# Imperial opens competitive iBSc places to international medics with September 2026 intake and £55,800 overseas fee example



Imperial College London is inviting international medical students to intercalate a one‑year BSc at its Faculty of Medicine, positioning the iBSc as a gateway to research‑led clinical careers and academic medicine. The university presents the programme as an opportunity to join intensive, faculty‑led biomedical research projects in central London and to develop practical research skills, with many students going on to publish or present their work internationally. According to the university’s information for overseas applicants, the iBSc is taught by researchers who lead in their fields and is designed to sit alongside the MBBS curriculum for fee and administrative purposes. QS’s World University Rankings 2026 place Imperial among the very top global institutions, underscoring the institution’s research profile.

The programme’s academic offer is broad but the published materials contain small inconsistencies on exact pathway numbers: one Imperial page advertises 17 iBSc pathway options across biomedical and clinical specialities, while another describes the programme as currently offering 15 pathways. Both pages, however, agree on the core model — a year of supervised, project‑based study allowing students to investigate a defined research question under academic supervision. The university also highlights a varied assessment structure and practical training designed to mirror research activity in clinical and laboratory settings.

Imperial stresses the practical outcomes of the iBSc year: students are expected to learn to design research questions, collect and analyse data, and communicate results — skills framed as foundational for careers in clinical science, academic medicine and global health leadership. The university notes that students are allocated a personal tutor, and that pre‑sessional courses are available to help international entrants adapt academically and culturally before the iBSc year begins. According to Imperial, the experience is intended to expand professional networks and to strengthen applications for future training or research posts.

Prospective applicants should note the eligibility and timetable requirements Imperial sets for the 2026‑27 cycle. The university states applicants must be registered on a recognised medical course equivalent to the Imperial curriculum, have completed at least one year of their home medical programme before applying, and retain at least one further year of study on return. For the 2026‑27 intake Imperial signals a September start and specifies the application window: the online application opens on 1 October 2025 with a deadline of 27 February 2026; the academic year is scheduled to start on 20 September 2026. Applicants with any doubt about curricular equivalence are invited to request an equivalence check from the admissions team.

Tuition for intercalating students follows the College’s medical fee model rather than a separate iBSc tariff, and the Faculty of Medicine’s published 2025‑26 fee information gives a clear example of the scale involved: overseas medicine tuition for that cohort is shown at £55,800, while UK home fees are set at £9,535. Imperial’s fee pages also explain that intercalating students are charged according to the funding model applicable to their original cohort and that overseas entrants are typically treated as new entrants for fee purposes. The university points applicants to departmental contacts and the College’s terms and conditions for the definitive position on fees, scholarships and bursaries.

English‑language competence and visa logistics are both treated as formal entry considerations. Imperial publishes a higher‑level English requirement for some courses and specifies common test benchmarks — for example, an IELTS higher‑level benchmark of 7.0 overall with minimum 6.5 in each component, TOEFL higher at 100 overall with at least 22 per element, PTE higher at 69 and Duolingo higher at 125 — and it reminds applicants to check validity windows and course‑specific conditions. For immigration, the College’s International Student Support team offers step‑by‑step guidance on the Student Route visa, CAS procedures, work rights, and pre‑arrival briefings, and provides webinars and tailored appointments to help new international students settle, arrange accommodation and access welfare support.

Selection for places is made on the strength of the application form and supporting documents. Imperial outlines a three‑part selection approach emphasising academic transcripts, an academic reference, and the personal statement; the College also runs an Intercalated BSc Fair and publishes a guide with templates (for example, a letter of good standing) to help applicants prepare their paperwork. Given the competitive, research‑led nature of the placements, applicants are advised to present clear evidence of academic preparation and research interest.

For students weighing the decision, Imperial frames the iBSc as a career accelerator: beyond the immediate research experience, the College positions the year as a route to enhanced critical thinking, collaborative working, and strengthened credentials for clinical and academic pathways. Prospective applicants should treat the College’s pages as the starting point, verify fee and pathway details with the relevant faculty contacts, and allow time to meet higher‑level English and visa requirements before the application deadline.

