

Imperial College
London

Championing future changemakers

THE IMPACT OF GIVING
2022-23





Third year undergraduate students on a geology field trip in Sardinia

Welcome

It is a great pleasure to introduce this impact of giving report and to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support over the past year. Thanks to your generosity, students were afforded life-changing opportunities and academics embarked on groundbreaking research projects. I extend my deepest thanks to you – your philanthropic support has played an active role in enabling Imperial to compete with the best institutions around the world.



We all should be proud that Imperial has been ranked in the world top ten by Times Higher Education, complementing our top ten position in the QS World University Rankings. We have also received Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework, strong National Student Survey (NSS) results, and high positions in the *Sunday Times*, *The Guardian* and *Daily Mail* rankings.

These results confirm that Imperial is one of the best universities in the world, and is a testament to our brilliant, diverse community, our global outlook and the spirit of innovation that runs through everything we do. The generous support of our alumni and friends underpins the talent and commitment of our students and staff, and our outstanding research and impact. Imperial's star keeps rising and it is a credit to you all.

With your support, more talented students are able to pursue their dreams of an Imperial education. Philanthropy removes financial barriers, enabling us to attract the brightest minds, wherever they may be. You'll hear from two such students on pages 7 and 19, both of whom conducted award-winning research during their time at Imperial.

Philanthropy is also supporting bold and ambitious research and we are grateful to Community Jameel, Kenneth Griffin, the Michael Uren Foundation, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation and Schmidt Futures for their support and philanthropic leadership this year. Philanthropic investment at this level is transformative, enabling talented researchers to make real progress in fields as diverse as the application of AI in science (pages 8–10) and neurodegenerative disease (page 16–17).

To recognise the integral role that philanthropy plays at Imperial, in 2023, we had the pleasure of launching the Circle of Benefactors – a celebration of our most generous donors and charity funders who have had a transformational impact on the College. If you've not yet viewed our Circle of Benefactors donor installation, I encourage you to stop by the College's main entrance on Exhibition Road and have a look during your next visit.

I am excited by what the future holds for Imperial, and with your continued support, I am confident we will continue to deliver global impact that is felt far beyond our campuses.

Professor Hugh Brady
President

“Philanthropic support has played an active role in enabling Imperial to compete with the best institutions around the world.”

Highlights from the year

Imperial had a lot to celebrate between 2022 and 2023, with a host of philanthropy, community and student achievements.

Here, we've highlighted a selection of key moments that contributed to making 2022–23 a year to remember.

To mark the completion of the **School of Public Health's** structural construction work, a **topping out ceremony** took place. The event brought together donors to the School of Public Health, Imperial academics and key stakeholders involved with the project.



The **2023 Alumni Award winners** were announced, celebrating the outstanding achievements of our alumni community. Recipients included alumni who are shaping the net-zero journey, changing our understanding of how our planet works and working towards equal access to reliable and sustainable energy.

The Business School ran **IB Global Give**, a 36-hour fundraising campaign to raise vital funds for students in need.

The campaign raised

£18,000+

More than 100 **international Imperial scholars** from 37 countries joined donors, diplomats and academics to **celebrate their achievements at a special event**. Scholarships allow the very best students from all backgrounds to go as far as their talents can take them, and they are only possible thanks to the generous support of our donors.



Some of our most **innovative startups** showcased their pioneering ideas and innovative technology at a **special showcase in the US**, where they gave presentations to Imperial's alumni and supporters in New York and Boston.



2022

The **Jameel Institute-Kenneth C. Griffin Initiative for the Economics of Pandemic Preparedness** was opened, thanks to donations from Citadel founder and CEO Kenneth C. Griffin and global philanthropic organisation Community Jameel.

Celebrated artist **Antony Gormley's ALERT sculpture** was unveiled at our South Kensington Campus, having been gifted to the College by alumnus Brahmal Vasudevan (Aeronautical Engineering, 1990), founder and CEO of private equity firm Creador, and his wife Shanthi Kandiah, founder of legal firm SK Chambers.

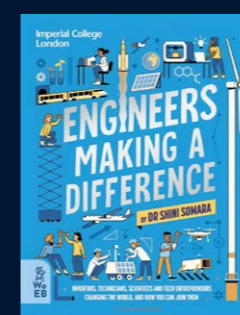


Imperial President Professor Hugh Brady welcomed more than 80 guests at a special event to commemorate the **launch of the Circle of Benefactors**, which celebrates Imperial's most generous donors and charity funders who have had a transformational impact on Imperial and its community. As part of the launch, a new donor installation was unveiled in the College's main entrance on Exhibition Road.



2023

The **European Space Agency's JUPITER ICy moons Explorer (JUICE)** successfully launched, carrying kit built by **Imperial** academics on a mission to assess the habitability of Jupiter's moons.



We collaborated with What on Earth Publishing to create **Engineers Making a Difference**, an inspiring new book, funded by the **Gatsby Charitable Foundation**, showcasing 46 extraordinary engineers who are helping to change the world. School kits of the book and its resources have been sent to every state secondary school in the UK, to inspire engineers of the future.



The **Great Exhibition Road Festival** returned to South Kensington, led by Imperial in partnership with organisations including the Natural History Museum, Science Museum and Royal College of Music, bringing together scientists, inventors, artists, curators and designers. This year, over 50,000 visitors took part and enjoyed awe-inspiring talks, creative workshops and innovative events.



Bringing students and alumni together through fundraising

Thank you to everyone we spoke to during our autumn 2022 and spring 2023 telephone campaigns, which raised money for Imperial's Student Assistance Fund.

The campaigns saw our students contact thousands of alumni to update them on developments at Imperial and offer them the opportunity to make a donation. Many of our alumni in turn offered invaluable careers advice to the student callers and shared fascinating memories of their time at Imperial – we're so grateful to everyone who shared their experiences and made a gift.

These campaigns are great examples of how our student and alumni donor communities come together to support students facing financial hardship. Here, some of the student callers who took part in the telethon share their experiences from the campaign.



Caleb
BSc Biochemistry, with a Year in Research, Faculty of Natural Sciences

"Everyone who was involved – from alumni to shift supervisors and fellow student callers – was so nice and supportive. The experience was rewarding, insightful and inspiring. It was even challenging – but in a good way. Campaigns like this are important because the money they raise benefits so many people."



