



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principals' reports.
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the Vice-Principal's reports.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	N/A
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	N/A
Authors	Professor Steve Thornton, Vice-Principal (Health) Professor Matthew Hilton, Vice-Principal (Humanities & Social Sciences) Professor Wen Wang, Vice Principal (Science & Engineering) Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education) Dr Philippa Lloyd, Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) Professor Andrew Livingston (Research and Innovation) Sheila Gupta MBE (People, Culture and Inclusion) Professor Colin Grant, Vice-Principal (International)
Sponsor	N/A



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY – REPORT TO SENATE FEBRUARY 2021

Undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment

As of 24 February, applications to SMD clinical and non-clinical undergraduate programmes have been strong, with increases in applications across clinical programmes. Applications for PGT programmes are also ahead of last year’s numbers, with a significant recovery of Home applications in the year to date. Applications to SMD’s Distance Learning (DL) Courses are also up compared to last year at this point, again with significant recovery of Home applications.

Applications 2020	Applications 2021
SMD Undergraduate applications	SMD Undergraduate applications
5683	6856 (+21%) Home 5295; O/S 1548
SMD Postgraduate Taught Programmes	SMD Postgraduate Taught Programmes
2674	2943 (+10%) Home 554 (+61%); O/S 2389 (+3%)
SMD DL Courses	SMD DL Courses
366	397 (+8%) Home 159 (+84%); O/S 238 (-8%)

We are also seeing an increase in offers for PGT courses as compared to this time last year (+41%), for acceptances (+62%) and for firm acceptances (+79%). A similar picture is seen for DL offers (+20%), acceptances (+44%) and firm acceptances (+44%).

Research Awards

SMD research awards to date for the 2020/1 are £61m, well ahead of the position in February 2020 (£44m). Indicative recent successes include:

Morris Brown, WHRI: Radiofrequency ablation versus adrenalectomy for unilateral primary aldosteronism. BHF £500k

Sasha Howard, WHRI: Disorders of human pubertal timing, Wellcome Fellowship £611k

Clare Relton, IPHS: Fresh Street: pilot cluster RCT of the co-benefits of a place-based approach, NIHR £1.7m

Sandra Nicholson, IHSE: Supporting healthcare professionals through Covid-19: understanding how arts-based methods can support non-verbal communication, AHSC £200k

Carike Coetzee, BCI: Preoperative bintrafusp alfa in operable urothelial carcinoma of the bladder, Merck £1.2m

Jonathan Grigg, Blizard: Oral bacterial lysate to prevent persistent wheeze in infants post severe bronchiolitis – BLIPA, NIHR £3.4m

Shamsia Begum Foreman, Wolfson: Specialist Tobacco Cessation Service, NHS Tower Hamlets CCG £630k

Sussan Nourshagh WHRI: Screening for, and characterisation of, novel immune cell extravasation genes in Drosophila, MRC £846k

Graham Foster, Blizard: Treating hepatitis C in Pakistan. Strategies to avoid resistance to antiviral drugs, Wellcome £2.8m

Yaohe Wang, BCI: Pre-clinical development for IND application of a novel systemically deliverable oncolytic Vaccinia virus for treatment of pancreatic cancer, MRC £3.3m

Qingzhong Xiao, WHRI: Endothelial Repair by CD34+ Stem/Progenitor Cells in Atherosclerosis, BHF £304k

Cos Pitzalis, WHRI: The Development and Validation of a Transcriptomic-Based Model for Classifying and Predicting Treatment Response in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients (TRACT-RA), MRC £686k

The total value of bids submitted to date in the current financial year is

£211,355,361

VP Report to Senate – Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

February 2021

Education news

January start programmes

The Schools of Business and Management, Economics and Finance and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies are running a number of popular postgraduate programmes with a January 2021 start date. Currently there are 699 students fully enrolled across 38 programmes, with 26 students temporarily enrolled.

BAME mentoring

UMO (University Mentoring Organisation) mentoring for BAME students was successfully piloted in three Schools in HSS and has now been extended to all Schools in the Faculty. We're working closely with the Students' Union on the project and will be evaluating the sessions at the end of this semester to see how we can expand and enhance the provision in the future.

Student-Staff Liaison Committees

We continue to participate with the central review of SSLCs. Leading on the development of a training programme for staff, Students' Union VP HSS Cameron Storey and Dr Anna Chrysostomides (School of History) made a video showcasing best practice in running a SSLC, which will be used in partnership with QM Academy.

Humans of QM

To bring us closer as the Queen Mary community, we're about to launch Humans of QM, based loosely on the popular 'Humans of New York' Instagram page. Co-created with the Students' Union, this project will ask students and staff for short stories about themselves to help us feel closer in our learning or working community. The launch is due to take place in the next few weeks, and the campaign will run through social media channels.

HSS Student Researcher project

We are in the process of recruiting HSS students to conduct peer to peer feedback research. The aim is to engage with our students, learn more about their current experience of Queen Mary, what their future expectations are, and how we can work better with them. Schools will have the opportunity to engage in themes or topics for the research, but the aim is for the student researchers to shape their own questions. The research will feed into a report for Schools and the Faculty Executive.

Faculty Forum on Inclusivity in Online Learning

HSS ran a popular session on Inclusivity in Online Learning on 27 January, co-sponsored by Dean for Education Christina Perry and Faculty EDI Lead Professor Rainbow Murray. Professor Virginia Davis, Students' Union VPs Cameron Storey and Jack Jukes contributed to the discussion, which included practical tips and examples of good practice in ensuring that online learning in lockdown is as inclusive as possible.

Careers and Enterprise event

HSS ran a well-attended session on 25 January for our students called "Making the most of semester B and finding opportunity in a challenging job market". This event was extensively advertised to all year groups across HSS with a live attendance of 298.

Student feedback comments included:

"It helped me narrow down on what I should do this semester, and it also really motivated me. I've been feeling overwhelmed recently whenever I thought about careers and the future. I feel a lot better now that I attended the event."

The session is part of a focussed plan of careers events in HSS led by Deputy Dean Chris Phillips and Andy Walsh (Senior Careers consultant).

HEA accreditation

The Faculty continues to focus on increasing the numbers of HEA Fellows and Senior Fellows. Deputy Dean Elizabeth Gillow organised a series of workshops in 2020, with three more planned for early 2021. Twenty two HSS colleagues were awarded Fellowships in 2020 and we continue to build on these numbers.

Research News

Research awards made to the Faculty so far this year (August-January) total £5.3 million. This represents a 53% increase on the corresponding period in 2019/20 (£3.5 million).

PhD student recruitment has held up well this year, with 115 new students enrolled at the 1 December headcount. This is a higher figure than for any of the previous four years.

Queen Mary academics awarded Major Research Fellowships from the Leverhulme Trust

Dr Tamara Atkin, Professor Warren Boutcher and Professor Adrian Smith have been awarded Major Research Fellowships from the Leverhulme Trust. The Fellowships are given to well-established, distinguished researchers in the humanities and social sciences to support them to complete original programmes of research. In total there were 210 applications across all humanities and social sciences disciplines in UK universities. 34 awards were made, three of which went to Queen Mary, and two of those to the Department of English.

