



Senate

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Points for Senate members to note and further information	N/A
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY – REPORT TO SENATE NOVEMBER 2019

Undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment

Applications for MBBS/GEP and BDS are currently up on 2018/19 levels, with interviews scheduled for January 2020. Applications to other SMD UG programmes also show an increase on 2018/19 levels, with an increase in offers and turnaround time.

Ahead of 1st December, enrolments to SMD PGT programmes are currently above target (1087), with 1101 students enrolled to date. Of those 333 are overseas, which is currently below target of 395. SMD distance learning courses have recruited above target, with 480 enrolments against a target of 453.

MBBS Malta

On Thursday 21st November, the Maltese Prime Minister officially opened the new teaching facility on the Malta campus. The new teaching building provides state of the art clinical training and teaching facilities. Work is ongoing to develop a portfolio of additional programmes which can be established on the Malta campus.

THE University Rankings

The Faculty have seen an increase in the position of Medicine and Dentistry from 67th to 63rd in the world. Across global rankings in general, work is ongoing to ensure that our reputational score is reflective of our research quality and impact.

Research Awards

SMD research grant awards as at November 2019 has reached the value of just under £23.5M, an increase of £7.9M over the last month. Key awards of note, and over £500k, include:

- Miguel Branco – BBSRC £600K
- Jesmond Dalli and Amrita Ahluwalia – Palatin Technologies £600K
- Tim Warner, Paul Armstrong – BHF programme ~£800K
- Ken Suzuki et al., – BHF programme ~£1.2M
- Jonathan Grigg, Cos Pitzalis, Frances Humby – EU Commission: Horizon 2020 £1.8M

VP Report to Senate – Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

December 2019

Research Grant Awards

In the last two months the Faculty has received over £1.6million^[1] of awards. We would particularly like to celebrate achievements in the School of Geography where colleagues have been successful in obtaining nearly half a million of GCRF related funding: Dr Philippa Williams has not only been awarded the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize (£100,000), but will lead a £290,000 British Academy GCRF project on “Surviving Violence: Everyday Resilience And Gender Justice In Rural-urban India”. In addition, Dr Tim Brown is working with Professor Andrew Prendergast (Blizard Institute) on the AHRC GCRF funded project (£200,000) in Zimbabwe “Building trans-disciplinary partnerships for exploring the impact of population displacement on nutrition interventions in rural Zimbabwe. Separately Dr James Bradley has been successful in securing NSF-UKRI £408,000 funding to work on Sensors UNder snow–Seasonal Processes in the Evolution of ARctic Soils (SUN SPEARS).

Queen Mary-IPN Challenge Led Sandpit on Smart Cities, Mexico City

At the end of September, HSS Early Career Researchers Dr Sam Halvorsen (School of Geography) and Dr Holly Ryan (School of Politics and International Relations) took part in Queen Mary-IPN Challenge Led Sandpit on Smart Cities in Mexico City. The sandpit was facilitated by Aurelija Povilaike, HSS Faculty Research Manager, using Logical Framework Approach. Both Holly and Sam together with Mexican colleagues have developed bids on Quantum Cities and Urban Buzz: Green Havens for Mexico City’s Pollinators and People. Even though the bids were not supported by internal funding, they were ranked highly, and colleagues are seeking external funding for the developed research ideas.

Welcome Back Week

During Week 8, a number of activities took place in the Faculty to welcome our first year students back to campus after Reading Week. These included Faculty-sponsored events such as Library tours, Library information sessions, a session on QMplus and a session on Mental Health Awareness. There were also many activities taking place in individual Schools, such as Careers sessions (LinkedIn Learning), relaxation sessions such as yoga, and social events

^[1] This is the amount including partner costs.

such as pizza parties and tea and cakes. These sessions provided opportunities for first year students and their tutors to refresh their knowledge of Queen Mary and School processes, and to relax and socialise.

Senate Report

Professor Wen Wang: Faculty of Science & Engineering

November 2019

Our schools have been preparing for the first semester-based exams taking place in January and the new challenges this brings in ensuring our students are appropriately supported in their preparations for sitting these exams. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues in the schools and wider university who have worked together to ensure the move to semester-based assessment is implemented in a way that enhances the student experience at Queen Mary.

