

EDI Seed Fund: Project Summary Report

Please provide a summary of how your EDI Seed Fund money was spent and the impact and lessons learnt from your project.

Please note that summary reports will be published on the [EDI Seed Fund webpage](#), to help raise awareness and increase visibility of outcomes.

Deadline for submission: 31 July 2024

Maximum length: 2 pages

Please email any queries and your completed summary report to: [Associate Provosts \(EDI\)](#)

Applicant name(s): Miss Avani (Avi) Ela

Contact details: icu-lgbtq@imperial.ac.uk

Project title: LGBTQ+ students of Imperial

Summary of project spend (please include how much funding granted and how much spent)	
I was granted £1,500 from the EDI Seed Fund for the LGBTQ+ Students of Imperial project. There were four key elements to my initial application. From this grant, the following money was spent:	
	Amount spent (£)
(1) Video mini-series	504.71
(2) Pride in London parade wristbands	675.00
(3) Pronoun pins	85.99
(4) Brunch for trans+ students	58.90
	1324.60
Summary of project achievements and impacts:	
(1) <u>LGBTQ+ Students of Imperial: Video Mini-series</u>	
<p>From August 2023 to April 2024, I worked alongside the Digital Media Lab to produce the video series. I recruited three queer student participants who showcased a diverse range of experiences at Imperial. The mini-series was launched on Monday 3rd June 2024, to commence Pride Month celebrations and can be viewed here. I worked alongside individuals in Imperial’s Communications Division, namely Andrew Youngson, Jesse Alter and Sara West, to disseminate the videos as widely as possible, ultimately maximising the impact of these videos. This included Staff Briefing, Inside Imperial, Alumni communications and beyond.</p> <p>I also hosted a Screening Event, at which College-wide staff and students were invited to watch the videos together, observe a panel discussion with student participants and the director (who was also LGBTQ+), and ask the crew questions. This event wouldn’t have been complete without Imperial 600’s generous donation, allowing us to fund soft drink refreshments, too!</p> <p>I have received incredible feedback on the mini-series, which has proven to have profound impact. One comment which particularly touched me read, <i>“One of the most affirming and inspirational films I’ve ever seen Avi - thank you for championing queer voices at Imperial and bringing these to life! Sad to not be able to come to the screening but have been watching online and it makes my heart sing. Thank you! 🙏”</i>. I was also invited to speak to staff, namely Imperial’s Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions team, to initiate follow-up discussions from the videos on how best to support prospective queer students.</p>	

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My initial goals outlined in my application were for LGBTQ+ students to feel more seen by highlighting varied experiences, increasing visibility, and for staff to feel more educated on how best to support students. It seems the videos have achieved these goals, which I am very proud of. However, I do not think it stops here. To quote my original EDI Seed Fund application, *"I hope that the LGBTQ+ Video[s] would be of such high quality that [they] remain in circulation for years to come - sustaining meaningful dialogues while amplifying the voices of LGBTQ+ individuals."*

Thank you for providing this incredible opportunity!

(2) Pride in London Wristbands

Following a successful application, we were awarded 75 wristbands for Imperial College students to walk the Pride in London Parade 2024. All wristbands were taken, and the event was [a huge success!](#) It was so lovely to see the public and Imperial folks alike cheering us on in the parade; it was also an incredible opportunity to advertise Imperial's institution-wide EDI to the broader community

I attended the Parade Briefing and a Parade Social, where I met other groups walking Pride in London 2024, who were very impressed with my hard work.

Based on research into Pride in London, I only anticipated a maximum of 50 wristbands assigned to Imperial College Union; however, when Pride in London offered us 75, it was a wonderful opportunity to accept. As such, I ended up spending more than expected on this item (£7.50 per wristband + VAT).

Again, I would also like to extend a warm thanks to Imperial 600, who have funded matching t-shirts, water bottles and a banner for the event!

(3) Pronoun Pins

When looking at quotes from suppliers, Imperial College Union-themed pronoun pins proved very expensive due to the immense diversity of pronoun permutations. As such, I decided that a more inclusive and financially savvy way was to purchase a badge-making machine (as expensed). This allowed me to produce professional-quality pins, allowing me to make whichever pronouns were needed. The largest batch I made was primarily distributed for free during LGBTQ+ History Month (as seen [here](#)).

The badge-making machine was also a sustainable solution. Donating the badge-making machine to my role means that Imperial College Union LGBTQ+ Offers who come after me will have the opportunity to re-design and produce inclusive pronoun pins too.

(4) Brunch for Trans+ Students

Coordinating closely with Imperial College Union's Trans+ Representative, Haru, we arranged a brunch, which was free of charge for participants. In July 2024, trans+ undergraduate and postgraduate students at Imperial College London were invited to mingle at Café Kitsuné in Knightsbridge. It was important to ensure that the venue was trans-friendly and that it was able to accommodate a group. This was a very successful community-building event whereby attendees discussed hot topics, including the outcome of the recent general election and what that means for trans+ people in England.

To conclude, the EDI Seed Fund has been a phenomenal resource which has enabled me to make maximal impact as in my voluntary role as Imperial College Union's LGBTQ+ Officer 2023-24.