



EXPANDING REACH FUND

THE STUDENT'S UNION

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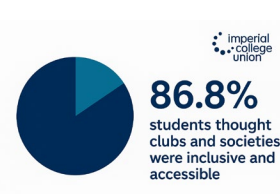
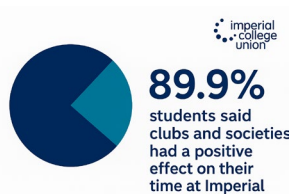
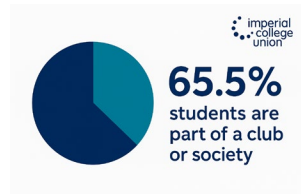
EXPANDING REACH RESEARCH & CRITERIA

With the help of our Research Assistant and Policy and Research Coordinator, we carried out background research and used primary results from the Student Experience Survey to identify key findings relating to club and society engagement.

The Expanding Reach Fund is available to all affiliated Imperial College Union student groups, this includes but is not limited to our clubs and societies, liberation and community networks, and staff led projects and campaigns.

The Student Experience Survey has just over 1500 responses. We also circulated the Expanding Reach Survey that had 98 responses, specifically identifying barriers experienced by students from underrepresented or marginalised communities. This survey investigated the specific barriers and opportunities students have in relation to their background, race and religion. It analysed more qualitative data to give us a more rounded view of what students at Imperial are experiencing.

What did we find?



1. Students engage with clubs and societies.
2. Clubs and societies have a positive impact on Imperial students.
3. Students engaged with clubs and societies agree they are inclusive and accessible.

Clubs and societies have one of the **most positive** responses in the Student Experience Survey

Our main question...

How can we support clubs and societies to be even more inclusive and accessible?

We are providing financial resource and guidance that supports events and activity that align with our research and expand reach of our activity to positively impact more students.

How can we be more inclusive and accessible?

We identified ways to make your activity more inclusive.

- Removing or addressing participation barriers
- Supporting marginalised or underrepresented students
- Following our 'Give it a Go' principles to reduce cost and commitment
- Understanding factors affecting fellow students



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

POSITIVE IMPACT

☒ **INCLUSIVE**

☒ **ACCESSIBLE**




Participation Barriers

Our research identified a broad range of factors that affect students engaging with clubs and societies. Some key findings around themed barriers:

1. Time & Academic Commitments

- Students from low-income households
- Commuter students (travel costs and time may limit participation)
- Students with parental responsibility (childcare commitments)
- Young carers (caring responsibilities may limit availability)
- Mature students (balancing study, work, and family responsibilities)



2. Cultural and Social Barriers

- Ethnicity (may feel underrepresented or face discrimination)
- Religion (clubs may not accommodate religious needs, such as prayer times, dietary restrictions or dry events)
- LGBTQ+ students (discrimination, lack of inclusive spaces, gendered activity)
- First in family (may lack confidence or awareness of the benefits of extracurricular participation)
- Service children (relocation or lack of social networks may make it harder to engage)
- Black and Minority Asian Ethnic students are more likely to live at home, have lower socio-economic status, and face cultural or religious conflicts (e.g., drinking culture, Ramadan clashes)

3. Institutional and Structural Barriers

- Disabled students (physical and sensory barriers, lack of accommodations)
- Care experienced students (lack of support networks)
- Estranged students (financial and emotional support limitations)
- Club/society perceptions and culture
- Knowledge and understanding of club or society cultures, purpose and benefits

Supporting marginalised or underrepresented students

Targeted events and activity can support your club/society to engage with underrepresented or marginalised students. Some key findings:

- **International and postgraduate** students are less engaged. This is often because they experience barriers more significantly
- Students can experience a **lack of knowledge, awareness and understanding** of club/society structures and positive benefits.
- Key considerations can support your activity to become more inclusive and engage more students.

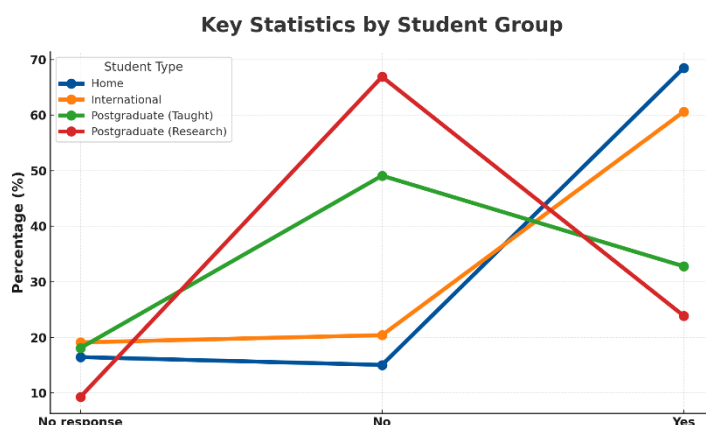
Key Considerations

- **Structural Support:** Reduce financial barriers through subsidised membership fees, travel allowances or removal of activity cost.
- **Inclusive Practices:** Create tailored activities for mature, commuter, and working students, and ensure accessibility for disabled students.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Increase awareness of religious and cultural needs (e.g., offering non-drinking social events).
- **Targeted Outreach:** Imperial College Union needs to improve communication strategies to ensure all students are aware of opportunities available to them.

This research recognises that all students have individual experiences and does not attempt to generalise students according to their race, religion, background, ethnicity or community. These statistics show responses according to the Imperial's Student Experience Survey.

This graph highlights that **Postgraduate (Research)** students have the highest "No" percentage (66.9%).

Postgraduate (Taught) also show a significant barrier (49.1%)



Key Statistics

	Home	International	Postgraduate (Taught)	Postgraduate (Research)
No response	16.46%	19.1%	18.1%	9.3%
No	15.05%	20.4%	49.1%	66.9%
Yes	68.48%	60.6%	32.8%	23.9%

ACCESSING THE FUND

The Expanding Reach Fund is there to support clubs and societies to be more accessible. The criteria and applications should align with the research to make sure events and activities target students experiencing participatory and institutional barriers when engaging with club and societies.

STEP 1 – READ THE CRITERIA

Your activity will need to meet the following criteria:

- Follow the Give it a Go principle of low/no cost and low commitment.
- Target a specific student demographic or underrepresented group.
- Align to the Expanding Reach Research.
- A breakdown of cost to how you'll allocate the funding. You can apply up to £1000 to support your events and activities.

STEP 2 - ORGANISE

To receive financial support from the fund, you need to organise a Give it a Go activity that targets a specific student demographic, outlining how you are addressing specific barriers associated with our Expanding Reach Research. Please make sure you follow event and financial guidelines when organising this activity.

The funding is here to support key aspects of the activity but please do not rely on the fund to run this activity alone. This funding should subsidise cost for the activity or provide subsidies that will reduce barriers. Alternatively, it can provide something different in your event that could relate to a more diverse audience, think food, timings, locations or the activity itself.

STEP 3 – CREATE A WHAT'S ON EVENT

This allows us to promote your activity, just follow the guidelines here: [What's On Calendar | eActivities](#) – categorise as a 'Give it a Go' event.

It will show up on our website so students can sign up, you can see what it looks like: [Upcoming Events | Imperial College Union](#)

STEP 4 – SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITY

You can submit a funding request through this link:

Please make sure to include all the details on how you plan to address participation barriers and target students you may not currently be engaging.

