

# Advice on Graduate School Course Selection

When advising a doctoral researcher about Graduate School courses, there are some clear pointers to help select the courses which are best suited to your student's needs.

## 1) Title and Intended Learning Outcomes

First, the title and the intended learning outcomes should help to decide which courses will address the developments needs of your student. These have been carefully selected and written to explain what will be learnt during the session and will help you to advise your student accordingly.

See here for course titles and learning outcomes,

Doctoral: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/students/doctoral/>

Masters: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/students/masters/>

## 2) Levels

We have developed different levels of courses to account for the different levels of experience that doctoral researchers have at Imperial. For some researchers it is their first experience of a UK university and of research. Others are highly experienced and may not need any introductory courses, and we would advise avoiding level 1 courses if this is the case.

**Level 1** courses aim to provide a basic introduction to the subject. Very little prior knowledge is assumed. Participants may be asked to practice a skill during the session with some guidance and support. Participants will be expected to relate the subject to their own context.

**Level 2** courses are designed to offer a deeper analysis of the subject, and participants will be expected to apply and develop their knowledge as well as practice a skill during the session. This may involve self-assessment.

**Level 3** courses are intended to be more advanced, and basic pre-knowledge of the topic might be required. Participants can expect to construct knowledge actively and collaboratively. Through in-class discussions and group activities, they will assess and analyse their own and others' work based on specific criteria. This may involve self-assessment and peer-assessment.

**The course level is identified by each course description on the web links above.**

## 3) Mode of delivery

We have developed a range of delivery modes to provide for the different requirements of researchers across the disciplines and campuses at Imperial.



**Face-to-face workshops:** Our face-to-face workshops are delivered on two of our campuses (South Kensington and Hammersmith). These sessions are two or three hours long. They are designed so that participants can meet researchers from across the university to increase their interdisciplinary connections and networks.



**Online Provision:** We have a wide range of synchronous and asynchronous courses, delivered via MS Teams, Zoom and Blackboard. Participants can join from anywhere in the world. We have had attendees from Australia, Africa and a wide range of European locations. The sessions are designed to help students to access our provision, who would otherwise struggle to do so, either due to location or due to time pressure.



**Blackboard Learn:** We have several online self-paced courses. These have a range of video clips and associated interactivity to help explain concepts.



**Retreats:** We have developed a fabulous range of two-day residential retreats, which are very popular and highly recommended by attendees. They are themed as follows: Team and communications; Research impact and influence; and Thesis writing retreat. The two-day format gives attendees a chance to develop their knowledge and practice as well as to engage and socialise with the wider Imperial College research community. We also run one-day retreats for GTAs, which provides a supportive space for GTAs to reflect on their recent teaching practice with their peers.

#### 4) Accreditation

We have the following programmes which can lead to professional accreditation of the associated professional body.

**GTA Programme** – leads to accreditation of the Higher Education Academy (HEA). Many universities in the UK and around the world seek candidates for employment who have this fellowship. Attending the Graduate School teaching courses enables students to gain Associate Fellowship of the HEA.

Please see, <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/students/doctoral/professional-development/gta-programme/>

**MARS Programme** – attending this programme leads to either registered scientist status and/or membership of the Royal Society of Chemistry. We are currently being accredited by the Institute of Physics and the Royal Society of Biology and hope to offer this soon.

Please see, <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/impact-influence/mars-membership/>

#### 5) Cohort Delivery

We are also able to provide dedicated and/or tailored sessions for a group of your postgraduate students. We will endeavour to come to any of Imperial College's campuses to deliver these and/or we can provide dedicated webinars if accessibility is challenging. If you would like to request any of our provision as a dedicated or tailored course please fill in the form here:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-school/staff/cohort-delivery/>