



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 5 May 2021 to 28 September 2021. PB will report its ToR and membership to Senate in December 2021.
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	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> The Partnerships Board oversees QMUL's partnership activity on behalf of Senate.
Strategy and risk	PB's role is to assess and monitor the risks of QMUL partnership arrangements, approve as necessary 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 the Partnership Board (PB) meetings held on 6 July 2021 and 28 September 2021, and the extraordinary meeting of Partnerships Board held on 3 August 2021. The next meeting of Partnerships Board will be held on 2 November 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. 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 partnership proposals approved by Faculties and Professional Services.
2. Faculty of Science and Engineering
 - Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) / Information Technologies Institute (ITI), Greece
3. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Institute of International Law, Intellectual Property and Technology Law, Technical University of Dresden, Germany
4. School of Medicine and Dentistry
 - Chonnam National University Hospital, South Korea
 - Sannam S4, India
5. Professional Services (including Global Engagement Office)
 - University of British Columbia, Canada
 - University of Melbourne, Australia
 - Monash University, Australia
 - Seoul National University, South Korea
 - Cornell University, USA
 - OP Jindal Global University, India
 - University of Auckland, New Zealand
 - Renmin University, China
6. At the 6 July meeting the Board considered the renewal of the Chevening Partnership agreement with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. Queen Mary had been an official partner of the Chevening scheme since 2016 and had received over

350 students from 99 countries on this scheme, with around 60 expected for the 2021/22 academic year. Although Queen Mary was not involved with the selection process, the candidates went through a rigorous process, and it was noted that the strength of the students and their subsequent active engagement with the alumni community were among the benefits that participation in the scheme had brought to Queen Mary. The Board approved the renewal of the Chevening Partnership.

7. An extraordinary meeting of PB was convened on 3 August, specifically to consider a proposal for a collaboration with HackerU (now rebranded ThriveDX) to deliver a series of non-credit bearing 'bootcamp' courses to be delivered with the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science (EECS). These courses would be targeted at professionals seeking to 'upskill' or change career direction. The partnership would begin with a pilot course in Cybersecurity. HackerU would provide the academic content for the course (subject to scrutiny and approval by EECS) and recruit the tutors to deliver it (subject to vetting by EECS). The risks for Queen Mary were felt to be relatively low, particularly the financial risks, although there was potential reputational risk, which warranted attention. The Board agreed to support the proposal, subject to extra due diligence being undertaken on individuals and companies connected to HackerU.
8. At the 28 September meeting the Board considered an update on the proposal for the HackerU partnership. Since this proposal was first considered and supported on 3 August, HackerU had acquired Cyblnt and rebranded globally as ThriveDX. Due diligence had therefore been undertaken on Cyblnt, as well as the further due diligence requested by the Board. This was presented as an updated proposal to PB. Following discussions, the Board reconfirmed its support for the proposal.

Reports

9. At the 6 July meeting the Board received the annual International Partnerships Report for 2020/21. The report reflected on the total revenue generated from partnerships activity which, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, fell from £33 million to £31 million; the loss had been partly mitigated by income from TNE activities, particularly in China, but some areas of activity had been more significantly affected (e.g. progression routes and study abroad). There was also growth in recruitment to PGT programmes from TNE provision in China. The report showed that around one third of progression agreements were due for renewal in the coming year, which presented a good opportunity for review.
10. At the 6 July meeting the Board also heard an update on the impact of new national security regulations on new partnerships, specifically the enhancement of Export Control Regimes, which would lead to a greater focus on subjects taught on overseas campuses (and via online learning) and PhD students travelling between different countries. The National Security and Investment Bill would impact on research contracts with overseas partners. Overall there would be a greater emphasis on conducting appropriate due diligence with international partners, as a result of these regulatory changes.
11. At the 28 September meeting the Board discussed issues around due diligence, and specifically the commercial side of agreements with partners. A number of concerns about possible gaps in current processes were identified and it was agreed that more

work was required to strengthen and align due diligence processes across Queen Mary. It was agreed that this would be taken forward by a sub-group of PB members outside of the Board.

12. At the 28 September meeting the Board received the Register of Collaborative Provision. It was noted that this would provide a basis for which to select existing individual partnerships for a closer review by the PB members, to compare against the initial objectives of partnerships, and identify areas for development and examples of successes and good practice.

Meetings in 2021/22

13. Meeting dates for 2021/22 are scheduled as follows:
 - Tuesday 28 September 2021
 - Tuesday 2 November 2021
 - Tuesday 15 March 2022
 - Tuesday 3 May 2022
 - Tuesday 5 July 2022