



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 - October2023

Faculty Budget

The faculty generated £5.6m in quarter 4 2022-23. Full year cash generation was £42.0m, £2.8m higher than budgeted predominantly due to OFS teaching funding, research overheads & pay savings which is being partially offset by lower tuition fee income.

Key factors to note.

- Tuition fees were £73.5m year in 2022-23, £1.6m lower than budgeted, due mainly to lower PGT recruitment than planned.
- Research overheads year 2022-23 were £9.9m, £1.6m higher than budgeted.
- FMD pay 2022-23 was £66.9m, £0.6m lower than budget. The small underspend to date is due mainly to posts being appointed later in 2023 than originally planned.
- FMD non-pay costs full year costs 2022-23 were £10m, in line with budget.

Education update

Visit by Department of Education.

The Principal, VP Health and the FMD IHSE Team hosted a visit by the Department to share our approach to high enrolling years and progression and showcase the Centre of the Cell.

NHS Workforce Changes:

We are in advanced planning for increased medical and dental student places. Work is being done on placements across east London and Essex. We have received a letter outlining forward process for new medical student places and expect similar for dentistry. We are in advanced planning for this .

Student Recruitment Summary

The enrolment estimates for total UG and PGT students is for circa 5,172 students at 2023 enrolment close, circa 60 students lower than targeted (5,232 students). This is based on the remaining potential to enrol students converting in October 2023.

Based on this, it is expected that tuition fee income will be circa £70m, similar to target. The lower student number variance is expected to be offset by slightly higher overseas student recruitment and a higher percentage of full-time students than planned.

	Headcount			Income £000		
	Enrolment Estimate	Enrolment target	Variance	Enrolment Estimate	Enrolment target	Variance
UG						
Home	2,709	2,680	29	25,048	24,786	262
Overseas	330	326	4	12,736	12,150	585
UG Total	3,039	3,006	33	37,784	36,936	848
DL						
Home	460	492	(31)	3,123	3,455	(333)
Overseas	278	279	(0)	3,467	3,323	144
DL Total	739	771	(32)	6,590	6,778	(188)
PGT						
Home	654	717	(63)	6,307	7,021	(714)
Overseas	466	465	1	13,168	12,981	188
PGT Total	1,120	1,182	(62)	19,475	20,002	(527)
TNE	274	273	1	6,075	6,042	33
Total	5,172	5,232	(60)	69,924	69,759	165

UG Enrolment summary.

Undergraduate student recruitment for 2023-24 cycle has now closed, with enrolment opening on 18th September. Total new UG enrolment numbers currently standing at 687 students, exceeding the target of 665 students.

PGT Enrolment summary.

As of 3rd October 2023, 1,351 new students have been fully enrolled. This is expected to increase further by 31st October enrolment closure as there are a further 185 potential-to-enrol students. Coordinated conversion activities are continuing throughout this period.

The enrolment deadline for all FMD PGT programmes has been extended to 31st October which should allow maximum time to convert students, and programmes will provide additional support where needed to ensure their experience is not impacted.

An exercise is currently underway to rapidly facilitate a January 2024 entry point for PGT programmes able to accommodate this with no detriment to student experience, to further underpin the delivery of the 23/24 faculty cash generation target.

Digital Education Update

- The first and new DL MA/PGCert Medical Education has been successfully launched, as part of the Digital Academy agenda. Exceeded the target of 15, currently 28 students are in the first module, learning online. We foresee potential for growth next year.

DES created several showcase videos:

- [Showcase of Lynton House](#) teaching space - used at the meeting with Department of Education, along with the Principal, on 31st Aug. Video also being used to promote activities taking place on the Ilford site.
- [Student support signposting video](#) in collaboration with Amaan Abbas (BLSA president) and Dr Ava Kanyeredzi (Senior Lecturer in Mental Health, Digital Education, Wolfson Institute) – designed to signpost university wide student support services for ALL FMD students. Made easy to be linked in each QMPlus site for FMD programmes
- Cadmus pilot –All 7 selected FMD module teams for the Student Assessment and Feedback Pilot have been supported to redesign their digital assessment with an evaluation framework being created for the pilot.
- The *Thematic Peer Group: Digital Assessment and Feedback* for the whole of University community, along with the DES (Prof. Chie Adachi, Dr Jo Elliott), QM Academy (Prof. Janet De Wilde, Dr Emily Salines, Shoshi Ish-Horowicz), HSS (Prof. Rachel Male, Deputy Dean for Education) and S&E (Dr Shabnam Beheshiti, Director of Education, Math) – monthly meetings to work on ‘wicked problems’ in digital assessment and feedback. A few projects are being formed to progress. Currently 37 members across the University. Held on 15th Aug; 17th Sept.

NSS

The NSS 2023 results are currently being reviewed in detail with respective Institutes, and via the faculty executive board, and updated action plans are being developed. Despite good performances in Pharmacology the new scoring means performance in MBBS is at best static and Dentistry is low in rankings. The relative ranking positions across the 7 key themes require continued major work and significant improvement in several areas.

Table 5: NSS FMD Subject Rankings by Key Theme

Subject	Theme 1: Teaching on my course	Theme 2: Learning opportunities	Theme 3: Assessment & feedback	Theme 4: Academic support	Theme 5: Organisation & management	Theme 6: Learning resources	Theme 7: Student voice
Dentistry	14 of 16	14 of 16	14 of 16	14 of 16	14 of 16	13 of 16	14 of 16
Medicine (Non-Specific)	24 of 34	14 of 34	17 of 34	15 of 34	8 of 34	17 of 34	11 of 34
Pharmacology	10 of 29	12 of 29	8 of 29	12 of 29	6 of 29	17 of 29	5 of 29
Biomedical Sciences (Non- Specific inc. Neuroscience)	38 of 85	53 of 85	52 of 85	31 of 85	26 of 85	64 of 85	38 of 85

Industrial Action/Missed Teaching Reporting

The faculty is continuously monitoring the potential impact of strikes of university and NHS Staff on education, with daily reporting (including any impact from ASOS). No impact recorded as of 26-9-2023.

Research Update

FMD has launched major initiatives focusing on research culture and environment. New research governance processes were introduced as of 1st September 2023, in line with the current research requirements which will enable the faculty to maximise chances of success, with focus on major overhead-bearing grants proposals (over £1M).

FMD have also launched the Research Integrity training for all its research staff and students provided by Epigeum for all research active staff and PGR students. Compliance will be monitored at an institute level and reported back to the FMD Executive Board routinely. FMD are currently awaiting final approval from ITS before launching LabArchives an electronic laboratory notebook for all staff and PGR students that will provide a platform for all research work to be recorded and stored securely and help with better compliance of the University Research Integrity Policies.

