

Vice Principal International's Report to Senate

The Principal and Vice-Principal (International) travelled to China in March for a series of meetings with some of QMUL's most significant partners in the country. These included discussions with the institution's Joint Programme and Joint Education Initiative partners in China; attending the annual Board meeting of the Confucius Institute at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; and a meeting with a senior Hong Kong alumnus who has been instrumental in the establishment of the Ning Po – Hong Kong scholarships.

The VP International Tour of Middle East and North Africa in April involved participation by a delegation of four academic Schools from all three Faculties to deliver a comprehensive schedule of in-country engagement. The tour visited Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Egypt, encouraging academic engagement in-country with current and prospective partners, supporting student recruitment, strengthening alumni relations, and raising the institution's profile in the region. The itinerary included visits to HEIs, government organisations, and meetings with senior alumni. The Centre for Commercial Legal Studies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Justice in Qatar to deliver an external training programme.

The QMUL Summer School is into its next development phase for delivery in summer 2018. This will be the first institutional wide Summer School offering which has a number of forecasted benefits for the institution including diversification of the academic portfolio; an expanded reputation and financial benefit downstream of a successful launch; and future Masters/PhD level study from those students who have a positive "taster experience" on short term study. Initial marketing and promotion is underway with the institution's partners, primarily in North America, and the programme will be open for admission in autumn 2017. The initial academic offering showcases the high quality teaching at QM in addition to presenting "London as classroom", with modules including field trips and site visits to complement classroom delivery. A Summer School Director has been recently appointed for start this summer.

Applications for both inbound and outward student mobility are positive for the 2017/18 academic year, with a 33% increase in accepted offers from inbound students for study in London through the Study Abroad scheme. Recent discussions with academic Schools led by the Academic Lead for Outward Mobility, Dr Eyal Poleg have seen the majority to move to offer a four year undergraduate degree option which would include a year abroad in Year III. A recent bid for Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility funding was successful in securing approx. € 526k in funding to support staff and student mobility to an expanded range of countries including Colombia, Mexico, Uganda, Russia, Israel, China and India.

Since the last report, the International Partnerships team has hosted a visit from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines, a new educational partnership developed through development funding secured from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).