During this period, the Faculty has been awarded a number of significant grant awards:

The London Interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Partnership, known as LIDO, has received a further five years' funding from the UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). The award aims to develop the next generation of bioscience researchers and will fund 190 PhD studentships overall, of which a minimum of 55 are earmarked as industrial collaboration "CASE" studentships. The funding represents an investment of over £20m as part of the third phase of the BBSRC's Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP). Queen Mary University of London is one of three London-based Russell Group University partners involved in the LIDO programme and will continue to support the training of early career scientists over the partnerships' next phase. LIDO focuses on combining biology with computational, materials and physical sciences and provides intensive training in coding for biologists and biology for students with a physical/computational sciences background. The programme emphasises equality and diversity through outreach activities and coaching for minority applicants, as well as summer undergraduate placements for students studying at less research-intensive institutions across London and the South East region.

STFC grant award - The amount awarded is around £900,000, which has been awarded in a highly competitive environment. We have been awarded six years of PDRA's, with three positions in total. Two of the positions are in Amplitudes, in the area of research of SAGEX. More information can be found here <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/spa/strings/opportunities/sagex/>. One of the positions is in String Theory. The success of this grant shows that we at Queen Mary are recognised as leading in theoretical high-energy Physics.

The Faculty Executive is currently undertaking the planning round for our operations, including forecasting for the growth identified in our 2030 Enabling Strategy. This strategy includes ambitious targets for research income growth and increasing our PGT cohort size and we are working with schools to establish how to support and encourage these ambitions.

Vice-Principal (Education) Update, October 2019

2019/20 student admissions

Recruitment and Clearing: Admissions position for November 2019

The Admissions team is still working through the final stages of processing applications and confirmations for programmes starting in September 2019. A near final report is possible:

Undergraduate: To date we have accepted over 1100 new students through Clearing, although a new service provided by UCAS has resulted in over 400 students previously placed at Queen Mary releasing themselves into Clearing. New Confirmation and Clearing dashboards developed by the Strategic Planning Office and Admissions have supported better-informed operational planning and decision-making. These included a new 'Unconditional Firm Aim', i.e. the number of students we need to recruit allowing for attrition during Confirmation and Clearing, as well as non-enrolments, in order to hit our 1st December student intake target.

We currently have 4278 home UG enrolments against the target of 4197 and 919 UG against the target of 984 for overseas students

A task and finish group has been working on improving the support students receive from Schools and Institutes, as well as central services, during the period of transition from results day to enrolment, and we look forward to seeing a lower attrition rate as a result of various initiatives that are under way.

Taught Postgraduate: The Admissions team continued to confirm places until the end of the enrolment period, here are the final admissions position. The PGT Overseas numbers are currently 3011 against the target of 2722. PGT Home are 2049 against a targets of 1903. Currently, we are over on the targets set by 289 overseas PGT and 146 home PGT.

Teaching Excellence Framework

Our preparations for TEF5 continue. On 15th November we held our second TEF dry-run panel. Following feedback from the 1st drafts all of the subject areas incorporated changes into their second draft. The second-draft panel was chaired by our external expert Professor Helen Higson (Provost, Aston University and a Discipline TEF Panel Deputy Chair). Prof Higson had been instrumental in marking the first round papers and gave us her feedback on the 2nd round. She emphasised that the latest submissions showed an "absolute step change" from the 1st drafts that she had read in June, and she could clearly see that a lot of hard work has been put in. A feedback report is currently being drafted and will be shared with the schools before the end of November.

GfG and Education Enabling Plan

The Education Strategy Group (ESG) away day took place on 28th October. The group comprised of the Directors of Education, Institute leads, Deputy VPs of Education, and Deans for Education. Thirty five staff attended (out of a possible 42).

I updated the group on an external evaluation of GfG that has been taking place over the summer months here is part of their summary introduction:

"Going for Gold expresses a new, transformative vision for education, emphasising student partnerships and co-creation. This vision is consistent with the growing international movement towards placing co-creation and the role of students as partners at the heart of strategies to enhance learning and teaching."

Along with my deputy VPs we undertook a review of the GfG work streams and mapped immediate ambitions from the Education Enabling Plan onto it. The external assessment will come to Senate further to the GfG Steering Group signing off.

The away day incorporated various presentations and group discussions, the agenda allowed for debate in the following areas:

- VP Education update.
- Updates on Student Engagement and Non-Continuation / Students 'Not Eligible to Progress' (NEtP). The SU Sabbatical officers took part in the presentation and debate that followed.
- Updates from the three Faculty Deans.
- Portfolio Programme review.
- DoE meeting programme and schedule with group debate.
- Education KPIs and Risk register, Catherine Murray presented Power Bi and new dashboards.
- HSS Approach to Fellowships.