Compared to 2021/2022 FMD have been very successful in 2022/2023 in terms of new research awards and number of bids submitted.

Overall Summary of FMD proposals/awards 2022/2023 (data from Worktribe including partner costs)

Bids Submitted			
	No. Bids	Bids Value (£)	Variance
2021/22	784	£366M	
2022/23	907	£444.3M	+£78.3M
Awards			
	No. Awards	Awards Value (£)	Variance
2021/22	306	£112M	
2022/23	364	£142.9M	+£30.9M

Major research proposals in progress:

1. [The Rare Disease Translational Challenge](#) – Edel O’Toole, £2.3M LifeArc Translation Research in Ichthyosis and Keratodermas centre. **Application deadline: 29th September 2023, Outcome December 2023.**
2. [Health and Social Care Delivery Research \(HSDR\)](#) – Richard Hooper, £1.5M, NIHR Stage II call.

3. EU – Horizon Europe – Steffen Petersen, £1.46M, Cardiovascular Analytics on distributed Repositories of Data and AI supported Decision making.
4. [MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship](#) – Paul Vulliamy, £1.34M, The role of platelets in post-injury organ dysfunction and thrombosis. **Shortlist decision January 2024.**
5. [CRUK early detection and diagnosis Programme Grant](#) – Samantha Quaife, £1.18M, **deadline September 2023.**
6. [EU – Horizon Europe Starting ERC Grant](#) - Paul Vulliamy, £1.17M. **Deadline:24th October 2023.**
7. [NIHR Research Professorships](#) – Pre-call. Research Managers working with internal shortlisted candidates to develop applications for the 2023/24 call.
8. [MRC CoRE Round 2](#) – Pre-call. Internal call for EoIs to be submitted by 2nd October 2023. Deadline for submission of EoI 7th February 2023.
9. [Wellcome Discovery Awards](#) – Internal call for EoIs to be submitted by 29th September 2023. **Deadline for submission of proposal: 21st November 2023.**

Major Research Proposals submitted:

1. [NIHR Health Tech Assessment \(HTA\) Programme](#) – Xavier Griffin, £2.1M. TOPical Glycopeptides vs Usual antibiotics in Neck of femur 2. **Awaiting outcome.**
2. [BHF Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Inflammation](#) – Lead Panos Deloukas + CoIs, £5M, **Shortlist to be announced December 2023.**
3. [UKRI Mental Health Hub](#) – £3.5M including partner costs. Call led by [Jennifer Lau](#) from WIPH. EoI submitted on 9th May. **Outcome to be announced in November 2023.**
4. [FLF Round 8](#) – Two FMD applications have been submitted. Tanya Soliman (BCI); Garth Funston (WIPH). **Shortlist to be announced in February 2024.**
5. [NIHR Global Health Group](#): Bid up to £3M. Went through Stage 1 of the NIHR Global Health Groups call. Full application submitted in May 2023. Submission title “Improving diagnosis of paediatric respiratory conditions in sub-Saharan Africa”. Lead – Jonathan Grigg. Environment and Health MDT. **Outcome in September 2023.**
6. [Rosetrees Trust](#) – Bid up to £300K. DM process was passed to FMD RSB which received 4 EoIs. RSB shortlisted 1 due to cap imposed by Rosetrees. Andy Prendergast/Conrad Bessant - REVAMP-AI – Researching the Vaginal Microenvironment in Preterm Birth using Artificial Intelligence. **Outcome in September/October 2023.**
7. [Neurosciences and mental health research: responsive mode research grant](#) - James Timmons, £1.2M, **Outcome in October 2023.**
8. [MRC Applied Global Health Research](#) – Rohini Mathur, £1.94M, **Outline proposal deadline 1st August 2023. Outcome in November 2023.**
9. [MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship](#) – Paul Vulliamy, £1.36M. **Submission deadline 6th September 2023.**
10. [MRC Career Development Award](#) – Eleri Jones, £1.4M. **Submission: 13th September 2023.**

New Awards in August 2023 - present:

The faculty has had another successful start to the new academic year in August 2023 with 30 new awards from various funding bodies including the MRC, Wellcome Trust, CRUK and BHF. Indicative subset of awards (>£200K) from August 2023 are shown below.

Lead PIs	Funders	Price to Funder (£)
Stamatina Iliodromiti, Andrew Prendergast, Melanie Smuk	Wellcome Trust	£1,773,784.96
Damian Smedley, Steffen Petersen, Panagiotis Deloukas, Aaron Lee	EU - Horizon Europe	£1,596,678.07
Xavier Griffin	Barts Charity	£1,102,098.00
Julie Sanders, Jessica Okosun, Steffen Petersen, Dylan Morrissey	Barts Charity	£1,054,585.16
Li Chan, Zudin Puthucheary, Andrew Prendergast, Jesmond Dalli, Jonathan Grigg, Melanie Smuk, Priyanthi Dias	MRC	£954,974.01
Andrew Finch	MRC	£637,808.80
Kevin Rouault-Pierre, Ana Del Rio Machin	CR-UK	£502,776.26
John Marshall, Jane Sosabowski, Julie Foster	MRC	£475,110.00
Claudia Carless	Alzheimer's Society	£422,745.52
Jonathan Grigg	OM Pharma SA	£319,755.00
James Timmons, Peter McCormick, Gregory Slabaugh	MRC	£310,383.16
Muhammad Yaqoob	WHRL	£285,000.00
Christoph Thiernemann	WHRL	£285,000.00
John Marshall	Barts Charity	£243,083.92
Marco Gerlinger	F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd	£240,427.53
Christos Bourantas	BHF	£237,741.62

NIHR Capital Award at Barts Health-QMUL of £4.885 million (two scanners and a mass spectrometer).

Summary of research awards by value August 2023 - present (incl. partner costs)

	Aug/23 (£)	Sep/23 (£)	Total (£)
William Harvey Research Institute	£4,017,544.05	£578,659.84	£4,596,203.89
Blizard Institute	£3,911,935.45	£574,263.14	£4,486,198.59
Barts Cancer Institute	£2,258,658.71	£137,469.01	£2,396,127.72
Wolfson Institute of Population Health	£775,575.27	£72,447.85	£848,023.12
FMD Total	£10,963,713.48	£1,362,839.84	£12,326,553.32

Capital Projects Update:

The **Garrod building**, refurbishment is delayed by a few weeks but is going to offer a fabulous new staff-student hub for teaching and the Barts and the London Student Association. It will also house the Institute for Health Sciences Education upon programme completion, We have rescheduled Sept/Oct face to face teaching.

