



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
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FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY – REPORT TO SENATE, March 2022

Faculty Budget

The faculty generated £3.4m in period 6, £0.3m higher than budgeted, due predominantly to lower QMUL funded pay. Year to date cash generation is £22.8m, £2.1m better than budgeted. The favourable year to date variance is due predominantly to OFS teaching funding & pay and non-pay savings, which is being partially offset by lower tuition fee and research overhead income.

Cash generation is forecast to be £40m for the full year, £0.7m higher than budgeted. Tuition fees are expected to be circa £2.5m lower than planned but will be offset by additional funding body grants and lower QMUL pay compared to budget.

Key factors to note

- Tuition fees are £36.7m year to date, £0.9m lower than budgeted. Full year they are forecast to be £72.6m, £2.5m lower than budget.
- Research overheads year to date are £3.6m, £0.6m lower than budgeted. Full year they are forecast to be in line with budget, as several large releases are expected in the second half of 22/23.
- QMUL pay year to date is £31.6m, £0.9m lower than budget due mainly to delays in appointing to vacant posts.
- QMUL non-pay costs were £3.2m at period 6, £1.5m lower than budgeted. Non pay is forecast to be in line with budget, as about half of the variance is due to FRF expenditure.

Education update

1. Student Recruitment - Postgraduate

As set out in previous reports, we have seen lower than target recruitment in our PGT courses, largely due to under recruitment to some distance learning courses and Masters level programmes.

A detailed breakdown is set out in the table below:

Table 1. PGT Applications and Conversion by Institute (Year to date comparison) to note that the high number is the Wolfson overseas application has been high due to the attractive opportunity of scholarships (two awards available to the best applicant). It is therefore likely that unsuccessful scholarships applicants will not process to convert, but we still foresee a possible increase in numbers from last year.

Institute	HOME						OVERSEAS					
	Home Apps 7-2-2023	Home Apps 7-2-2022	Diff	Home Firms 7-2-2023	Home Firm 7-2-2022	Diff	OS Apps 7-2-2023	OS Apps 7-2-2022	Diff	OS Firm 7-2-2023	OS Firm 7-2-2022	Diff
Blizard	79	101	-22	13	14	-1	396	352	44	41	30	11
BCI	144	126	18	10	6	4	473	386	87	30	33	-3
Wolfson	171	179	-8	15	14	1	1141	619	522	80	49	31
WHRI	98	107	-9	11	13	-2	628	536	92	47	45	2
Dentistry	25	37	-12	1	0	1	829	714	115	24	18	6
IHSE	2	3	-1	0	0	0	10	5	5	0	1	-1
TOTAL	519	553	-34	50	47	3	3477	2612	865	222	176	46

2. Undergraduate

We are very close to target for Undergraduate recruitment this year, bearing in mind the importance, for this academic year, to avoid any over-recruitment on MB BS and BDS.

3. The UK Prescribing Safety Assessment

There is a national prescribing safety assessment which all UK Medical Students sit. In 2022 QM Medical Students had the 7th higher pass rate and the fourth lowest failure rate. The 2023 results show that 99.5% of our final year students have passed with only 2 students having to resit. These results show year on year improvement since 2021.

4. New Programme Development

We are developing/have developed several new courses: six are listed within the enabling plans. Several new programmes not within our enabling plan are being devised/developed and submitted through the approval process.

5. Digital Education Studio Update

- “Discovery towards Strategy: co-creating FMD Digital Education Strategy” project completed: Dean for Digital Education led a large consultation with over 400 FMD staff and students on the current state of digital education - the review report to be released in March
- Since its launch in Sept 2022, average of more than 1500 views on the monthly Digital Education Newsletter by FMD staff and students to promote relevant events and share good practice stories of digital educators and learners within FMD – community and engagement building
- The digital studio continues to recruit new members of staff as required to support faculty digital development.
- We will pilot Assessment and Feedback tools to address both NSS and academic integrity matters.
- Working with VP International Team on British Council funded short course

6. Industrial Action/Missed Teaching Reporting

All Institutes are reporting impact on education on a daily basis (including any impact from ASOS). No impact recorded as of 01/03/2023.

Research Update

1. Grant income

We are focused on unlocking multidisciplinary research funding opportunities, by targeting opportunities ahead of open calls for proposal. In order to constitute application teams ahead of a funding call going live. The Multi-Disciplinary Themes (MDTs) have organised several sandpit events particularly, focused on an opportunity for a large, overhead bearing bids with interdisciplinary focus, (e.g. UKRI Climate Change and Health call)

[Prof Amrita Ahluwalia](#), new Dean for Research has started stakeholders consultation to shape plans to deliver on the 2021-2026 FMD Research Strategy and in turn 2030 Queen Mary Strategy.

This was used to prepare teams for Major Funding Grants (>£2M) from funders as MRC, BBSRC, NIHR, CRUK. Application in the pipeline are:

- Two MRC Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE): 1. Multimorbidity and 2. Rare Endocrine disease (EoIs submitted -each £21M for 7-year -with a possibility of a further 7-year renewal)
- Two stage-2 NIHR Policy Research Unit (PRU) proposals, one in cancer and the other in dementia, each worth £5M.
- One Stage 1 NIHR Global Health Group award worth £3M with an update on progression to next stage to be announced shortly.
- “Biological vulnerability to extreme heat in maternal and child health” Wellcome Trust (£2M)- awaiting outcome.
- BBSRC Pioneer Awards - 12 EoIs (£200K each) submitted in January 2023. 10 have been invited for a stage 2 proposal (in March 2023).

- CRUK Grand Challenge award, (> £20M)- early stage of preparation. If successful, it would be the first Cancer Grand Challenge to be led by Queen Mary, with several major national and international institutions.

The faculty has had a very successful few months in terms of both new awards (subset of the awards in table 2), and of number of very high impact publications (journals including New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, Nature Comms, Nature Genetics, JAMA).

Table 1: Summary of research awards by value November 2022 to February 2023 (incl. partner costs) are shown below.