Professor Kimberly Hutchings appointed as chair of a Research Excellence Framework panel

The four UK funding bodies have appointed Professor Kimberly Hutchings from Queen Mary's School of Politics and International Relations as chair of Sub-panel 19: Politics and International Studies for the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021).

Staff News

Faculty Roles

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Lead

Professor Rainbow Murray's term as the Faculty EDI Lead has been extended until 31 December 2023. An interim appointment to the role will be made while Professor Murray is on sabbatical leave from July to December 2021.

Faculty Research Manager

Anna Boneham has been appointed as Faculty Research Manager. Anna has previously worked as the Queen Mary Arts and Culture Strategy Officer, and as Project Manager on the Wellcome Trust funded project 'Living with Feeling' in the School of History.

Head of the School of English and Drama

Professor Scott McCracken becomes Head of the School of English and Drama from July 2021.

School of Law

Professors Penny Green (Department of Law) and Ian Walden (Centre for Commercial Law Studies) have both kindly agreed to extend their term of office as Heads, for a further year.

HSS in the news

The Mile End Institute's London polling continued to deliver strong media coverage for the Faculty. The latest poll covered topics including working from home, the US presidential election and Covid-19 vaccines.

Media coverage included the *Evening Standard*, BBC News, Sky News. The poll provided early data on vaccine hesitancy among BAME communities, and Professor Sophie Harman commented on this topic recently on BBC News at Ten. Professor Harman also wrote an opinion piece in *The Independent* on the disproportionate impact of lockdowns on women.

Dr Richard Johnson was pitched as an expert during the US presidential election and was interviewed by BBC News and Sky News and wrote an opinion piece on overseas voters for *The Conversation*.



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal Science & Engineering - update
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the report
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This report provides an update on activities relating to key priorities between December 2020 – February 2021, detailing developments in Education, Research and Transnational programmes.
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	Relates to all aspects of QMUL strategy and all sections of the Risk Register.
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	For Senate only
Authors	Elizabeth Powell
Sponsor	Professor Wen Wang

Summary

Since my last report the Faculty have been working hard to prepare for Delivery and Assessment in Semester B, to continue to ensure that students are offered a high quality and rewarding experience through blended learning. The Faculty have once again been successful in bidding for and securing a number of prestigious grant awards. REF Impact Case Studies have been reviewed and signed off at Faculty level and final amendments to Environment statements have been made.

On Wednesday 20th January the Faculty came together Online to celebrate staff success at this year's Faculty Celebration Evening, to reflect on the achievements and challenges faced throughout last year and to congratulate colleagues on their individual and collective successes during this time.

Education

During this period, preparations have been taking place for Delivery and Assessment in Semester B. Many of the disciplines in Science & Engineering meet the government criteria for return to campus in the next phase. DoEs in the five Schools are currently establishing which aspects of education are to be prioritised for the return to campus as the current government restrictions are eased over the next few months. Conversations are now starting as to what the mode of delivery and assessment might look like for S&E disciplines in 2021/22 and beyond.

Drawing on lessons learned from the Semester A assessments in January, the Schools continue to do all that they can to ensure that online, open book assessments are designed and conducted in a way that provides a robust assessment of each candidate's academic performance. The Faculty has been well represented in discussions with Queen Mary Students' Union regarding COVID-mitigation measures that strike a balance between being supportive whilst safeguarding academic standards.

I am pleased to report that the Faculty have supported and approved the following new postgraduate programmes:

- MSc Psychology: Mental Health Sciences
- MRes Materials Science (International) (open to Mexican students from CIMAV – further details below)

In addition, SEMS have just completed a major curriculum overhaul and will be rolling out new integrated, streamlined curriculum for all undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes over the next few years.

Research

Throughout this period, the Faculty has continued to encourage a strong focus on industry collaborations and investment from the industry sector. This year has seen another round of investment in mini-CDTs which supports PhD studentships with a focus on engaging with industry partners. This scheme offers opportunities to generate proposals ahead of future anticipated third wave of UKRI CDTs in 2023.

Academics continue to diligently pursue funding opportunities. Recent successes include awards from EPSRC, STFC, EU, KTP and Charities in our schools. I am delighted to report an approximately 15% increase in research overhead in School of Physics and Astronomy, setting the School on its way to generate a £2m research overhead this year. In the School of Engineering and Materials Science, six months into the current academic year, the amount of new research awards has reached its planning round target for the year. The School is confident to attract more research projects from UKRI, EU, charities and industry over the remaining months, particularly when its new research lab in Chemical Engineering is completed later in the year. Our two Future Leader Fellowship applicants have prepared their final applications for submission to UKRI following review and approval by both School mentors and the Dean for Research.

The Faculty continues to engage both academics and funding bodies on future funding initiatives. We have held two sandpits with a focus on early career researchers, with representatives from the UKRI attending one of the sandpits on its new Open Fellowship scheme. We have also held a joint sandpit with colleagues from SMD to explore collaboration under the Wellcome Trust's new strategy on global heating and health, with a representative from the Wellcome Trust attending the sandpit to discuss the new strategy. I am pleased to report that all REF Impact Case Studies in S&E UoAs have been reviewed and signed off at Faculty level. Final amendments to Environment Statements have been completed and submitted to the University REF team. Final selection on Research Output has also been completed for all UoAs in S&E.

International

I am pleased to report that the first cohort of students for the MRes Materials Science (CIMAV) will start in February. This is an innovative approach in international partnerships and a unique international model between the UK and Mexico. In this programme, students take a one-year taught Masters in Mexico followed by a one-year research project at Queen Mary, including a minimum of three months placement. Students in this programme will be fully funded by CIMAV, which is one of the prestigious CONACyT Research Centres in Mexico. This Masters will provide a pool of potential PhD students for doctoral programmes at Queen Mary. To mark the launch of the new MRes, an event is being organised in March. The launch event will be opened by our President and Principal & the Director General of CONACyT. 25 UK and Mexican industrial companies have confirmed their attendance to the event.

Science & Engineering Faculty Celebration

I am delighted to report that Science and Engineering held its annual Faculty Celebration Event on Wednesday 20 January 2021. More than 300 staff joined the online meeting and prizes were awarded to recognise exceptional contribution in Education, Research, Innovation, Internationalisation, Professional and Technical Services. This year also saw the introduction of a new award for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), recognising the importance of EDI to the continuing success of the Faculty.

Full details of the celebration can be found here:

<http://connected.qmul.ac.uk/news/items/faculty-of-science-and-engineering-celebration-evening-recognises-staff-excellence.html>

Equality Diversity and Inclusion

I am delighted to report that in January the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science was awarded a fully funded Black Academic Fellowship in Computer Science/AI by DeepMind. The DeepMind programme offers an exciting opportunity for us to actively provide accessible early career opportunities for communities that are often under-served and underrepresented. The aims of the Fellowship align with our vision and values and represents an innovative opportunity to achieve our shared ambitions of identifying and nurturing future talent from currently underrepresented communities. I would like to extend my thanks to Professor Edmund Robinson (EECS) and Sheila Gupta (VP-PCI) for their work and dedication to the application.



