

Imperial College Union
Space for Friday Prayers
Proposed by the Equal Opportunities Officer, Hannah Theodorou
Seconded by Salman Waqar

The Union Notes:

1. That congregational Friday prayers are an obligation on Muslims.
2. That congregational Friday prayers have been performed weekly, during the lunch break, in the Union building for the past two years.
3. These are organised by the ICU Islamic Society and in excess of 300 Imperial College students and staff regularly attend prayers.
4. That in the past, there was a block booking at the old Southside Gym which guaranteed an adequate place for Friday prayers every week.
5. That in the past Friday prayers have taken place in numerous venues, resorting to the Queen's Lawn in the rain when no other location was available.
6. There have been situations where Union space is unavailable, either because of a booking clash or because of construction work. This has meant alternative, and often inadequate, arrangements have had to be made for Friday prayers.
7. There is great difficulty with informing and directing in excess of 300 people to different locations every week for the Friday prayer.

The Union Believes:

1. That students should have the right and access to provisions to practise their religion.
2. That according to the Clubs & Societies policy*, the Union has a duty to ensure that resources are provided for welfare needs – this includes congregational Friday prayers.
3. That the College has the responsibility to provide adequate facilities to clubs and societies of Imperial College Union in line with the Code of Practice† it has with ICU.

The Union Resolves:

1. For the Union to ensure sufficient space is available for Friday congregational prayers.
2. To provide at least one week's notice of changes to the Friday prayer location.
3. For the President to lobby the College to provide alternate space, should Union space be unavailable for reasons beyond the Union's control.

*** Clubs & Societies Policy**, point 10 of section B (DUTIES OF THE UNION AND CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

10. The Union shall provide a safe environment, free from harassment and discrimination for all Union activity (according to the Health & Safety and Equal Opportunities Policies).

The above point refers to the **Health and Safety policy**; point 4 is of particular interest:

4. Imperial College Union acknowledges its duty to ensure that all relevant legislation regarding health, safety and welfare is adhered to and that resources are made available to ensure health, safety and welfare.

† Code of Practice Annex J

All space is College Space. Areas are only allocated to the ICU, as to a Department/ Division, on the understanding that the allocation may, after consultation with the ICU, be varied where necessary for the good of the College as a whole. The Union shall occupy the Union Building (the North Wing of Beit Quad and East and West Wing Basements). The Union will also be provided with rooms as identified in Annex D to this document for the furtherance of the social, cultural and welfare activities of the College's students, together with other areas in the College where the Union may carry out trading activities.

The College will at all times endeavour to preserve and augment the areas used for student activities. However the College may, after consultation with the ICU, alter, withdraw or limit the use of such areas if it is reasonable to do so in the wider interests of the College. In such cases, the College will endeavour to find suitable alternative space if it is possible so to do. Any requests by the ICU, its clubs, societies and other affiliated bodies, for the allocation or use of additional space in the College which is not part of an academic department nor listed above, should be made through the Union President or Union Manager to the College Secretary or such other officer as the Rector may designate.