Institute	Nov/22 (£)	Dec/22 (£)	Jan/23 (£)	Feb/23 (£)	Total (£)
Barts Cancer Institute	£15,036,525.28	£1,223,169.97	£1,322,246.51	£0.00	£17,581,941.76
William Harvey Research Institute	£3,110,737.36	£3,404,476.57	£4,286,445.64	£1,120,862.40	£11,922,521.97
Wolfson Institution of Population Health	£3,111,562.97	£1,009,169.72	£1,299,321.49	£250,713.03	£5,670,767.21
Blizard Institute	£3,689,283.74	£1,926,248.80	£616,032.46	£187,233.16	£6,418,798.16
Institute of Population Health Science	£182,863.23	£0.00	£0.00	£46,157.10	£229,020.33
Institute of Dentistry	£114,859.90	£131,164.71	£0.00	£0.00	£246,024.61
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry	£25,245,832.48	£7,694,229.77	£7,524,046.10	£1,604,965.69	£42,069,074.04

Table 2: Indicative major awards since November 2022 – February 2023

FMD Institute	Lead Investigator/s	Funders	Price to Funder
BCI	Faraz Mardakheh	BBSRC Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	£634,166.40
Blizard	Daniel Pennington	BBSRC Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	£615,372.63
Blizard	John Connelly, Cleo Bishop	BBSRC Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	£554,319.19
Blizard	Laura Green, Florian Tomini	NIHR National Institute for Health Research	£509,604.01
WHRI	John Whiteley	NIHR National Institute for Health Research	£3,329,613.97
WHRI	Damian Smedley, Pilar Martinez	NIH National Institutes of Health - USA	£1,071,428.85
WHRI	Loic Rolas; Susan Nourshargh	BHF British Heart Foundation	£699,273.24
WHRI	Sian Henson	BBSRC Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	£573,715.07
WHRI	Shohreh Honarbakhsh, Panos Deloukas	BHF British Heart Foundation	£517,130.00
WIPH	Doreen Montag	EPSRC Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	£505,178.72

Other areas of activity

1. Capital Projects

The full £11.4m refurbishment programme for the Garrod Building in Whitechapel starts this month which will become the new home for the Barts and the London Student Association and the Institute for Health Sciences Education. We will open the £935k development of a floor of Lynton House in Ilford as a new clinical skills teaching hub. The university has approved acquisition of new space at Charterhouse Square (an adjacent office block) on a 15 year lease. This will allow us to generate expansion space for FMD to deliver Strategy 2030.

All of the above projects were supported financially by the University.

Visit of HRH Princess Beatrice to London's prestigious Blizard Institute

On February 7th 2023, HRH Princess Beatrice visited Blizard Institute to see first-hand how scientists are tackling skin cancer in her newly appointed role as Patron of the British Skin Foundation.

Humanities and Social Sciences VP Report to Senate - March 2023

Faculty Leadership Roles

The faculty continues to draw on and develop a deep pool of leadership talent, with active rotation of academic leadership roles, and opportunities for our professional services colleagues to progress to more senior positions.

Dean for Education

Elizabeth Gillow, Reader in the School of Law, has been appointed Dean for Education, having served as deputy dean. Elizabeth replaced Professor Christina Perry in January 2023, after Christina's very impactful four years in the role.

Faculty Director of Operations

Lucie Langley has been appointed as interim Director of Faculty Operations, following Marie Gallagher's appointment to a senior role at UCL. Lucie's substantive role is Head of Faculty Education and Student Experience in HSS, and she brings educational management expertise and relationships to her new role in the faculty office.

Rotation, recruitment, and renewals of HSS Heads of School

Professor Dan Todman (School of History), Professor David Williams (School of Politics and International Relations), and Professor Jonathan Griffiths (Department of Law) are all approaching the end of their terms of office. We are currently recruiting to three Head of School positions.

The shortlist meeting for the Head of School of History role recently took place, with interviews scheduled for March. The advertisement for the Head of School of Politics and International Relations is currently live, and we have engaged the executive search firm Perrett Laver to assist us with achieving a diverse field of candidates for the Head of the Department of Law search, due to go live soon.

We are also pleased to confirm that Professor Mike Noon will be extending his term as Head of the School of Business and Management for five more years, and that Professor Kathryn Richardson will extend her term as Head of the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film for a further three years.

Faculty News

School of Business and Management (SBM) awarded AACSB Accreditation

For over 100 years, AACSB accreditation has represented the highest standard of quality in business education in the world. SBM was accredited after a 5-year process of rigorous internal focus, engagement with an AACSB-assigned mentor, and peer-reviewed evaluation. The school was recognised for its excellence in areas relating to strategic management and innovation; student, faculty, and staff as active participants; learning and teaching; and academic and professional engagement.

Review of IHSS Strategic Lectureships

The faculty recently completed a review of the two cohorts of IHSS Fellows (previously known as Strategic Lecturers for internal communication purposes) appointed to the Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences in 2019 and 2022. 16 were appointed in 2019 and a further 21 in 2022, all from Queen Mary's strategic fund. The work of the 2022 cohort ranges from medieval communities of religious women to the legal personhood of non-human beings, the economics of education, and the intersections between migration and digital identity.

The 2019 cohort contributed to eight Units of Assessment submissions for REF2021. They brought with them a range of very strong research outputs, many of which were assessed as double weighted 4* monographs and their dry run scores were notably higher than the UoA average output scores. The 2019 cohort has also contributed an additional £2.68 million in research income to date, derived either from grants which transferred with them on appointment or from new awards secured since appointment. Almost all of the 2022 cohort brought with them existing research funding or secured funding very shortly after joining us, totalling approximately £3.9m.

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 January Start programmes. Currently there are 443 enrolments, with 368 students fully enrolled and 75 temporarily enrolled. These programmes attract many international students; our most popular January Start PGT programmes, MSc Banking and Finance and MSc Management, have a large intake of students from China and India, but also from other countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Our Pre-Masters and Foundation programmes have a fairly even proportion of students from a multitude of domiciles, including Greece, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates.

It is also important to note that that a significant number of international students may have obtained an offer (and a CAS for their visa) from Queen Mary using fraudulent documents. This is being investigated but has resulted in fewer enrolments in January than we had expected.