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal (Education) – Update
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the report
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<p>This paper provides an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Leadership • Fair assessment • The National Student Survey • Student Surveys • The Queen Mary Academy • Office for Students and regulatory matters
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	Relates to the Education and Student Experience aspects of Strategy 2030, and associated risks
Reporting/ consideration route for the paper	For Senate only
Authors	Robert Cashman, Executive Officer (Education)
Sponsor	Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education)

Vice-Principal (Education) Update – March 2021

Education Leadership

1. The Programme Director and Director of Education fora resumed in February. These meetings discussed the Covid Mitigating Measures as well as external developments including the TEF.
2. The Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes were presented at an online ceremony on 8 December 2020. A full list of recipients can be found on [Connected](#).
3. The Drapers' Lecture on Teaching and Learning will be delivered by Professor Sian Bayne (Professor of Digital Education, University of Edinburgh) on 24 March 2021. Professor Bayne's lecture is titled 'The Future of Digital Education'. Further details, and a registration form, are available on the Queen Mary Academy [website](#).
4. The new Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Board (RASB) has been established and held its first meeting in December 2020. RASB has taken over a number of the strategic aspects of the former Student Recruitment and Admissions Group (SRAG).
5. The Strategy Programme Board has recently approved the Curriculum Enhancement and Improving Student Engagement strategic initiatives to commence. These are two of the main areas of work in the Education Enabling Plan. The Curriculum Enhancement project is led by the Queen Mary Academy, and is described further below. The improving Student Engagement project is led by Stefan Krummaker, and with significant contributions from QMSU. This project includes the development of learner analytics capability, which is one of the first aspects to be taken forward.
6. Work has begun, via ESAT, on scoping out the educational offer (and appropriate terminology) in preparation for transitioning to the academic year 2021/22. This will be developed in conjunction with Directors of Education, and will seek out the views of Programme Directors, Schools/Institutes and Faculties. It is anticipated that a presentation will be made to Senate later this year.

Fair assessment – Queen Mary Covid Mitigating Measures

7. A task and finish group, chaired jointly by Aphrodite Murray-Liddington and Stefan Krummaker, has been meeting to consider and recommend a set of Covid mitigating measures.
8. A series of recommendations have been made, and a full report was submitted to the recent meeting of EQSB. Further discussions are continuing to take place to consider some specific issues.

National Student Survey

9. Nine Schools/Institutes have been working with Thomas Loya, the external consultant engaged by the NSS Taskforce. An initial meeting took place with each School/Institute in late 2020, and they have since received custom analysis of their results which show trends over time and highlight areas for attention. An overall report is also being developed.
10. The 2021 NSS opened at Queen Mary on 25 January, and will close on 30 April. As of 22 February,

the overall response rate was 33%. For each response, the University will make a donation of £1 to a charity nominated by QMSU. Additionally, SEMS, as the School/Institute with the highest percentage of responses between 1-12 February, received £500 and can decide with their students how this will be spent.

Student Surveys

11. Queen Mary will be participating in the PRES, PTES and UKES surveys during 2021.
12. PRES is open for all postgraduate research students, and will run between 15 March and 17 May. All postgraduate taught students are eligible to complete the PTES, and this survey will be open between 22 March and 11 June.
13. All undergraduates not eligible to participate in the NSS will be able to complete the UKES. The survey will be open between 1 February and 9 April. Schools/Institutes have discretion over whether they promote the survey. As at 22 February, the response rate was 1.9%. For each response, the University will make a donation of £0.50 to a charity nominated by QMSU.

Queen Mary Academy

14. Dr Angela Gallagher-Brett joined the Queen Mary Academy on 7 December 2020 as 0.4fte Academic Practice Taught Programmes Manager working alongside Dr Stephanie Fuller (0.6fte).
15. A series of projects have been approved for funding from the [Westfield Fund](#). This round was jointly administered by the Queen Mary Academy and QM Online, with priority given to the development of our digital capabilities, in support of our strategic ambition to provide a world-class digital and physical learning environment for students.
16. Over the coming months, the Academy will be undertaking an evaluation of the impact of projects previously funded by the Westfield Fund. This will then inform the design of the funding round for 2021/22.
17. Preparations are now well underway for the Queen Mary Festival of Education 2021: Celebrating our Blended and Innovative Learning Approaches. Taking place during Week 7 of Semester 2 (8-12 March 2021), it will be a celebration of the many achievements of recent months, with particular focus on online and blended learning, innovative approaches and successes, flexibility and student voice. The Festival will include daily keynotes, which will be delivered by a range of high-profile external speakers, as well as a series of thematic workshops throughout the week. Further details about the Festival can be found on the Academy [website](#).
18. There are now four Queen Mary Academy Fellows in post, covering all three Faculties. They are each working on an educational project, and will be using their Fellowship to share their practice and expertise through the University. A profile of each Fellow can be found [online](#). Further opportunities to become a Queen Mary Academy Fellow will be advertised in the coming weeks.
19. The Academy is continuing to work in collaboration with Student Wellbeing Services, QMSU, and academic staff on the development of new online Advisor training and a revised Advisor Hub. The new approach to Advisor training was approved by EQSB at its last meeting.
20. The Academy is working in collaboration with the Faculty Education Managers, QMSU, and

academic staff on a new online student voice training for staff involved with SSLCs.

21. The Curriculum Enhancement project, which forms part of the Education Enabling Plan, was approved for commencement at the Strategy Programme Board. This project has three work streams with a focus on the development of an inclusive curriculum, assessment and feedback, and graduate attributes. Membership on these work streams was sought from each Faculty to ensure University-wide academic representation. Further details can be found on the Academy [website](#).
22. The Student Engagement initiative, SEED, has been developed collaboratively with students and staff. It was recently approved by EQSB and will be launched in due course. SEED is also now an approved QM Extra.
23. Later in this academic year, the Academy will be launching a new student internships scheme, and providing support to other strategic initiatives.
24. The Academy's programme of workshops for this semester is available [online](#).
25. A new webpage has been produced to promote the benefits available to all Queen Mary staff from Advance HE, including access to a range of events, resources and publications. This can be found on the Academy [website](#).

Office for Students and regulatory matters

26. A response to the OfS consultation on the approach to quality and standards was approved by SET following input from EQSB and ESAT.
27. The Start to Success indicator data was published in late 2020. At this stage, the OfS elected not to name individual institutions when publishing the data.
28. The Office for Students announced in December 2020 that institutions would receive additional student premium funding. For Queen Mary, this was £84.5K. Further additional student premium funding was also announced in February 2021, which for Queen Mary totals £238.9k. We have also been successful in our bid for additional capital funding, and have been allocated an additional £260k.
29. The Office of the Independent Adjudicator consulted on large group complaints in late 2020. A response was prepared by ARCS.
30. The Pearce review of the TEF, and Government response, were published on 21 January. This has confirmed that there will not be a subject-level TEF exercise, and that an institutional form of the TEF will be run every five or six years. The Pearce review has recommended that subject-level performance is still considered as part of the institutional assessment, however. The TEF will continue to be a data-led exercise, although the role of student surveys is not known given the ongoing review of the National Student Survey. There will be a consultation on the future design of the TEF in the coming months.
31. The Department for Education has launched a consultation on post-qualification admissions. A response will be developed and considered by the RASB.

32. The annual grant letter from the Department for Education to the Office for Students has confirmed a number of changes in future teaching funding. These include the removal of London weightings, the replacement of formula capital grants with a bidding scheme for capital funding, and some changes to high-cost subject funding. There will be a consultation on the teaching grant in the coming months.