Charterhouse Square Campus update

The Medical College of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Trust, the charitable trust holding the freehold of this campus have communicated their intention to grant QMUL a long lease for the CHSQ, pending contractual negotiations.

11-13 Charterhouse Buildings, funds of £3.4m have been allocated to transform this new office space to New Ways of Working and release John Vane space for new laboratories.

Events Update:

Open House- Pathology Museum 16th September 2023

As part of St Bartholomew's Fair and Open House, we opened the Pathology Museum on 16th September 2023 with 326 public bookings. The event was supported by: MBBS students, 4

ambassadors and Steve Moore. Positive feedback was received with offers put forward for volunteers e.g., researcher to help with the collection's catalogue and art illustrator.

Upcoming Events

William Harvey Day 19th October 2023 – Barts 900th

Our flagship conference is returning for the first time since 2019 to showcase the cutting edge research currently ongoing at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Featuring talks from researchers at all stages of their career, working across disciplines and in a variety of fields WHD23 is sure to demonstrate the breadth and depth of our activity in FMD. As part of Barts900 celebrations the event will be co-organised with the Barts Hospital and the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries who will contribute speakers, posters and join us at networking opportunities. The day will conclude with the traditional St. Luke's Tide Service in [.St Bartholomew the Great](#)

Queen Mary organises Barts back to Rome – Barts 900 International Symposium 28th October 2023

A partner event to celebrate 900 years of Barts Hospital, organised with Campus Bio-Medico, University of Rome will take place in the stunning Basilica San Bartolomeo in Rome on 28th October 2023. A range of talks delivered by QM Staff covering both historical and medical topics this event will spotlight the international connection and shared heritage of both institutions.

Equality diversity and inclusion update:

FMD has received feedback from the AdvanceHE panel communication asking for further detail to secure , a “gold” award.

Writing has begun on the Institute of Dentistry Athena Swan Silver renewal, which is due for submission on 31 May 2024.

- The next FMD EDI Seminar is being held on 31 October. The speaker is to be Professor Maria Fitzgerald, Professor of Developmental Neurobiology at University UCL, elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2000 and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2016, and currently on the EDI committee at the Royal Society.
- Following on from the staff survey 2023, FMD specific resources have been developed to increase awareness of the available bullying and harassment reporting channels.
- This August the Blizzard Institute acted as host for the In2scienceUK 2023 programme, which aims to connect disadvantaged Year 12 students to STEM professionals from different fields.

Humanities and Social Sciences VP Report to Senate - October 2023

Faculty Leadership Team

We are pleased to confirm that we have successfully recruited to four roles within the HSS Faculty Leadership Team:

- Professor Dan Todman (History) has been appointed as our new HSS Deputy Vice-Principal and began his role on the 1st September 2023, having previously successfully led the School of History as Head of School for the last four years.
- Professor Galin Tihanov (Comparative Literature, SLLF) will take up the position of HSS Dean for Research in January 2024, when Professor Adrian Armstrong's (Modern Languages and Cultures, SLLF) term comes to an end.
- Professor Kate Spencer (Geography) has commenced her role as the new HSS Deputy Dean for Research Impact, taking over from Professor Martin Welton who is now Head of the Department of Drama (SED).
- Professor Michael Harker recently joined Queen Mary, and will serve as our new Head of the Department of Law from the 1st November 2023. Michael will be joining us from the University of East Anglia (UEA) where he held the role of Head of the UEA Law School and previously served as the School's Director of Research.

Research Updates

HSS's research grant award success continues, and we are making excellent progress towards our income target of £10m in 2027/28. In 2022/23, our research income (spend on grants) totaled £7.2m. The faculty has a very promising research grant pipeline. Awards for 2022/23 totaled £12.1m - our highest ever – compared to £4.7m last year and a historic average of £9.4m. We were also pleased to see our pivot to larger bids (£500k) continuing, with 15% of the bids making up 65% of the total value of new awards.

Several awards were made in the region of £1m each, including:

- Eyal Poleg (History) *Hidden in Plain Sight: Historical and Scientific Analysis of Premodern Sacred Books*, AHRC, £1m (£600k to HSS), an innovative interdisciplinary collaboration with FMD colleagues aligned with new AHRC investment in heritage science
- Heather Ford (Geography) *Piocene Lessons for the Indian Ocean Dipole*, NERC-NSF Pushing the Frontiers grant, nearly £1m in total, £430k to HSS
- Devyani Sharma (SLLF), *Generations of London English: Language and Social Change in Real Time*, ESRC, £1m+, £945 to HSS, which used innovative interdisciplinary

methodology (linguistics and social psychology) to track changes to London speech brought about by social change and migration

- Camilla Kong (Law / IHSS Fellow), *Reproductive Borders and Bordering Reproduction: Access to Care for Women from Ethnic Minority and Migrant Groups*, AHRC, nearly £1m, £350k to HSS, drawing on philosophy, bioethics, law, sociology and arts-based engagement

Education Updates

Student Recruitment

As noted elsewhere in papers for this senate, HSS experienced a challenging admissions round for September 2023 entry. The faculty overall will not meet admissions targets, though in most schools we will be educating more students than we did last year due to large cohorts recruited in the past two years. We are working through how to improve admissions for next year and revisiting our targets over the next five years as part of the planning process.

The three main focus areas in HSS are: significant under-recruitment in some schools for home UG (SLLF, SED, Geography, History); the sustainability of international student recruitment in our three main PGT international recruiting schools (SEF, CCLS/law, SBM); and weak late-stage international UG conversion across all subject areas, which is a challenge shared with other faculties. A Task and Finish Group has already reported and made recommendations to address home UG recruitment in the four focus schools. We are convening groups to consider both UG and PGT international recruitment, in collaboration with marketing and recruitment colleagues.