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 2022 – March 2023
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	Relates to all aspects of Queen Mary strategy and all sections of the Risk Register.
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	For Senate only
Authors	Faculty Deans and Faculty Office Managers
Sponsor	Professor Wen Wang, Vice Principal Science & Engineering

On 27th January 2022 we hosted our Faculty Annual celebration to congratulate staff of their exceptional achievements over the past year. It was excellent to see so many colleagues both in person and online attend the event. Further details of the event and all our winners can be found here: <https://connected.qmul.ac.uk/news/items/faculty-of-science-and-engineering-celebrate-success.html>

A Night of Science and Engineering

I am delighted to report that our first showcase event, *A Night of Science and Engineering*, was a resounding success attracting over 200 people, with more than half of them coming from external organisations. The event included stands showcasing our exceptional work, a celebration of our two newest honorands – award-winning filmmaker and Queen Mary collaborator, Gordon Buchanan, and Queen Mary alumnus and BAME STEM supporter, Dr. Ibilola Amao – and an inaugural lecture delivered by Professor Sir Harry Bhadeshia.

The fourteen interactive stands covered the exciting work taking place under the Faculty's six research themes as well as in education and business development. Interactive elements ranged from hands on bioengineering demonstrations to how our research is helping to improve mental health in refugee children. Guests were also amazed by pictures of black holes and new planets as well as several immersive experiences including swimming with sea turtles. Among the stands, the Faculty showcased four examples of innovation in education: the work of recently launched Centre for Academic Inclusion in Science & Engineering (CAISE), peer-led team learning (PLTL) in Biology and Chemistry, the use of the Hololens / virtual reality in Chemistry, and our commitment to Degree Apprenticeships through the London City Institute of Technology.

For the final part of the evening, attendees were invited to join online guests from around the world to hear Professor Sir Harry Bhadeshia's inaugural lecture, 'Steeling the show – creating exceptional alloys of iron'. A highly respected figure in the field of metallurgy, Sir Harry drew on decades of industry experience with partners such as British Steel and government collaborations, such as the Ministry of Defence, to delight audiences with his insights.

Research

During this period, the Faculty has continued to be successful in winning external research grants amounting to over £8.8M. This includes prestigious fellowships and significant large grants such as the EPSRC funding to collaborate with the Universities of Cambridge and Bristol on dynamic stall noise, an EU Horizon Europe grant to investigate a new method for sensing and tissue manipulation during keyhole surgery, and an ERC Consolidator grant to study how planet forming discs evolve in different environments. A colleague has also been newly elected as one of only three new research fellows to the Royal Academy of Engineering – a position which brings with it significant funding over five years. We are equally delighted to have been awarded an EPSRC grant for research into the digital transformation of the design and manufacture of novel electromagnetic materials for the automation and reconfigurability of future wireless systems.

S&E research continues to be published in top journals and attracts international recognition. Prof. Isabelle Mareschal has published work in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) on genetic algorithms affecting individual abilities to recognise different emotions. Dr Thomas Howarth and colleagues at the Astronomy Unit have co-authored a paper with scientists at Rice University, California Institute of Technology and the Royal Observatory Edinburgh, following initial analysis of the first iconic James Webb Space Telescope images. Work by Dr Margherita Malanchini on genetic effects associated with neurodevelopmental disorders has been published in

the *Nature Human Behaviour* and a new study led by Dr David Hone, published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, records this very rare discovery of an incident of a dinosaur having eaten a mammal.

Education

On Monday 06 March, the Faculty's educational leadership team will be attending an away day at London City Institute of Technology (LCIoT). The focus of this day will be how the S&E Schools can move to programme-level planning of assessment, in line with the paper presented to Senate in December 2022. At the equivalent event held at Empire House in March of last year, Schools had been encouraged to start reducing the assessment burden on students and on staff, moving to authentic assessment planned and integrated at programme, rather than individual module, level. This year's away day will extend that work to explore opportunities for moving assessment from the level of constituent modules to programme-level. The event will also consider, more broadly, the need for constructive alignment in module and programme-level learning outcomes, ensuring that all elements of assessment are strongly aligned against the intended learning outcomes.

The innovative work using PLTL in both Biology and Chemistry continues to generate very positive results. In addition to the significant uplift in academic performance for those students who engage in PLTL, a survey of peer leaders indicates the very positive benefits to those senior students who facilitate PLTL, with the most significant results being an increase in confidence and an increased sense of belonging. On the afternoon of Wednesday 01 February, a celebration event was held in the SCR lounge to thank peer leaders from the 2022/23 cohort. As a token of gratitude, peer leaders were presented with specialised designed QMUL/PLTL hoodies with the logo and URL of the PLTL International Society (PLTL). The first paper on the use of PLTL at QMUL, "Born in the USA – Exploring the PLTL Model in the UK Higher Education" was published in December in the open access journal *Advances in Peer-Led Learning* (<https://journal.pltlis.org/index.php/apll-num2-2/>). Papers reporting the results of the PLTL pilot will be published later this year.

EDI

The S&E EDI Committee held its first meeting of the year on the 23rd of January and welcomed Gabriel Cavalli, Director of CAISE (the Centre for Academic Inclusion in Science and Engineering) to discuss how the work of CAISE and the EDI committees across the schools be coordinated and optimised. It was agreed that members of CAISE who also sit on the school EDI Committees will help to maintain this link overseen by the S&E EDI Committee and Faculty Executive.

SBBS and SPCS both successfully transferred their existing Silver Athena Swan awards, following their School restructures, with SPCS being granted an extension of their existing award to the new five year awarding period, to align with SBBS. SEMS are also busy preparing for the submission of their Athena Swan Bronze renewal application in autumn 2023 after being granted an extension of their existing award to the new five-year awarding period.

There was strong engagement from staff and students across the Faculty, who participated in LGBTQA+ History Month activities during the month of February. Lunch and Learn sessions and seminars were delivered by Professor Tony Michael and Dr Gabriel Cavalli and involvement with others from Adam (Adi) Onus (a 2nd year PhD student in the School of Mathematical Sciences). Kieran Hayde from SMS arranged a film screening of 'The Imitation Game' as part of the month and staff and students from SMS delivered a session on 'LGBTQA+ Inclusion in Practice at the School of Mathematical Sciences'.

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Finally, International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11 February) was marked with a news story being published, with members of the Faculty of Science and Engineering featured in the article:
Meet some of Queen Mary's inspiring female scientists.



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 • Teaching, learning and 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 2023

Education Leadership

1. The three priority areas associated with the Education and Student Success Enabling Plan for 2022/23 have recently been agreed, as follows:
 - a. Introducing a Course Quality Education Management dashboard
 - b. Introducing a series of academic leadership programmes, to be led by the Queen Mary Academy
 - c. Work to ensure ongoing compliance with the new OfS 'B' Conditions
2. Nominations have now closed for the 2022/23 round of Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes. The nominations are now being considered, ahead of the presentation on 20 March 2023.
3. A series of NSS workshops will be taking place between March and May. These sessions will cover the following areas: assessment and feedback, teaching, learning resources, and academic support and student voice. All Heads of School, Institute Directors and Directors of Education will be invited to attend, along with Faculty Education teams, and staff from relevant Professional Services directorates.

