

## **Vice Principal International's Report to Senate**

Professor David Sadler retired on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas will hold the interim position of Academic Lead for Internationalisation until the end of May 2018.

International student recruitment enrolments for the 2017/18 intake have been generally positive in the context of competitor activity and reflect the challenges posed by the external market. By level of study, we welcomed new student enrolments across the following study levels: International UG – up 0.9% to 919; International PGT – up 47.2% to 2531; EU UG – down 8.9% to 401; and EU PGT – up 16.5% to 487. Given the external context of steep currency devaluation, falling oil and commodity prices, and uncertainty around BREXIT, these figures, particularly around PGT, put QMUL significantly ahead of some of our RG competitors. They also mean that QMUL has now achieved the student recruitment targets set out in the QMUL Strategy – 50 % increase in the number of non-UK students (including associates) studying with QMUL in London by 2018/19. To support the achievement of student recruitment targets in 2018/19, and to ensure international activities remain aligned, this year's annual international planning meetings have now been held with almost all Schools and Institutes. Those remaining are scheduled to take place before Christmas.

Initiatives to support outward student mobility are ongoing under the leadership of Dr Eyal Poleg, Academic Lead for Outward Student Mobility. These include regular communications with Schools to support them as they recruit to new four-year degree programmes and consider partnership needs. The second Go Abroad Fair at QMUL was held in October with over 450 attendees. The GO team are working on QChallenges, an aspect of the QMUL model, by developing support mechanisms for 80 students to spend time at KTH Stockholm (50) and Universiti Malaya (30). In October, QMUL signed up to the UUK International 'Go International: Stand Out' campaign, a national initiative to double the percentage of UK-domiciled students who study, work or volunteer abroad during their degrees.

A new Summer Schools Director, Sophie Dilley, joined QMUL from SOAS on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The Summer School, which will offer 15 courses over two three week blocks, is now open for applications. Marketing and promotion is underway with the institution's partners, primarily in North America, and initial feedback has been positive with applications beginning to come in. The academic offering which spans all three faculties showcases our high quality teaching in addition to presenting "London as classroom", with modules including field trips and site visits to complement classroom delivery.

Since the last report, the International Partnerships team has hosted/co-hosted visits from: The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); Beijing Jiaotong University, China; Novosibirsk University, Russia; Universiti Malaya, Malaysia; Universiti Teknologi, Malaysia; Xiamen University, China; Kuwait Cultural Attache, Kuwait; Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, China; Minzu University, China; and Dental Council of India, India. A new International Partnerships Officer, Clare Burke, joined the team from UCL on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

In October, the Academic Lead for Internationalisation visited China to meet with partner universities in Shanghai and Beijing and hosted an alumni reception. He also represented QMUL at the UUKI Asia Network meeting in London in October.