

**Teaching Excellence Framework:** The internal subject-level TEF pilots began are now under way. The Director of Planning, Catherine Murray and I, along with Katherine Bevan (ARCS) and Anne Donaldson (Strategic Planning) as well as colleagues from Student & Academic Services, are meeting with the TEF subject teams in each school/institute to go through the TEF methodology and metrics, map school/institute provision to the TEF subject areas, consider subject strengths and weaknesses, and consider the relevant action plans and monitoring mechanisms. QMUL submitted its response to the consultation on the proposed design of the subject-level TEF by the deadline of 21 May 2018.

**QMUL Model:** As reported in my last update, the central modules will not be offered as credit-bearing modules in 2018/19, but as extra-curricular activities. The '[QMUL Model Extra](#)' opportunities available for 2018/19 are being promoted on campus and online. Over 650 places are available to undergraduate students across five activities. QChallenge has not been included for next year, but the pilots in London, Kuala Lumpur and Stockholm were very successful, and we are keen to ensure that undergraduates continue to have opportunities in the future.

The Model module approval process has been completed, students are undertaking the skills review (1260 have completed and 248 were in progress as at 02 May 2018) and module pre-selection selection got under way on 30 April. For 2018/19, schools have adopted different approaches to approving module selection and a range of positions on whether their students can take modules from beyond the school and whether they will accept students from other schools:

- Schools allowing free movement of students: SED, GEOG, HIS, SBM, SPIR
- Schools allowing external students in (but not allowing home students out): SLLF, EECS, SBCS
- Schools allowing home students out (but not allowing external students in): SMS, SPA, (Global Health programme)
- Schools with no movement: LAW, SEMS, SEF.

The last QMUL Model Network Event was held on 23 May 2018 and covered module selection, Model module approval in 2018/19, Dentistry's approach to the Skills Review, and QMUL Model Extra opportunities. Information Sheet 6, which reported on staff training sessions, the skills review, the number of Model modules, was circulated in March. Information Sheet 7, on QMUL Model Extra, was circulated on 27 April 2018.

As many of you will now, Dallas Alexandrou has now left Queen Mary. She did an extraordinary job helping to develop the QMUL Model, and we are grateful for her contribution. The primary central contacts are now: Diana Buckley ([eo-setl@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:eo-setl@qmul.ac.uk)) and Valerie Jesman ([v.jesman@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:v.jesman@qmul.ac.uk)). The QMUL Model risk register is appended. Model-related resources, including the information sheets, can be found at: <https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=8490>.

**Student-survey season:** The first student-survey season has just closed. This is the first time we've run all of our key cross-institutional surveys during the same period. The United Kingdom Engagement Survey (UKES), which is aimed at pre-final-year undergraduates, and replaces the old Queen Mary Student Survey, closed on 23 March. The overall response rate was 8.8%, which is a lot lower than had been hoped. Nonetheless, the UKES, which includes questions from the National Student Survey (NSS), can provide important information on undergraduate student experience prior to the final year, and allow us to pick up on issues and themes across all undergraduate cohorts at the same time.

The National Student Survey (NSS) closed on Monday 30 April. The overall response rate was just shy of 68%, significantly higher than last year's response rate of 58.43%, and all JACS codes met the publication threshold. The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) closed on 25 May. As at 16 May, response rates were at just over 24%, a little lower than this last year.

UKES and PTES results should be available in June, with NSS results following in August. Surveys Coordinator Sarah Grossman will also undertake a review of how survey season went and examining ways to increase response rates of UKES to ensure we have as much information from students on their experience as possible. Further information is available via: <https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6804>.