Teaching, learning and assessment

4. Following consideration by Senate, the University's 2022 [Degree Outcomes Statement](#) has now been published.
5. Senate is asked to note the recent publication of guidance on the use of AI in assessment by the [European Universities Association](#) and the [Quality Assurance Agency](#).

National Student Survey

6. The 2023 NSS is open between 23 January and 30 April. A series of promotional activities are in place for the survey period. Full details of these are available on [Connected](#). The University has set a target response rate of 70%. As at 3 March, the response rate was 43% (compared with 33.1% at the same point in 2022). Five Schools/Institutes have so far reached the 50% threshold.
7. The NSS Taskforce has continued to meet, and has considered a series of NSS targets which have now been shared with Heads of School and Institute Directors. These targets seek to improve NSS performance relative to TEF benchmarks.

Student Surveys

8. Queen Mary will be participating in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey during 2022/23. The PTES will be open between late March and early June, with the exact dates to be confirmed shortly.
9. Semester A module evaluation surveys have taken place, with an average response rate of 24.5% (compared with 28% in Semester A of 2021/22). School/Institute average response rates ranged from 14%-40%.

Queen Mary Academy

10. The next Queen Mary Festival of Education will take place from 18-20 April 2023. The call for contributions has now closed and the Festival programme will be published shortly.
11. Mary Curnock Cook, the former Chief Executive of UCAS, has agreed to deliver the 2023 Drapers' Lecture. The date and title for the Lecture will be confirmed in due course.
12. The first in a series of new profiles have been published, showcasing the impact of the Westfield Fund. These are available on the [Queen Mary Academy website](#). A number of additional case studies will be produced this year.
13. Dr Jonathan Kennedy from the Wolfson Institute of Population Health and Professor Gerard Hanlon from the School of Business Management have recently become Queen Mary Academy Fellows. Dr Kennedy's Fellowship will focus on virtual international exchanges, while Professor Hanlon will work on developing improved understanding of how BTEC (and going forward T-Level) students learn at college prior to entering university.
14. Ten Queen Mary students have been recruited to this year's Learner Interns Programme. They will work on a range of projects aligned to strategic priorities including assessment and feedback, student voice, employability and use of innovative and immersive technology. Final reports will be produced by the end of this academic year.
15. The arrangements for the new President and Principal's Fund for Educational Excellence, as the successor to the Westfield Fund, were recently discussed at EQSB.

Office for Students and regulatory matters

16. The University's submission for the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework has been submitted. Provisional ratings are expected in July/August, ahead of the publication of all TEF outcomes in September.
17. The OfS has announced some initial outcomes from the recent consultation on Access and Participation Plans, with the full response expected later in March. A small number (30-50) of providers will prepare new APPs this summer, with most others then submitting new plans in spring/summer 2024. This represents a change from the previous proposal that all providers would submit new APPs this year.
18. The OfS has recently launched a consultation on a new approach to regulating harassment and sexual misconduct in English higher education. The deadline for responses is 4 May 2023.
19. EQSB recently discussed the updated OfS B Conditions, and agreed to establish a task and finish group to take forward work in this area. As set out above, this work will be a priority for 2022/23.

Vice-Principal (International) Report to Senate**International Student Recruitment*****January 2023***

The enrolment period for January 2023 intake has now concluded. Final enrolment numbers will be confirmed on the 1st of March 2023. At the time of writing (21/02/23), there are a total of 321 fully enrolled overseas students with 284 at PGT level and 37 on foundation and pre-masters' programmes. Students from India account for 57% of the January intake, with 18% from China and 4% from Pakistan.

The breakdown by programme is as follows:

Pathway Programmes	Enrolments
IFY Humanities & Social Sciences	1
IFY Business & Management	6
IFY Economics & Finance	7
IFY Law	4
IFY Politics and IR	1
BSc Economics & Finance with Integrated Foundation	1
PMP Humanities & Social Sciences	8
PMP Economics & Finance	9
Total	37

PGT Programmes	Enrolments
MSc Banking and Finance	116
MSc Management	141
MSc Management with Integrated PMP	14
MSc Genomic Medicine	13
Total	284

Overseas Undergraduate (September 2023)

Application numbers at UG level look healthy now that we have passed the UCAS deadline for equal consideration passed on the 25th January 2023. Applications are up YoY by 8% and offers have increased by 25% YoY. This gives us a large pool of applicants to try and convert between now and early June when offer holders must confirm their firm and insurance choices. At market level there has been noticeable growth from India (+20%), Saudi Arabia (+51%), UAE (+29%) and Turkey (+54%). Queen Mary continues to accept UCAS applications from international students for undergraduate programmes (except for programmes in FMD) until the end of June.

Kaplan

145 students enrolled at Kaplan in September 2022 with the intention of progressing to a Queen Mary degree in September 2023. A further 85 students enrolled in January 2023 with up to 28 more students with deposits to join their spring intake. The top nationalities among these students are Saudi Arabia, China, UAE, Qatar, and Turkey. The most popular progression routes programmes in EECS and SBM at UG level, and SOG at PGT level. Based on the numbers due to join Kaplan for their spring intake, we can expect between 180-200 students to progress to Queen Mary in September 2023. Ahead of the next Joint Strategic Management Board meeting at the end of March, Kaplan

are preparing some new stretch targets to recognise the success of the partnership over the first three years.

Overseas Postgraduate (September 2023)

The recruitment picture at PGT level is also encouraging with applications increasing YoY by 17%. China is currently our largest application market and while numbers have plateaued this year, we are close to receiving 10k PGT applications from China for 2023 entry. It is interesting to note that while applications have decreased from China for some SBM and SEF programmes, applications for CCLS have increased by 34%. Applications from India continue to increase with YoY growth of 43%. India surpassed China in 2022 at Queen Mary's largest market for PGT enrolments. All other major PGT markets have increased with rest of the world applications (non-China and India) up by 24% YoY.

