authenticity of partnership will be realised by recognising the diversity of expertise brought to the partnership:

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- From the UG student partners: an expertise of the end user experience and ability to connect with peers authentically to elicit a broader consensus and contribution. Also, understanding of the specific aspects of disciplinary context of the education and learning which will need to be incorporated when designing the space.
- From CHERS: an expertise of research underpinning effective learning use of informal space.
- Staff partners in the School of Medicine will contribute staff requirements of the space, and an alternative perspective on the potential academic (within the disciplinary context) use of the space.
- From Estates, including building managers: logistical and practical expertise on operational deployment of infrastructure improvements, non-academic requirements of the space, and in the context of other study space developments in the College.

Key project outputs:

- UG student led design and deployment of peer consultation process
- Consultation and research of suppliers
- Scoping, identifying and understanding 'good' design features in other parts of the college and at other institutions
- Exploration and understanding of constraints to be applied to the design (e.g., considerations about circulation routes, disabled access, durability, etc)
- Preparation of provisional student led designs
- Consultation on provisional designs
- Development of project phasing/prioritisation plan and business plan
- UG student to keep a diary/journal of approaches and findings, including design drawings, photos of space etc, to demonstrate both process and outcome of student-centred design to maintain the 'partnership bridge' to the broader student community
- There may be scope and value to continuing some activities in early autumn term when there is greater availability of other students as well as some promotional activities of the new space to students.

A perspective of a student engaging on a similar project, currently undergoing implementation can be seen at:

<http://wwwf.imperial.ac.uk/blog/natural-sciences/2021/03/04/redesigning-blackett/>

How to apply:

Please send an expression of interest with 300-500 words on why you wish to engage with the project. Students may be invited to an informal discussion following this as part of the application.

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

Deadline: 17th May 2021

Contact details: james.moss@imperial.ac.uk