Student Experience: National Student Survey Results

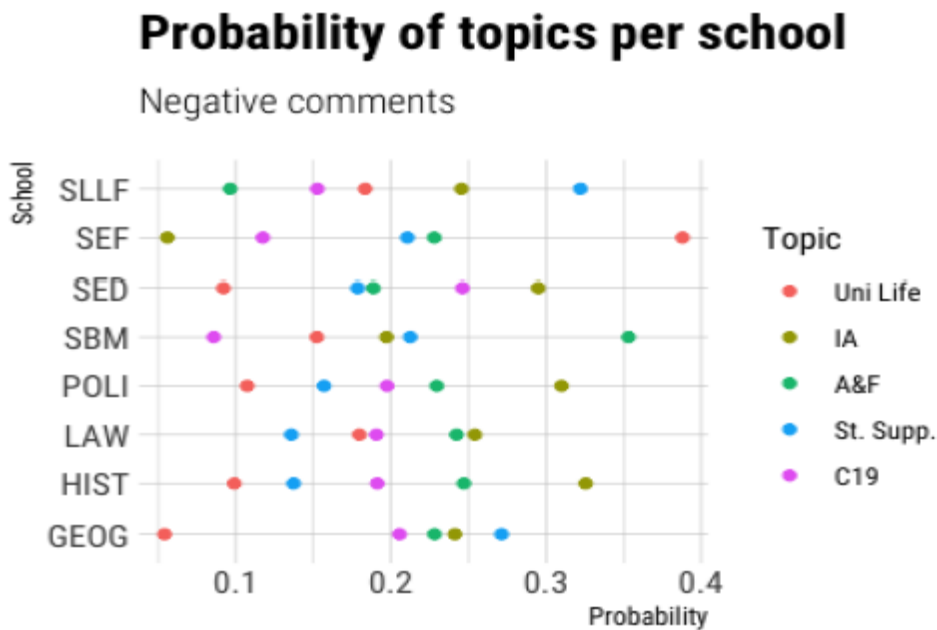
Senate members will have already seen the quantitative NSS results compared with benchmark by subject that were released in August 2023. Unfortunately, it is difficult to compare results with previous years due to methodology changes. However, it is clear that there are many areas across HSS that did not score well on the survey. We are in the process of undertaking a full set of review meetings with all schools to understand this further, and have asked all schools to update their NSS action plans by October 16th.

We were pleased to note some significant improvements in rank scores in some areas, particularly Drama (SED) coming top in the country (out of 71 institutions) for organisation and management, 6th for academic support, and improving 40 rank places for 'teaching on my course' from 56th to 16th; Human Geography achieving an impressive 11th in the country (out of 43) for teaching on my course, up from 42nd out of 43 for last year, with dramatic

improvements in rank score across just about all themes; Marketing (SBM) leaping into the top 20 for learning opportunities (from 76 of 91 last year), with strong rank gains in all themes, including student voice (up 49 places from 80th to 31st); positions in the top 3 in the country for three themes in English language (1st in organisation and management, 2nd for teaching on my course, and 3rd for learning opportunities), with improvements across many subject areas within SLLF. We will focus on what we can learn from these pockets of change to influence action plans across the faculty.

The HSS Education Dean Team also conducted Structural Topic Modelling (STM) analysis on the qualitative free-text comments written by students in their NSS responses. STM uses an algorithm to generate topics based on word frequencies, and then estimates the probability that each school responses falls within each topic.

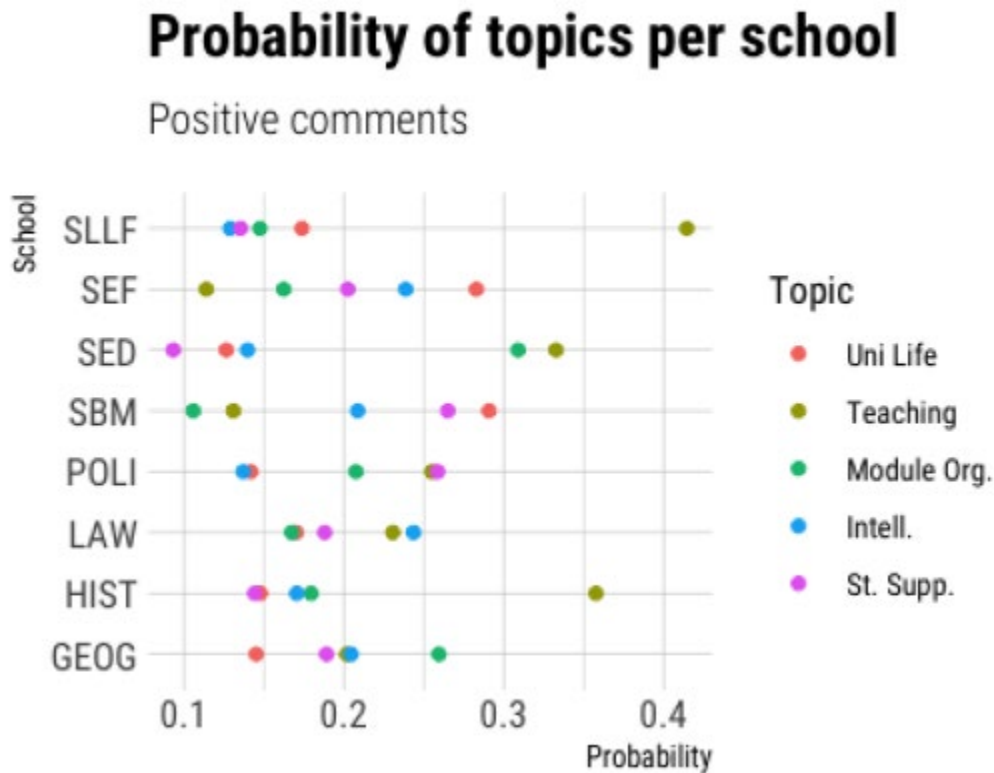
Figure 1: Negative comments; topic frequency by school



Notes: Uni Life = general comments on university life; IA = industrial action; A&F = assessment and feedback; St. Supp. = student support; C19 = Covid 19 pandemic

Figure 1 shows how negative free-text comments varied across schools. Industrial action issues were more prevalent in those schools that were most strongly affected by it (i.e. SED, SPIR, History). SEF, on the other hand, had the lowest probability of students commenting negatively about industrial action, but the highest for university life.

Figure 2: Positive comments; topic frequency by school



Notes: Uni Life = general comments on university life; Module Org. = module organisation; Intell. = intellectual challenge; St. Supp. = Student support

Figure 2 shows that Teaching was particularly praised in humanities subjects (SLLF, SED, History), and that student support was commented positively in some schools with large cohorts (SPIR; SBM). SED and Geography were praised for the organisation and communication within modules, whereas students in Law and SEF appreciated intellectual challenge in their programmes.

Student Experience: Industrial Action and Marking and Assessment Boycott

Some areas within HSS were affected by ongoing industrial action and, in particular, a marking and assessment boycott throughout summer 2023. Around 140 students in the School of English and Drama were unable to graduate in July because of having insufficient marked work. This marking has now been completed, and the students will be cleared to graduate at the next available opportunity. In addition, several hundred first and second year students in SED, SPIR and History experienced delays in receiving their marks to progress from one developmental year to the next. Much of this marking was completed before the end of the boycott, and all continuing students are now cleared to enter their next year of study.