International Partnerships

FMD's application to the [British Council's Going Global Partnerships Scheme](#) with Ain Shams University was successful. Under this project, the universities will co-develop an online CPD course in Digital Health, with the first in-person visit will take place in March 2023. The longer-term aim of the project is a TNE degree programme, with the online module forming part of this programme. In addition, we will sign a progression agreement with ASU, to facilitate students coming to CCLS for postgraduate programmes.

FMD were also successful in a bid to the Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships Scheme. This will provide scholarships for nine students for the 2023-23 academic year.

The second cohort of students (6) from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) arrived in January 2023 for the PG Cert in Global Public Health and Policy.

New Partnerships signed

IIM Kozikode (one of the leading business schools in India) – MoU (HSS)

With international travel now open once again and the lifting of restrictions globally, the International Partnerships team are travelling once again with the following visits

- Pakistan – new partnership development (January 2023)
- India – new partnership development and visits to existing partners (February 2023)
- Thailand – International Education Conference (March 2023)
- China – visits to existing partners (April 2023)

Student Mobility

Incoming Student Mobility

Final enrolments for spring 2023 Associate Students were confirmed as 488:

Fee payers

318 full time fee payers

20 part time fee payers

Total: 338

International Exchanges

150 full time students (enrolled at Queen Mary through no tuition fee reciprocal exchanges)

Total: 150

2022/23 Associate Student Intake Summary

The Global Opportunities team welcomed a total of 1065 Associate Students:

- 656 full time study abroad fee paying
- 39 part time study abroad fee paying
- 370 exchanges (no tuition fee)

This is a 32% increase in overall numbers compared with 2021/22. There has also been a 34% increase in the number of fee-paying Study Abroad Programme students joining Queen Mary, compared with 2021/22. Associate student recruitment has now fully recovered post-Covid

Queen Mary Summer School

19 summer courses have now been confirmed to run as part of the 2023 Queen Mary Summer School. 35 applications with deposit have been received so far, (the application closes at the end of May)

Outgoing mobility

The Global Opportunities team are currently supporting 206 Queen Mary students who hold offers to study/work abroad in 2023/24, in addition to 81 Department of Modern Languages & Cultures students from SLLF. (Please note the 81 is individual mobilities and not students as some students are doing more than one placement abroad.)

Mobility Partnerships

New Study Abroad and Exchange Agreements have been set up with The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and American University. Both Institutions will send fee-paying as well as exchange students to Queen Mary in 2023/24.

External Risk

Australia has introduced attractive new post-study work visas for International graduates who enrol in their HEI's from this summer onwards. Bachelor's graduates will see their PSW rights extended from two to four years, Masters graduates from three to five years and PhD graduates from four to six years. At the same time they have lifted the cap on the number of part-time hours an international students can work from 40 hours a fortnight to 48 hours.

The **USA** has taken its own step to try and remain competitive in the global race for International Students by allowing students to apply for their study visas up to one year in advance, in a bid to increase the USA's appeal and mitigate against slow turnaround times at peak periods. Both moves are expected to have an impact on the UK's market appeal with government rhetoric around migration and the potential withdrawal of the Graduate visa unnerving students and other stakeholders in key markets.

Queen Mary Global Policy Institute and International Communications

30th November 2022

[In conversation with Professor Rodrigo Correa-Oliveira and Dr Belinda Nedjai](#)

News item and video – the first in our new series of 'In conversation with...' exploring Rodrigo's career, Queen Mary-Fiocruz strategic partnership and upcoming seed funding initiative – Brazil Accelerator Fund.

1st December 2022

[The valley of death of growth and development policies](#)

Opinion piece – Roberto Alvarez, QMGPI Senior Policy Fellow, the first of two pieces that consider solutions to the complexity and reality of policymaking and policy cycles.

5th December 2022

[Addressing the lack of coordination in policy](#)

Opinion piece – in his second piece, Robert Alvarez explores what can do done to improve policy making and how can nations better address the challenges of coordination.

8th December 2022

[QMGPI works with the Malaysian Government to provide Cyber Security training for senior officials](#)

News item – outlining recent executive education programme covering Cyber Security regulations and practice from the UK, EU and US perspective.

15th December 2022

[Lack of appropriate governance and focus hampers the UNFCCC COPs](#)

Opinion piece – Dr Fernando Barrio on why it is becoming more evident that a radical new form of climate governance might be needed.

19th December 2022

[2022 – a year in review](#)

News item - We reflect on the projects, events and partnerships that the Queen Mary Global Policy Institute has led and collaborated on in 2022 as we look back on the year to date.

24th January 2023

[Queen Mary biodiversity research secures policy impact funding](#)

News item – details on recent grant success (through Natural Environment Research Council) from the Biology department at Queen Mary to protect biodiversity, address the challenges of climate change, and achieve policy impact.

17th February 2023

In Conversation with....Shazelina Zainul Abidin

Martin Uden interviewed Queen Mary alumna and Malaysian diplomat [Shazelina Abidin](#).

Policy Pathway leads

Our Policy Pathways connect with our research Highways.
Leads are:

[Dr Jonathan Filippou](#) – Health, Recovery and Reform

[Prof Chris Eizaguirre](#) – Resilience and Sustainability

[Dr Matthieu Burnay](#) – Rights, Inclusion and Diversity

They have already hit the ground running, establishing a Framework to help guide our work and identifying activity to support our community building, translation, outputs (e.g. events, publications) and business development from a pathway and cross-cutting perspective.

As an example, one of our cross-cutting activities has been the creation of a Policy Impact Survey to better understand our academic community's familiarity with the QMGPI and existing knowledge, research, and interest in policy.

This will help us to identify areas where additional training and support may be needed and to foster interdisciplinary research which addresses key global problems.

Queen Mary
University of London
Global Policy Institute

Policy Impact Survey

The survey will take approximately 8 minutes to complete.
The Queen Mary Global Policy Institute exists as a multidisciplinary vehicle to translate Queen Mary's research to positive social change and policy impact. To learn more about the QMGPI please visit our website: www.qmul.ac.uk/gpi

We have created a questionnaire to better understand our academic community's familiarity with the QMGPI and existing knowledge, research, and interest of its academics regarding policy.

This will also help us to identify areas where additional training and support may be needed and to foster interdisciplinary research that addresses key global problems. Additionally, by gathering this information, we can better understand how we can contribute to the inclusion, diversity, and positive social change at Queen Mary.

