

Vice Principal Public Engagement and Student Enterprise's Report to Senate

Gold award Engage Watermark - This year QMUL, and the work of the Centre for Public Engagement (CPE), received significant external recognition for our success in this area, becoming the first university to be awarded the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) Engage Watermark. The NCCPE was established in 2008 as part of the Beacons for Public Engagement Initiative. Funded by the UK Funding Councils, Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust. It has a national remit to support and recognise excellence in university public engagement.

QMUL was awarded a Gold award level Engage Watermark, meaning we have been externally recognised as *“a beacon of excellence in the support it offers to public engagement”* which recognises that we have *“invested significant resources over a period of several years to build substantial momentum”* and are *“ambitious to build on our success”*. This award followed an intensive review process and rigorous evaluation of our internal processes to support public engagement, alongside interviews with our community partners.

QMUL's position as a leader in public engagement and student enterprise (as evidenced by our Gold award Engage Watermark status) has resulted in several requests from other universities and research institutions for support and advice in establishing their public engagement structures and strategic approach.

Evaluation Toolkit – The CPE have been working with Fast Track Impact, and the NCCPE to create a toolkit and advice booklet for evaluating public engagement projects. This is due to launch in a few weeks, and we hope it will be a useful resource.

Funding for public engagement activities - The CPE continues to award funding (supported by HEIF funds) to academic and student led public engagement projects and initiatives across QMUL. This year the CPE funded nine projects through their Large Awards scheme, and 30 projects through the Small Awards scheme. Projects funded through the Large Awards scheme this year included a short-film competition and a series of walking tours linked to QMUL research. Details of this year's funded projects can be found on the CPE's webpages: www.qmul.ac.uk/publicengagement

Neuron Pod - Centre of the Cell are pleased to announce that planning permission has been granted for the construction of 'Neuron Pod', a new science education space. The striking Neuron Pod will be a 10 metre high free-standing outside structure, with construction due to begin in March 2017 and be completed December 2017.

Student Enterprise Festival - There is a Social Enterprise Festival planned for February 2017 in collaboration with City University. The festival is aimed at increasing student engagement in social enterprise, increasing employer engagement with this sector, and promoting enterprise support programmes across both institutions.