

## **IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON AND A\*STAR PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Singapore students to benefit from A\*STAR-Imperial College London partnership**

Students in Singapore will have the chance to earn a PhD from Imperial College London whilst working on research projects at institutes of Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR).

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between A\*STAR and Imperial College London, A\*STAR will provide training and funding for young people admitted to the PhD programme via the A\*STAR Graduate Scholarship (AGS) Scheme. Students will be based locally at A\*STAR Research Institutes to undertake research and training while pursuing a PhD with Imperial. They will then be attached to a research laboratory at Imperial for up to one year after they have finished their studies. Students are expected to complete their PhD studies in 3 years.

As well as giving Singaporean students the opportunity to study at a leading international university, the PhD programme also aims to foster interaction and collaboration between scientists in Singapore and the UK. Students will spend around eight weeks a year in London, and researchers at Imperial and the A\*STAR Institutes co-supervising the PhD programme will visit their counterparts regularly.

A\*STAR Chairman Philip Yeo said: "By tying up with Imperial, we can give our bright young Singaporeans the opportunity to undertake PhD research and pursue PhD studies at a leading overseas university, all without having to transplant themselves for three-to-four years at a stretch."

"Beyond a scholarship scheme, the A\*STAR-Imperial partnership will also encourage collaboration between our local researchers and researchers from an institution of international repute. Such an alliance will enhance the interaction between local Research Institutes and Imperial, and accelerate the advancement of Singapore's scientific capabilities."

Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of Imperial College London, added: "Imperial has a long and fruitful history of collaboration with Singapore. Singaporean students form one of the largest national groupings at the College and many go on to achieve senior positions in their field."

“As well as giving us the opportunity to encourage achievement in bright young people in Singapore, this partnership with A\*STAR will allow us to collaborate with researchers and share expertise to the benefit of all.”

The first intake of the A\*STAR-Imperial Partnership PhD Programme is expected in the academic year 2004-05.

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**Notes to editors:**

**About A\*STAR**

A\*STAR’s mission is to foster world class scientific research and human capital for a vibrant knowledge-based Singapore. Its focus is the pursuit of knowledge for the prosperity of Singapore.

Its key tasks are to integrate public research with industry clusters; to train human capital for public research and industry; to create, own and exploit its intellectual capital; and to serve as the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Singapore Government.

Website: [www.a-star.edu.sg](http://www.a-star.edu.sg)

**About A\*STAR Graduate Scholarships (AGS)**

AGS is a four-year local PhD study aiming to provide a research-intensive training programme at PhD-level in biomedical sciences, physical sciences and engineering, and computer sciences. Imperial is the third university to be a partner in this scheme – others are the National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University.

**Imperial – Singapore links**

The College offers the Singapore MBA, a 27-month part-time programme designed for executives who live and work in Singapore. Singaporean graduates have an active alumni association that facilitates the development

of social and business connections, as well as giving the opportunity for continuing education.

Sir Richard Sykes DSc FRS, Rector of Imperial College London, was awarded the Singapore National Day Public Service Star Award in 1999 for his contribution to the economic development of Singapore. He is also the Chairman of the Biomedical Sciences International Advisory Council of Singapore.

### **About Imperial College London**

Consistently rated in the top three UK university institutions, Imperial College London is a world leading science-based university whose reputation for excellence in teaching and research attracts students (10,000) and staff (5,000) of the highest international quality.

Innovative research at the College explores the interface between science, medicine, engineering and management and delivers practical solutions that enhance the quality of life and the environment - underpinned by a dynamic enterprise culture.

Website: [www.imperial.ac.uk](http://www.imperial.ac.uk)