The Faculty is particularly grateful to colleagues in professional services who have helped to manage this challenging assessment period, particularly in HSS school offices, Registry Services, DGLS, Communications, and the Advice and Counselling Service who have all played a vital role in supporting our students and staff this summer.

HSS Community, Alumni and Partnerships

Three HSS Alumni were recognised in the King's first Birthday Honours List:

- Jonathan Cox (MA Community Organising, 2011) Deputy Director, Citizens UK. Awarded an OBE for services to Community Organising and Refugee Settlement
- Peter O'Hara (BSc Economics, 1980) – Chief Executive, OLM Systems. Awarded an MBE for services to social care
- Bilal Bin Saqib (BSc Business Management, 2011) – Co-Founder One Million Meals. Awarded an MBE for services to the NHS and to the community in Stanmore and the London Borough of Harrow

VP-HSS led two Queen Mary delegations including colleagues from within HSS and across the university, to deepen research and education partnerships:

- Research Symposium and Project Workshops with FGV and Fiocruz in Jio de Janerio, Brazil, 11-14 September, including researchers from all three faculties developing projects in grand challenge areas. The visit also included celebrating People's Palace Projects (PPP) Brazil's 20th anniversary in Casa Rio
- Joint *Transnational Migration Workshop* between Queen Mary and Cornell University, held at QM Malta campus, 9-11 October 2023. Focus on interdisciplinary research collaborations and fundable project proposals in areas of migration studies crossing all three QM faculties.



Senate

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 within the Faculty of Science & Engineering between May - October 2023
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	Relates to all aspects of QMUL strategy and all sections of the Risk Register
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	For Senate only
Authors	S&E VP Operations Group
Sponsor	Professor Wen Wang, Vice Principal Science & Engineering

Our people

Since my last report to the Senate, there have been a number of changes in the S&E Faculty Executive. Professor Chris Bray has been appointed our new Dean for Education and Professor Alex Clark has been appointed our new Dean for International. Rachel Appleton, who has recently returned to Queen Mary, has been appointed as our new Deputy Dean for Education (Programs and Portfolio).

I am pleased to report that we have enjoyed an incredibly successful year of academic promotion within the Faculty with eleven promotions to professorial level within the Faculty. These promotions reflect that breadth and excellence of the contributions of our staff and we are delighted to have been able to recognise their contributions at this time.

We are also delighted to announce that our Faculty Technical Resources Manager, Kate Thornton, has been shortlisted in the **Times Higher Education Awards** under the *Outstanding Technician of the Year 2023* category – for her dedication and hard work with the QM community of technicians both at Faculty and institutional levels. Category winners will be announced in early December at a ceremony in Liverpool.

Research

It has been a busy and productive summer period for the Faculty of Science & Engineering in terms of research. Since the start of June, we have won over £15 million in new awards and our total research funding for the year 2022-23 reached a record high of £43.8M, up 27% from last year and 67% from the previous year.

Several significant grants have been awarded including EPSRC funding (£896k) to investigate scalable perovskite device manufacturing techniques; research into insect sentience funded through US charity the Good Venture Foundation (£764k); a joint Wellcome Trust bid (£1.82M) with our FMD colleagues; and a BBSRC standard grant (£688k) looking at chromosome stability. We are also especially pleased to report two significant and prestigious ERC Starting grant awards made to Dr. Edward Gillen in SPCS (£1.19M) and Dr. Wei Tan in SEMS (£1.17M) in the areas of exoplanet evolution and resilient materials respectively. These contribute towards a total of over £3.2M in European funding which the faculty has won since June, clearly demonstrating our strong, continuing links with EU counterparts, despite prior Brexit instability. We look forward to leveraging and growing these relationships further, following the welcome news of the UK's association to the EU's €95.5bn Horizon Europe research and innovation programme. Indeed, this has already been evidenced this September when the faculty submitted 36 applications to the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Postdoctoral Fellowships call. More broadly, we have seen a good funder spread with engagement across a wide spectrum of organisations including key partners in UKRI, the National Academies, industry partners such as Yamaha and Ocado, UK Government departments DSTL and DEFRA, charities such as Rosetrees and various international partners.

Already in the first 2 months of this financial year researchers within the Faculty have submitted over £120M of grant applications, up more than 50% on this time last year reflecting our ambitious growth strategy. In terms of Early Career Researchers, the Faculty has seen a hive of activity this September, with an unprecedented number of bid submissions to fellowship schemes. Over 47 applications have been submitted, including 17 to the Royal Society, 10 to EPSRC's New Investigator Awards, 6 to the Ernest Rutherford Fellowships with STFC, as well as several prestigious Future Leaders Fellows and Royal Academy of Engineering schemes.

We have recently recruited 27 ambitious, excellent researchers as part of our strategic hiring of new lecturers to boost our world-leading research power. For 2024/25, the Faculty is allocating a total of 22 QMUL funded PhD studentships and 6 EPSRC DTP studentships to support these talented newly recruited research stars.

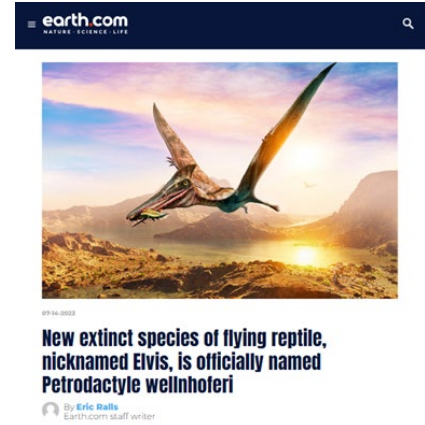
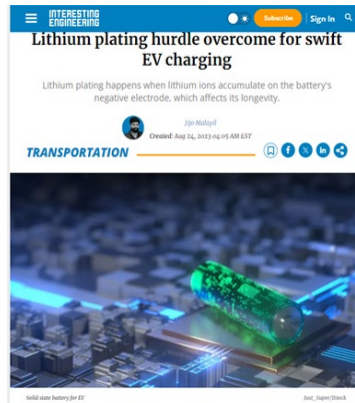
S&E colleagues have continued to publish their research in leading journals, whilst simultaneously working with our faculty communications team to share our expertise with wider press and social media audiences. Over the past few months, we have seen a significant number of articles in Nature. To highlight some key examples, Prof John Iwan Jones from our School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences (SBBS), co-authored an article about the decelerating recovery of European freshwater biodiversity whilst his colleague, Dr Lee M. Henry, put forward a paper on the evolution of symbioses and how this has influenced insect diversification. Dr Tao Liu and Dr Xuekun Lu, from our School of Engineering and Materials Science (SEMS), have published on increasing damage tolerance in 3D orthogonal woven composites and multiscale dynamics of charging and plating in graphite electrodes respectively. In the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences (SPCS), Dr Gavin A.L. Coleman and Prof Richard P. Nelson co-authored a paper on the discovery of only the second confirmed multiplanetary circumbinary system to date, along with international collaborators in Australia, Belgium, France, Portugal, Switzerland and the USA.

