



**Senate**

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Partnerships Board - Executive Summary</b>
<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 3 November 2021 to 28 January 2022.
<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 28 January 2022. The next meeting of Partnerships Board will be held on 15 March 2022.

#### **Consideration of new partnership proposals and renewals**

1. Under the 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/renewals approved by Faculties and Professional Services.
  2. Science and Engineering
    - ARAMCO, Saudi Arabia
  3. Humanities and Social Sciences
    - Goldman Sachs, UK
    - University of Graz, Switzerland
    - USP Law School, Fiji
  4. Medicine and Dentistry
    - None
  5. Professional Services (including Global Engagement Office)
    - Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
    - Mahidol University International College, Thailand
    - OP Jindal Global University, India
    - Universidade de Sao Paolo, Brazil
6. At the 28 January meeting the Board considered two renewals:
  - An agreement with Singapore Management University relating to the Dual LLM programme delivered with the School of Law.
  - A Memorandum of Understanding with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau which provided for the funding of Saudi Arabian students to study at QMUL. The only change to the MoU was the addition of HSS.

#### **Reports**

7. At the 28 January meeting the Board considered a proposed investment by a company based in the Cayman Islands in a QMUL spinout as a test case. It was noted that there were reputational risks associated with any investment from a location such as the Cayman Islands, but provided that these risks were identified clearly and the rewards of the investment outweighed them, then there should be no reason not to proceed with it, as long as a communications strategy was considered to mitigate any potential reputational impacts on QMUL. It was also noted that new OECD regulations, signed up to by the UK government, prevented territories such as the Cayman Islands to facilitate tax evasion. It was agreed that any similar proposals in future should be considered by the Board on a case by case basis, to determine if the proposal aligned with QMUL values, establish the value of the reward of an investment, and ensure that appropriate communications were considered. A clear audit trail of decisions would be recorded to ensure transparency.
  
8. At the 28 January meeting the Board discussed a proposal for reviewing partnerships midway through their terms, to identify areas of success and good practice as well as areas for improvement or development. The Board considered a paper outlining the process and agreed that the International Partnerships Office would take the lead in identifying a shortlist of possible partnerships for review, which would then be narrowed down by Faculties. The review exercise would be a relatively light-touch process, so as to avoid creating extra burdens on staff, and would be a supportive and constructive exercise. It was agreed that a review pro-forma would be created, and that a suitable existing partnership would be identified to act as a pilot for the process by the end of the academic year. Once up and running, it was expected that this process would form a standing item for the Board at each meeting throughout the year, with the aim of reviewing a total of six partnerships each year.

### Meetings in 2021/22

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