Oscar
MBBS Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

"My experience as a caller was fantastic – I learnt a lot about Imperial and its alumni community through the interesting conversations I had, and helped to raise a great amount of money to support students along the way! I hope to actively contribute to the College's success as a future alumnus, so it was nice to speak to others who are already in that position."



Chelsea
MEng Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

"I wanted to participate in this campaign to use my communication skills to help the university and gain meaningful experience. It was a great way to connect with other students and alumni, whilst supporting myself around my university workload. Plus, I got to learn about so many cool career paths!"



Taapsi
MSc Strategic Marketing, Imperial College Business School

"I loved having the opportunity to give back to Imperial and my fellow students. It was great to speak to alumni who are proud of their alma mater. Their contributions, no matter how small, go a long way towards enabling more students to access a first-class education." ■

A donor's perspective

Alumnus Jian Li Chew (MEng Civil Engineering 2018) explains why he donated to Imperial after speaking with a student caller during the telethon.

"When I was a student, I met many other students at other universities from across the UK who received and achieved the grades for an offer from Imperial, but turned it down due to prohibitive living costs. I loved my time at the College, but if my friends and I were at university now, during this cost-of-living crisis, the situation would be very different. With so many families struggling, it's only fair that I pitch in where I can."

2022 to 2023 telethon campaign in numbers

407 alumni donors

35 student callers

£219,000 raised

185 first-time donors

Bursary recipient and alumnus Michelle Kostin used her passion for mechanical engineering to lead award-winning research on tyre particle emissions at Imperial.



Meet the students: in conversation with Michelle Kostin

Michelle, where does your love of engineering come from?

From a young age, I knew I wanted to be an inventor. I would teach myself how to build and innovate as a child. In practice, this meant me purposefully breaking clocks and radios so I could fix them – unsurprisingly, this didn't go down well with my parents.

Why did you want to study at Imperial?

At school, during my research for engineering projects and competitions, I kept coming across publications from Imperial. It was clear Imperial was at the forefront of engineering. At one point I was invited to attend masterclasses at the university, and that cemented my desire to study there.

What impact did receiving the Imperial Bursary have for you?

It allowed me to fully immerse myself in university life – attending conferences and taking on work experience and other extracurricular activities. The student experience is defined by big considerations like living near campus down to small considerations like being able to take a bus when it's raining. Thanks to the generosity of donors, all these things were accessible to me.

During your time at Imperial you led an innovative project on tyre particle emissions. How did this come about?

Imperial runs a project for Mechanical Engineering undergraduates to solve a new problem or improve an existing solution. Classmates and I decided to explore an area that wasn't being addressed. I wanted my project to have a benefit to society, and through research I learnt that tyre emissions are one of the biggest pollutants in the UK.

When in contact with the road, tyres abrade over time, releasing microplastics that are harmful to the environment and human health. Electric vehicles are heavier, exacerbating the frictional process. At Imperial, a startup led by Professor Mark Mason was capturing these particles, but no one at Imperial or outside of it was attempting to analyse them. By filling that gap, my team were at the forefront of this problem. Our results far exceeded our expectations. We created a test rig to analyse the particles – the first of its kind – which had an incredibly high capture rate efficiency of 92%.

This work won you the Mechanical Engineering Renishaw Prize – given to an Imperial undergraduate student who produces the best project from the year. How did that feel?

It felt amazing. There was also an element of relief. I had put long hours into this project, so to be recognised in that way gave me a sense of accomplishment. Our project has also been presented as a stellar case study of how to approach the task.

What impact has your project had outside of Imperial?

It got attention from external companies and established industry players, which was really exciting. We paused our work during our Master's, which is when we came up with new and better ideas! Experts in the field have told us that the moment we resume our research they would love to explore potential funding and partnerships, so watch this space! ■

£90,000+ raised between 2022 and 2023 for the Imperial Bursary scheme

The future of science

Imperial is at the forefront of the transformation of science through artificial intelligence (AI).

In 2022, we launched our I-X Centre for AI in Science, dedicated to using AI to disrupt and advance Science, Engineering and Mathematics. This is underpinned by a major partnership with Schmidt Futures that is supporting AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellows and Schmidt Science Fellows at Imperial to accelerate the next scientific revolution.



Researcher: **Alice Malivert**
 Position: **AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellow**
 Specialty: **Plant biology**

“Climate change has worsened the prevalence of droughts, so farmers need support establishing better management practices and finding crop varieties that respond well to adverse weather. To advance this effort, I am developing a tool that uses AI to analyse the effects of drought stress on plant leaves through imagery.

“This tool will be fast, efficient and quantitative. It will also be low cost, as I have a particular interest in supporting agriculture in low- and middle-income countries. With my tool, farmers will be able to take pictures of their crops on their smartphones and upload them for analysis.

“I’ve always been interested in image analysis but never had the opportunity to work with it in this way. Being accepted onto the AI in Science Fellowship has opened up opportunities for me to learn how to work with AI, create my own tools and become a well-rounded scientist. I’ve had access to expert training as well as reading groups exploring deep learning and biostatistics.

“My project is novel – work has been done with AI to detect disease in leaves, but as far as I’m aware no one in the public space has tried to use AI to quantitatively detect drought stress. My tool has the potential to be life changing. It could stop farmers from losing their livelihoods and ensure they can feed their families and communities. Without the support of Schmidt Futures, it likely wouldn’t exist, so for that, I am extremely grateful.”

34%
 of crop loss in low- and middle-income countries is due to drought stress



Researcher: **Mohammed Azzouzi**
 Position: **AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellow**
 Specialty: **Material discovery**

“My research looks at material discovery and developing tools to find new molecules for optoelectronics – the application of electronic devices and systems that find, detect and control light. The purpose of material discovery is to find new materials that can address the climate and energy crisis. New organic molecules have the potential to be more climate friendly and less carbon emissive, offering a viable alternative to carbon-based energy sources.

“With the help of AI, I can speed up the traditionally slow material discovery process by developing an algorithm that targets specific properties and finds new molecules we can test. When I began the programme, my experience with AI was minimal, so I spent time learning how to use the tools. From early on, the benefits were clear. Even at the prototyping stage, the first workflow I developed began bearing fruits.

