

Vice-Principal (International) Report to Senate

Recruitment and admissions ¹

Undergraduate overseas recruitment

We have exceeded the December 1st target (876 vs 870 students) but with attrition should expect to fall a little short of that by the time 1st December comes around. This, we believe is a strong return given the context and currently represents 19% growth against 2019 entry.

For international Foundation recruitment we have exceeded last year's intake (99 vs 97) though fallen short of the target of 162. We know from partners and colleagues at other institutions that foundation intakes are down on average around 30% relative to the previous year, and so recruiting beyond our 2019 position is a positive result. Our target for January's intake of 20 enrolments is achievable and applications for the semester two intake are currently up 85% on 2019 levels.

For Pre-Masters we have fallen slightly short of last year's enrolment (34 vs 45), and relative to our target of 49, but many applicants have deferred to January's intake, where we are currently 81% up on applications, relative to 2019 levels.

Overall our UG overseas position is 15% up on 2019 levels, and 6% below target.

Undergraduate EU recruitment

We have welcomed our largest ever cohort of undergraduate students from the EU with over 700 enrolments, 17% up on last year, with growth in HSS and SMD (up 50%) compensating for a decline in S&E. Given EU students will be subject to overseas fees from 2021, and will lose access to Student Finance from the UK Government, 2020 is likely to be the last intake of this size for the foreseeable future.

Postgraduate Taught overseas recruitment

We have enrolled 2,015 students on London programmes (not including Distance Learning / TNE) against a target of 2,912: 31% short of target and 28% down on 2019 enrolments.

The pipeline for January 2020 is relatively strong at the moment with over 2,500 applications and 315 deposits. We hope to add one or two more programmes to the portfolio for January and have made available additional resource from the Global Engagement Office to the Admissions team to help process applications as efficiently as possible.

CCLS have the largest shortfall against target of c.360 students and it seems likely that we will need to over-recruit in other areas in January to cover a shortfall on LLM programmes.

Postgraduate Taught EU recruitment

With 442 enrolments, our 2020 intake is comparable with 2019 (452). We expect to increase this number in January as students take advantage of the last opportunity to secure enrolment at the home fee rate.

EU	2019/20 enrolments Dec 1st	2020/21 enrolments to date	YOY % increase/decrease	Target	Position against target
UG	598	702	17%	N/A	N/A

¹ The recruitment summary is based on the latest available data as of Monday 5 September.

OS UG	2019/20 enrolments Dec 1st	2020/21 enrolments to date	YOY % increase/decrease	Target	Position against target
UG	735	876	19%	870	0%
Foundation	97	99	-0%	162	-40%
PMP	49	34	-31%	45	-23%
Total	881	1009	15%	1077*	-6%

* Minus Global Health, CCFS and Nanchang

PGT	2019/20 enrolments Dec 1st	2020/21 enrolments to date	% increase/decrease	Target	Position against target
EU	452	446	-1%	N/A	N/A
OS	2803	2015	-28%	2912	-31%

PGT – Jan '21	Jan '21 apps (intl)	Deposits	Target (shortfall of Sept)
EU	69		c.120 (inc Home)
OS	2504	315	c.900

International Strategy and Policy

Future EU student fees

A very few UK universities (Essex, Royal Holloway University of London) have recently publicised, via student-facing web pages, their intention to continue to offer the 'home' rate tuition fee of £9,250 to applicants from EU countries for the 2021-22 academic year. Following the UK's exit from the EU at the end of 2020, EU students will no longer have access to the student loan book, and will be required to pay the higher 'international' fee rate. The latest advice to the sector from Universities UK, based on guidance from specialist law firm Shakespeare Martineau, suggests that the legality of subsidising a lower fee for EU applicants after Brexit will remain unclear until tested in the courts. All relevant options are being examined with a view to ensuring that Queen Mary remains a sought-after institution for talented EU applicants following the end of the transition period.

