



Senate

Paper Title	Partnerships Board - Executive Summary
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the PB Executive Summary
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This paper summarises the business of PB from 19 October 2018 to 12 February 2019
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	<p>QMUL is required to comply with the expectations for quality detailed in UK Quality Code for Higher Education which states: <i>'Where a provider works in partnership with other organisations, it has in place effective arrangements to ensure that the academic experience is high-quality irrespective of where or how courses are delivered and who delivers them.'</i></p> <p>The Partnerships Board undertakes detailed scrutiny of QMUL's partnership activity on behalf of Senate.</p>
Strategy and risk	PB's role is to evaluate and monitor the risks of QMUL partnership arrangements, and to consider relevant policies and procedures.
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	This paper is a report to Senate.
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PARTNERSHIPS BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary covers Partnership Board (PB) meetings held on 12 November and 11 December 2018. The next meeting of Partnerships Board will be held on 11 February 2019.

Terms of Reference and Membership

1. These were discussed at the meeting of 23 October 2018. With the introduction of the Global Engagement Executive, it was felt that changes may be required to the membership of Partnerships Board but this would be reviewed as the executive committee embedded its activity and remit.

Consideration of new partnership proposals and renewals

2. The Board considers new partnership proposals with both UK and international partners and evaluates any risk involved. During the reporting period, PB has considered the following proposals with the outcomes as shown.
3. Memoranda of Understanding

Proposed Partner	Internal QMUL partner(s)	Decision
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia	S&E Faculty	Approved
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China	HSS Faculty	Approved
Sun-Yat-Sen University, China	CCLS	Approved
São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), Brazil	WHRI	Approved
CINVESTAV, Mexico	SPA	Approved
Yonsei University, South Korea	All areas	Approved

4. Progression and Articulation Agreements

Proposed Partner	Internal QMUL partner(s)	Decision
East China University of Political Science and Law, China (renewal)	SEF, SBM, CCLS, SLLF, SPIR	Approved
Central South University, China (renewal)	HSS, S&E faculties	Approved
Hunan University, China (renewal)	EECS	Approved
Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia	CCLS	Approved

Sichuan University, China (renewal)	HSS, S&E faculties	Approved
Xiamen University, China (renewal)	SEMS	Approved
Sun-Yat-Sen University, China	CCLS	Approved
OP Jindal University, India (renewal)	HSS faculty	Approved
Juntendo University, Japan (renewal)	MBBS	Deferred
Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico (renewal)	SLLF	Approved
Sichuan University, China	All faculties	Approved

5. Exchanges (new and renewals)

Proposed Partner	Internal QMUL partner(s)	Decision
Rollins College, USA (Study Abroad)	General	Approved
Higher School of Economics – St Petersburg, Russia	SLLF	Approved
University of Sydney, Australia	General	Approved
University of Colorado Boulder, USA	General	Approved
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China	HSS	Approved
Universidad de los Andes, Colombia	SLLF	Approved
University of Zurich, Switzerland	Geography / SEF	Approved
Leiden University, Netherlands	SPIR	Approved
Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy – staff mobility exchange	WHRI	Approved
University of Verona, Italy	SED	Approved
University of Vienna, Austria	SPIR	Approved
Yonsei University, South Korea	General	Approved
Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, Germany	SLLF	Approved
Utrecht University, Netherlands (summer school exchange)	General	Approved
Swarthmore College, USA (Study Abroad)	General	Approved
CAPA, USA (Study Abroad)	General	Approved

6. Research

Proposed Partner	Internal QMUL partner(s)	Decision
Colciencias, Colombia – PhD co-funding proposal (20% fee discount agreed)	General	Approved

7. Funding and Scholarships

Proposed Partner	Internal QMUL partner(s)	Decision
Fulbright Scholarships Commission Postgraduate Award (one year full-time Masters only) - renewal	All faculties	Approved
Fulbright Scholarships Commission Scholar Award (visiting academic 3-9 months) – renewal	SMD, S&E faculties	Approved

Reports

8. PB received reports from the Annual Programme Review and Periodic Review undertaken for the PG Law programme. This programme is jointly run by QMUL and UCL on behalf of UoL Worldwide. The outcomes and recommendations were discussed by the group and the following issues were noted to be raised with the academic committee with oversight for this programme:

- Clarification of how the programme is addressing concerns raised by External Examiners on multiple occasions such as use of model answers, bunching of marks at 70 and challenging exam question structures
- Confirmation that retention issues are being monitored and addressed
- Monitoring of the variation in the number of awards being made year on year, including the recent decline and proportionally low level of distinctions awarded
- Confirmation that the VLE is being reviewed to improve accessibility
- Whether there are plans to expand teaching centres into other areas such as east Asia or Latin America

At its February meeting, PB received a response from the programme director at the University of London to confirm these points were being addressed.

Review of Partnerships Board

9. At the 23 October 2018 meeting, Partnerships Board discussed the findings of the review of its structure and the partnership approvals process. The following outcomes were agreed
- The triage structure would be implemented to streamline the partnership approval process and allow early identification of proposed partners that do not align with the Global Engagement Strategy.
 - The membership of Partnerships Board would be monitored and amended as required once the Global Engagement Executive was in full operation
 - Finance would be asked to provide a representative to attend Partnerships Board.
10. The implementation of the triage system has been effective in managing the number of partnership proposals that need to be considered by Partnerships Board. Therefore, at its meeting on 11 December, the group agreed that its meeting frequency would change from monthly to bi-monthly.

Other Matters under Discussion

11. Partnerships Board discussed other matters as follows:

- Reviewing the use of fee-waivers to attract PhD funding
- Monitoring, and discontinuing as necessary, partnerships that attract low numbers of students over time
- Generating sufficient Study Abroad placements to meet the increased need for opportunities due to the expansion in the number of degrees with Year Abroad options

Meetings in 2018-19

12. Following the decision made in the December meeting (see point ten above) PB meetings are scheduled as follows in 2018-19:

- 23 October 2018
- 12 November 2018
- 11 December 2018
- 11 February 2019
- 15 April 2019
- 3 June 2019