Queen Mary
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Partnerships Ethical Policy

Outcome requested:	Senate is asked **to approve** a revised Partnerships Ethical Policy.
Executive Summary:	Over the past year, Partnerships Board has discussed the need to refresh QMUL's International Partnerships Ethical Policy, the aim being: • to place greater emphasis on the QMUL Values; • to incorporate new legislation, such as the Modern Slavery Act; • to remove operational details that are better set out in other documents; • to make the policy less specifically about international partnerships, on the grounds that UK-based partners are also capable of presenting ethical issues.
Alignment with: • **QMUL Strategy** • **Internal Policies/Regulations** • **External Statutory Requirements**	The Policy outlines the principles through which QMUL ensures that its educational partnerships are consistent with Queen Mary's Purpose and charitable aims, support the achievement of the QMUL Strategy and embody the QMUL Values that underpin them. It also refers to other relevant QMUL policies.
Consideration of Strategic Risks:	The Policy addresses the following strategic risks: [8] commitment to public engagement; [9] reputational development and external relations; [10] partnerships; [13] maintain effective and constructive governance.
Subject to Prior and Onward Consideration by:	The Policy was been endorsed by Partnerships Board and QMSE in 11 October 2016.
Confidentiality and Distribution:	Unrestricted. Subject to approval by Senate, the Policy will be circulated internally for implementation and published on the QMUL website.
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required and undertaken. No equality impacts have been identified at this stage and the application of the Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by Partnerships Board. The Policy sets out QMUL's commitment to creating and maintaining a community in which all people can learn, work and interact freely without fear of

	discrimination, prejudice or harassment through its educational partnerships.
Author(s) :	Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council Secretary
Date:	12 October 2016
QMSE Sponsor(s):	Professor David Sadler, Vice-Principal (International)

PARTNERSHIPS ETHICAL POLICY

Purpose and scope

1.   This policy outlines the principles through which we ensure that our educational partnerships are consistent with Queen Mary's Purpose and charitable aims, support the achievement of the QMUL Strategy and embody the QMUL Values that underpin them. It applies to all of our partnerships that support the delivery of teaching and postgraduate research, including:
    *   collaborative programmes of study, research and training;
    *   individual modules that are delivered collaboratively;
    *   articulation and progression arrangements with partner institutions;
    *   study abroad, exchange and other mobility arrangements for students;
    *   placement learning, work experience and internships;
    *   agreements with student recruitment agencies.

Authority

2.   Senate holds responsibility, subject to the general superintendence of Council, for the academic activities of QMUL, including for safeguarding academic standards and the quality of the student experience, and for supporting and fostering academic freedom. Senate delegates its responsibilities in respect of educational partnerships as follows:
    *   Partnerships Board determines the suitability of potential partners, making reports on issues of strategic significance to Senate and the Queen Mary Senior Executive as appropriate (in practice, Partnerships Board delegates responsibility for the approval and management of agreements with student recruitment agencies to the International Office);
    *   Taught Programmes Board considers detailed academic proposals for taught programmes and modules that are delivered through collaborative arrangements;
    *   Ethics of Research Committee oversees the criteria and procedures for granting ethical approval for research.

3.   Partnerships with long-term strategic significance for QMUL require the approval of Council, consistent with its responsibility for:
    *   approving the mission and strategy, as well as securing the financial sustainability, of QMUL;
    *   safeguarding the reputation and Values of QMUL;
    *   providing for the general welfare of students, in consultation with Senate.

Principle 1: Integrity and ethical standards

4.   QMUL is committed to operating ethically across the full range of its activities, thereby safeguarding its reputation, as well as that of the UK higher education sector. In addition to operating ethically ourselves, we will undertake due diligence checks and risk assessments on all potential partners, giving appropriate emphasis to the principles of:
    *   good governance;
    *   financial probity and sustainability;
    *   freedom from undue influence and conflicts of interest;
    *   compliance with legal obligations and professional standards;
    *   capacity to enter into the proposed partnership.

5.   The same ethical standards apply to bodies that provide sponsorship to our students, although QMUL's contractual relationship will be with the student in the majority of cases, rather than with the sponsor.

6.	In order to ensure that the principles outlined in this policy are put into practice, all partnerships will be governed by an appropriate written agreement and reviewed on a periodic basis. These agreements will prohibit partners from transferring or sub-contracting their obligations to others without QMUL's approval.

Relevant policies:
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy
- Anti-Money Laundering Policy
- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- Ethical Investment Policy
- Gift Acceptance Policy
- Health and Safety Policies
- Modern Slavery Statement
- Research Integrity Policy
- Joint Research Management Policies with Barts Health NHS Trust
- Standards of Business Conduct

Principle 2: Academic standards

7.	QMUL adheres unequivocally to its fundamental academic mission, which is to pursue the creation and dissemination of knowledge to the highest international standards, thereby transforming wider society and the lives of students and staff. To this end, we will only enter into educational partnerships that:
- support the achievement of the QMUL Strategy;
- contribute to and enhance the reputation of QMUL;
- embody our Values and commitment to freedom of speech within the law.