33. The Office for Students is requiring institutions to conduct a review of their consumer protection arrangements in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. A task and finish group has been established and will report ultimately to Council. The review will consider communications to students in addition to feedback received.

Senate update: VP, Policy and Strategic Partnerships: December 2020 – February 2021

COVID-19

I continue to liaise with Tower Hamlets and other local authorities on COVID matters, and I now chair a twice weekly meeting with the Students' Union, one on general COVID matters, and one on rent issues, along with senior representatives from Estates, Communications, Security, Health and Safety, and Student Services.

Public engagement and civic responsibility

Queen Mary's platinum watermark application to the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) is well underway. Coordinated by the Centre for Public Engagement (CPE), 1:1 interviews and focus groups have been held with senior leaders and staff with responsibility for public engagement, and the survey has closed. The CPE expects to receive the first round of feedback in April, with the final Watermark awarded around June.

Other key CPE updates:

- I am now chairing a new Public Engagement Leadership Forum to provide cross-university accountability and strategic support for the direction of public engagement at Queen Mary.
- The CPE has launched the Engaged Topics Network to provide peer-learning opportunities across Queen Mary. The first three sessions are focused on engaging during Covid-19, embedding engagement into your teaching, and exploring how to build and maintain partnerships.
- The CPE has awarded seven public engagement grants (~£68,000 total) to academics across the three faculties. Projects include:
 - Intergenerational poetry workshops to explore the history of Sir John Cass Foundation School (now Stepney All Saints) in Stepney (*Nadia Valman, School of English & Drama*).
 - The development of an online Citizen Health Lab to enable communities to engage with, shape and participate in research (*Clare Relton, Institute of Population Health Science*).
 - An interactive online exhibition, Seeing Music, to engage people in ongoing research into the visualisation of music (*Charalampos Saitis, School of Electronic Engineering & Computer Sciences*).
- We have had to make the difficult decision to once again cancel the Festival of Communities 2021, based on discussions with community organisations and Queen Mary staff and students. We cannot at this stage be sure that we can safely run the Festival and will instead be launching a small Community Connection funding pot for local engagement and relationship building in the Festival's name this year.

We are hosting the second Civic University Network London Forum on March 16th, with speakers including Wendy Thomson (VC, University of London), Deborah Bull (Vice Principal London, KCL) and Sabine Unamun (Director of Visual Art, Arts Council England).

We continue to work with the Civic University Network and the NHS Confederation on building stronger, more collaborative relationships between universities and the NHS. A series of roundtables with leaders across HE (including Professor Colin Bailey), the NHS and Local Government are planned for March and April. Top-line findings will be reported at the Civic University Network Conference in May, with a report planned for late 2021 to provide insight into the challenges of cross-sector

collaboration, practical solutions for improving local anchor-level relationships, and a clear picture of the ecosystem of NHS and university priorities.

Institute of Technology

Following negotiations with the Developer of London City Island, heads of terms have been agreed on what we believe to be a strong commercial proposition for Queen Mary. We have some local planning hurdles to resolve before we can enter into contract with DfE with a provisional launch date of September 2022.

Degree Apprenticeships

- Since my last update, we have launched the Economics Master's Apprenticeship Programme with 132 civil servants from 16 central Government departments. Colleagues from DWP noted that this had been an "exemplar" of how-to set-up an apprenticeship programme. Thanks to the SEF team for designing, recruiting to and launching this new MSc programme within 6 months.
- During National Apprenticeship Week we formally relaunched the Social Change Degree Apprenticeship with a story in Third Sector magazine. For September 2021 entry we will have apprentices from Crisis, Unicef, Royal National Institute for the Blind, Sense, Guys & St Thomas' Foundation, Imperial War Museum, Action for Hearing Loss and East London Business Alliance.
- Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley each received over 300 applications for their apprenticeship schemes with Queen Mary this year. Discussions are underway with Quantum Black (McKinsey) and Expleo on joining the next cohort of the Software Engineering programme.

Executive Education/CPD/Enterprise Activities

A new Project Manager for short courses/CPD/executive education was recruited in January this year to lead on the development and growth of our enterprise activities. The Enterprise Process Improvement and Change (EPIC) project continues to codify and formalise working policies and processes for short courses and executive education, degree apprenticeships, consultancy, and summer schools. Two policies are now completed, with the final two in the final draft stage. They will shortly be submitted to SET for endorsement.

We are now moving our attention to embedding these policies and processes throughout the University. Success in this area will rely on the Project Manager working closely with key members of academic staff to translate the work completed so far into acceptable and agile local processes that match the resources and structures of individual departments. We will also be assessing Queen Mary's current systems and resources to better utilise these to support Enterprise activity. This includes:

- Establishing a costing model and costing tool to monitor course viability and profit
- Improving the user experience of the customer journey on the website
- Writing standard terms and conditions for open courses/ bespoke activity

To facilitate quick income generation following the drop-in activity caused by the COVID19 pandemic, we will be focussing on targeting in companies with growing training needs to deliver bespoke

programmes, as this offers the highest short-term return on investment, parallel to existing short course activity across Queen Mary.

Sustainability

In late December, we were awarded the Ecocampus Bronze Award, an independently accredited certification. This is the first step towards attaining an international certification in environmental management (ISO 14001) and demonstrates that Queen Mary is considered to have a robust sustainability policy and plan, and governance structure to support the delivery of our environmental objectives. In addition to the publication of our [Sustainability Policy and Action Plan](#), staff and students have engaged in practical ways to demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable campus through canal cleans, the planting of an on-campus orchard, and new recycling initiatives on campus.

Other items

The Industry Forum which I Chair is transitioning to a new model of working, covering engagement, enterprise, with links to impact. The Forum will be divided into a Strategy Group (co-Chaired by myself and the VP for Research) and a Community of Practice, to ensure teams across Queen Mary with responsibility for engagement and enterprise are able to collaborate. Initial priorities include supporting Queen Mary's submission to the Knowledge Exchange Concordat's pilot year.

Our partnership with Donmar Warehouse theatre continues to grow. As mentioned previously, we launched with a Consultancy programme for 10 Queen Mary students in Sept-Nov 2020 and Donmar-led personal presentation coaching for Queen Mary students. A second round of consultancies for 10 students is taking place in Spring 2021, alongside more personal presentation coaching, and new Donmar-led EDI-focused presentation coaching for Queen Mary Professional Services staff. The theatre has invited students and staff to exclusive events, including discussions with their Director, Artistic Director, and actors. We are in the early stages of discussing three new areas for the partnership:

- delivery of a module in an existing MA programme in 2021/22;
- creation and delivery of a new Master's degree to include business management of theatre/arts organisations;
- a joint research project to focus on EDI and community engagement.

In February 2021, we launched online a new pilot mentoring programme with the non-profit remake.org for 13 students to support ex-offenders who seek to be self-employed or entrepreneurs. The Faculty lead is Jeffrey Kennedy in Law, and students come from a range of undergraduate studies, including Accounting, Law, Geography and Business Management. Feedback from students has been very positive.

We have plans with QMentoring to offer in-person mentoring from May 2022 for students interested in careers in the commercial art world, in partnership with the Gagosian Gallery – a global network of art galleries in modern and contemporary art.

