



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group Executive Summary of the meetings held on 15 December 2014, 16 February and 18 May 2015
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the paper.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Advisory Group is to develop and monitor strategies and policies for research and research support in QMUL. • The members of the Group are the VP-Research (Chair), the Faculty Deans and Deputy Deans for Research (one of the Deputy Deans is the Director of the Doctoral College), and the Director of Research Services and Business Development. Heads and representatives of relevant Professional Services departments are invited to attend the meetings as appropriate.
Questions for Senate to consider	The paper is provided for information .
Regulatory/statutory reference points	Under the Queen Mary Delegation Framework, the VP-Research has responsibility for the leadership of cross-QM research and research degree matters, including academic standards and the development and delivery of the QM Research Strategy.
Strategy and risk	n/a
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	For report to Senate.
Authors	Mary Childs, ARCS, secretary to the Advisory Group
Sponsor	Professor Bill Spence, Vice-Principal (Research)

SENATE

VICE-PRINCIPAL RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Summary of the meetings held on
15 December 2014, 16 February and 18 May 2015**

*For a full set of notes please contact the Secretary: Mary Childs
m.childs@qmul.ac.uk*

The most recent update from the Vice-Principal (Research) is available at
http://www.qmul.ac.uk/vpresearch_nl/vpresearch15January2015.html

1. Summary

This report summarises the main areas of discussion of the Research Advisory Group to the Vice-Principal (Research) at the meetings held on 15 December 2014, 16 February and 18 May 2015.

2. Annual Research and Impact Review meetings

The Group considered preparations for the annual meetings between the VP-Research, the Faculty Dean for Research and each school/institute to discuss research activity and research impact, to be held in late May and June.

The Research Consultation Group had discussed the support for research staff, and particularly Early Career Researchers (ECRs), provided by Faculties and Departments, and teaching workloads for ECRs. It was agreed to incorporate a survey of provision of support for researchers into the Annual Research Review meetings.

3. Monitoring the recovery of research overheads

Council's Audit and Risk Committee received an internal audit report from KPMG on overhead recovery rates within QMUL. One of the recommendations in the audit is that a central body should have oversight of overhead recovery rates through quarterly reports produced by JRMO. It has been agreed that VPRAG is best placed to monitor overhead recovery rates. A draft report was discussed at VPRAG on 18 May. JRMO is refining the report in discussion with the VP-Research and the Deans for Research.

4. HR Excellence in Research Award

The HR Excellence in Research Award is a measure of a research institution's alignment with the UK Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, promoted by RCUK and other research funding organisations. The Concordat maps to the European Charter for Researchers. VPRAG received an update on the preparations for the four-year external review of QMUL's alignment with the Concordat, due in early 2016. Good progress has been made in preparing for the review and those involved are confident that QMUL will retain the HR Excellence in Research Award.

5. EU research funding - draft Horizon 2020 Work Programmes

The Group noted the publication of the draft Horizon 2020 research programme outlines for 2016-17. This provides an opportunity for faculties, schools and institutes to review how their research strengths align with the draft workplans and to consider potential areas in which to focus applications.

6. Professional Services Research Group

VPRAG noted the draft terms of reference and membership of the new Professional Services Research Group. The first meeting was held on 21 May. The group is chaired by the Director of Research Services and Business Development, with representation from all PS departments involved in supporting research. It aims to co-ordinate support for research activity across Professional Services and to take forward actions initiated by VPRAG. The group will report to VPRAG.

7. Doctoral College

The Doctoral College Management Group oversees and co-ordinates college-wide provision for research students, under the chairmanship of the Director of the Doctoral College and working closely with the faculty Deputy Deans for Research. Projects reported to VPRAG include:

- The first QMUL Graduate Festival will be held from 8-12 June. The programme has been designed by a steering group of research students. The Festival is an exciting cross-disciplinary week of events that aims to showcase the cutting-edge research being conducted by PhD students at QMUL and to bring researchers together. The week provides workshops, seminars, training sessions, networking events and symposia, and ends with a conference and debate.
- Supervision Log. The new online supervision log on MySIS for use by research students and their supervisors was launched at the beginning of January. The facility allows students to load notes of their supervision meetings, summarising the work discussed and goals for the next meeting, onto MySIS for the supervisor(s) to review and add any comments. The aim is to facilitate communication between students and their supervisors and to support academic progression.
- A review of consistency in the rates of pay for work carried out by research students for schools and institutes, and in the training offered to students in preparing for teaching duties.
- Enhancements to the main PGR recruitment webpages on the QMUL internet.
- PRES 2015 survey. The national Postgraduate Research Experience Survey has now closed. The QMUL response rate to the survey has been over 50%.

8. Co-funded PhD scholarships with the China Scholarships Council

Under the Ministry of Education China, the China Scholarships Council (CSC) sponsors Chinese citizens to study abroad. CSC pays living expenses and the host universities provide a fee waiver for tuition fees and bench fees. QMUL is one of the biggest supporters in the UK of the CSC scheme. For 2015 entry 80 CSC applicants were made offers to study at QMUL; of these 64 students applied to CSC naming QMUL as their chosen place of study. CSC has made 49 awards to QMUL candidates. This excellent outcome in a very competitive scheme reflects the efforts made by QMUL to support candidates through the application process, which in turn encouraged candidates to choose to link their application to QMUL above other

institutions they may have applied to.

9. Reports

The Advisory Group receives oral reports at each meeting from the Faculty Deans for Research and the Director of the Doctoral College.

Oral and written updates were received from the following groups:

- Doctoral College Management Group;
- EU Advisory Group;
- Research Consultation Group;
- Research Impact Group;
- Research Enterprise Group;
- Annual report from the Ethics of Research Committee reporting on volume of applications considered for ethical approval through the standard and fast track application routes, and other matters discussed by the Committee.

10. Date of next meeting

6 July 2015