Following each presentation the group expressed their views and discussed any implications to their areas. The day ended with various actions that we will be implementing this term including boosting fellowship submissions, and DoE group meetings to take place once a month for the next 6 months to be facilitated by a Leadership Development coach, three meetings are already taking place before the end of this year.

It was agreed the ESG group would meet bi-annually and the next scheduled event is on the 16th March.

Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes

Following the success of the 2018/19 Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes. I am delighted to confirm that these are once again being offered for 2019/20. The awards criteria emphasise that individuals and teams will be recognised for identifying an issue or area for improvement or innovation which aligns with the Going for Gold/2030 strategy and highlights work to address it through an evaluative and evidence-informed approach. More information can be found [here](#).

The deadline for submissions was Monday 11 November 2019 and we have received 56 applications. Judging Panels will be taking place week commencing 25th November. The prize winners will attend a presentation ceremony on Tuesday 10 December 2019 which will be co-hosted with Colin Bailey.

Education Leadership for 2019/20

We are pleased to announce that we have secured the Drapers' Charitable Fund grant (£54,200) for another year. The relevant staff and groups will be allocated the funds in the coming weeks. Currently in the pipeline we are planning the Drapers' Lecture to take place mid- February 2020, this will be hosted at the Drapers' Hall and will be a stand-alone event.

On the 10th of December I will be hosting a discussion panel with senior academics who will be deliberating The Future of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership in Higher Education. The panellists are leaders in their field and innovators within their institutions. We have 110 audience members already signed up and we are expecting a lively and interesting discussion from the guest speakers with inspiring examples of how they have led change and its impact. More information can be found at the following link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-future-of-teaching-learning-and-leadership-in-higher-education-tickets-74263208255>

The Head of Schools programme is currently underway and it will run until March 2020 with 7 full day session and 15 group sessions. We have also recently developed a Programme Directors programme, which will be offered as a pilot in HSS, in January 2020 (to be facilitated by Prof Stefan Krumaker, SBM).

The Director of the QM Academy interviews will take place on the 19th November, once the appointment is announced work will begin to build up this crucial operational arm of the Enabling Plan, and Access & Participation Plan for education and students.

Vice-Principal (International) Report to Senate

International Strategy, Policy and Partnerships

Queen Mary meetings with new UK Ambassadors

1. Since the previous Senate update, the university's engagement with new UK Ambassadors, designed to build Queen Mary's influence and reputation internationally, has included meetings with Dr Christian Turner CMG, UK High Commissioner (designate) to Pakistan and Deborah Bronnert CMG, UK Ambassador (designate) to Russia. Queen Mary will meet the UK Ambassador (designate) to Saudi Arabia, Mr Neil Crompton, in January 2020.
2. The first anniversary since the launch of the 2019-2022 Global Engagement Strategy was marked with a video message from the Vice Principal (International), to communicate the progress towards Strategy objectives via internal communications channels. Among the achievements to date:
 - a. Targeted appointments to accelerate internationalisation: three Deans for Global Engagement appointed, across all three Faculties, to support Strategy delivery; appointment of the inaugural Director of the Queen Mary Global Policy Institute.
 - b. A boost to Queen Mary's global ranking in the THE (from 130th to 110th in the world) and for 'international outlook' (from 25th to 20th in the world);
 - c. A growing international student community: an increase of over 400 students for 2019-20 relative to 2018-19; strong prospects for growth during the year ahead;
 - d. Partnering with the world's best: exchange agreements now active with almost half (40) of the 90 international institutions in the THE top 100 global university ranking;
 - e. Global alumni engagement: alumni events held in China, Hong Kong, Japan, S. Korea, Colombia, London. The appointment of a new, dedicated Global Alumni Manager will enable QM to establish formal Alumni Networks in ten target countries.

Partnerships update

3. Queen Mary's internal Global Engagement Research Initiation (GERI) seed funding call was launched in October 2019 and has subsequently awarded seed grants to support five projects across North America, South Korea and Europe, and 17 projects across a range of lower-middle income countries, the latter resourced via the university's internal Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Quality-Related (QR) allocation.
4. The Queen Mary Global Opportunities team has reported a number of successful outcomes from recent projects as follows:
 - a. 10% increase in Associate Student enrolment for Autumn 2019 vs Autumn 2018;
 5. A new bespoke programme with Ivy League school Dartmouth College; QM School of English and Drama will host 20 Dartmouth students in Autumn 2020;
 6. New exchange agreements with the University of Maryland, Arizona State University and National Taiwan University.