“My background is in Physics, but despite moving fields, I have been able to take my previous understanding and apply it. I previously worked in a postdoctoral position, supporting a Principal Investigator on their research project. Through the AI in Science programme, I have been given the independence to pursue my own research in the way I want to do it.

“Philanthropic gifts such as the one Schmidt Futures gave – those that don’t place too many constraints on how they’re used and which give people the freedom to conduct their research without strict guidelines to adhere to – are invaluable within science. I’ve been able to explore new areas and think outside the box, and the results are exciting.”





Researcher: **Mike Heyns**
 Position: **Schmidt Science Fellow**
 Specialty: **Space weather forecasting**

“I did my PhD in Electrical Engineering at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, focusing on modelling geomagnetically induced currents (GICs) in the power grid. GICs are the ground footprint of space weather, and large currents induced in the Earth can enter the power grid and cause severe damage. As a Schmidt Science Fellow, I have moved up the chain to develop space weather forecasting products using physics-based modelling.”

“Some of the greatest advances that lie ahead will come from merging fields.”

Mike Heyns

“Space sustainability and resilience in the face of extreme space weather is critical as we rely heavily on modern infrastructure that can be negatively impacted by such events. I am particularly interested in the direct application of space weather forecasting and its link to the end user.”

“My research uses a simulation model developed at Imperial that we have extended for operational use, including making adaptations using machine learning approaches. Imperial’s I-X initiative provides a brilliant platform to drive machine learning applications in science. We have the opportunity to learn about how machine learning models represent the underlying nature of a system, and learn more about the physics itself. My research aims to explore this intersection, using a physics-based engine that can be extended to unmodelled regions with improved accuracy and uncertainty quantification.”

“Schmidt Science Fellows has created an environment with significant support and skills development that allows Fellows to truly immerse themselves in a new field – something that is not typically possible in the traditional academic setting. Some of the greatest advances that lie ahead will come from merging fields, and it is exciting that Schmidt Futures has created a space for interdisciplinary research to truly thrive.” ■

Using the same water in new ways

Philanthropic funding has helped to advance eco-startup Lylo’s mission to solve one of the world’s most significant environmental issues.



Joanna Power and Paramveer Bhachu, co-founders of eco-startup Lylo, with their household aerating washing machine

“We use the accelerator to build the confidence of innovators and ensure their business journey maximises climate impact alongside commercial success.”

Alyssa Gilbert

According to the UN, between two and three billion people experience water shortages worldwide and urgent solutions are needed to preserve resources. Taking action to address this are Joanna Power and Paramveer Bhachu, co-founders of eco-startup Lylo.

Lylo reduces household water usage by reusing water consumed through daily activities. Its flagship product is a household aerating washing machine that reuses shower water to wash clothes. It uses considerably less water and energy than a typical washing machine, reducing the environmental impact.

Accelerating climate innovators

When Lylo launched in 2020, Joanna and Paramveer were product design engineering students at Brunel University. Neither had any business experience, so they applied for competitions that would give them access to mentoring and funding. It was through one such competition that they found Imperial’s Greenhouse accelerator.

Lylo was accepted onto the 12-month accelerator in February 2022, receiving business coaching, masterclasses, a workspace and equity-free grant funding. The latter was provided through a generous philanthropic donation from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

“As a hardware company, investment is much harder to obtain without a physical product in place,” says Paramveer. “The funding we received through the accelerator was a gamechanger for us, as it gave us the means to develop our prototype further and help inform plans to turn it into a manufacturable product. Without that money, we wouldn’t have been able to carry on with Lylo.”

Olivier Wenden, Vice-President and CEO at The Prince Abert II of Monaco Foundation, comments: “We are delighted to be involved in supporting startups, especially those tackling the reduction of water consumption and the preservation of our natural resources. Startups are essential to identifying promising innovations, and helping young companies that have a positive impact on our environment to scale up is important.”

The money also gave Joanna the financial freedom to work on Lylo full time. “Hardware products can require up to £100,000 investment in order to get a product to scale,” says Joanna. “I spent a lot of time applying for grants, which resulted in us receiving money that has been instrumental in preparing our product for piloting. Thanks to that early injection of cash by way of philanthropy, we are now much closer to creating a commercially scalable version of our innovative product.” ■

About The Greenhouse accelerator

The Greenhouse accelerator’s mission is to support the growth of young, sustainable businesses looking to tackle climate change. It was launched thanks to philanthropic support from HSBC UK, and sits within Undaunted – a climate change partnership between Imperial’s Grantham Institute and The Royal Institution.

“The Greenhouse is the heart of Undaunted’s support for climate change startups. Our focus is on nurturing early stage founders. We use the accelerator to build the confidence of innovators and ensure their business journey maximises climate impact alongside commercial success. Philanthropy enables us to offer an engaged 12-month programme without taking equity. Without the generosity of donors, The Greenhouse accelerator wouldn’t exist.” – Alyssa Gilbert, Director of Undaunted and Director of Innovation at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change.



Undaunted in numbers

140+ businesses supported

USD \$1 billion+ investment generated

1,000+ jobs created

76 million tonnes of waste forecast to be avoided by 2030

The year in numbers

More than 3,800 individuals and organisations donated to Imperial during 2022–23, together raising a total of £59 million. This incredible support has provided lifechanging opportunities for talented students and staff, enabled groundbreaking research and supported state-of-the-art facilities works. Thank you to everyone who gave this year – the impact of your generosity is felt throughout the entire College community and beyond.

