

Sikh Soc

Imperial College London

**Annual Report
2021-2022**

**The Imperial College London Sikh
Society
promotes activities that appreciate the
culture, history and ideology
of the Sikh way of life.**

OUR VISION

The Imperial College Sikh Society aims to promote the teachings of Sikhi whilst making the time of our members at University more enjoyable! Sikh Society offers a friendly social support network, providing a great opportunity to meet new and interesting people from a wide variety of courses and backgrounds.

OUR VALUES

Imperial College London Sikh society is based on building friendships with Sikh students in the university and also creating networks with students in other London Sikh Societies, giving the opportunity for students to support each other both spiritually and academically.

OUR AIMS

- Promote the teachings of Sikhi
- Allow everyone to learn more about Sikhi and increase their understanding
- Provide a friendly social support network
- Make a student's time at Imperial more enjoyable

INTRODUCTION

The Imperial College Sikh Society aims to promote the teachings of Sikhi whilst making your time at University more enjoyable! Sikh Society offers a friendly social support network, providing a great opportunity to meet new and interesting people from a wide variety of courses and backgrounds. We hold many social events such as dinners and bowling, with 'Cha and Samose' to break the ice. Throughout the year, we hold Simran sessions in the Chaplaincy, discuss religious topics, and organise Gurdwara trips too. Occasionally we invite learned speakers to these sessions, allowing us to gain more knowledge and better understanding of Sikhi. There is also the opportunity to meet students from other Sikh societies through Nishaan, which is a Sikh inter-uni organisation that hosts regular events throughout the year, allowing networking. We also hold an annual Kirtan Darbar and Langar where students from all over the country join us and listen to some wonderful Kirtan sung by students as well as well-known Kirtanis. Everyone is welcome to join the society irrespective of religious background.

MEMBERSHIP & OFFICERS

SELECTION PROCESS

Each year, during June, there is a university-wide election for the primary roles (President, Treasurer and Secretary) within each CSP (Clubs, Societies & Projects). Other roles within a CSP can also be voted upon during this period but the primary roles must be filled in order to a CSP to run. There is no limit to the number of people that can run for each role. To stand for a role you must submit a manifesto before the required deadline and members of the society can vote on roles at the end of June.

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President x2 – Dilshaan Singh Grewal & Anushika Raheja
Treasurer x1 – Gian Singh Chana
Secretary x1 – Balhaar Singh Bhamra

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Membership price = £0
(This year we decided to remove the membership fee as we wanted to make it easier for people to join our society especially after the Covid-19 pandemic)

Members: 40

STUDENT SERVICES

ACADEMIC STUDIES

None

WORKSHOPS

None

ASSISTANCE

Nishaan helped with organising a kirtan darbar.

ACTIVITIES

SPORT

Football in collaboration with other societies such as Hindu Soc and Punjabi Soc but these were not formally Sikh soc events

ARTS

None

WELL-BEING

None

SOCIAL LIFE

FRESHERS WEEK

Freshers Fair: signed people up to the mailing list and Whatsapp group chat, promoted the society and its events for the year. We were placed with other faith based societies.

Meet and Greet: First event of the year. This consisted of a quiz and food (juice and Samosas) afterwards. It was a chance for people to mingle and get to know each other; new and older years alike. We also signed up members. It was an opportunity to get across what our Sikh Society is about and our plans for the year.

CELEBRATIONS

End of term Kirtan Darbar

EXCURSIONS

Gurdwara visit to Central Gurdwara (Khalsa Jatha) London in Shepard's Bush

Gurdwara visit to Sri Guru Singh Sabha Southall Park Avenue

Trip to Queen's bowling – cost of bowling and dinner was paid for by each member

CAMPAIGNS & EVENTS

MAJOR EVENT

End of term Kirtan Darbar.

Attendance ~30 people

This event occurred in December just before lockdown restrictions in the UK were re-introduced. It was around 3 hours long. If we were to do this event again, we would have done it a few weeks earlier because many students had already left London as it was near the end of term.

Nishaan was extremely helpful with getting people to help with the event.

ACTIVISM

None

COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS

MODES

Our main mode for communicating events and updates was the Imperial Sikh Society Instagram which was extensively grown by the previous year's committee.

We also used WhatsApp and created a group chat specifically for this year as opposed to the one with alumnus because members requested one as they felt they were better able to communicate and discuss within a smaller group.

PARTNERSHIPS

WITHIN IMPERIAL COLLEGE

No inter-faith events were held and we kept a good relation with Imperial College Punjabi Society

NATIONAL BODY

BOSS provided posters and resources for freshers fair and contacts to speakers.

Nishaan provided contacts for people to help with Kirtan.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Kept a good relationship with Sikh societies and attended events of the, mainly London based, Sikh societies, such as UCL Kirtan Darbar and University of Cambridge Kirtan Darbar.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY

Income: £0

Expenditure: £75 (cost for food and leaflets for freshers fair)

ACCOUNTS

Food - £15

Leaflet - £35

Poster - £25

Hoodies were paid for by members and was not subsidised by the society.

THE FUTURE

Going into this year was a challenge because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This meant that many of the committee members had not experienced a Sikh Society outside of virtual events. This was the main reason the committee decided to remove the membership fee – in an effort to revitalise the society. However, doing so meant that there was a lack of funds which could have been used for subsidising more events. A priority for the next year's committee is to increase income by trying to get sponsors; the year before us had no sponsors and so that initial repour was not there. Many of our members preferred the social activities though it is important to recognise this is a Sikh society and all events must be inline with the ethos of Sikhi.

Some important things the next committee should be aware of:

- External Speaker events require you to fill in an External Speaker which can take up to 6 weeks to get approval
- Risk Assessment forms must be filled for each event before an Ad-hoc room booking which can take at least 2 weeks to be approved
- Ad-hoc room bookings require at least 2 week's notice (and can only be done once a Risk Assessment form has been approved)
- Thus book a reoccurring weekly room at the beginning of the year
- Imperial Chaplaincy are very helpful and have space for Kirtan
- Imperial Chaplaincy have 2x Tabla (1 Tabla is not in good condition) and 1x Vaja

I would recommend any future committees seriously engage in collaborative events with other London based Sikh Societies and keep good relations with Inter-uni organisations such as BOSS and Nishaan as there knowledge and connections allowed us to learn and not repeat the same mistakes.

Good luck to any future committees!

WJKK WJKF

Dilshaan Singh Grewal (Co-president 21/22)