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## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/), [[7]](https://www.qs.com/insights/articles/qs-world-university-rankings-results/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/), [[3]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/), [[3]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/), [[2]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees/undergraduate-tuition-fees/2025-26/faculty-of-medicine/), [[1]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/requirements/english/), [[6]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[3]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/), [[1]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/), [[3]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/intercalated-bsc-programme---international-applicants/> - This Imperial College London page for international applicants outlines the Intercalated BSc (iBSc) offering. It sets key dates and requirements for 2026 entry, including a one-year full-time duration, start date 20 September 2026, application opening 1 October 2025 and deadline 27 February 2026. It explains eligibility — being enrolled on a recognised medical course, completion of at least one year before application, and having at least one year remaining after returning. It states that tuition follows the MBBS fee rates, describes research-led teaching, pre-sessional support, personal tutor allocation, publication opportunities and student support for visas and accommodation. in London included.
3. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/undergraduate/intercalated-bsc-programme/> - The Intercalated BSc programme page describes the structure and options for students joining Imperial for a one-year BSc. It lists seventeen pathways across biomedical and clinical specialities, explains assessments and selection criteria, and provides term dates and application guidance for 2025‑26. The page emphasises supervised research projects, opportunities to publish and present, and that students are taught by leaders in biomedical research. It details the three-part selection process — transcript, academic reference and personal statement — and offers practical information such as the Intercalated BSc Fair, downloadable guide, letter of good standing template and contacts for admissions queries and support.
4. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/tuition-fees/undergraduate-tuition-fees/2025-26/faculty-of-medicine/> - Imperial’s Faculty of Medicine tuition fees page gives the 2025‑26 undergraduate fee structure, showing overseas and home rates for clinical and non‑clinical cohorts. It specifies that intercalating medical students will be charged according to the funding model relevant to their original cohort, and overseas entrants are charged as new entrants. The page lists precise figures for the 2025 cohort, including overseas medicine tuition at £55,800 and home fees at £9,535, and notes variations for other entry cohorts and specific iBSc variants, directing readers to terms, conditions and departmental contacts for fee clarification. Further scholarship and bursary information is available online.
5. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/requirements/english/> - Imperial’s English language requirements page lists accepted tests and the standard and higher level scores needed for undergraduate and postgraduate entry. It specifies higher-level thresholds used for certain programmes, for example IELTS higher level at 7.0 overall with minimum 6.5 in each component, TOEFL higher at 100 overall with minimum 22 in each element, PTE higher at 69, and Duolingo higher at 125. The page explains test validity periods, acceptance for visa purposes, and advises applicants to check course-specific requirements and submit valid test reports within required timeframes. Contact admissions or the departmental team for further clarification or exceptional cases.
6. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/international-students/> - Imperial’s International Student Support pages describe visa, immigration and arrival assistance available to international students. They outline advice on the Student Route visa application, Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) procedures, work rights, Schengen and eVisas, and what to do if circumstances change. The service offers specialist immigration guidance, webinars, pre‑arrival information, and help with accommodation. Contact details, opening hours and appointment arrangements are provided. The pages emphasise dedicated support before arrival and while studying, including events, peer activities and tailored information for families, ensuring international students are well supported throughout their Imperial experience and bespoke welfare and mental‑health services.
7. <https://www.qs.com/insights/articles/qs-world-university-rankings-results/> - The QS World University Rankings 2026 results page presents the global league table and methodology. It announces MIT as number one and lists Imperial College London in second place overall, with commentary on score drivers such as research, internationalisation and sustainability. The page includes a top‑ten table, links to full results and data downloads, and analysis of regional shifts including Asia’s rising representation. It explains criteria used to rank institutions, provides access to subject and regional breakdowns, and offers contextual insight for prospective students comparing global university performance and strategic strengths in 2026. Readers can download the full dataset here.