



Senate

Paper Title	Higher Education Review
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to consider the proposed approach for preparing for Higher Education Review.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<p>Queen Mary will undergo Higher Education Review in early 2016–17. Initial preparations will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [a] a self-assessment of policy and practice in reference to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education; [b] a desk-based review of academic governance arrangements; [c] a benchmarking exercise on student engagement in quality management and enhancement. <p>The Vice-Principal's (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) Advisory Group will have oversight of the preparations. Senate is asked to note in reference to Senate minute 2013.06 that this group has been reformulated and will undertake detailed work on quality management and enhancement on behalf of Senate.</p>
Regulatory/statutory reference points	Senate has general responsibility under the Ordinances for the academic activity of Queen Mary, including procedures that relate to academic standards, academic quality and the quality of the student experience.
Strategy and risk	Failure to achieve a satisfactory outcome in Higher Education Review would lead to reputational damage and potentially the loss of our license to sponsor international students in the UK.
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	N/A
Author	<p>Jonathan Morgan Academic Registrar and Council Secretary</p> <p>Jane Pallant Deputy Academic Registrar</p>

1. Higher Education Review

- 1.1 QMUL will undergo the Quality Assurance Agency's Higher Education Review (HER) process in 2016–17, with the review visit expected to take place in November 2016. Senate received a detailed briefing on the HER process in October 2013 (SE2013.04) and further information is available on the [QAA website](#). This paper describes our preparations for HER over the coming year.

2. UK Quality Code of Higher Education

- 2.1 The [UK Quality Code](#) sets out the expectations and indicators of sound practice against which QMUL will be assessed during the review. A self-assessment of policy and practice in reference to the Code is therefore a key component of our preparations for HER. ARCS has already undertaken an initial mapping exercise in a number of areas with input from schools and institutes. Some significant changes have been introduced as a result of this, including amendments to the academic regulations for research degrees, revisions to the annual programme review process and the establishment of the Educational Partnerships Board.
- 2.2 ARCS will continue with the mapping exercise with input from schools, institutes and other Professional Services departments in order to gather evidence of compliance and to highlight areas where further work may be required. The outcome of the mapping exercise for each section of the UK Quality Code will be considered by the relevant Board of Senate, or advisory group. The aim will be to complete the exercise by January 2015 and to bring an overview and recommendations to Senate at its March meeting.

3. Review of academic governance

- 3.1 The HER process will include an assessment of the effectiveness of Queen Mary's academic governance arrangements. It is therefore timely to undertake our own review in parallel with Council's own effectiveness review that will take place between October 2014 and January 2015. The review of academic governance will be a largely desk-based exercise, encompassing governance within schools and institutes as well as at the institutional level. The points of reference for the review will include the UK Quality Code, the QAA's criteria for the granting of degree awarding powers and the QMUL Academic Governance Framework.

4. Benchmarking exercise on student engagement

- 4.1 Student engagement continues to be a major theme in HER. It would be opportune therefore to benchmark our work to engage students in quality management and enhancement with practices elsewhere in the sector.

5. Oversight of preparations for HER

- 5.1 As agreed by Senate in 2013–14, a sub-board will be established to undertake detailed work on quality management and enhancement. The Vice-Principal's (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) Advisory Group will be reformulated and renamed to undertake this role, and will report to each meeting of Senate with an update on preparations for HER.