Recruitment update (as at 2 December)

Recruitment overview

7. The Global Engagement Office is focusing marketing and recruitment efforts on 55 countries (including EU). Fee paying associate student recruitment is performing well, with a 10% increase in September 2019 enrolments and a 34% increase in applications for Spring 2020.

Undergraduate overseas student recruitment

8. Currently 5% up on the same period in 2018 (at an early point in the recruitment cycle). Most Schools are either marginally up or down in terms of application data. The School of Law is currently 26% beneath 2018 levels, likely attributable to a fall in league position over the past two cycles (to 32nd in the Guardian, from 3rd place two years ago). Applications to the Malta programme have started strongly, as for other Schools (e.g. School of Business and Management up 7%; School of Economics and Finance up 19%; School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science up 16%). Applications to Foundation are up 44%, again at an early point in cycle.

Postgraduate overseas student recruitment

9. Postgraduate taught applications are currently 54% up on the same period in 2018, and have increased by over 100% relative to 2017 data. All Schools have seen significant increases with particularly strong growth in the Faculty of Science and Engineering (>75% increase). The decision to broaden the number of Chinese universities from which Queen Mary accepts direct applications (from the top 300 to the top 500) has supported strong growth in applications from China, India, and Pakistan. Sub-Saharan Africa is buoyant: as at mid-November 2019 it was established that Nigeria was 128% up against 2018 levels, Ghana 45%, and Kenya 41%.

EU student recruitment

10. Undergraduate applications from EU countries are up by 6%, but postgraduate taught applications from EU countries are significantly down, by some 49% (90 applications). It is worth repeating that all of the aforementioned data comes at a very early point in the recruitment cycle, with efforts to be undertaken in Spring 2020 to drive up applications.

Staffing

11. Queen Mary has recently appointed a Global Alumni Manager, to increase the quantity and quality of engagement with the university's global family of former students, which will include the development of official Queen Mary alumni associations in selected priority countries. A Global Projects and Policy Manager is being recruited to support international strategy, partnerships, and development of the QM Global Policy Institute.

Recent international engagements

12. Queen Mary hosted a large delegation led by the Ministry of Education in China, and organised by the British Council (28 senior representatives from the Ministry, key agencies and leading higher education institutions). The delegation aimed to better understand the effective management of university international strategies, student services, and quality assurance, among others. Separately, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, a top ten institution in China, was hosted at the Mile End campus for discussions on collaboration in the sciences, Engineering and Medicine.
13. The university also hosted a large delegation led by the Foundation for International Co-operation in Higher Education of Taiwan, and organised by Universities UK International (with 37 delegates, the largest ever delegation of institutions from Taiwan to the UK).
14. A Queen Mary delegation led by the Vice Principal (International) visited Brazil in late November 2019. The programme incorporated a two day research sandpit with colleagues from Latin America's preeminent public health foundation, the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (or: 'FioCruz'), and five leading Brazilian universities. A significant outcome was a commitment from Latin America's leading academic think tank, the

Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV), to match-fund prior £40,000 seed funding commitments made by FioCruz and Queen Mary, yielding a total £120,000 ‘accelerator’ fund. The Fund will support projects in priority areas such as Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis elimination in Brazil’s favelas, cardiomyopathy / inflammation and big data, and tackling gender-based violence in favelas. A call will be released in December 2019. A parallel programme led by Dr Fernando Barrio in the School of Business and Management identified additional project themes for collaborative development, and which are to be supported by Brazilian Government and Montevideo Group¹ funding.

Forthcoming international engagements

14. A delegation of 12 academics from the School of Medicine and Dentistry and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences will visit Brazil in the final week of November 2019 for a joint workshop bringing together leading Queen Mary academics with counterparts at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Latin America’s leading public health institute. The group is to be led by the Vice Principal (International), with additional academics from across Queen Mary’s network of Brazilian partner universities joining for workshops on a range of public health themes, all broadly aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
15. The third round of the flagship Resilient Futures India Initiative (RFII), which brings together Queen Mary researchers and colleagues at leading Indian universities to tackle complex themes such as environmental resilience, mental health, and domestic violence, will take place in Mumbai from 16-18 December 2019. The ambition at this third edition is to pitch for philanthropic support to achieve longer-term programme sustainability. Indian partners are TISS Mumbai, IIT Bombay, and OP Jindal Global University.
16. During 2020, it is expected that Queen Mary’s Vice Principal (International) and/or Queen Mary Deans for Global Engagement will lead delegations to the following countries and regions, to support high quality partnerships with leading universities, build Queen Mary’s reputation, and identify opportunities for the QM Global Policy Institute:
 - a. Pakistan
 - b. USA and Canada
 - c. Sub-Saharan Africa
 - d. Israel

¹ The Montevideo Group is a multi-country consortium of 40 leading Latin American universities

Senate update from VP, Policy and Strategic Partnerships: November 2019

Summary of work from 7 October to 22 November for Senate:

Visit on 9 October to Nottingham Trent University with Emily Huns, Head of Careers, and Patrick McGurk, Deputy Director of Education and Director of Skills and Employer Engagement, School of Business and Management. Aim of visit was to learn more about Nottingham Trent's successful approach to employability of their students, and take away lessons for us here at Queen Mary.