Number of donors

3,821 

Number of alumni donors

3,098 

Total amount raised

£59M 

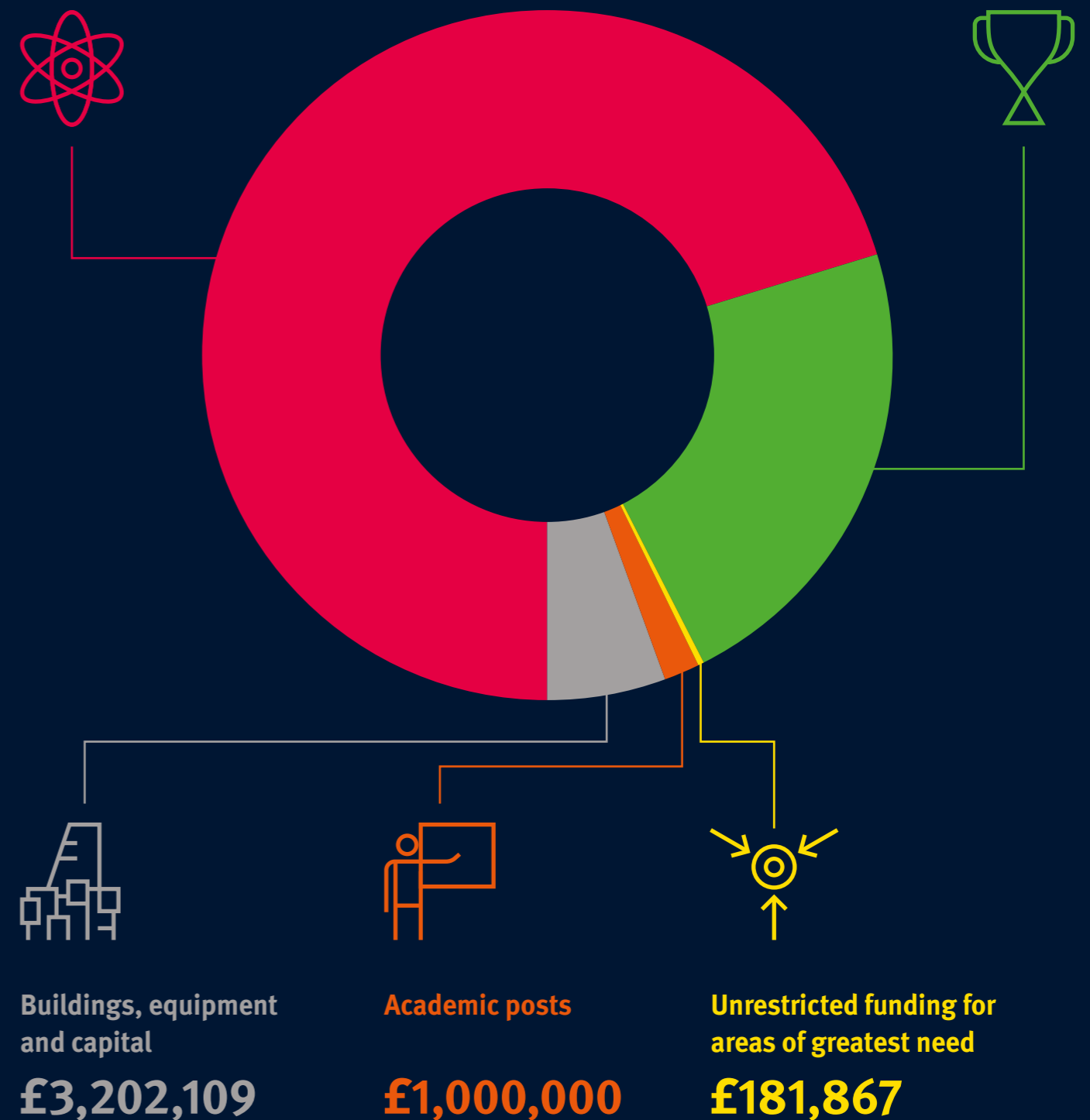
The £59 million raised went towards the following areas: **research; student support; buildings, equipment and capital; academic posts; and to support emerging priorities.**

Research

£41,450,578

Scholarships, student support and prizes

£13,124,055



Empowering medics to treat children caught up in conflict

New PhD studentships at Imperial, supported by philanthropy, will build on a partnership that has been improving care for children injured in war, through which the world's first paediatric blast injury field manual was created.

In countries devastated by war, field hospitals are critical in providing urgent care. When mass casualty events occur, huge numbers of patients arrive at these hospitals – including children. Many medics aren't specifically trained in paediatric care, so they often find themselves out of their comfort zone.

General surgeon Murhaf Assaf knows the feeling, as he spent years working in field hospitals around Syria.

"In Syria I would have up to 100 patients at a time needing my attention," says Murhaf. "Despite not being trained in paediatrics, a large number of these were children as we didn't have the resources to create a dedicated paediatric surgery unit."

To assist medics like Murhaf, Imperial worked with a group of external clinical specialists and charity Save the Children to develop the world's first paediatric blast injury field manual. This group had already formed the Paediatric Blast Injuries Partnership to investigate ways to improve care provided to children caught up in conflict.

Murhaf Assaf working in a field hospital in Syria



"I wanted the manual to address each phase of a child's journey as a patient – something that had never been done before."

Dr Paul Reavley

Former UK military doctor Dr Paul Reavley was lead author on the manual



A holistic approach to treating children

Dr Paul Reavley, an NHS consultant and former UK military doctor, was lead author on the manual.

"I wanted the manual to address each phase of a child's journey as a patient – something that had never been done before," says Paul. "Children present a challenge for clinicians not trained in paediatric care, but they have the skills required. They just need support and some simple guidance. I asked subject matter experts to provide content for the manual, which I then edited."

During the discovery process, Paul and his clinicians arranged workshops in Turkey with Syrian clinicians to get some steer on what they needed from the manual. It was there that Paul met Murhaf, who became an early adopter of it.

"Having the tools to talk to a child who has woken up confused from a coma with missing limbs makes all the difference."

Murhaf Assaf

"The manual was a great help and ensured I could give the best possible medical care to patients," says Murhaf. "Mass casualty events are incredibly stressful – especially when operating in a hospital that is constantly under threat. Because the manual is well organised and easy to understand, it's easy to use even in high-pressure environments."

"Children are not tiny adults. Their physiology and anatomy require a different approach. The manual covers these considerations, from first response right through to recovery. It also includes support on ethics and mental health. Having the tools to talk to a child who has woken up confused from a coma with missing limbs makes all the difference."

A hub of expertise

The Paediatric Blast Injury Field Manual has been a huge success with those using it, and it has been distributed to at least 13 countries and translated into 7 languages. The work around it also strengthened Imperial's partnership with Save the Children, and in March 2023 they launched the world's first Centre for Paediatric Blast Injury Studies at Imperial's White City Campus, under the direction of Professor Anthony Bull, Professor of Musculoskeletal Mechanics.