Powering Indonesia's Battery Revolution

A workshop took place on 16th September to support the launch of the Queen Mary-led Indonesian National Batteries Institute (NBRI). The institute engages with key government departments, industry and researchers, bringing together the currently fragmented industry and research sector, improve understanding and knowledge at government level, implement battery international standards and develop technology targets relevant for Indonesia. Over 100 government and industry professionals attended the workshop with Prof Colin Grant presenting on Queen Mary's engagements with Indonesia and wider South East Asia, following a keynote delivered by Prof. Bambang Brodjonegoro, Indonesia's Minister for Research, Technology & Higher Education.

Partnerships update

New partnerships with Renmin and Tashkent universities

Queen Mary recently approved education agreements with Tashkent State University of Law and the School of Liberal Arts and School of Public Administration at Renmin University. The new partnerships provide a platform for students to join Queen Mary for PGT programmes and study abroad opportunities from January 2021 onwards.

A virtual tour of Queen Mary's Chinese partner universities

The International Partnerships team is also working to convene a programme of virtual

engagement with Queen Mary partner universities in China. The series will run over three weeks (19th October – 5th November) and see joint activities taking place with 20 Chinese partners. In week one, the focus will be on partnerships development with a sequence of meetings with senior international administrators. In weeks two and three, the focus will shift to student presentations and workshops to support student applications and recruitment for the 2021/22 academic year. The presentations will be delivered in collaboration with academic and professional services colleagues right across Queen Mary, reflecting the breadth and depth of engagement with our Chinese partners.

Queen Mary Engineering School nominated for British Business Awards

Queen Mary's collaboration with Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) via the Queen Mary Engineering School (QMES) continues to go from strength to strength. QMES and NPU have been selected as one of five finalists for the prestigious British Business Awards - Education Institutional Partnership of the Year. This is in recognition of the impact QMES has made and the contribution to UK-China collaboration. Previous winners have included the Edinburgh-Zhejiang and Nottingham Ningbo collaborations.

Expanded recruitment of Chinese students via NPU / QMES for 2020-21

Separately, the Ministry of Education in China approached Queen Mary partner Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), to assess interest in offering programmes to Chinese students who had planned to study this year in the US, Australia and the UK, but who are unable to travel due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Under the resulting recruitment extension scheme, students will enrol at online degree programmes at a university outside China but will be physically based in China. Queen Mary will engage in this scheme and will develop a single Queen Mary degree variant of the existing Joint Educational Institute (JEI) programme with NPU for this purpose, enabling recruitment of an additional 24 students to this year's cohort.

New virtual internships via Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils

Finally, through the Global Policy Institute, Queen Mary is pleased to have established four virtual internships with the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, which will enable Queen Mary students to learn from the group's leading-edge work on innovation, business and government competitiveness, and the future of work, among other key themes.

Alumni

Supporting our alumni in Beirut

Following the tragic news in August 2020 of a major explosion in the port area of Beirut, and the many resulting casualties and serious injuries, Professor Colin Grant wrote to Queen Mary alumni in Lebanon to communicate condolences on behalf of the institution, and find out what the university might do by way of practical support. 52 alumni received the email, 10 of which replied, and several of which were referred to the Queen Mary Careers service in response to requests for support in seeking new employment in the UK. A peer-to-peer support group was also created for Lebanese alumni on the Queen Mary Network, the university's digital platform connecting alumni, current students and staff.

Staffing

New Academic Lead – Resilient Futures Initiative

Dr Fernando Barrio in the School of Business and Management has taken on the role of Academic Lead, Resilient Futures Initiative, in which capacity he will lead the evolving programme of research and policy work on the theme of Resilience with partners in India – a model of engagement which Queen Mary hopes to soon replicate in other geographies.

An institution-wide recruitment freeze is currently in effect, meaning no substantive new appointments are envisaged for the near future.

Forthcoming international engagements

Continuing programme of engagement with the UK's most senior diplomats

The university's programme of engagement with newly appointed UK Ambassadors and High Commissioners continues apace, with excellent meetings having taking place recently with Her Majesty's Ambassador to Poland, Ms Anna Clunes OBE, and with the UK Representative to Taiwan, Mr John Dennis.

While international travel remains on hold, virtual meetings are supplementing previously scheduled face-to-face commitments with prospective partners and other overseas interlocutors, to ensure continued progress towards Global Engagement Strategy and Strategy 2030 objectives.