I am also supporting Arts & Culture to produce videos to serve as invitations to key internal and external stakeholders to attend a Festival of Conversations (April 12-17). The Festival is based on an Arts & Culture and Centre for Public Engagement project enabling conversations, and subsequent commissioned artwork, between 27 members of Queen Mary faculty and 27 artists or arts community groups. The videos will exemplify one of Strategy 2030's key missions: cross disciplinary thinking and achievement.

I continue to support the development of use of the Great Hall in the People's Palace as an asset to grow the reputation and revenue for the University. I supported and helped get agreement for Events and Paul Edlin, QM's Music Director, to host the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and other performers for a Festival of Chinese Music in Jan/Feb 2021. We have rescheduled the events for May 2021 and have built new advisory relationships with the leaders of overseas arts organisations that have been able to hold live performances during Covid-19 with safety protocols. These include executive leaders at the Liceu Opera House in Barcelona, Palau de La Musica in Barcelona, and The Project jazz festival.

I also continue to work, with Professor Teresa Alonso and Sharon Ellis, on the development of partnerships with higher education institutions in Mexico to develop dedicated pathways for students funded by the Mexican government to come and study here at Queen Mary, working with Mexican and UK industry partners.

This report covers the following updates:

- Covid-19 Grant Extension Allocations
- Research funding
- Infrastructure investment
- Rationalisation of existing networks / centres / institutes
- Enhanced research communications
- Research culture

Covid-19 Grant Extension Allocations (CoA)

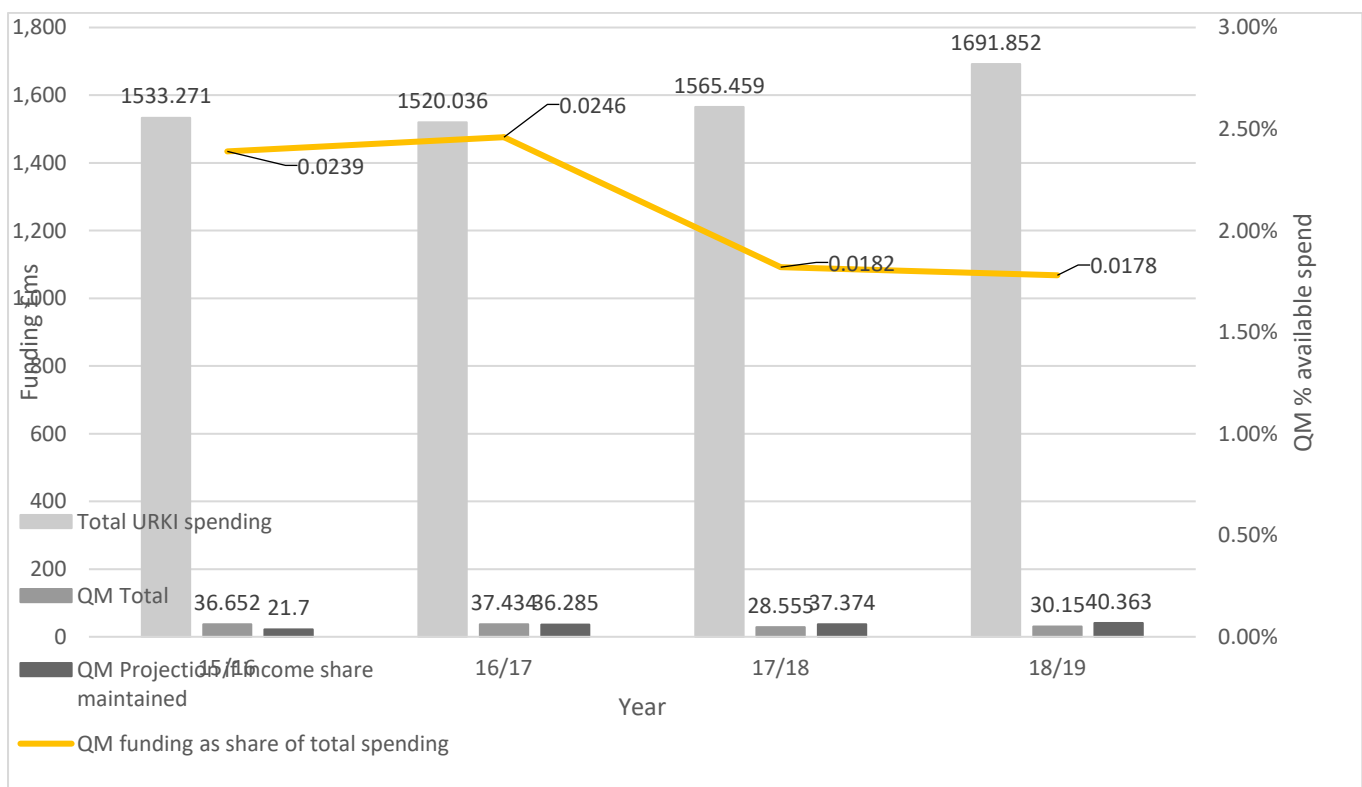
Queen Mary has received additional funding of £2,789,720 from UKRI to mitigate the impact of pandemic on UKRI-funded projects, ensure grant outcomes continue to be met and to protect the talent pipeline of research and technical staff. This has enabled us to provide two phases of support to affected projects and to UKRI funded PhD students.

Following further guidance from UKRI, we are now able to offer a third phase of support for projects that have experienced delay due to supporting government priority research, redeployment of staff to the NHS front line, COVID-related sickness or additional parental duties. We are also able to consider projects outside of this scope which have been particularly disrupted. The JMRO will announce details of this call in March.