In terms of broader reputation building, our research continues to receive considerable press interest.

Notable stories in the past few months have included EECS Prof Xiaodong Chen’s BEIS grant (£960k) which was included as part of the UK Government’s [announcement](#) of its’ plans for space-based solar power as well as reported in [The Guardian](#). We have also seen the identification of a new species of dinosaur and the development of lithium plating for electric vehicle batteries leading to faster charging times.



A CubeSat goes past the International Space Station's solar arrays - Credit:NASA



In addition to our grants and publications, S&E have also enjoyed several successes in other activities including conferences and awards. In June, SPCS held the 2023 NOVA Collaboration Meeting – one of the largest International Neutrino Detection Projects. The following month, Prof Jan Mol organised a Future Leaders Network for Quantum Energy Conversion 2023, bringing together important and emerging leaders in this critical new field. July also saw Prof. Alex Fink (SMS) hosting the conference “Queer and Trans Mathematicians in Combinatorics” in support of our School and Faculty EDI goals. Our work on the Night of Science and Engineering showcase preparations also continues apace, with excellent, high-level speakers, including Dr Karen Salt (UKRI Lead for EDI), having been secured to introduce our event.

Education

Graduation

In July we celebrated the success of our graduating students in eight ceremonies over three days. As always, we were pleased so many of our academic colleagues took part in the ceremonies. We know how much this means to our students and the celebratory atmosphere was a welcome end to a very successful academic year in the faculty.



UG and PGT recruitment

Summary of 2022-23 actual student intake vs estimated numbers for 2023-24.

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Y-o-Y change</u>
UGH	1985	1709	-14%
UGO	482	461	-4%
%OS	19.5%	21.2%	

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Y-o-Y change</u>
PGTH	367	424	+16%
PGTO	631	757	+20%
%OS	63.2%	64.1%	

%PGT	29%	35%
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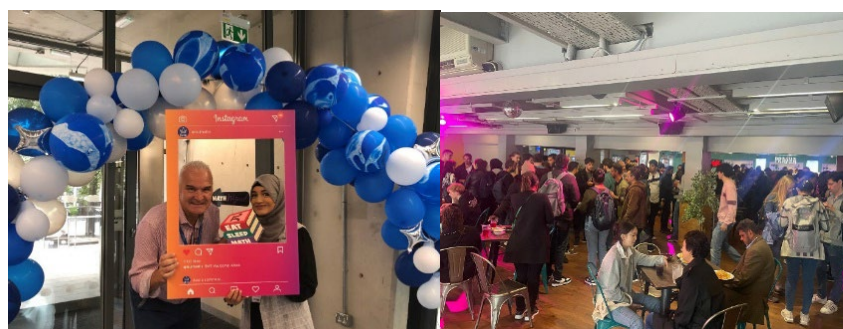
Aligned with Strategy 2030, we made steady progress in changing our size and shape, reducing our reliance on Home UG and growing numbers in PGT, both Home and OS. Over one-third of our new intake this year are PGT. There has been a small shift in the balance between Home and OS in the direction of more OS.

Of note has been the launch of a new MSc Psychology (Conversion) program by the Psychology Department within SBBS. This is designed for students who have undertaken a degree in another subject and are interested in getting a qualification in psychology. This new program was recently accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS). This accreditation, a key driver for recruitment, enables our conversion program graduates to gain Chartered Psychologist status and enter the professional workforce.

A series of new PGT programs will launch in September 2024 including MSc Engineering Management (SEMS), MSc Actuarial Science and Data Analytics (SMS), MSc Applied Statistics (SMS), MSc Risk Analytics (SMS), MSc Artificial Intelligence for Drug Design (SPCS), MSc Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Science (SPCS) and MSc Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology (SBBS).

Welcome week

Our schools have worked hard to ensure our new students have had an excellent start to their studies with us – both here at Queen Mary and on our TNE programmes. We give our thanks to colleagues across the University who have supported the creation of such a welcome atmosphere on campus.





Satisfaction with Student Experience

Due to changes to the NSS methodology this year we cannot compare absolute scores from NSS 2023 with any of those from previous years. However new data for this year allows us to see the difference from NSS benchmark by comparing the responses of our students to those of a similar demographic.

Our Schools have been putting significant effort into developing and implementing their NSS Action Plans. Across the Faculty it was pleasing to see there were a significant number of high positivity scores and encouraging subject-level rankings. In line with Queen Mary's university-level results, these results show that, though remains much hard work ahead, we are making significant progress in many areas.

We received positivity scores greater than 85% in the theme area 'Teaching on my Course' by students in Biosciences, Chemistry, Materials & Technology, and Physics & Astronomy, whereas 'Learning Resources' were rated particularly positively by students in Maths and Bioscience.

There were several notable achievements in the rankings and benchmarking sections. For 'Student Voice', Chemistry is now ranked 7th in the country, with a positivity score of 88.9%, this was 15.7% above their NSS benchmark. Psychology ranked 13th for 'Organisation and Management' with a score that put them 8.7% above their NSS benchmark. Across S&E there were 14 theme areas where we were rated >2.5% above the NSS benchmark, these included the 'Student Voice' in Physics & Astronomy and 'Academic Support' in Biomedical Sciences.

Overall, the results show that we still have work to do to improve our students' experience and Education reviews and more specific NSS data meetings are currently ongoing with all Schools in advance of the planning round.

Part of the long-term strategy to improve our UG student satisfaction is a move away from module-centred assessment. This has tended to lead to a high assessment load for students, which we know is unpopular, and is resource intensive. We are moving towards programme-level assessment; this will be happening in SEMS and SPCS for the first time in the coming year, with other Schools bringing ambitious plans forward in the coming months.

At the PGT level, PTES methodology remained unchanged between 2022 and 2023 allowing for direct comparison of results. Against a 1% improvement in overall satisfaction across QMUL, Computing improved 13% (71 -> 84%) and ranked in the top quartile, Engineering improved 9% (70% -> 79%), whilst Biosciences and Maths improved 4% and 2% respectively.