If you would like to seek further information about how to get involved in the QMGPI please contact gmgpi@qmul.ac.uk

Hi, Mark. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

1. Which Faculty are you from?

Humanities and Social Sciences

Science and Engineering

Medicine and Dentistry

By gathering this information, we can also better understand how we can contribute to the diversity and inclusion agenda and positive social change at Queen Mary.

Resilient Futures Pakistan Initiative (RFPI)

Co-convened by Queen Mary University of London and the English-Speaking Union of Pakistan, the pre-launch for the **Resilient Futures Pakistan Initiative** took place on Wednesday, 26th October 2022 at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi. Since then, there have been several working meetings culminating in the development of a concept note with the following structure.

Objectives:

- To develop and deliver innovative and impactful interventions for enhancing resilient lives, communities and systems in contexts of uncertainty in Pakistan and in the UK.
- To build sustainable impact partnerships that leverage local and global knowledge and prioritise sustainable solutions.
- To design and deliver research programmes that respond to resilience challenges and inform evidence-based policy.
- To build multidisciplinary collaborative research delivery and impact teams to enhance collaborative research capacity.

Priority themes:

- Panel A: Health and Well-being
 - Sub-themes: Mental Health, Health Literacy, Health advocacy for funding, equity and access to services
- Panel B: Climate and Society
 - Sub-themes: Climate change (impact on indigenous eco-system & its adaptation, Innovation, Resilient Growth – on rural and urban
- Panel C: Pedagogy and Learning
 - Sub-themes: English literacy, Leadership, Learner Autonomy, public private partnership
- Panel D: Arts in Action
 - Sub-themes: Performance and Resilience, Culture and Trust-Building

Membership:

- i. ESU Pakistan
- ii. Queen Mary University of London
- iii. Dow University of Health Sciences, DUHS
- iv. National Academy of Performing Arts, NAPA
- v. SZABIST
- vi. Institute of Business Administration, IBA
- vii. Interactive Research Development IRD
- viii. Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, PIIA
- ix. Institute of Business Management, IoBM
- x. Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority, STEVTA

We continue to work collaboratively to help shape the programme of activity and will hold the formal launch w/c 20th March 2023 with Prof. Vicky Bird (Wolfson), Prof. Paul Heritage (SED) and Prof. Chris Eizaguirre (SBBS). Local partners involved include leading diplomats, NGOs and leading corporates.

Recent Engagements

Pakistan

Queen Mary hosted a delegation from Pakistan on Monday 6th February. This included 19 Vice-Chancellors from Pakistani Universities and senior leaders from the Higher Education Commission and British Council in Pakistan.

We were delighted to be chosen as one of a handful of universities to host them on the visit to the UK – which is programme to support leadership development and understand better UK HEI structures and process – our session included an overview of Queen Mary, our Pakistan footprint, followed by a working lunch led by Jonathan Morgan and Catherine Murray on governance and strategic planning.

[Pak UK Education Gateway](#) was established in 2018 and is a partnership between the British Council and Higher Education Commission (HEC). The partnership aims to enhance collaboration between the higher education sectors of Pakistan and the UK – specifically looking at innovative and collaborative research, higher education leadership, quality assurance and standard setting, distance learning, international mobility and transnational education.

Indonesia

We recently met with [Sarah Tiffin](#) who has been appointed the United Kingdom Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta. We briefed Sarah on our work of Queen Mary and our considerable footprint across Southeast Asia.

Israel

[Simon Walters](#), HMA to Israel visited the Mile End campus on Tuesday 28th February. He was particularly impressed with Queen Mary's efforts around diversity, social mobility and research excellence and is committed to supporting our efforts to build collaboration with partners in Israel.

We are pursuing further meetings with Brazil, Lebanon and Peru.

Executive Training

QMGPI/SPIR are in advanced discussions with [Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations \(IDFR\)](#) in Kuala Lumpur and the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), with a view to establishing the University as a key delivery partner at Masters and Executive Education levels for programmes in Diplomacy and Leadership.

Global Alumni Engagement

Principal's Christmas Message – December 2022

At the end of December, a seasonal end of year message was recorded by the Principal and sent to all alumni. We recorded a 99.4% successful delivery rate and a strong 35.2% open rate. This message continues to be particularly well received internationally.

Trip to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur - February 2023

The Directorate of Development and Alumni Engagement (DDAE) hosted two alumni events this month in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. On Tuesday 21 February we welcomed over 120 guests at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore and on Friday 24th February we hosted an event at the Traders Hotel in Kuala Lumpur where we welcomed around 100 alumni, guests and student offer holders. Both evenings featured a welcome address by Celeste Bright, Director of Development and Alumni Engagement and were a fantastic opportunity for alumni to network, to reconnect with Queen Mary and learn updates and to offer advice to those thinking of studying at Queen Mary. Outside of the events the team were able to meet prominent and notable alumni in the region and share updates and volunteer opportunities.

The work in region drew on some recent alumni research carried out in relation to Singapore and Malaysia which has highlighted some 140 or so alumni of interest who have had limited contact with Queen Mary recently or since graduation. The 20 or so individual meetings carried out across the week explored areas of interest and possible opportunities to stimulate greater involvement from this group, including philanthropy, student internship and career pathways, executive education opportunities, mentoring, guest speaking and access to networks.

India – February 2023

In February DDAE also facilitated meetings in Delhi with Alumni Chapter Leads for Dr Maggie Leggett, Director of Relations.



the Delhi External

Staffing

Andy Durban, Deputy Head of International and EU Student Recruitment will be leaving Queen Mary on Friday 3rd March to take up a new role as Head of International at the University for the Creative Arts. Andy has been a fantastic member of the ISR team for nearly three years. Recruitment of a replacement is ongoing.

Claire Canning, International Partnerships Manager will be leaving Queen Mary on Wednesday 8th March. Claire has made a fantastic contribution to the International Partnerships Team over the last two years and recently completed a partnerships visit to India. Recruitment of a replacement is ongoing.

Senate update: VP, Policy and Strategic Partnerships: December 2022 – March 2023

London City Institute of Technology (IoT)

Progress to reinstate the water damage to the lower floors of the building has been slower than we would have liked, however, we now have agreement in principle from the insurers to proceed with the strip-out and reinstatement works. We are planning to complete the reinstatement works by end of June, to allow July and August for IT and the installation of the fixtures, furniture and equipment. The target is to have the entire building operational by the start of the new academic year.