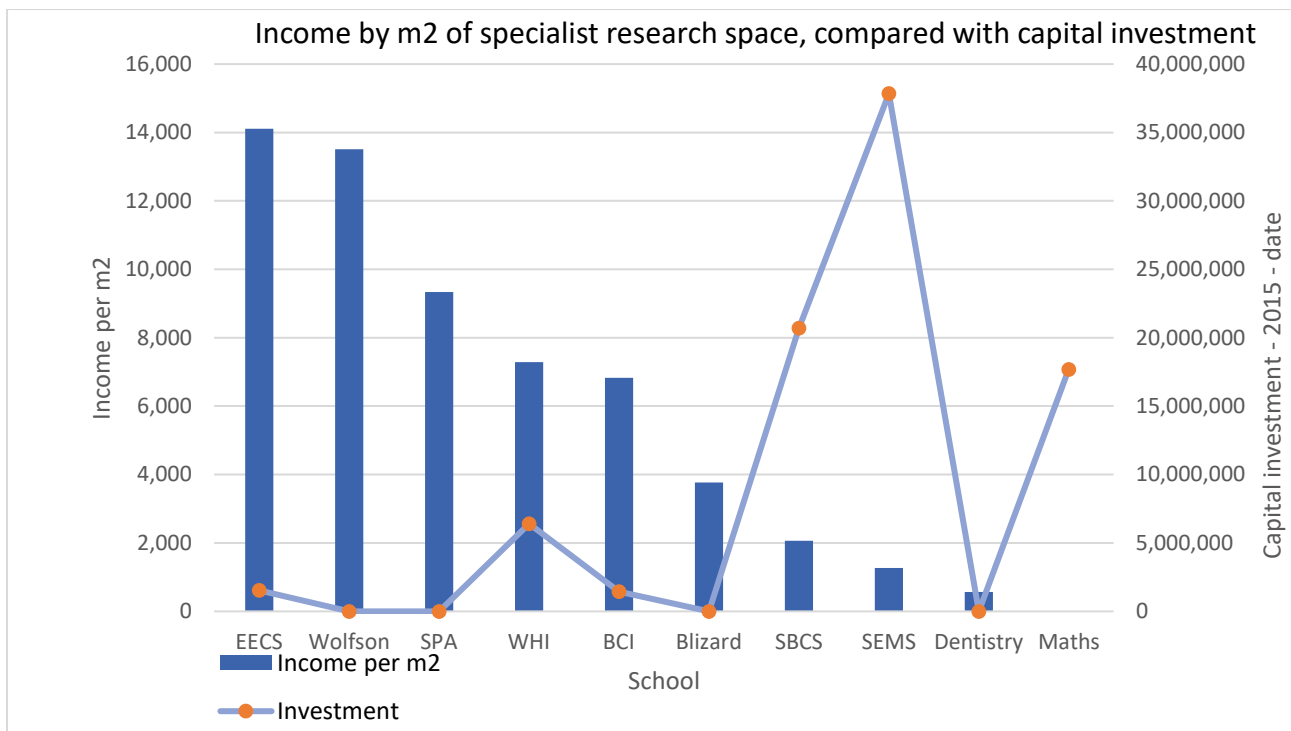
The impact of the pandemic on PGR students has been significant. VP-RAG is separately requesting Senate to endorse our proposal to offer all PhD students an un-funded 3-month extension to allow them to make up lost research time. At time of writing, we have just received notification of an additional £212,988 award from UKRI to support PGR students at Queen Mary. We will announce how this funding will be used in the coming weeks.

Research funding

The 2030 strategy includes a target for us to treble our research income over the next nine years. This is a challenging target: Queen Mary’s research income from UKRI is at best flat and falling as a portion of total spend.



Across Queen Mary, there is also a wide variation in research income by FTE, with little correlation between historic investment in specialist research space and present levels of research income.



One route to increased research income is to improve cost recovery for the research already underway. VP-RAG has introduced a new Flexible Research Fund to incentivise this, supported by a new Overhead Recovery Policy. Over the next 18-months, we will begin work to improve our research support structures, moving to an efficient hub-and-spoke model to ensure our PS team adds maximum value to researchers.

Beyond this, VP-RAG wishes to work with the Faculties, Schools/Institutes and researchers on how we can achieve a step change in our research income together. We would be interested in learning from Schools/Institutes about measures already in place that strengthen our ability to win significant funding, with a view to sharing best practice across the university.

Infrastructure Investment

The Research Capital Infrastructure Fund (RCIF) has invested £8.5million this year in key infrastructure projects to support research excellence at Queen Mary. These projects are being delivered following a new model, whereby they are overseen by VP-RAG and led by the relevant Faculty, drawing on support from Estates, IT and other departments as required. It is hoped this new model will allow us to deliver these projects at pace and in a highly efficient manner.

The five projects supported this year are:

- Film practice research facility, including a cinema, led by HSS (£1.5m)
- High performance computing nodes for use by members of DERI (£1m)
- Mile End biological support unit renovation, led by SMD (£3m)
- New transmission electron microscope, led by S&E (£1m)
- Replacement of greenhouses on the Fogg roof (£2m)

Rationalization of existing networks/centers/institutes

Over the past few months, we have conducted a review of existing networks, centres and institutes at Queen Mary. The purpose of this activity is to enable us to differentiate the new flagship University Research Institutes from other groupings.

Based on this mapping, we will present a new framework for the organisation of these groupings to SET in March. Once confirmed, this will allow VP-RAG to proceed with the identification of our next three University Research Institutes, with a view to completing this in the next 18 months.

Enhanced research communications

VP-RAG is committed to raising the voice of research at Queen Mary. New research communications will promote awareness of research news, initiatives and activities, and create new mechanisms for researchers to feed into the

conversation on how we strengthen research at the university. We hope this will also contribute to greater institutional confidence and ambition, by recognising and celebrating our successes.

There are three main strands to this work. Firstly, a new monthly newsletter will be sent to all research staff at Queen Mary. This will include news updates, information on VP-RAG's priorities, and upcoming deadlines (e.g. for Demand Managed Calls). Secondly, the VP R&I will host a biannual researchers' forum, bringing leading researchers from across the university together to discuss and contribute to key initiatives. Finally, we will introduce new Research and Innovation Awards, mirroring awards already in place elsewhere, to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the many members of the research team, including academics, PS staff, and technical support staff.

Research culture

Amongst many of our most important funders, there is an increasing focus on research culture. In the future, we anticipate that UKRI will require us to be able to define our research culture in our grant applications and to demonstrate how Queen Mary has taken steps to strengthen it.

Beginning in March, VP-RAG will be sponsoring an exercise to define our research culture, starting by mapping existing activities and identifying good practice. We intend that this will be a 'whole-team' exercise, involving support staff, administrators and technicians, alongside academic researchers.

Our aim is to produce a framework which enables us to value and recognise the contributions made by researchers at all levels of the research eco-system, includes and celebrates non-traditional experience and career pathways (e.g. time in industry) and clarifies the behaviours and attributes we expect of researchers are all career levels. This work will align with and support existing initiatives in this area, including the Concordat on Researcher Career Development, the Concordat on Researcher Integrity and the Queen Mary Values.

Vice-Principal (People, Culture and Inclusion) – Senate Update March 2021

Introduction

I have been working in close collaboration with colleagues on SET, the EDI Steering Group (EDISG), and other related fora, such as, the Race Equality Action Group, as well as the Student Union Executive Team, to progress initiatives as part of the People, Culture and Inclusion Enabling Plan.

Race Equality Action Group

The Race Equality Action Group (REAG) invited members of the Anthony Walker Foundation, which was established in 2006 following the racially motivated murder of Anthony Walker in Liverpool, to give a presentation on their work to address racism in society. Anthony's family and friends did not want his murder to be another statistic and wanted his name to live on with a positive, lasting legacy. Their mission is to promote racial harmony through education, sport, and the arts to support people and communities who have experienced hate crime. The presentation was led by Dominique Walker, Anthony's sister, who is an academic at Liverpool John Moores University. The Foundation works in collaboration with a variety of organisations, including Universities. Queen Mary will explore opportunities for future collaborative work with the Foundation.

In progressing the People, Culture and Inclusion (PCI) Enabling Plan, the University has adopted flexibility to incorporate new and exciting proposals which align with Strategy 2030, that come forward through our various University fora, including Student Societies, who play an important role in developing and enhancing the University culture.

In January, the Decolonise Society presented a set of recommendations to REAG, that formed the basis of an engaging group discussion chaired by Tiana Dinard-Samuel, SU Vice-President (Communities). Four members of the Society presented a range of proposals to REAG, many of which aligned well with initiatives being progressed under both the Education and Student Success and PCI Enabling Plans, such as proposals to hire student consultants and interns. In their presentation, the students articulated their view that this idea aligned to the value placed on employability by the student community and the University alike. It was therefore recommended that these proposals be progressed under the auspices of the Employability Working Group. It was encouraging to hear the students express their view that collaborating on this initiative would be seen as a clear demonstration of the University's commitment to tackling racism and becoming the most inclusive university of its kind, because the proposals that were presented placed a particular focus on the valuable contribution that students can make through their input into anti-racist initiatives.

