

Vice-Principal Student Experience, Teaching and Learning's Report to Senate

Student Recruitment for 2017/18

For undergraduate programmes, applications are a little behind where we were last year. The main decline is in EU and overseas applications but, home applications are down as well. That said, we are on par with our competitor group and the sector overall. As of 21 February 2017, when most Home, EU and Overseas applications have been received (though further applications will be received up until the final UCAS deadline of 30 June 2017), the recruit picture was:

UG	Applications 2017				Applications % change 2016 to 2017			
	EU	H	O/S	Total	EU	H	O/S	Total
HSS	2032	7111	3718	12861	-16%	-11%	-17%	-14%
SMD	630	4093	978	5701	6%	11%	-5%	7%
S&E	1113	6352	2267	9732	-3%	-2%	8%	0%
Total	3775	17556	6963	28294	-9%	-4%	-8%	-6%
UG	Offers 2017				Offers % change 2016 to 2017			
	EU	H	O/S	Total	EU	H	O/S	Total
HSS	1166	5378	2065	8609	-27%	-2%	-19%	-11%
SMD	41	344	55	440	-28%	17%	15%	11%
S&E	623	4846	1469	6938	8%	5%	20%	8%
Total	1830	10568	3589	15987	-18%	2%	-6%	-3%

The decline in applications is for HSS particularly; all Schools except Geography and SPIR have fewer applications than last year. This is in part because of a strategy to increase or sustain high-entry requirements in the high-volume areas such as SBM, SEF and Law.

For postgraduate taught programmes, applications are significantly higher than at this point last year:

PG	Applications 2017				Applications % change 2016 to 2017			
	EU	H	O/S	Total	EU	H	O/S	Total
HSS	444	449	8788	9681	12%	20%	14%	14%
SMD	35	318	1175	1528	-13%	88%	21%	29%
S&E	34	155	1228	1417	36%	85%	52%	55%
Total	513	922	11191	12626	12%	47%	18%	19%
PG	Offers 2017				Offers % change 2016 to 2017			
	EU	H	O/S	Total	EU	H	O/S	Total
HSS	396	208	5596	6200	46%	8%	38%	37%
SMD	33	79	578	690	38%	23%	44%	41%
S&E	26	67	606	699	73%	37%	24%	27%
Total	455	354	6780	7589	46%	16%	37%	37%

This is due in part to the investment of additional staff resource in, and reorganisation of, central Admissions, which is leading to faster turnaround and conversion of PGT applications.

QMUL Model

See separate Senate paper (SE2016.40).

Academic Credit Framework

Senate agreed in June 2016 that a consultation would be held to test whether we should retain our 15-credit module structure, or explore alternative models. This consultation ran from 02 November 2016 until 27 January 2017. Recommendations based on feedback to the consultation are being

considered at Education Quality Board on 15 March 2017. Senate will consider recommendations at its meeting on 05 June 2017.

Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Submission

QMUL's TEF Year Two provider submission was completed and submitted by the deadline of 26 January 2017. Outcomes will be published in May in time to be available for students applying to start their studies in 2018/19. After TEF Year Two, a lessons-learned exercise will be undertaken by HEFCE. Pilots are planned for Year Three to test the assessment frameworks for 'subject-level' TEF.

- Information on the TEF is available at <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/lt/tef/>
- TEF FAQs are available here: <http://my.qmul.ac.uk/information/192907.html>

Development of online provision: "Queen Mary Digital"

We have now established a partnership with Cambridge Education Group (CEG Digital) to develop a portfolio of high-quality online postgraduate programmes for part-time global delivery. Three programmes have now been identified for launch in 2017/18:

- MA International Relations (SPIR) – launch September 2017
- LLM International and comparative dispute resolution (CCLS) – launch September 2017
- MSc Global Public Health and Policy (SMD, Blizard) – launch Jan or April 2018

With further programmes under consideration for September 2018. There are numerous work streams undertaking intensive work to ensure readiness.

Strategic Review of the Access Agreement

The current strategic review of the Access Agreement for 2018/19 provides an opportunity ensure the Access Agreement is designed in a way that provides the greatest benefit to our students, to consider the range of activities we support and the balance of spending between direct financial support for students, outreach, and student engagement, retention and success. A working group was formed in November 2016. It is currently considering alternative models to be confirmed in time to inform the 2018/19 Access Agreement, which is due for submission on 26 April 2017.