The Centre is using funding from Save the Children to support new four-year PhD studentships to understand the biomechanics of blast on the child, emergency medical needs and surgical and rehabilitation technology.

Professor Anthony Bull says: "The new Centre is bringing together the best minds in this field, allowing us to drive better treatment and care for child victims of blast injuries across the globe." ■

Advancing the frontiers of neurodegenerative disease research

Thanks to the generosity of philanthropic donors, Imperial is at the forefront of the fight against Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, and accelerating the path to a cure.

As ageing populations grow around the world, the impacts of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease are increasingly prominent. At Imperial's Department of Brain Sciences, researchers are tackling these challenges head on, fuelled by the visionary generosity of our supporters.

One such researcher is Dr Sarah Marzi, a recipient of the Edmond and Lily Safra Fellowship programme. Established by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, this fellowship is enabling four early career researchers to pursue groundbreaking, independent programmes of research into Parkinson's disease.

Dr Marzi is investigating how genetics and environment interplay in the development and progression of Parkinson's disease – an area of study known as epigenetics.

"Throughout our lives, we're exposed to a whole range of pathogens, from pesticides to pollution, that are not good for the cells in our bodies," says Dr Marzi. "I'm interested in understanding whether brain cells are affected by adverse environmental exposures, making them more vulnerable to neurodegenerative conditions like Parkinson's disease later in life."

"I'm optimistic that if we can find the mechanism that manipulates gene expression, it would... open up opportunities to manipulate and hopefully prevent Parkinson's disease."
Dr Sarah Marzi



The impact of environmental factors on Parkinson's hasn't received great attention in the past; whilst it's an emerging and exciting area to be part of, there isn't much evidence. Thanks to the Edmond J. Safra Foundation's support, Dr Marzi has been able to build up proof and demonstrate this is meaningful work worth pursuing. She has developed her own research agenda and recruited a team to support her work.

"Our research is uncovering meaningful differences in brain cells exposed to pathogens," says Dr Marzi, "confirming our hypotheses and providing opportunities for further investigation. I'm optimistic that if we can find the mechanism that manipulates gene expression, it would be very targetable and open up opportunities to manipulate and hopefully prevent Parkinson's disease."

"We're fortunate that Imperial has a Parkinson's UK Brain Bank onsite, which means we're able to anchor our work with human data. With neurodegenerative disease, it can be hard to translate findings from models to humans, so having that resource means we can always link our research back to human disease and human impact."

"We know so much more about dementia now than we did even twenty years ago, and it's exciting to think about the difference our research could make for the patients of the future."

Dr Yu Ye



Investigating the brain's recycling capabilities

Dr Yu Ye is another researcher who is taking an unorthodox approach to diagnosing and treating neurodegenerative disease, thanks to philanthropic support. Dr Ye, Lecturer in Dementia Research, is one of four researchers funded by the Michael Uren Foundation to undertake ambitious work on Alzheimer's disease.

"The accumulation of toxic protein clumps in the brain is a hallmark of many neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease," explains Dr Ye. "As these toxic proteins build up, it is thought that they cause damage to the brain and contribute to disease progression. When the human brain is functioning normally, it's able to break down and 'recycle' these protein clumps back into their molecular components, but in patients with neurodegenerative disease, something goes wrong with this recycling process. My lab is trying to understand what that is."

Dr Ye hopes that by understanding this process, it will be possible to intervene, safely increasing the activity of the brain's toxic protein recyclers and stopping disease from progressing any further. He is looking to bridge the gap from research breakthroughs into practical applications by developing a machine learning program that examines toxic protein patterns in patients' brain scans, in order to predict whether they have dementia or not. This is an unorthodox approach, but one he hopes could lead to early-stage diagnosis and perhaps even prognosis in the future.

"Thanks to the Foundation's generosity, we can be bold in pursuing unconventional but promising research, which is often difficult to fund via other, more traditional routes," says Dr Ye. "We know so much more about dementia now than we did even 20 years ago, and it's exciting to think about the difference our research could make for the patients of the future." ■

Taking risks and thinking big: the impact of philanthropy

Professor Paul Matthews, Head of the Department of Brain Sciences at Imperial, shares how philanthropic gifts enable early career researchers to push the boundaries of neurodegenerative disease research and establish themselves as future leaders in the field.

"Traditional research funding can often be slow and limiting, whereas philanthropy empowers researchers to take risks, think big and take the leap to translate their ideas into solutions. This is critical for patients, as it means faster interventions and treatments."

"The Edmond and Lily Safra Fellowships have fundamentally changed the landscape of Parkinson's disease research at Imperial."

Funding opportunities for early career researchers tend to be very limited, so these fellowships help us attract the very best young scientists to Imperial, where they can pursue their own research agenda and recruit a team of their own. For many, it can even be a lifeline that enables them to stay in academic science altogether.

"Meanwhile, the Michael Uren Foundation's support for blue-skies Alzheimer's research enables our researchers to think outside the box and make strides in translating promising ideas into solutions. The importance of being bold and taking risks in neurodegenerative research cannot be overstated. These are complex diseases, and we will never get transformative ideas by doing things that are safe."



A legacy gift to unlock future discoveries



Derek Wyles (seated, second from right) with the Imperial College 2nd XI hockey team, 1951–52

Alumnus and philanthropist Derek Wyles (Chemistry 1953) was a firm believer in the value of teaching, research and innovation, and chose to support the next generation of scientists by leaving a generous gift in his will to Imperial.



From a young age, Derek Wyles had a keen interest in science and mathematics. Born in 1928 in south-east London, his childhood growing up during World War II was, as expected, full of change, with moves to Tunbridge Wells, Wales and Herefordshire. His passion for science never faltered however, and after serving briefly with the RAF, he enrolled at Imperial College London as a Chemistry student. He graduated in 1953, at the age of 25.

Mr Wyles was happy at Imperial and engaged in student life, taking up a role in the Students' Union and joining the Imperial College Hockey Club. Despite admitting that he didn't find lectures very inspiring, he always believed in the importance of teaching. He carried this belief throughout his life and acted on it, choosing to leave Imperial a gift in his will to support the Department of Chemistry with improvements.

