

## **Vice Principal International's Report to Senate**

The Outward Student Mobility Task and Finish Group reported in the summer with a number of recommendations, including the appointment of an Academic Lead for Outward Student Mobility, greater coordination of advice for students and enhanced financial support, further consideration of four-year undergraduate degree models incorporating a year abroad, and wider recognition of the benefits of diverse forms of outward mobility.

Planning is at an advanced stage for a visit to India in November, with participation by ten Schools anticipated at various points in the schedule. The benefits of the "VP-led tour" format that has been adopted include access for participants to decision makers in government and universities, cross-fertilisation of ideas amongst colleagues from across the institution, and a stronger presentation of in-country engagement than a succession of individual visits. Previous tours to SE Asia and to Bangladesh and Pakistan are generating a visible benefit in terms of new partnerships for mobility and research, and overseas government-funded doctoral scholarships.

Since the last report, the partnerships office has hosted visits from O P Jindal Global University and Vellore Institute of Technology (India), Hunan University, East China University of Political Science and Law, and University of Electronic Science and Technology (China), Universitas Gadjah Mada and Universitas Padjadjaran (Indonesia), and Thammasat University (Thailand), amongst others.

The VP International visited Xi'an-Jiaotong-Liverpool University as a guest of honour during its tenth anniversary celebrations, and represented QMUL at the formal opening ceremony for the new cohort of students on the Joint Programme with Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications. In support of the various QMUL activities in China, he hosted a visit to London by the Chinese Ministry of Education's Director of Cross-Border Education. The Confucius Institute's first annual meeting received a report on a number of activities with our partner Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, including a successful eight-week summer school for QMUL students in Shanghai that was financially supported by the Chinese Embassy in London.

The VP International attended a round table discussion convened by CARA (the Council for At-Risk Academics) on ways to support refugee academics from Syria, and is leading QMUL discussions on this challenging issue.

QMUL hosted this year's Russell Group International Forum in September, bringing around 40 International Office Directors and PVCs/VPs to the Mile End campus.