



Senate

<b>Paper Title</b>	Partnerships Board - Executive Summary
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is asked to <b>note</b> the PB Executive Summary
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	This paper summarises the business of Partnerships Board from 4 November 2020 to 26 January 2021.
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	N/A
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	<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 oversees QMUL's partnership activity on behalf of Senate.</p>
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	PB's role is to assess and monitor the risks of QMUL partnership arrangements, approve as necessary and to consider relevant policies and procedures.
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	This paper is a report to Senate.
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## PARTNERSHIPS BOARD

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary covers the Partnership Board (PB) meeting held on 26 January 2021, and the extraordinary PB meeting held on 8 January 2021. The next meeting of Partnerships Board will be held on 16 March 2021.

#### Consideration of new partnership proposals and renewals

1. 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.
2. Faculty of Science and Engineering
  - No approvals to report
3. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
  - Jiangnan University, China
  - Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli (LUISS), Italy
  - Munich Business School, Germany
  - Utrecht University, Netherlands
  - Beijing Jiaotong University, China
4. School of Medicine and Dentistry
  - University of Auckland, New Zealand
  - University of the Punjab, Pakistan
  - Santa Clara University, USA
  - Jiangnan University, China
  - Colfuturo, Colombia
5. Professional Services (including Global Engagement Office)
  - It was reported that the Global Opportunities team were in the process of creating 102 new agreements to put in place with European partners given the end of the Erasmus scheme, as the existing agreements would no longer be valid. It was hoped that the majority of agreements would be signed off by Spring to avoid disruption to schemes.

6. Previously, at the 3 November meeting the Board considered a proposal for a partnership between Barts Cancer Institute (BCI) and Don't Forget the Bubbles (DFTB), a limited company to deliver an MSc Paediatric Emergency Medicine. A number of concerns were raised, which were reported back to BCI for further action. In response to a request from BCI, PB subsequently agreed to arrange an extraordinary meeting on 8 January specifically to consider the revised submission for this partnership proposal, and to speak directly to QM staff and DFTB representatives who would be involved in the partnership. Following this, the partnership proposal was approved, enabling staff to move to the next approval stage wherein the academic content of the proposed programme would be considered by Taught Programmes Board.
7. At the 26 January meeting the Board considered the renewal of the existing partnership with UCL to deliver the joint MA History of Political Thought and Intellectual History. The Board heard that this was a successful and growing programme and approved the renewal of the agreement with UCL. It was noted that this renewal had been brought to PB as it was a joint award, and therefore fell into the high-risk activity category; however, given the evident strengths of the partner organisation, it was agreed that in practice this was a low-risk activity. It was suggested that in future such renewals could be considered and approved at Faculty level, following consultation with ARCS to ensure any risks identified were being managed appropriately.
8. At the 26 January meeting the Board considered the renewal of the PhD co-funding agreement with the Pakistani Higher Education Commission (HEC), which currently provided 36 scholars across all three Faculties. It was noted that there had been a number of changes to the agreement, specifically around increases to tuition/bench fees and to the student stipend, a decrease in the total number of places to be offered per year, and wider promotion of the scheme across Pakistan, which were welcomed by the Board. Concern was noted as to the possibility of students who failed to complete their studies having to repay money to the HEC, but it was noted that the University was not in a position to challenge this clause of the agreement.

## Reports

9. At the 26 January meeting, the Board received a paper setting out the draft text to be used to communicate the new low and high risk approvals processes to key stakeholders across the University. Subject to several minor amendments, this text was approved, to be used as the basis for updated web content and a summary email to relevant colleagues. These actions are to be completed ahead of the next PB meeting on 16 March. Further work would be undertaken to review the process for reviewing and renewing agreements with partner organisations.

## Meetings in 2020/21

10. Meeting dates for 2020/21 are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday 16 March 2021
- Tuesday 4 May 2021
- Tuesday 6 July 2021