A bid for additional grant funding of £1.26m has been made to the GLA and we expect to hear if we are successful by the end of February. This funding will be used to procure additional specialist teaching equipment that was descoped from the project in order to remain within the original grant funding envelope of £28m.

We are also:

- continuing work with our IoT partner, Newham College, to raise the profile of the IoT
- organising a launch event for Spring 2023 and liaising with the Department for Education regarding a proposed ministerial visit.
- working with our anchor employers to establish links with their substantial supply chains and organisations that they have commercial relationships with as part of developing our offer.

Executive Education/CPD/Enterprise Activities

Overall

Design, Development and Delivery of Open Recruitment Courses

- A new storefront for short courses is being procured which will allow learners to discover, register and pay for courses. This will complement the Learner Management System which has been procured and will go live in AY23/24. The storefront will be piloted in Medicine and Dentistry, before being extended cross-faculty.
- Marketing of courses continues to be a challenge.

Design, Development and Delivery of Bespoke Training Courses

- Following successful delivery of a Cyber Security course for Universiti Sains Malaysia in November 2022, we are expanding our offering in 2023 by exploring three further projects:
 - Cyber Security
 - Implementation of E-Government
 - Improving service delivery in local government

Internal Service Development and Improvement

To aid development and improvement, all policies, processes and templates are now fully accessible on Connected: <https://connected.gmul.ac.uk/services/business-development-team/short-courses-cpd--executive-education/>

Degree Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Learner Management System (ALMS) - We are working on the development and potential procurement of an apprenticeship management system. We have gone out to tender to test the market, Shortlisting is taking place week beginning 20th Feb 2023, and once we have all the information we need to form an assessment of the bidders, a business case will be prepared for the Strategy Programme Board. Further information will be provided in due course.

ESFA and Ofsted compliance readiness checks were carried out in December, and the findings of the work have been delivered in three separate reports:

- Apprenticeship Quality review report
- Operational Management review report
- Operational Compliance review report

The findings of the report have been presented to the Degree Apprenticeships Oversight Board, and the recommendations are being taken forward.

We are currently refining our Self-Assessment report and Quality Improvement Plan as required under the Ofsted Education Framework. Drafts of these reports will be submitted to the Oversight Board before going through other levels of university governance.

Ofsted New Provider Monitoring Visit

- On 15th Feb 2023, Ofsted came on a new provider monitoring visit, as we are a new provider to Ofsted, who took over responsibility for HE apprenticeship provision from the OfS in April 2021..
- In this visit, our provision was inspected against the following three themes:
 - leadership and management (to include governance)
 - quality of education and training that addresses the needs of apprentices and employers
 - effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements.

For each theme, there were three possible judgement outcomes:

- insufficient progress: progress has been either slow or insubstantial or both and the demonstrable impact on the apprentices has been negligible.
 - reasonable progress: the provider's actions are already having a beneficial impact on apprentices and improvements are sustainable and are based on the provider's thorough quality assurance procedures.
 - significant progress: progress has been rapid and is already having considerable beneficial impact on apprentices.
- The outcome is currently embargoed, but we have seen the draft report, and the final

report will be published by Ofsted later in March. Through this report, I thank Professor Tony Michael, who is our Ofsted nominee, and everyone in the relevant central teams, and academic and professions services colleagues in the Schools and Faculties for all your hard work and commitment, which really shone through.

- Finally, we have submitted a tender to the BBC for delivery of their requirement for Level 7 Digital Technology Solutions provision. This bid is potentially worth £1.5m.

Public Engagement

The Centre for Public Engagement has launched a pilot funding scheme to enable participatory and co-produced research. Grants of up to £10,000 are available to enable 3-month projects which involve non-academic partners in the research process. This could include contributing to research questions, data collection and analysis, and interpretation of results.

The Festival of Communities 2023 will take place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June. The call for activities is now open, with a deadline for applications on Thursday 31st March.

The next East London Research Network meeting is scheduled to take place on the 7th March. The network brings together over 100 colleagues working on projects related to East London. The membership spans all three faculties and includes researchers at all career stages.

Queen Mary hosted the Power Knowledge Exchange Conference, in collaboration with Citizens UK on 18th January. The event focused on themes of “building leaders”, “strengthening institutions”, and “making change”, with a broader aim of building a community practice of organising in the Higher Education sector.

Arts and Culture

Arts and Culture was recently awarded some HEIF/QR funds for policy impact, to fund activities associated with its Cultural Advocacy Fellowship scheme, which was launched in May 2022. The aim of the scheme is for key policy makers and advocates to work in collaboration with Queen Mary academics to tackle some of the major policy challenges facing the cultural sector, with QM data, research and methodologies underpinning the formation of new policy approaches.

The funding will support a series of projects that speak to common interests between the Fellows:

1. Creating a data bank, establishing key data gaps and enabling evidence sharing among Advocacy Fellows and QM academics
2. Cultural policy: the city versus the nation

A project investigating the relationship of approaches to cultural policy in city governance with national level cultural policy – considering this question at UK, European and international levels.

3. AI and the cultural workforce

A project investigating cultural workforce rights in AI, developing policy recommendations for tech companies and government – in conversation with AI experts in law, business, ethics, computer science, data science at QM.

4. Labour's cultural policy

A workshop exploring Labour's policy approach to the cultural sector in preparation for policy advocacy – hosted by Mile End Institute.

5. Advocacy and Policy training

A day-long event offering insight into how cultural policy is shaped, reformed and implemented for local and national government, funders and charitable foundations. All of these events/projects are planned to take place by the end of June 2023.

Latin American initiatives

A Latin Partnerships Manager recruitment process has been conducted in January and February, and a candidate has now accepted an offer to join Queen Mary in the spring. This role will facilitate further growth in this area and the development of an increasingly strategic approach to an area of both opportunity and importance to Queen Mary.

Professor Arturo Reyes-Sandoval, Director General (Rector) of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), one of Mexico's largest and most prestigious universities, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree from Queen Mary University of London on 8th March.