International

As part of our expanding co-operation with the Beijing University of Post and Telecommunication, this academic year we started the BSc Digital Media Technology (DMT) with a cohort of 90 students in Hainan; next year we plan to start a new BSc in Biomedical Engineering. In 22/23 we started the BSc in Information and Computational Science (ICS), and 90 students are continuing on this degree for their second year.



The Hainan campus is managed by the Hainan bureau, and 5 educational initiatives operate on the Hainan campus including QMUL's. The infrastructure and facilities are being developed very quickly, and soon the work for a brand new building to be used exclusively by QMUL will begin.

EDI

SEMS submitted their application for a Bronze level Athena SWAN renewal on 25th September and we are now awaiting a decision and feedback; this is expected within 12 weeks from the date of submission.

The Faculty is planning our annual Night of Science and Engineering event in 2024 to showcase our outstanding research and education to industry and other stakeholders. This will build upon our successful inaugural event in February and the theme will focus on our commitment to Opening the Doors of Opportunity. To highlight alignment with Queen Mary's EDI values and to tie in with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, we are planning an all female panel of inspiring scientists, engineers and policy makers

Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal (Education) – October 2023 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 • 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	Redwan Shahid, Executive Officer (Education)
Sponsor	Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education)

Vice-Principal (Education) Update – September 2023

Education Leadership

1. A series of NSS workshops have taken place between April-June 2023. The 3 workshops covered the different areas of Student Experience as captured within the NSS. The first session (17th April 2023) covered 'Academic Support' and 'Student Voice' and was delivered by Chris Shelley and QMSU. The second session (18th May 2023) covered 'Teaching' and 'Assessment and Feedback' and was delivered by the Queen Mary Academy. The third session (01st June 2023) covered 'Learning Resources' and was delivered by colleagues in the Library Team and TELT. The notes from the workshop with actionable insights, along with the slides have been circulated amongst attendees and the Directors of Education.
2. The Directors of Education and Programme Directors Fora have resumed from last month, with updates from the Vice-Principal (Education) and the Queen Mary Academy, and a discussion of the School/Institute-level priorities for the 2023/24 academic year.
3. Senate is asked to note that Professor Anthony Michael has completed his term as Dean for Education in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. Colleagues are asked to note the recent appointment of Dr Chris Bray as Dean for Education in the Faculty of Science and Engineering.
4. Professor Arunthathi (Arundi) Mahendran, Professor of Education and Director of the Institute of Health Sciences Education has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from Advance HE. The awards celebrate and recognise academics who have made an outstanding impact on student outcomes, student experience and the teaching profession.
5. The Drapers' Annual Lecture has been rescheduled for the 22nd of November. We expect to start with approximately at 5 pm. Mary Curnock Cook will be delivering the annual Drapers' Lecture titled: *Social mobility, skills, and employability – myths, magic and momentum*.
6. Professor Janet De Wilde was invited to present on an Evasys Lunch & Learn webinar, in partnership with HEPI. The webinar topic was *How to Evidence Educational Gains* and the recording can be found [here](#).
7. Professor Janet De Wilde has recently been appointed as the chair of a new European University Association (EUA) Transnational Education Thematic Peer Group. More details on the appointment can be read [here](#).
8. Professor Stephanie Marshall was invited to speak at a [Cadmus AI](#) webinar on *The Future of Learning and Assessment with the Emergence of AI*. Professor Marshall spoke about the intersection between AI and assessment, when to incorporate it, and how to ensure students' preparedness on the appropriate use of AI. The webinar was held on 26th June and the recording can be found [here](#).
9. Professor Stephanie Marshall presented at the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) 2023 conference on Friday 22nd of August. Her presentation is titled *Transforming Quality Enhancement of Teaching and Learning* and covers the 'massification' of Higher Education, key pivot points (with a focus on England) and the continuation of the transformation agenda. The presentation is based on a recent publication of hers in [Research Handbook on the Transformation of Higher Education](#).

Teaching, learning and assessment

10. We are continuing to assess the impact of the Marking and Assessment Boycott on our students, particularly finalists. We are experiencing some disruption to graduation for some students in the English department. The school has already written to affected students apologising and offering ongoing support. Colleagues are working hard to mitigate the impact of this as much as possible. More detail on the industrial action and a repository of communication can be found [here](#).

National Student Survey

11. A full analysis of the NSS 2023 results has now been presented to SET and Faculty Leadership teams. Action plans are being updated accordingly within Faculties and Schools/Institutes. The full statement can be read on connected [here](#).
12. Colleagues are reminded of a few notable changes to the NSS 2023. The overall satisfaction question has been removed for institutions in England and new four-response direct questions replace the previous agree/disagree five-point scales. These changes make it harder to do year-on-year comparisons, even though the five broad NSS themes remain the same. The University-level results show there is room for cautious optimism, although clearly there is much more that needs to be done to realise our TEF 2027 ambitions. Comparing to benchmark, we have slightly narrowed the gap at the overall university level but are still below where we need to be. Overall, the metrics suggest a 'bronze' award equivalent on just the NSS 2023 results.
13. The NSS Taskforce met to discuss the NSS results in more detail on the 30th of August. In addition, a series of meetings led by the VP (Education) are taking place with Heads of Schools and Institutes and their education team to discuss their NSS action plans. So far, 11 meetings have taken place, 2 are scheduled and 3 are still TBD. At the end of the visits, we will be providing a faculty summary to identify themes and synergies in the action plans.
14. On the aggregated TEF measure (5 themes from NSS 2023), Queen Mary's ranking improved from 119th to 116th in the sector. Queen Mary is placed 20th out of 22 Russell Group Universities with results and 27th out of 32 London Universities.
15. In preparation for the TEF 2027 submission, the NSS Task Force continues to receive quarterly updates on the NSS School Action Plans via the Faculties. Part of this exercise includes seeking evaluation and impact data for completed actions from schools. The Deputy VP Education (Programmes & Standards) is also reworking the previous set of NSS targets in context of the change in methodology to help schools project the change in student opinion needed to realise our ambitions for a TEF Gold in 2027.

Student Surveys

16. We now have the 2022/23 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) sector data for comparison. Overall satisfaction for Queen Mary was 79% in 2022/23. This is 4% below the sector score of 83%, which is the same distance as 2021/22. The 5-year trend shows we are heading in a positive direction, and we have narrowed the gap on the sector. However, all areas of the PTES were still below the sector benchmark. Dissertation was the only area that did not have a negative significant difference from the sector. Visualisations for these can be found in the Appendix, along with a CAH2 Subject-level breakdown.

