



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 Partnerships Board from 1 February to 30 September 2020.
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 scrutinises 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.
Authors	Ashley Palmer, ARCS
Sponsor	Dr Philippa Lloyd, Vice Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships)

PARTNERSHIPS BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary covers Partnership Board (PB) meetings held on 16 June, 7 July and 30 September 2020. The next meeting of Partnerships Board will be held on 3 November 2020.

Terms of Reference and Membership

1. The Terms of Reference were discussed at the meeting on 30 September 2020. As Partnerships Board was still completing the review of its approval processes, further work was required to update the Terms of Reference and membership list to reflect these. Revised Terms of Reference will be submitted to Senate for approval.

Consideration of new partnership proposals and renewals

2. Under the new low-risk approvals process introduced during 2019-20, Faculties are responsible for considering and approving low-risk Faculty partnership proposals with both UK and international partners, and individual Faculty approval is sought for partnerships before approval at institutional level for low-risk proposals. A report of these low-risk approved proposals is then submitted to Partnerships Board for noting. During the reporting period, PB has received notification of the following low-risk proposals approved by Faculties.
3. Faculty of Science and Engineering
 - Genova University, Italy
 - Università degli studi di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy
 - Georgetown University, USA
 - University of Michigan, USA
 - University of Toronto, Canada
 - McGill University, Canada
 - Tianjin University, China
 - University of Macau
 - University of Rochester, USA
 - Research Center for Advance Materials (CONACyT), Mexico
4. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, India
 - Amity University, India
 - Universidad Europea de Valencia, Spain
 - Tianjin University, China
 - Hunter College, City University New York, USA
 - University of Toronto, Canada
 - Renmin University of China

5. School of Medicine and Dentistry
 - Hunter College, City University of New York, USA
 - Makerere University, Uganda
 - Tianjin University, China
 - Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brazil
 - University of Rochester, USA
 - University of Macau
 - Mayo Clinic, USA
 - Showa University, Japan
 - American University of Beirut
 - Shanghai University, China

6. Professional Services (including Global Opportunities Office)
 - Georgetown University, USA
 - Hunter College, City University of New York, USA
 - ISDE Law School, Spain
 - Makerere University, Uganda
 - The Australian National University
 - Universidad Europea de Valencia, Spain
 - University of Hong Kong
 - University of Macau
 - University of Michigan, USA
 - University of Rochester, USA
 - University of Toronto, Canada
 - Whittier College, USA

7. At the 7 July meeting the Board considered a proposal for a collaboration with Brampton City Council, in Toronto, Canada, to support the development of Brampton University. The Council wished to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to continue further discussion. The Board approved this proposal, noting that it presented an interesting opportunity.

8. At the 30 September meeting the Board considered a proposal to establish a new single award programme to be delivered jointly with an existing partner in China, Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU). It was noted that this initiative was in response to a call from the Chinese government to international partners to establish programmes specifically targeted at Chinese students unable to travel abroad to study due to travel restrictions resulting from Covid-19. The programme would be a duplication of an existing NPU programme, but would culminate in a QMUL award rather than a double degree. The Board supported this proposal.

9. No other high-risk proposals were considered by the Board during this period.

Reports

10. At the 16 June meeting the Board received a review paper from the International Office regarding how the low-risk approval process was working. It was agreed that overall the process was working well, but clarification was

required around communication policies between Faculties and the centre. These queries were resolved prior to a communication being circulated to key stakeholders across the University regarding the low-risk process.

11. At this meeting the Board also received a report from the International Office reviewing the Transnational Education (TNE) models currently in use at the University and including a number of proposals. Specifically, the International Partnerships Office proposed to focus on areas that would deliver the highest returns in both student numbers and income, and with the highest quality partners:
- Additional 4+0 double degrees
 - Exploring additional opportunities at existing overseas campuses (i.e. Malta, ULIP)
 - Exploring potential UG blended double degrees in countries such as Pakistan, India, Canada and Sri Lanka.
 - Deprioritising double blended degrees
 - Prioritising articulation and 1+1(+1) degrees
- There was a discussion around these proposals and the Board was supportive of these recommendations.

12. At the 30 September meeting it was confirmed that work on the high-risk approval process had been largely completed, but some details required further clarification before it could be presented to the Board. It was agreed that this would be done at the meeting on 3 November.

Other Matters under Discussion

13. At the 7 July meeting the Board received an update on the UK-EU transition period and considered the potential impacts on educational partnerships, including the need to maximise opportunities abroad, utilising existing TNE hubs such as Paris and Malta, and the possible effect on student numbers.
14. At this meeting the Board also received and noted a copy of the University's ethical investment policy, and considered it in relation to educational partnerships.

Meetings in 2020/21

15. Meeting dates for 2020/21 are scheduled as follows:
- Tuesday 3 November 2020
 - Tuesday 26 January 2021
 - Tuesday 16 March 2021
 - Tuesday 4 May 2021
 - Tuesday 6 July 2021

It was noted at the meeting on 30 September 2020 that an additional, extraordinary meeting might need to be scheduled to consider an emerging and urgent proposition from SMD.