Despite his passion for science, Mr Wyles was never interested in a career in research. Instead, he joined the textile industry, where he had a long and successful career spanning over 30 years. He stayed active after his retirement, and in the 1980s took on a number of assignments with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, where he acted as a specialist advisor to the textile industries in different countries, offering advice and consultancy on dyeing and finishing.

Derek passed away in 2021, at the age of 92.

Derek's generous gift to Imperial totalled £1.3 million, made up of his shares portfolio, to be put towards equipment in the Department of Chemistry.

Professor Oscar Ces, Head of Chemistry at Imperial, says: "Providing cutting-edge instrumentation is critical to enabling our students and staff to observe, monitor and control chemical processes across a variety of length scales. Thanks to Mr Wyles' wonderful donation, we have been able to acquire new technologies currently not available in the Department and upgrade the capabilities of existing systems, unlocking new future discoveries."

Speaking of her uncle's gift, Mr Wyles' niece Poppy Carter Mills says: "Uncle Derek was an incredibly philanthropic, charitable and generous man all his life. He was particularly keen to support teaching and research in STEM studies and in medical advances, and our family is deeply grateful for the impact that his gifts have made and will continue to make for the university in the years to come." ■

Swapnil Jagtap, recipient of the competitive, philanthropically funded President's PhD Scholarship, has spent his time at Imperial conducting groundbreaking and pioneering research on hydrogen aircraft technology.

Meet the students: in conversation with Swapnil Jagtap



Swapnil, what drives your interest in hydrogen aircraft technology?

Hydrogen aircraft technology produces zero carbon pollution, making it an important means of reducing emissions and global warming. There have been safety issues linked to it, so my research has been focused on addressing this. I've made many design iterations to ensure reliable safety measures that would make this a safe way for passengers to travel. I also want to contribute to making aviation climate neutral, and have explored the life cycle effects of producing hydrogen, whilst conceptualising several hydrogen aircraft designs and exploring other alternative aviation fuels.

Where does your love of aviation come from?

Since high school, I wanted to do aeronautical engineering and planned my education accordingly. I completed a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Mumbai, before moving to the USA to complete a Master's in Aerospace Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. I then moved to the UK to complete my PhD at Imperial. I'm the first person in my family to complete a PhD, which makes me very proud.

How has Imperial impacted you and your research?

It's given me access to multidisciplinary research. I was looking for knowledge sets from two different areas: environmental engineering and aircraft design. I identified two prominent academics at Imperial who offered this – Dr Marc Stettler and Professor Peter Childs – and working with them has been inspiring. They encouraged me to be ambitious and helped me evolve as a researcher and an engineer.

The training I have been able to access through Imperial has also been hugely beneficial in making my research more accessible. I've learnt how to communicate complex scientific ideas to the wider population, and translate research into practice.

You were awarded the President's PhD Scholarship to support your time at Imperial – what did you appreciate most about this?

The President's PhD Scholarship is unique as it provides recipients with the freedom to choose their research area – scholarships often dictate the topic. I loved that I had the flexibility to pursue the challenges I am passionate about, whilst having the financial freedom to focus on my work and attend exclusive lectures and events. I'm so grateful to the donors whose support enabled me to do my PhD at Imperial and be part of a motivated community of changemakers.

Speaking of changemakers, during your time at Imperial you were honoured in a number of prestigious industry lists, including the *Forbes* 30 under 30 list. How did that feel?

Each recognition has been incredibly special and emotional. When I was named on the *Forbes* 30 under 30 list, I spent hours sharing the news with family and friends. I had flashbacks of the years I'd put into doing the research, including the failures along the way.

I've also been recognised in the Georgia Institute of Technology 40 under 40 list and the *MIT Technology Review* Innovators Under 35 list; it's been a huge honour seeing how my research has the potential to positively impact the world. I can honestly say I have enjoyed the struggle of reaching where I am today, more than the awards. Each setback built my character, confidence and resilience, and has contributed to the success I have achieved. ■

3.5%

The aviation sector is responsible for 3.5% of total manmade negative climate impacts



© Connor Mollison

A swim for sanctuary scholarships

Jack Blyzinskyj, an MBA student at Imperial College Business School, swam the English Channel to raise money for the Ukrainian refugee crisis, donating the funds to the Sanctuary Scholarship Fund. Mr Blyzinskyj, who is of Ukrainian heritage, is a former Olympic Trials swimming finalist for Team GB. Speaking of the swim, he said: “Even after a lifetime of swimming, this one took everything from our team. The money we raised will make a prominent change in the causes we swam for, and that was the reason that turning around was never an option. The only thing longer than our swim, was the ocean of people supporting us, and it wouldn’t have been possible without them.”

33km

length Jack and team swam

10h 36m

time it took to complete the swim

£100,000+

funds raised

A community effort to support displaced students

The prevalence of war, political unrest and environmental crises are preventing students all over the world from making their dreams of higher education a reality. To address this, Imperial has created a **Sanctuary Scholarships Fund**, which provides scholarships for displaced students. The Imperial community – from staff and members of Council to students and alumni – has come together to support this fund, creating life-changing opportunities for students affected by crises overseas.



Oksana

MSc Statistics, Sanctuary Support Fund recipient

“I was a junior research scientist at Ukraine’s National Institute of Zoology when the war in Ukraine started. It led to many financial hardships, so receiving the Sanctuary Scholarship was a miracle for me. Without it, I would not be able to pursue the career I love. I have a particular interest in multidisciplinary studies, biostatistics and research connected to biology and the environment, and I have used my time at Imperial to learn as much as I can in these areas. My experience has been so positive that it has inspired me to pursue a PhD.”



Abdullah

MSc Transport, Sanctuary Support Fund recipient

“I grew up in Yemen, but the devastating impact of ongoing war meant I had to leave my country in order to pursue higher education. When I arrived in the UK I had no financial support, so receiving the Sanctuary Scholarship and an opportunity to complete my Master’s at Imperial gave me a huge sense of hope. My research is centred on the promotion of sustainable urban transition in the developing world, shedding light on the factors that influence travel behaviour and potential issues that need to be addressed.” ■

“Imperial is a global community that tackles global issues, and the opportunity to contribute to this shouldn’t be limited to only those that are fortunate to have the financial means. I believe in the power of education. It can be used to benefit so many more people in so many places for a long period of time, and I admire the fact that anybody from any background that wants to be involved in the big issues of our time can find a home at Imperial.”