The award is in recognition of Professor Reyes-Sandoval's outstanding work to develop new vaccines. He is a chemical bacteriologist and parasitologist, with a PhD in molecular medicine, and his research has led to the development of vaccines for Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue – all mosquito-borne diseases endemic in Mexico. Professor Reyes-Sandoval is also carrying out research supported by the Wellcome Trust and the UK Medical Research Council to develop vaccines against two parasites - Plasmodium vivax – one of the two most prevalent malaria parasites - and Trypanosoma cruzi, the parasite that causes Chagas disease.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine was built on twenty years or so of research and development into new vaccine technology, including Professor Reyes-Sandoval's work on the chimpanzee adenoviral vaccine vector – the active substance in the Oxford/AZ vaccine.

Research and Innovation Report to Senate March 2023

This report covers the following updates:

- REF preparation meetings: key themes and next actions
- Additional support for raising our research reputation
- The Research and Innovation Awards

REF preparation meetings

Over the past few months, I have enjoyed meeting with almost all Heads of School / Directors of Institutes to hear your reflections on the past REF and discuss how you are already preparing for the next one. Thank you to you and your teams for these very stimulating discussions, which are helping the Deputy Vice Principals for Impact and for Strategic Research and I to consider how we can better support your plans from the centre.

There are a small number of meetings yet to be completed, but key themes are already emerging which I wanted to summarise here:

1. There is a renewed focus on impact, with the majority of Schools/Institutes having strong plans in place for this.

Impact is clearly at the very centre of plans for REF 2028, and it is heartening to see this focus right from the beginning of our preparations. Taking a long term, iterative approach to how we generate Impact from our research is important for developing case studies which can show reach and significance and starting this work now will give us the best opportunity to do this.

Many Schools/Institutes spoke specifically about evidence capture, reflecting on feedback we received in a number of UoAs last time. The Impact Team is also looking closely at how we can ensure evidence is collated in a timely manner and then be well catalogued for the eventual submission, and I encourage researchers to engage with the Impact Officers for their Faculties for support in how to best do this.

2. Growth is a part of our REF strategy

Nearly every School/Institute has either grown rapidly recently or is planning to grow over the next few years. In some instances, this growth has included large numbers of early career researchers who will require careful probation and mentoring to help them become full members of our research community and achieve their potential at Queen Mary. I was impressed by the energy and attention invested in this by colleagues across the university..

My colleagues at SET and I have been considering how we can support this expansion, particularly through the recruitment of established leading researchers, including at professorial level who can support research leadership within our university. It has been agreed that we will allocate a proportion of our QR uplift to enable this, helping us to attract excellent researchers to join us at Queen Mary. This funding will be used slightly differently by different faculties, with a focus on how we can deliver attractive packages which enable us to attract excellent candidates to Queen Mary. I am keen to hear from anyone who wishes to discuss this use of the allocation, which we can discuss with the respective Faculty VP.

3. We will continue to work on how PS staff, core services and administrative systems can better support research. Many researchers spoke about frictions within PS services and administrative systems which can make it harder than necessary to do research. As a researcher myself, I can empathise with these challenges. In a recent Heads of School/Directors of Institute meeting,

Sharon Ellis spoke about work that is in progress to address these challenges in central Professional Services teams and which is already making a difference.

I will continue to reflect the researcher perspective in these discussions at SET and more widely, and advocate strongly for frictionless systems which enable researchers to spend as much time as possible on their research. Our colleagues in PS are committed to this work too, and are prioritising the areas which are currently causing the most 'pain,' as reflected in a set of service level indicators that they have developed based on researcher feedback. They are working to make improvements as quickly as they can, but won't be able to fix everything in one go, so I do want to flag that we are prioritising areas where we are hearing that the challenges are the greatest.

4. Support for larger and more interdisciplinary applications

It was encouraging to hear about work to raise our research income and to hear of interest in submitting larger and more interdisciplinary proposals. I am pleased to say that we will shortly be recruiting two additional colleagues in Business Development with a remit to support large (£2Mm+) funding applications, providing additional capacity to help researchers taking on these projects.

Schools/Institutes will shortly be receiving an application to a sandpit on how we support interdisciplinary research at Queen Mary, which we are organising to aid preparation for the forthcoming UKRI Interdisciplinary Responsive Mode Pilot Scheme [Pre-announcement: UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme – UKRI](#). Please encourage your colleagues to look out for this invitation and to make time for this event in their diaries if they can. We know that there is some anecdotal evidence that interdisciplinary papers are better scored in REF, and increasing numbers of large funding opportunities also require an interdisciplinary response. It is important we take the time to prepare for both.

I am looking forward to taking this work forwards and will share further updates on our strategy towards REF in due course.

Support for raising our research reputation

From June, we will have a dedicated member of staff who will be responsible for nominating Queen Mary staff for external prizes and marks of esteem. Being nominated for and winning prizes can be very rewarding for individual academics as it recognises the value of their research, and of course it also benefits Queen Mary's reputation as well.

When in post, this person will begin by mapping the key prizes in each area and will reach out to Heads of School/Institute Directors to develop a list of potential nominees. If you would like to suggest any prizes or nominees now, please do send them to Hannah Bentley (h.bentley@qmul.ac.uk) who will begin to compile a list.

Alongside work on prize nominations, this post will also take over the curation and management of the Research Highways and other strategic projects around how we raise the reputation of our research, working closely with colleagues in the Faculties and the Communications Team.

The Research and Innovation Awards

I am delighted to be launching our inaugural Research and Innovation Awards, which will take place during the afternoon of 25th May 2023. Please hold the dates in your diaries.

I am continually impressed by the work our colleagues at Queen Mary do to support research, and by the research, innovation and impact their efforts and expertise produce. We have specifically designed these awards to recognise the diversity of roles and contributions that make up this team effort, with awards for:

- PGR supervision (individual award)
- Research support (individual or team award)
- Technicians (individual award)
- Interdisciplinary research project (team award)
- Early career researcher (individual award)
- Impact (two awards, recognising both enterprise and civic, cultural and community impact) (individual or team award)
- Outstanding research achievement (individual or team award)

Nominations will open at the end of March, and I would be grateful for Senate's support in nominating worthy winners from your areas. We will also share further information about the criteria and panel for each award at this time.

As part of this celebration, we are developing a photography project on the theme of Jobs that Change the World, aligning with the UKRI campaign of the same name: [101 jobs that change the world – UKRI](#). Our aim here is to recognise the contributions of the many people that make research happen at Queen Mary, whether they are in the university – procurement, faculty administrative teams, technicians, estates and facilities... If you would like to nominate a colleague to feature in this work, please send their name through to Hannah (h.bentley@qmul.ac.uk).