Another proposal which generated particular interest was the need to prepare students to be aware of encountering racism and islamophobia before going on their year abroad. I will work with the Vice-Principal International, Professor Colin Grant, the Global Engagement Office and the Student Union on developing appropriate strategies to best support our students when studying overseas.

Holocaust Memorial Day

In January, the University co-hosted a Holocaust Memorial Day event, with the Student Union and the Jewish and Israel Society. We were delighted to invite as our Guest Speaker, Harry Olmer BEM, to share his personal story and that of his family of the Holocaust, which gave a powerful and moving testimony of their experiences. The evening attracted an audience of 160 people and was a huge success. We also took the

opportunity to remember the millions of other people who have been killed in genocides that have occurred since the Holocaust.

LGBTQA+ History Month – February 2021

The University organised a successful [programme of events](#) across Queen Mary for LGBTQA+ History Month on the theme 'Body, Mind, Spirit'. The programme of events included yoga and pilates sessions, mindfulness sessions, a discussion event on supporting LGBTQA+ Mental Health with the East London Out Project, in addition to a number of other events. The University has shared a range of excellent [resources](#), [books](#) and [podcasts](#) and hosted a number of inspiring [People Profiles](#). We reaffirmed our commitment to marginalised LGBTQA+ communities and launched two new leaflets on [Non-binary Inclusion](#) and [Ace Inclusion](#) which sit in a portfolio of planned information leaflets. I am pleased to say that feedback about our contributions to LGBTQA+ History Month has been positive and seen as achieving good engagement across our varied programme, a response that has been encouraging given the constraints of the pandemic on the programme that we were able to offer.

International Women's Day (IWD) - 8th March 2021

The theme for International Women's Day this year is #ChooseToChallenge. The University has organised a number of events including an interactive workshop entitled, 'Challenging Antisocial Behaviour', designed to help participants address inappropriate behaviour and work towards building a healthy workplace culture of constructive challenge and personal responsibility. This is a practical session that will enable participants to:

- develop decision-making skills and overcome fear and paralysis in challenging situations;
- identify personal effectiveness techniques to tackle difficult conversations; and
- explore verbal and non-verbal language techniques to challenge unacceptable behaviours.

The importance of wellbeing and achieving a healthy work-life balance has probably never been of more relevance as it is at this time. The University is running an interactive workshop which will explore the links between work, health and mental wellbeing and understand how to promote workplace wellbeing for oneself and others.

The University has also invited Dr Louise Younie, GP and Clinical Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Health Sciences Education, to conduct an educational and interactive event, called the Menopause Café. The aim is to offer participants the opportunity to explore themes including physical, emotional and social symptoms and managing the menopause with holistic or medical options.

We will also be having a social media takeover by alumni and recipient of a DeepMind Scholarship, Raghad Zuraiki; and Faculties will be sharing stories and profiles from women within the Queen Mary community throughout March.

Review and Launch of the Staff Bonus Scheme

A key component of the People, Culture and Inclusion Enabling Plan, is to embed our institutional values throughout our reward processes, to incentivise, recognise and reward the behaviours that we seek to embed across the University, contributing to creating the values-led culture we espouse in Strategy 2030.

This has been a truly extraordinary year and we therefore redesigned the grade 1-7 Staff Bonus Scheme, by aligning it to the University's values and introducing criteria that recognise and reward the exceptional

contributions made by teams and individual colleagues during the past 12 months, reflecting the unique circumstances of Covid19, national lockdowns and Covid response.

KPMG Workplace Health and Wellbeing Audit

Each year the University's Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), commission a series of internal audits on different areas and operations of the University. In response to Covid, ARC has requested that our auditors review the University's response to the pandemic from a health and wellbeing perspective. The purpose of the audit is to review the efficacy of Covid related processes, policies, guidance and systems to facilitate effective future planning; people and resource management; and ongoing decision-making in the context of an evolving situation. The review will also evaluate whether there has been any disproportionate impact and/or unintended consequences, either positive or negative, from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective. The outcome of the audit will help to inform identifying new practices, systems and processes that will enhance future planning and resource management underpinned by robust staff wellbeing policies, guidance and training.

Formal Review of the People, Culture and Inclusion Enabling Plan

The University conducts a formal review of its respective Enabling Plans to ensure that they are aligned with the effective delivery of Strategy 2030. The recent review of the People, Culture and Inclusion (PCI) Enabling Plan recognised significant progress had been made in the last year, including clarifying and setting up a coherent and effective governance structure; aligning our data to drive and enable decision making; and setting in place important foundations, including in relation to our training and reward processes. The review concluded that the priorities for the next 18 months are ambitious but are focused on the right priorities. Future focus includes embedding local ownership of PCI goals and providing support (e.g. through leadership development) to clarify accountability and delivery expectations of those in leadership and management roles, we well as embedding our values to ensure that all staff understand that EDI is everyone's responsibility. There are emerging opportunities for encouraging "bottom up" grass roots innovation to complement and work in parallel with University-wide initiatives incorporated into the PCI Enabling Plan, for example, through the 'New Ways of Working' project being led by Paula Sanderson, Chief Operating Officer.

Vice-Principal (International) Report to Senate

International Strategy and Policy

Update to the UK International Education Strategy

In 2019, the Department for Education published the International Education Strategy: global potential, global growth. The strategy, jointly authored with the Department for International Trade, set out the government's ambitions for the sector, including 'education exports'. In the context of the pandemic and associated challenges facing UK higher education, the Government has published an update. There is a commitment to increase the value of education exports to £35 billion per year and the number of international students hosted in the UK to 600,000.

Sir Steve Smith, previously Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter, has been appointed the government's International Education Champion. He will work with organisations across the breadth of the education sector and target priority regions worldwide to build networks and promote the UK as an education partner of choice.

The Strategy highlights countries where the UK will focus its efforts:

- India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, and Nigeria are immediate priorities
- Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, Europe, China and Hong Kong are secondary priorities

The University is engaging proactively at policymaker/embassy/British Council lead level with almost all of the above priority countries.

The Strategy update also draws attention to the following points:

- Measures put in place to support international students, including student hardship funding and flexibility where immigration policy is concerned.
- Introduction of the 'Graduate Route' for international students. This will provide a period of 2 years for undergraduate or master's students (3 years for PhD level) to stay in the UK to work, or look for work, after completing a degree in the UK.
- The Government will work with sector bodies to enhance the student experience for the application and academic journey, graduate outcomes and student finance.

The update to the International Education Strategy can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-education-strategy-2021-update>

External relations and risk

The Secretary of State has written to the Office for Students (guidance letter of 08/02/2021) to request that the regulator take an active role in monitoring uptake of Universities UK guidance, released in October 2020 (<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/managing-risks-in-internationalisation.aspx>).

Partnerships Update

A new TNE Strategy group has been established to convene key members of staff working towards the achievement of Strategy 2030 targets, to improve coordination and overall coherence of the university's activities in this area.