Joanne Linder (MBA 1996), alumnus donor

The Makerspace Manual: Bringing STEM to life in schools

Staff, students and alumni from Imperial have come together to create The Makerspace Manual – a useful workbook promoting hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities for school pupils aged 14–18.



Generously funded by the Berkeley Foundation, the manual was created to celebrate the first four years of our Dangoor Reach Out Makerspace, an innovative education centre, dedicated to hands-on activities that engage young people creatively in STEM.

The manual is being used in schools across London to help teachers bring STEM to life in their classrooms. It includes:

- DIY exercises with step-by-step instructions
- planning and designing advice to facilitate ideas from concept to creation
- supply lists and details for kitting out a makerspace (a collaborative workspace for making, learning and exploring)
- future advice for steps to build a business and promote an invention

One school that has benefitted from the manual is Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School in West London, which uses it as a staple enrichment activity in its weekly science club.

Science teacher Katrina says: “The manual is an absolute treasure chest. I can design activities for my students that move through each design stage and the problem-solving support is so useful. I also like that it gets inside the technology and design of products so pupils can see what goes into them.

“We’ve been able to move from smaller, simpler makes to more ambitious projects, and made innovating something everyone can try. Being hands on gives pupils confidence and a sense of achievement – especially when they are able to take things home and show them off. The manual also encourages the idea that it’s okay to try and fail, which is really important.

“Nurturing wonder need not stop at the end of primary school, but it’s got to go hand-in-hand with academic development. The manual allows pupils to explore and gain a sense of achievement, whilst creating an early version of what pupils might experience in a STEM working environment.” ■

What pupils think of The Makerspace Manual

Year 11 pupils from Sacred Heart High School in Hammersmith have been enjoying using the manual during their after-school science club, STEAM Team.

“Being involved in STEAM Team is by far one of my favourite parts of my Tuesday afternoon, and I enjoy knowing that everything we make is made from scratch. I always look forward to seeing the progress that we make each week.” – Stefania

“Our STEAM Team is one big community. We all love indulging in new projects all of which are really educational and fun. I especially enjoyed our skateboard project. We started with disused palettes and recycled them into skateboards, aiding the reduction of global waste.” – Grace





Michael Murphy pictured with the Circle of Benefactors donor installation, unveiled in the College's main entrance in 2023

Thank you

I speak for the entire College community when I say that we feel truly touched by the support our many alumni, partners and friends have given to the College this year – over 3,800 of you donated a staggering £59 million to support research and students at Imperial.

It is heart-warming to see that giving to Imperial has continued to grow, both in the amount raised and in the number of donors participating. As travel restrictions have eased, we've been able to connect with donors and alumni all over the world, strengthening these relationships and our international presence.

This philanthropic support provides essential risk capital for ambitious research and helps Imperial attract the brightest minds to teach and study. I hope you have enjoyed learning about the pioneering research your gifts are funding and hearing from the talented individuals leading them.

We have also been lucky to receive support in other ways, namely through the gift of time and expertise that many of our alumni and friends provide us through various volunteering initiatives. Over 1,200 alumni volunteers have provided support to our students and the College through mentoring, work placements, peer-to-peer support, committee membership and international recruitment.

We are acutely aware that, for all the successes we have enjoyed this year, it hasn't been without its challenges. Across the world, rising fuel, food and energy prices hit communities hard, including our own. The cost-of-living crisis has been a source of stress for students, but thanks to your generosity we have been able to weather the adversity and continue supporting those who need it.

Our community, from alumni and Council members to staff and students, also came together to support Imperial's Sanctuary Scholarship Fund for displaced students, for which we are immensely grateful.

Thank you for making an impact and demonstrating just how resilient we are as a community.

Michael Murphy
Vice-President (Advancement)

Get in touch

We hope you enjoyed the stories in this year's impact of giving report. If you would like to share your own story with us, speak to someone about your support or learn more about any of the projects mentioned, please contact us at giving@imperial.ac.uk



Chemical engineering undergraduates working in the carbon capture plant



Michael Murphy pictured with the Circle of Benefactors donor installation, unveiled in the College's main entrance in 2023

