

## Vice-Principal International's Report to Senate

The VP International led a QMUL delegation to South East Asia (Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam) from the 4th to 15th April 2016. The region was targeted given the potential to increase student recruitment, extend our existing TNE network, initiate research collaboration with clear, potential sources of funding and support growth in PhD student numbers either through closer relationships with the main national scholarship bodies or joint doctoral programmes for young faculty with partner universities. The group, comprised of colleagues from the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS), School of Law, the School of Business and Management and the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, with support from the International Office carried out a programme of visits to top-tier universities, ministries of higher education and scholarship bodies as well hosting a number of public lectures and events for QMUL alumni and offer-holders in support of student recruitment efforts for September 2016 entry.

The first meetings of a new Summer School Development Task and Finish Group were held in April and May. Convened at the request of QMSE to oversee the development of the business case in support of introducing a QMUL wide Summer School Programme in 2017, the group is comprised of representatives from across faculties, Professional Services and the Students' Union. At present, the group is currently concentrating on working with schools around course development with a view to beginning to actively market the Summer School from September 2016 onwards.

During March -May, the VP's office has hosted visits in London from/to: SENER, Mexico; Howard University, US; National University of Singapore; and the Kazakh, Turkish, Thai, Singaporean, Japanese, South Korean and Taiwanese embassies.

This year's annual international scholars' reception was held on Tuesday 15th March 2016. Over 100 scholars attended from across QMUL along with Embassy and scholarship officials. Following the reception, discussions have arisen with the Turkish, Iraqi and Kazakh embassies and around the possibility of co-funding and joint PhD arrangements with further details expected to be agreed by the beginning of the next academic year.

In support of diversifying our partnerships activity away from China in light of Ministry of Education regulations, and to mitigate the risks of being over-reliant on any one market, QMSE recently approved a new International Partnerships Plan. Designed to also support the aims in this area set out in the International Strategy, the plan is based around 5 key objectives: Achieve representation from all QMUL Schools across international partnerships as appropriate; Diversify geographic location of partners; Develop wide-ranging, robust and enduring partnerships; Maximise promotion of the QMUL brand at partner institutions and through our partnerships portfolio; and Identify appropriate metrics for assessing the value and effectiveness of new and continuing partnerships and TNE activity.

Record numbers of QMUL students have signed up for short-term summer programmes this year following a concerted effort by the International Partnerships Office to better co-ordinate promotion. Study destinations include China, Colombia and Indonesia amongst others, with many students able to take advantage of either QMUL or external financial support. The increase in up-take in short outward mobility programmes has been noted by the Outward Student Mobility Task and Finish Group which is expected to report back to QMSE later in the summer and it is likely that one of the recommendations of the group will be that we should do more as an institution to support/promote such opportunities to our students.