Office for Students Consultation

The government has been consulting on proposed registration fee models for the Office for Students. The consultation paper was circulated to Faculties, Professional Services and the Students' Union (deadline 20 February). These are now being collated. A final draft will be considered at QMSE ahead of the 14 March deadline. The consultation can also be found at:

https://consult.education.gov.uk/he-landscape-reform/office-for-students-registration-fees/supporting_documents/OfS%20registration%20fees%20consultation.pdf

Teaching and Learning Conference and Drapers' Lecture

The annual conference and lecture took place on Wednesday 25 January 2017, providing an opportunity for staff to share good practice and discuss issues relating to student experience, teaching and learning. The title of this year's conference was "Teaching Excellence and Internationalisation". A range of posters on projects funded by the Westfield Fund for Enhancing the Student Experience were on display. Chris Millward, Director (Policy) at HEFCE delivered an illuminating Plenary Lecture entitled "Higher Education Reform 2.0: Quality, Competition and Choice", which explored the Government's higher education reform and what they mean for higher education institutions. The annual Drapers' lecture was delivered this year by Dr Jo Beall, Director Education and Society and Executive Board Member of British Council: "Intellectual Property: Rights, Risks and Rebellions in International Higher Education". Videos and posters from the conference are available at: <https://adept.qmul.ac.uk/?serie=teaching-learning-conference-drapers-lecture-2017-teaching-excellence-internationalisation>. There is also a feedback survey for those who attended the conference, which can be found here: <https://qmul.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/teaching-and-learning-conference-and-drapers-lecture-2017>

Westfield Fund for Enhancing the Student Experience

The 2017 round of the Westfield Fund was launched at the Teaching and Learning Conference. £100K is available to fund projects, with an additional £5K provided by the Drapers' Fund for

Innovation in Learning and Teaching. We invite applications for initiatives with the specific aim of enhancing the experience for students. There are two funding streams. £80K is available for large grants of up to £25K. £25K is available for smaller projects with budgets of up to £5K. Deadline for applications is 5pm on 5 May 2017. Further information can be found at: <http://capd.qmul.ac.uk/what-we-offer/educational-development/funding-developments-in-curriculum-and-teaching/westfield-fund/>

Student Surveys

The National Student Survey 2017 opened at the start of the year. QMUL launched the survey slightly later than in previous years. Responses to date have been steady, but we are behind our position in 2016. This year, the Queen Mary Students' Union, in line with the NUS, is running a campaign to boycott the National Student Survey (NSS) because NSS results form part of the metrics used by the TEF, and the TEF links to tuition fees. The UCU supports the NUS's boycott of the NSS. FAQs on the NSS and its relationship to TEF are available here: <http://my.qmul.ac.uk/surveys/192908.html>, which can be used in communications with students. We will continue to promote the survey as the feedback we receive enhances our understanding of student experience, and informs our review and planning processes. It is important, however, that we adhere to Ipsos MORI guidelines on promoting the survey. These guidelines are included in the guidance for staff provided by the communications team (<http://connect.qmul.ac.uk/images/191436.pdf>). FAQs for students are provided here: <http://my.qmul.ac.uk/surveys/192908.html>. Promotional resources are available at: <http://connect.qmul.ac.uk/teachlearn/nss2017/index.html> and <http://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6804>

HEFCE Catalyst bid successes

We have recently been successful in two collaborative applications to HEFCE's Catalyst Fund (Call B): one led by the University of Exeter on differential outcomes for BTEC entrants; and one led by the University of Roehampton on BME differential outcomes. Jane Reid (EECS) is leading for QMUL on both projects.

Foundation Studies

Development of the 'School' of Foundation Studies. The proposed models for a dedicated 'School' were discussed at Senate in December 2016, resulting in a consultation post-Senate on the proposal revised in the light of feedback. The proposal was supported by the Faculty of Science and Engineering (S&E) but far less so by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. While yet to be confirmed, it is now proposed that a pilot is undertaken focussed on S&E foundation programmes and TNE foundation provision.

New teaching and learning appointments in the Faculties

Alastair Owens has completed his term as Deputy Dean for Taught Programmes in Humanities and Social Sciences at the end of 2016. He has been replaced by Christina Perry from the School of Law. In Science and Engineering, Nick Bryan-Kinns has finished his term, and has been replaced by Henri Huijberts from the School of Engineering and Materials Science. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Deputy Deans for their contribution and welcome the new appointees.

Engagement, Retention and Success: first year experience events

After successful sessions in the autumn term, featuring talks from Sally Kift (James Cook University), Becky Turner (Plymouth University) and the Behavioural Insights team, the season of events focusing on the first-year experience continues. Coming up are:

- [*Making the Most of Time and Space: Flipped Pedagogies and Peer Instruction*](#) 17 March, 11am-12pm, Fogg Lecture Theatre, Fogg Building. Speakers include Dr Ross Galloway, Senior Teaching Development Officer from the University of Edinburgh
- [*Round Table - Sharing Practices on the First-Year Experience: Celebrating Success*](#) 29 March 2017, 3-5pm, Room 2.17, Arts Two Building
- [*The Third Annual ERS Symposium: The First-Year Educational Experience – What do we know and what needs to change*](#) 11 May 2017, 10.30am-4.30pm, Senior Common Room,

Whitechapel. Participants include Professor Alan Jenkins, Emeritus Professor at Oxford Brookes University
More information can be found at: <http://qplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=5727>