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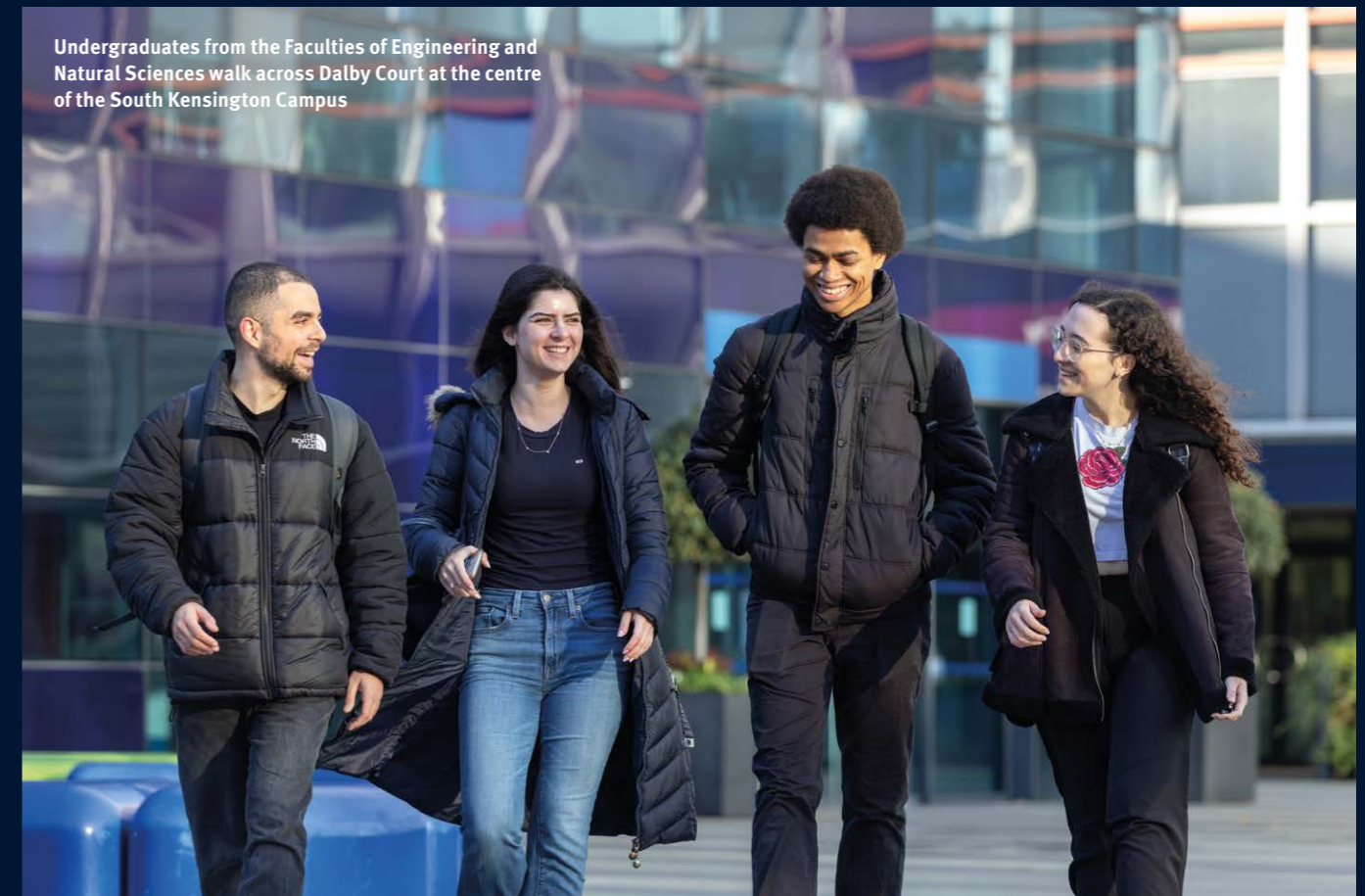
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Undergraduates from the Faculties of Engineering and Natural Sciences walk across Dalby Court at the centre of the South Kensington Campus

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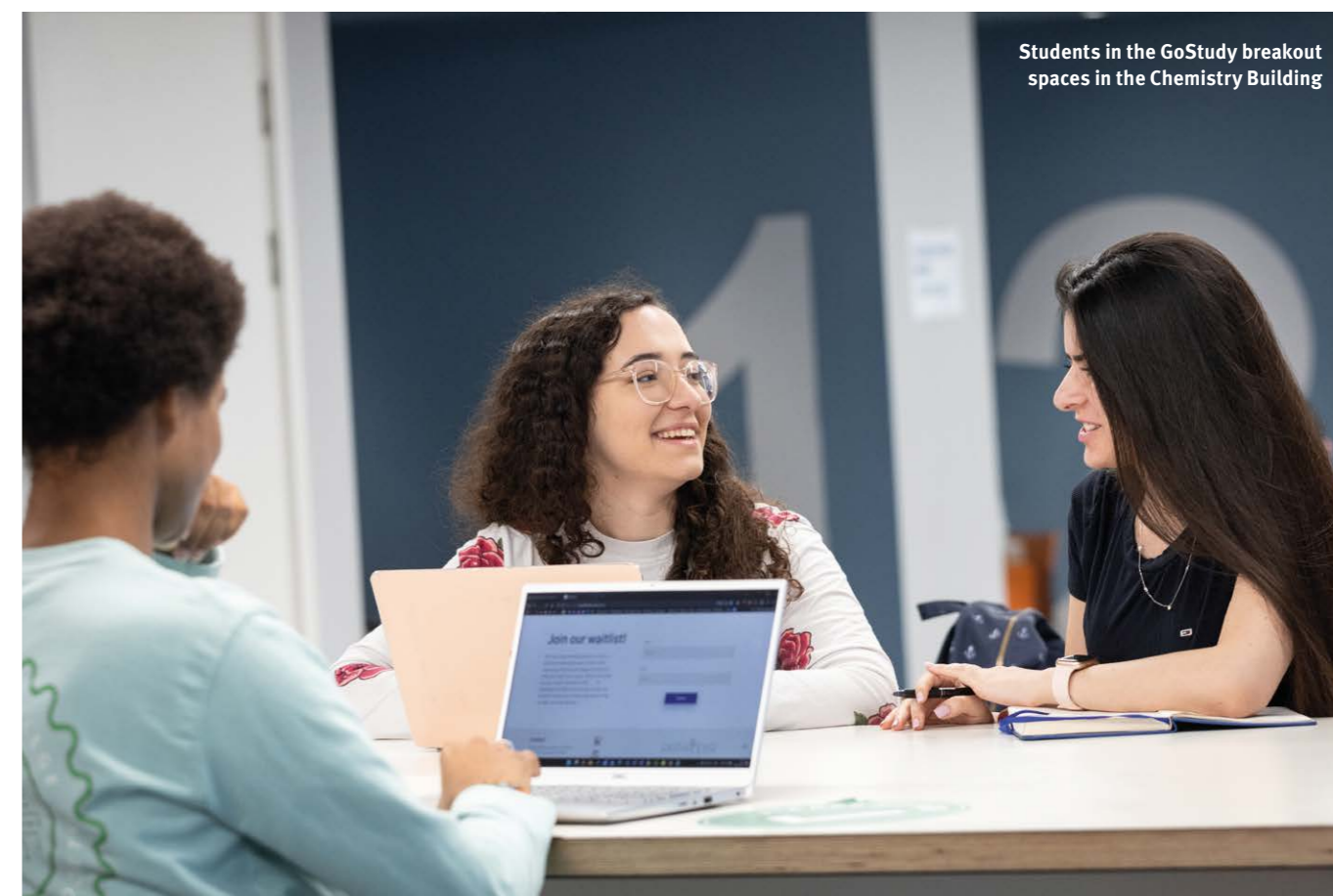
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Medical students catch up after a lecture in the City and Guilds Building, in front of the fan blades of a civil aircraft engine



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Chemical engineering undergraduates working in the carbon capture plant