South-East Asia

Queen Mary is commissioning the British Council to produce a series of reports and insights to guide the University's TNE strategy in South-East Asia. Clare Burke, Head of International Partnerships, recently represented Queen Mary in a series of meetings with government representatives and higher education institutions bodies in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Queen Mary Paris

In January 2021, the University received news that the filing for a new legal entity in France had been successful. This will support continuity of our existing teaching and operations in Paris, and open up opportunities for future development and/or expansion of QM Paris to include activities such as executive education, CPD, and the addition of new areas of teaching and learning, potentially beyond the existing portfolio of Humanities and Social Sciences subjects. A Paris Strategy Group has been introduced to improve oversight and management of activities and guide development. A Paris Contact Group has also been established to explore new discipline offerings in S&E and SMD, and early opportunities in the delivery of Executive Education.

Queen Mary Malta

There are two new programmes under development at our Malta campus: BSc Anatomy and a joint Masters with the University of Malta in Surgical Skills. Discussions are also underway to develop a Queen Mary Summer Academy in collaboration with the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the University of Malta. Delivery is expected to take place from 2022.

Beijing University of Posts & Telecommunication (BUPT)

After 16 years of strategic partnership with BUPT we are looking to build on the success of our Joint Programmes to secure enhanced status as a Joint Educational Institute (JEI). An application was lodged in 2020 and an interview held with the Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) in December 2020, attended by the Principal and two Vice-Principals. An official decision regarding the application for JEI status is expected in April 2021.

Brampton University

Queen Mary signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Brampton, Ontario, to collaborate in the development of a proposed new public university. BramptonU is a proposal to bring a full, accredited university to Brampton, with the aim of establishing a fully comprehensive public university with around 30,000 students by 2040. The stated priorities of the project align well with Queen Mary's own strengths, including in Medicine, Dentistry, and Allied Health, Life Sciences, Engineering, Economics and Finance, and AI.

Mexico

Queen Mary and the *Centro de Investigación en Materiales Avanzados (CIMAV)* have developed a Dual Degree Masters in Materials Science. The programme will see students enrol with CIMAV for the first year before joining Queen Mary in the second. Students will graduate with both a Queen Mary and a CIMAV degree. The partnership will also incorporate networking events and/or placement opportunities with industry. Discussions are also underway with ITESM (Tec de Monterrey) with a view to extending partnership beyond our existing exchange agreement into research, education innovation and policy collaboration.

Pakistan

Queen Mary staff have held meetings with a number of leading universities in Pakistan, as we look to develop new partnerships in a key market for Queen Mary. These include the Institute of Business Management, Air University, Beaconhouse National University, NUMS and the Lahore School of Economics.

Recruitment

January 2021

- The enrolment deadlines for January 2021 have now all passed. There a total of 835 students enrolled on January PGT programmes (648 Overseas and 187 Home/EU). The final position per School is:

School	Home/EU	Overseas	Total enrolled
SBM	48	205	253
SEF	16	168	184
Law	67	195	262
EECS	44	62	106
SMS	12	18	30
Total	187	648	835

Undergraduate – September 2021

- Overseas UG applications are currently up year on year by 17%. It's too early in the cycle to draw any conclusions from the data for Accepts and Firms but these have increased by 44% (290 students) and 43% (110) respectively YoY.
- Application data shows strong growth from India, Hong Kong, UAE, Saudi Arabia and USA.

Postgraduate Taught – September 2021

- Overseas applications at PGT level are down by 6% YoY. This is partly driven by a 17% drop in applications from China. This appears to be consistent with the sector with Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield and York all reporting similar decreases from China.
- Application data for the rest of the world looks positive with significant growth from key markets such as India and Saudi Arabia.

Postgraduate Research

- Queen Mary's PhD sponsorship agreement with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan is in the process of being renewed, with the expectation of support being confirmed for 15 PhD students per year, for a period of five years.
- Positive initial discussions have also taken place with the Egyptian Cultural Bureau in London, regarding options for PhD sponsorship.

Alumni

International alumni testimonials

Following the extension of the UCAS application to 29th January, dedicated website landing pages were set up for students from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Norway and Pakistan, incorporating testimonials such as the following from Pakistan alumnus Momina Yawar Khan (Biochemistry BSc, 2018, Policy Support Researcher, UNDP Pakistan).

‘Studying Biochemistry at QMUL in the heart of London was the best decision to kick start my higher academic career. Being surrounded by individuals from across the globe, I truly found myself in a multicultural environment both amongst students and faculty alike. Studying across campuses spread out over the city allowed me to take full advantage of exploring the hidden gems of London. The helpful International teams were always at hand to ensure my comfort and safety was prioritised in case of any inconveniences. I would highly recommend QMUL to young international students looking to start their academic careers.’

Qupid

This Valentine’s Day campaign, ‘Qupid’, generated a record volume of alumni submissions. Beyond this, the campaign also unearthed a prospective donor, and engaged several notable alumni. Featured alumni included [Lillian Reza](#) (Medicine MBBS, 2010) and [Omair Raja](#) (Medicine MBBS, 2011). The campaign had an overall reach of 13,778.

Staffing

Flora McKay has joined the International Partnerships Team as the PGR Recruitment, Sponsor Relations and International Partnerships Manager (maternity cover).

Queen Mary’s India office will be recruiting to their vacant 4th position within the team over the coming weeks to ensure they are at full capacity for the crucial spring/summer conversion period.

Queen Mary Global Policy Institute

The Queen Mary Global Policy Institute (QM GPI) serves to support research translation, impact and engagement with international policymakers, as part of a structured programme of work to effect a step change in the visibility, profile and reputation of Queen Mary globally.

The Institute has recently hosted several well-attended (350+ registrations) events, including *Socially-distanced Diplomacy: the Ambassador in the age of Covid-19*, which brought together three UK senior diplomats to examine the opportunities and challenges of virtual diplomacy, and *Good Practices in Sovereign Debt Borrowing*, led by Professors Paola Subacchi and Rodrigo Olivares, which featured former senior IMF and World Bank officials, among other high-profile speakers. The *Socially-distanced diplomacy* event is now available to view on demand, and comes highly recommended: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/gpi/news-and-events/news/socially-distanced-diplomacy---the-ambassador-in-the-age-of-covid-19.html>.

In addition to policy translation, impact and engagement, QM GPI also serves to create new opportunities for current Queen Mary students. Until the end of March, the Institute is hosting five current Queen Mary postgraduates for an internship experience as *Policy Associates*.

Finally, the QM GPI has recently further expanded its range of influence and expertise with the appointment of two distinguished new members of its Advisory Board: Poppy Jaman OBE is CEO of the City Mental Health Alliance; Professor Rajani Naidoo is Professor in Higher Education Management at the University of Bath.

Engagement with FCDO Ambassadors

On 10th December 2020, the Vice Principal (International) hosted a meeting with the UK Ambassador to Tunisia, Edward Oakden CMG. An additional meeting took place on 14th January 2021 with Kirsty Hayes, newly appointed Ambassador to Buenos Aires, and with Julia Longbottom CMG, newly appointed Ambassador to Tokyo. Forthcoming engagements are planned with UK Ambassadors to Brazil, Bangladesh, and Thailand, among others.