

## Vice-Principal (International) Report to Senate

- Professor Colin Grant joined QMUL as Vice-Principal (International) on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- Work is now underway to develop a new International Strategy with a focus on six priority areas including strong, diversified recruitment of world-class talent (students and staff); mobility of students, alumni engagement, international policy impact through strategic engagement with policy-makers; research collaboration with strategic overseas partners at scale; international industry engagement.
- In support of our emerging ASEAN sub-strategy, the VP (International) visited Singapore and attended and presented at the British Council flagship conference *Going Global* in KL in April 2018. During the visit meetings were held with key partners in the region including University of Malaya (UM), University of Science, Malaysia (USM), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and A\*STAR as well as those from further afield including DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service) and Tec de Monterrey (Mexico).
- Major MoUs resulting from the ASEAN visit include a signing with NUS (ranked 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the world in the QS and THE World University rankings respectively) in support of research in dentistry and a new agreement with A\*STAR, the leading research agency in Singapore. The A\*STAR agreement sets out a commitment to develop joint research activity with both SMD and S&E including funded joint supervision and the attachment of PhD students for up to two years at A\*Star laboratories, collaborative applications for research funding calls and staff/student mobility, including research experience for undergraduates.
- During the reporting period, Alumni events were held across Latin America (Chile, Uruguay, Argentina and Colombia) in support of our emerging Americas strategy as well as in Singapore and Malaysia where plans are now underway to establish formal chapters. Alumni participation and engagement in all was high. A key component of the new International Strategy will seek to build on this and address the potential of doing more to leverage the connections we have globally through the ambassadorial influence of our large alumni community.
- A new three-year institutional GCRF strategy was submitted to Research England in March 2018. The strategy, which sets out our proposed activity funded through our QR GCRF allocation, focuses on our particular strengths in sustainable health and well being and forced displacement as well as concentrations of research excellence in conflict reduction, social justice and humanitarian action, poverty and inequality, sustainable cities and communities, sustainable energy and environmental change.
- In April 2018, 80 students travelled to Kuala Lumpur and Stockholm for a four-day programme that explored the global challenge: 'How do smart cities ensure they are inclusive?' The programme, QChallenge Abroad, aimed to give students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in a different cultural setting in partnership with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Siemens Healthcare and AirAsia Foundation.
- Since the last reporting period, the International Partnerships team have hosted visits from Nanchang University, Colfuturo (Colombia), Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFE), National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and Solvay Business School, Brussels.
- Key engagements for the VP (International) have included meetings with the PVC of the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), the Director of the Policy Institute at KU Leuven, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat in support of

more strategic engagement with India, and the Ambassadors of Iceland and Costa Rica.

- The first two meetings of the Europe Strategy Group were held in April and May with external speakers from UUKi and the University of Edinburgh. The group will meet again in June and it is expected to present its recommendations to QMSE by July 2018.
- Over the reporting period, successes in securing new international research funding include external European research grants and contracts of just under 9 million Euros in support of various research projects and post-doc fellowships.
- Queen Mary will hold its first Erasmus+ staff training week for colleagues from more than 25 European partner institutions in June 2018.
- On behalf of the Principal, the VP (International) will oversee a review of the effectiveness, efficiency and agility of Partnerships Board and its interfaces with other Boards in support of the International Strategy. A report to QMSE is scheduled for late June/July.