**Santander Universities:** QMUL has been awarded £50k from Santander's Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Fund. £1m was made available to support the development of entrepreneurial culture within universities and their local communities. There were 79 bids and 15 were funded. QMUL's has been awarded the money to scale up inQUBEate, our start-up incubator programme run by the Careers and Enterprise team. InQUBEate provides seed funding, mentoring and training for students to test and develop business ideas. The programme has been reshaped as part of the 'QMUL Model Extra' opportunities. There will be places for 50 students to participate from September 2018. From July 2019, a second strand of inQUBEate will be launched: we will run a two-week, intensive summer school, co-designed with industry experts, that aims to help participants get their products to market. After the summer school participants will be given six months' membership of an incubator workspace and access to a retail unit to demo and sell their products. We are really excited about this development, and grateful to Santander for their continued interest and investment in our initiatives. [Students can find out more at: http://my.qmul.ac.uk/course-essentials/qmul-model/qmul-model-extra/](http://my.qmul.ac.uk/course-essentials/qmul-model/qmul-model-extra/)

**Degree Apprenticeships:** KPMG are the newest employer partner to join QMUL's Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship. Provisional numbers suggest we will double the number of Degree Apprentices on programme for September 2018 entry. On 6 April, Sir Gerry Berragan, Chief Executive of the Institute for Apprenticeships, launched the inaugural addition of QMUL's [Apprenticeships Anthology](#). This followed the successful launch of Queen Mary's own internal apprenticeship scheme for staff during [National Apprenticeship Week](#). Developments to create two new Degree Apprenticeships in Data Science and Chartered Management for the Social Sector continue to progress for the 2019 recruitment cycle.

**Queen Mary Digital:** The second of the online programmes we are delivering in partnership with CEG Digital was launched in May 2018. The first cohort of students on the LLM International Dispute Resolution - Arbitration is now under way. The second intake on to the MA International Relations also started this month. Next to launch are MSc Global Public Health (September 2018) and MA International Public Policy (May 2019).

**QMSU Education Awards:** QMSU's Annual Education Awards Ceremony was held on Monday 26 March in Drapers' Hall. The awards provide an opportunity to celebrate the excellent work undertaken by academic and support staff and student course representatives. The awards – the nominations, the voting and the ceremony – are entirely student-led. Congratulations to the nominees and winners, and thanks to the QMSU for organizing the awards and to the Drapers' Company for hosting the event. A full list of award winners can be found [here](#).

**QMSU Elections:** The elections for the Students' Union executive took place in March this year. The new student representatives have been confirmed. The full-time officers for 2018/19 are:

- President: Ahmed Mahbub
- VP Education: Redwan Shahid
- VP Welfare: Ella Harvey
- VP Barts and the London: Tom Longbottom

Congratulations to all! Full results, including names of part-time officers elected, can be found [here](#).

[Access and Participation Plan, 2019/20](#): The 2019/20 Access and Participation Plan was approved for submission to the Office for Students at the end of April. The Access and Participation Plan replaces the Access Agreement that was previously submitted to the Office for Fair Access (now disbanded). We have been working closely with the Students' Union on the submission. Our plan includes the commitment, announced in the Principal's all-staff update on 26 April, to increase our bursaries provision to home undergraduate students starting in 2018/19 or 2019/20 to £1,700 per year for students with a household annual income of under £20,000, and £1000 per year where income is between £20,000 and £35,000. This is in addition to our commitments to develop a Student Wellbeing Fund of £260K for 2018/19 and 2019/20, and, jointly with the Students' Union, commission a piece of research to review the evidence about the impact of bursaries at QMUL and comparable institutions.

Finally, as I will soon be leaving Queen Mary, I want to take the opportunity to thank staff and students for their help and hard work while I've been here. Queen Mary is a special place, with strong values and a unique character. I have been really impressed with the commitment and dedication of staff here to provide the best education for students, and with the Students' Union's engagement with the detail of running a university. I've had the opportunity to work with colleagues from across the institution on a number of exciting projects, and have been struck on every occasion by the willingness to explore and develop new initiatives on top of already challenging everyday commitments. I am confident that Queen Mary will be able to build on its successes and be ready to flourish in an increasingly complex higher education environment. I wish you well for the future.