Launch on 23 October of ReachOut LevelUp experience in which we are a partner. ReachOut is a school mentoring charity, and they have developed the Level Up experience, which is a volunteering scheme for university students, but with a difference. The difference is that the offer from the corporate partners involved, and the aim is to involve more corporate partners as the scheme grows. The student volunteers act as mentors for primary school children, which will help them develop a broad range of skills, and in this instance, access ReachOut's growing network of graduate employers, with opportunities to meet employers directly, attend workshops on how to prepare for interviews, assessment centres and psychometric tests, and having completed a volunteering year, the student volunteer is eligible for fast track access with the corporate partners to the scheme, e.g. Macquarie and Bloomberg. This scheme is exclusively available in this first year to students at Queen Mary University of London and the University of Greenwich.

The **EDI Steering Group** met again on 30 October with a further meeting scheduled for 9 December. It was a packed agenda with: a report presented on NSS scores and the BAME experience, where some further analysis was requested; updates from various workstreams including accessibility, trans inclusion, dignity at work, Stonewall, and the staff survey; and consideration of the proposed institutional KPIs, which will come back to the 9 December meeting. The group recognised that there was a lot of work in train but that we needed a focused effort on communication so that the programme of work was more visible and coherent across the institution.

The **REF Equality and Diversity Group** has met twice – on 22 October and on 20 November, with a further meeting planned for 26 November – to consider declarations made by staff of individual circumstances that impeded their ability to research productively during the REF census period. The committee considers each of these applications and identifies where any reductions related to these staff circumstances can be applied in line with the REF Guidance on Submission, the Queen Mary REF Code of Practice, and the Guidance on Codes of Practice.

The **Honorary Degrees and Fellowships working group** met on 28 October for the second time to review this year's round of nominations, which led to recommendations to go forward and some queries back to nominators.

Chaired meeting of Athena Swan culture working group on 5 November where we discussed how the staff survey work could be used to drive culture change.

I chaired my first meeting of the Partnerships Board on 15 October – see separate report to Senate.

Chaired two further meeting of IoT Strategy Board on 23 October and 22 November to establish next steps on site plans and negotiations with the DfE and the GLA.

Sponsoring work with the support of Business Development across SBM, CCLS, SEF and Careers to develop a bid for the Knowledge Exchange Funding Competition from the OfS and

Research England – deadline 13 December.

Summary of other engagements

Attended alumni event at House of Lords on 23 October.

Met the Chief Executive of the Education and Skills Funding Agency to discuss policy on HE, skills and apprenticeships

Keynote speaker and concluding speaker at Fired-UP event on 6 November – the Faculty of Science and Engineering's Industry day on campus.

Helped to arrange and attended the first hour of a visit on 16 October from David Russell, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley and a Queen Mary alumnus (Medieval History), hosted by SBM, giving students advice on recruitment and feedback on cover letters and CVs.

Met Polly Fryer, commercial lead at the THE, from which it look like we will be hosting the inaugural THE Diversity Forum in March.

Met with Mark Hilton of London First (of which we are now a member) to plan how we work together and use their convening power to help Queen Mary develop its networks and influence with business and local and national government.

Met with Laura Citron, Chief Executive of London and Partners, on 11 November. They are the Mayor of London's promotional agency for London and can help connect us with business opportunities in London. We agreed with them a focus on our data science and life sciences offerings in the first instance, but they will now have us much more front of mind when opportunities arise.

Attended the Tower Hamlets Growth and Economic Development Partnership Board meeting on 13 November, and the Tower Hamlets overarching Partnership Executive Group on 18 November.

Attended the Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil on 20 November.

Attended the Whitechapel Advisory Board on behalf of Colin Bailey on 21 November to discuss next steps on the development of Barts Life Sciences with the Department of Health and Social Care and the Office for Life Sciences.

Had follow up meeting with Lendlease in Stratford on 22 November to explore possible partnership opportunities. Further meeting to be held in a few weeks' time.