8.	QMUL holds ultimate responsibility for the academic standards of its awards and the quality of the learning opportunities of its students. The same standards apply to all our educational activities, including partnerships. In order to safeguard QMUL's academic standards and reputation, we will not:
- delegate final decisions on the admission of students to our programmes, or take account of factors other than academic merit and potential in admission decisions;
- delegate final decisions on the assessment of students, or take account of factors other than academic and relevant professional attainment when conferring academic credit and awards;
- enter into validation or franchise arrangements.

Relevant policies:
Academic Regulations
Admissions Policy
Code of Practice on Assessment and Feedback
Freedom of Speech Policy
Guidelines on the Right to Privacy and the Monitoring of Data
Intellectual Property Policy
Quality Framework

Principle 3: Equality and diversity

9.	QMUL is diverse and inclusive, with a proud record of nurturing and supporting the best and brightest of students, and the most talented staff, regardless of their social or economic background. We are committed to creating and maintaining a community in which all people can learn, work and interact freely without fear of discrimination, prejudice or harassment. A continued adherence to this tradition will inform our educational partnerships. To this end, we will take account of information about the commitment of potential partners to equality and

diversity, as well as information about the local context and legislation, in our due diligence and risk assessment processes.

Relevant policies:
- [Equal Opportunities Policy Statement](#)
- [Dignity at Work Policy Statement](#)
- [Harassment Policy](#)

Principle 4: Engagement with local, national and international communities

10.   QMUL is equally committed to the achievement of the highest international standards in education and to the service of its local communities through public engagement and the promotion of opportunity to individuals less favoured by financial or social background. This defining and differentiating characteristic of QMUL will inform the development of our educational partnerships, whether they are to embed an international dimension in our activities, to further enhance our stature as a leading global university, or to achieve maximum impact from our academic work through public engagement and partnerships. We will be respectful of local and cultural differences of approach in all our interactions with partners, nationally and internationally.

Academic Registrar and Council Secretary
October 2016

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

Queen Mary
University of London

Name of Policy/Procedure/Service/Function/Strategy assessed: Partnerships Ethical Policy	Is this New? ☒ Or Existing? ☐
Assessment conducted by (name and contact): Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council Secretary	Date of Assessment: 04/08/2016
Department/Faculty: ARCS	Head of Department sign and print:	Review Date: September 2019

1. Evidence considered. What data or other information have you used to inform the development and assessment of this Policy/Procedure/Service/Function/Strategy?

The Partnerships Ethical Policy outlines the principles through which QMUL ensures that its educational partnerships are consistent with Queen Mary's Purpose and charitable aims, support the achievement of the QMUL Strategy and embody the QMUL Values that underpin them. It also refers to other relevant QMUL policies. There are no measurable impacts on individuals or groups, but the Policy sets out QMUL's commitment to creating and maintaining a community in which all people can learn, work and interact freely without fear of discrimination, prejudice or harassment through its educational partnerships.

2. **Consultation.** Have you consulted staff/students/service users representatives including those from underrepresented/ disadvantaged groups? What were their views?

There are no measurable impacts on individuals or groups, but we have consulted widely with staff and students who will use the Policy.

3. Promoting equality. Does this policy/procedure have a positive impact on equality or prevent discrimination? What evidence is there to support this? Could it do more? How would you communicate it?

The Policy sets out QMUL's commitment to creating and maintaining a community in which all people can learn, work and interact freely without fear of discrimination, prejudice or harassment through its educational partnerships. The Policy will be circulated internally for implementation and published on the QMUL website.

4. Identifying the adverse impact

Identify any issues in the document which could have an adverse impact (direct or indirect) on any of following groups:

    1 Race/Ethnicity   **5** People from different age groups   **9** People with caring responsibilities
    2 Women and/or men, including pregnant women   **6** Religion and Belief (including people with no faith)   (not covered by Equality Act but can
    3 People with disabilities   **7** People who are married or in a civil partnership   impact on other groups)
    4 Heterosexual, lesbians, gay men and bisexual people   **8** Transgender people

Impact Identified	Equality Group	Evidence *Refer to information gathered (section 1) and consultation (2)*	Adjustment /Justification *Can adjustments be implemented? Can barriers be removed? Can the issue be justified?*	Proposed Action *If the issue cannot be fully justified, identify the action(s) to be taken*	Person responsible for action(s) & timeframe
None					

Monitoring How will you monitor the impact of the policy/procedure/service, etc. on the above equality groups? – include a review date.

The application will be monitored on an ongoing basis by Partnerships Board and there will be a formal review in September 2019.