

Senate Update: Public Engagement and Student Enterprise

Engagement and Enterprise Awards – This year’s ceremony took place on 23rd April 2018. The event featured awards across 15 categories, with over 100 guests attending, including a mix of internal and external stakeholders. The Engagement and Enterprise Awards recognise outstanding achievement in public engagement, academic enterprise, student enterprise and public relations.

Festival of Communities - The weekend of 12th and 13th May 2018 the third annual QMUL Festival of Communities take place. The event was a huge success, with over 3,000 people attending over two days, with 104 stalls and activities based on QMUL research and teaching, plus a range of activities organised and delivered by our community partners. This year’s event was much larger than in previous years, with over double the amount of activities and projects taking part.

Training - Since January the Centre for Public Engagement (CPE) has delivered two Public Engagement Masterclasses, specific training sessions on Engaging with Schools and Families, Engaging Policymakers With your Research, Hands-On (Interactive) Engagement, and Podcasting. Feedback on these newly created and revamped courses has been overwhelmingly positive.

Science Museum Lates and Tate Exchange – The CPE has developed an ongoing collaboration with the Science Museum, where QMUL staff and students will have the opportunity to develop activities for the successful “Lates” events, which regularly see audiences of over 5,000 attend themed evenings at the museum. On 30th May a number of Geography research projects around the theme of “Home” will be showcased.

The CPE also worked with the Arts and Culture team to support the Tate Exchange project, where QMUL staff delivered activities and events between 30th April and 7th May 2018, with approximately 2,000 people attending over the week.

Being Human – QMUL has been awarded “Hub” status for the upcoming Being Human Festival (led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London in partnership with the Arts & Humanities Research Council and the British Academy), which will take place in November 2018. This is significant in that previously the festival hasn’t awarded hub status within London. This status was offered to QMUL in recognition of our work as a “beacon for best practice” in public engagement.

QEnterprise – In January 2018 we held a massive startup event in partnership with Enterprise Nation, welcoming 1,600 members of the public to QMUL Mile End Campus. We hosted over 100 speakers over 10 stages, including: “Show me the money”; “Building an online business”; “Build a brand” and “Make me Famous!”

The XX Factor: Women in Tech – In February 2018 we hosted an evening where a panel of four inspirational women in technology – including entrepreneurs, a government tech policy adviser and an investment manager – joined us to discuss the future of women in tech, developments in the space and what ambitious students could do to improve their chances of success. The event was a huge success!

East London Social Hack – In March 2018 QMUL hosted the East London Social Hack at Stour Space, in Hackney Wick. An intensive weekend bootcamp giving 60 Queen Mary students and alumni the chance to create social enterprises – commercial businesses that exist primarily to address social problems, not make profit – in just 48 hours.