



Senate

Paper Title	Formation of a new School: the School of Foundation Studies (SFS)
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the formation of a School of Foundation Studies in principle.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paper describes the rationale for the new School to provide foundation programmes • The School would be established to manage, administer and deliver all QMUL pathway foundation programmes, currently identified as the International Foundation Programme, International Science and Engineering Foundation Programme, Science and Engineering Foundation Programme, Pre-Masters Programme and the Clinical Foundation Studies Programme. • The School would identify opportunities for extending the current portfolio of programmes for both Home/EU and International markets
Questions for Senate to consider	Senate is asked to consider and comment on the proposal.
Regulatory/statutory reference points	External statutory requirements: DBS checks for staff working with students under the age of 18.
Strategy and risk	<p><u>Strategy</u> Strategic Aim 1, 3, 4 and 6</p> <p><u>Risk</u> 1. Failure to recruit and develop students of the highest calibre and potential 9. Failure to develop reputation and external relations Risk register reference 11: Failure to develop sustainable income streams for activities</p>
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Approved by QMSE. Senate to approve before consideration by Council.
Authors	Julia Shelton (Dean of Taught Programmes, Science and Engineering), Kathryn Richardson (Director of Language Centre, SLLF), Lee Wildman (Head of International Student Recruitment)
Sponsor	Professor Rebecca Lingwood, Vice-Principal (Teaching and Learning)

PROPOSAL FOR A SCHOOL OF FOUNDATION STUDIES

1. QMUL currently offers five foundation programmes across the three faculties:
 - Science and Engineering Foundation Programme (Level 3; managed by SBCS but students are recruited by individual schools; modules are provided by SBCS, SEMS, EECS, SPA, SMS and SLLF);
 - International Science and Engineering Foundation Programme (as above);
 - International Foundation Programme (Level 3; managed by SLLF; modules are provided by SLLF, SEF, SBM, Geography and SPIR);
 - Pre-Masters Programme (Level 6; managed by SLLF; modules are provided by SLLF, SEF, SBM, Geography and SPIR);
 - Clinical Foundation Studies Programme (Level 3; managed by IHSE; modules are provided by IHSE, SBCS and St Paul's Way Trust).
2. While recruitment onto foundation programmes nationally has grown significantly over the past decade, applications for foundation programmes at QMUL are declining and progression onto degree programmes is less strong. With QMUL's campus, location, reputation, range of degree programmes and depth of experience in the area, it should be possible to increase the recruitment of Home and Overseas students onto our foundation programmes and, by extension, to increase the progression of high-quality students onto our degree programmes.
3. A working group comprising the Dean of Taught Programmes (Science and Engineering), the Director of the Language Centre (SLLF) and the Head of International Student Recruitment (Marketing and Communications) has reviewed QMUL's existing foundation programmes in order to identify activities which could improve current recruitment and progression rates. These activities include:
 - providing an enhanced student experience aligned with the distinctive characteristics of foundation programme students;
 - providing all foundation programme students with a sense of identity and belonging;
 - providing suitable opportunities for foundation programme students to improve their English language ability and academic study skills as required;
 - establishing an improved brand identity to promote QMUL's foundation programmes.
4. The fact that foundation programmes at QMUL are currently spread across the three faculties presents additional challenges for addressing these issues effectively. There would be value in instead consolidating the management and support arrangements for foundation programmes in one place. It is therefore proposed that a new School of Foundation Studies should be established within the Faculty of Science and Engineering to provide a home for all foundation programmes at QMUL. The new school would have a Head of School and would be established on the same footing as other schools in terms of student support, programme management and quality assurance, with a key difference that the majority of teaching would be provided by members of staff from other schools on an agreed basis.
5. Senate is asked to approve the establishment of a new School of Foundation Studies in principle. Wider discussion will inform the development and consideration of more detailed proposals; these and the business case will be taken forward at the next stage by QMSE.