

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

The first meeting of a new Outward Student Mobility Task and Finish Group was held in January 2016. Convened at the request of the VP to address slow progress in relation to SA 4.2 (Increase study-related opportunities outside of the UK for London-based students), the group has been tasked to review current outward student mobility trends at QMUL, identify barriers for growth and develop a set of recommendations to counter these. The group is expected to report back to QMSE by July 2016.

Following an initial piece of market research carried out by external consultants overseen by Marketing and Communications, a new working group (Summer School Development Task and Finish Group) is now in the process of being established to oversee the development of the business case in support of introducing a QMUL wide Summer School Programme in 2017. The group, which will include representation from across faculties, Professional Services and the Students' Union, are expected to meet regularly between March and September and will be consulting more widely with schools around course development in the near future.

In semester 1, the new QMUL Confucius Institute enrolled 36 self-funded students onto Mandarin language classes. A student exchange agreement has been signed with Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (QMUL's CI partner) and the first in a series of on-campus events was held in February, to coincide with Chinese New Year. The concert which was organised in conjunction with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association included performances from both Eastern and Western musicians working on art and science fusion.

In January, a new co-funding agreement was signed between QMUL and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in support of 36 PhD students per annum for the next five years. A direct outcome of the VP's trip to Pakistan in October, scholarships will be offered in the following schools at QMUL: School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, School of Engineering and Materials Science, School of Mathematical Sciences, School of Physics and Astronomy, School of Business and Management, School of Economics and Finance, School of Geography, School of Languages Linguistics and Film and School of Law (Law and Centre for Commercial Law Studies).

During January and February, the VP's office has hosted visits from: Zhejiang University, University of Sao Paulo, Jindal Global University and the University of Islamabad. This year's annual series of Embassy and High Commission visits has also begun. In particular these have focused on those SE Asian embassies (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam) in advance of a tour of the region with academic colleagues in Spring and have proven useful in helping facilitate appointment setting with national funding bodies and suchlike.

In February, the first of the re-launched Regional Interest Groups met – South Asia and South East Asia. Intended as a forum for information sharing, the groups aim to bring together interested staff to highlight opportunities and best practice in relation to student recruitment and teaching and research partnerships. Longer term it is hoped they will support the diversification of international activity.

Further to the VP's participation in a ministerial delegation to India led by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Minister of State for Universities and Science in December, a new MoU was signed with Jindal Global University (JGU) in support of the establishment of an Association of Emergent South Asian Research Universities. This initiative is being pursued as an opportunity to spread our civic responsibility onto a global stage and demonstrate our commitment to the values of autonomous development and

capacity-building in the region. Longer term, and in conjunction with activities such as our new co-funding relationship with the HEC in Pakistan, we believe that it will help facilitate research collaboration, sustain student recruitment and raise our reputation.