



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	<p>This paper summarises the business of Partnerships Board 23 November 2019 – 31 January 2020</p> <p>Senate is asked to note the introduction of a new low risk activity approvals process.</p>
Questions for Senate to consider	
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 2 July and 15 October 2019. The next meeting of Partnerships Board will be held on 3 December 2019.

Terms of Reference and Membership

1. Following discussion at the Partnerships Board meeting on 15 October 2019, the Terms of Reference have been revised and broadly approved at the January meeting subject to clarifying the relationship between the Board, the Global Engagement Executive and the Senior Executive Team.
2. The Chair of Partnerships Board and the Chair of the Global Engagement Executive are due to meet shortly to consider the interface between the two bodies, and the finalised terms of reference will be brought to the June Senate meeting for approval..

Consideration of new partnership proposals and renewals

3. 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.
4. Memoranda of Understanding

Proposed Partner	Internal QMUL partner(s)	Decision
UC Berkeley	Global Policy Institute	Pending

Low Risk Approvals Process Review

5. The revision of the low risk approvals process was discussed at both the 3 December and 31 January meeting and a final process and associated paperwork have now been agreed.
6. Under this new process, faculties have delegated authority to make decisions on Partnerships Board's behalf for the following activities which have been classified as low risk:
 - Memorandum of Understanding (faculty to faculty)
 - Student mobility (i.e. Erasmus+, Swiss European Mobility (SEMP) or International Exchange Programme (IEP))
 - Student recruitment (Study Abroad, articulation / progression agreements, summer schools)
 - Staff mobility (e.g. Erasmus+ or Swiss European Mobility Programme (SEMP))

7. Faculty decision-making is supported by a risk framework to ensure risks are fully considered and mitigated if necessary and faculties may escalate decision-making to Partnerships Board if this is deemed necessary. A diagram showing the revised low risk approvals process is shown in appendix 2.
8. Faculties will report to Partnerships Board on an agreed basis concerning the proposals considered by the faculty, decisions made and any issues noted. They will also be asked to identify areas / countries where they may wish to expand engagement in the coming period. Agreements at institutional level are also required to go to Faculty Executives for consideration, comment and approval if appropriate. This allows Partnerships Board to ensure Faculty and Professional Services objectives, concerns and comments are aired, and if necessary, considered by Partnerships Board when deciding whether to approve agreements at institutional level.
9. Partnerships Board is currently setting up the review of the high risks approval process. It is planned to do this via a Task and Finish Group with membership drawn from across the faculties and Professional Services reporting in the summer of 2020. Part of this review will be the implementation of the recommendations from the 'Managing Partnerships' KPMG audit.

Reports

10. At the 3 December meeting, Partnerships Board received a report from the Transnational Education (TNE) working group on the context of UK TNE provision. Discussion of this topic was however deferred until the paper on TNE has been reviewed by SET.
11. The December meeting also received information on a QAA, UUK and GuildHE TNE and quality enhancement consultation. Members were invited to comment on the two proposed models that could form the future quality enhancement system of UK HE TNE adopted by these bodies. An institutional response was submitted to the consultation in January.

At the January meeting, a report was received on summer school provision, current recruitment figures and future growth targets. It was felt that faculties and Marketing and Communications needed to have ongoing discussions to ensure that there was mutual understanding of central targets and faculty priorities, and that better understanding at the outset would ultimately help with development plans and help to streamline decision-making.

Other Matters under Discussion

12. At the January meeting, the board noted that it would be helpful to review the Educational Partnerships Ethical Policy. This will be impacted by the high risk approvals review so the policy will be revisited after that review has concluded.

Meetings in 2018-19

13. Meeting dates for 2019/20 are scheduled as follows:
 - Tuesday 17 March 2020
 - Tuesday 19 May 2020
 - Tuesday 7 July 2020

Low Risk Collaborative Activity Approvals Route