17. A more detailed report is currently being produced and will be shared as soon as possible. This will cover the institutional and sector data in more detail, as well as Faculty and School/Institute level data. There will be PTES Power BI dashboards being developed, which will make the data much more accessible. It will also make it much easier to analyse the data at a more granular level (e.g., programme level). These are expected to be completed by the end of the first semester 2023/24. For any additional queries about the PTES, colleagues may contact Johnny Dixon (johnny.dixon@qmul.ac.uk).

Queen Mary Academy

18. Senate is asked to note and congratulate the following projects awarded funding in the first year of the new Award of President and Principal's Fund for Educational Excellence:
- **AI for student learning and research** - Dr Dominic Hurst, Dr Cassandra Lewis (Institute of Dentistry); Paula Funnell, James Soderman, Chenee Psaros, Sharlin Ahmed, Rosella D'Alesio (Library); Nick Fisher, Dr Pedro Elston, Rofique Ali (Institute of Health Sciences Education); Dawn Buzzard, Catherine McLean (TELT) and student collaborators
 - **Co-creating AI best practices in higher education (HE): Building AI skills enhancement resources through interdisciplinary Student-Staff Best Practice Sharing Sessions** - Dr Xue Zhou, Dr Joanne Zhang, Dr Lilian Schofield (School of Business and Management); Dr Lesley Howell (School of Physical and Chemical Sciences); Dr Aisha Abuelmaatti (School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science)
 - **East London Atlas Project** - Dr Elsa Noterman, Dr Alex Henshaw, Dr Andrew Russell, Dr Philippa Williams (School of Geography)
 - **Empowering Skill-Based Education through Virtual Reality** - Dr Lesley Howell (School of Physical and Chemical Sciences); Professor Chie Adachi (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry); Dr Pedro Elston (Institute of Health Sciences Education)
 - **ePortfolio Based Learning for Personal and Professional Development, using the Graduate Attributes Framework** - Dr Timothy Fulton and Dr Sally Faulkner (School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences)
 - **'GenAIrating' Critical Clinical Thinking: A new approach to learning using large language models** - Dr Stuart Miller, Ian Griffiths, Dr Simon Lack, Dr Manuela Angioi, Prof Dylan Morrissey (William Harvey Research Institute), Dr Esther Murray (Institute of Health Sciences Education)
 - **Get spotted! a podcast series and a masterclass on communicative practices that make you stand out at university and in your dream job!** - Dr Weronika Fernando and Dr Saima Sherazi (School of Languages Linguistics and Film)
 - **How might we create spaces that support human flourishing, enabling students and staff to thrive and innovate?** - Dr Louise Younie, Dr Rofique Ali, Dr Nandini Hayes, Vanessa Thompson (Institute of Health Sciences Education); Professor Chie Adachi (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry); Dr Nicholas Hostettler (School of Politics and International Relations); Marianne Melsen (QMSU)
 - **QMCUR (Queen Mary Centre for Undergraduate Research)** - Dr Giuseppe Viola, Dr Maria Romero Gonzalez, Professor Henri Huijberts, Professor Julia Shelton (School of Engineering and Materials Science)

In addition, the Drapers' Fund for Innovation in Learning and Teaching for 2023/24 was awarded to:

- **Innovative and diverse creation of teaching materials in Economics, Finance and Business Management: new approaches in the classroom with co-creating Research-Led, Learning by Doing, Peer-Led Team Learning and Teaching with Historical Perspectives** - Dr Daniela Tavasci, Dr Eileen Tipoe, Dr Luigi Ventimiglia (School of Economics and Finance); Dr Xue Zhou and Dr Lilian Schofield (School of Business and Management)

A member of the Queen Mary Academy team will be assigned to support each of the projects.

19. We have now completed Unit 2 of the Educational Leadership Programme. This took place at the Institute of Technology and was co delivered by our external providers Edison Red. Participants explored a range of leadership skills and practically applied this in the room. On day 2 we were joined by Professor Stefan Krummacker sharing strategic insights and where our focus here at The University needs to be. Participants have now begun their strategic projects, working towards our KPIs and Strategy 2030. Our Heads of School programme launched on 2 October and received very good feedback. We looked at participants leadership journeys so far, where they would like to grow and the leadership challenges currently facing the higher education sector. We have now scoped out our Module Leaders programme and will be sharing more details on this shortly.
20. Dr Sally Faulkner from the School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences has taken up a new Queen Mary Academy Fellowship. Her project will investigate the implementation of Team Based Learning in programmes and measuring its impact in terms of grade outcomes, self-efficacy and confidence development.
21. Dr Xue Zhou from the School of Business and Management will continue as a Queen Mary Academy Fellow. Her new project will focus on developing students' fundamental knowledge of AI and practical training on AI usage in learning.
22. Dr Luigi Ventimiglia from the School of Economics and Finance will continue as a Queen Mary Academy Fellow. His new project will focus on the creation of a tool to analyse awarding gaps which will support the evaluation of an assessment strategy and its impact on the awarding gap.
23. Dr Lilian Schofield from the School of Business and Management has taken up a new Queen Mary Academy fellowship. Her project will focus on learning by doing across disciplines and Faculties.
24. Dr Anne Ropiquet from the School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences has taken up a new Queen Mary Academy Fellowship. Her project will explore opportunities and challenges for integrating interdisciplinary approaches into our programmes.
25. Professor Graham Easton from the Institute of Health Sciences Education has taken up a new Queen Mary Academy Fellowship. His project will support the co-creation of the medical

undergraduate curriculum, working with students and patients, and will develop training and resources for wider use in co-creation projects across Queen Mary University of London.

26. Workshops for PGR students who teach ran throughout September. Our 'Teach Your First Session' (TYFS) workshops cover the basics of lesson planning, active learning, educator roles and inclusive classroom practice. Three Faculty-wide sessions were held, alongside bespoke workshops for Schools and Institutes. Overall, 124 GTAs from across the three Faculties attended our workshops. Follow up sessions are being planned.
27. We welcomed 118 new participants who joined our Taught Programmes (CILT and PGCAP) in September. Applications are now open for the January start.
28. The Student Enhanced Engagement and Development Award, which supports co-creation and recognition at Queen Mary, is going from strength to strength, with 99 students having received an award since the start of the scheme in 2021. Three award panels will take place during 2023/24, providing opportunities to reward and celebrate co-creation projects.
29. We continue to develop and offer workshops and other CPD opportunities supporting education practice with a strong focus on the ACE approach and the Queen Mary 2030 strategy.

Office for Students and Regulatory Matters

30. The government has [responded](#) to a higher education reform consultation by outlining their vision for the sector and complement the wider skills revolution to grow the economy. They are based on the [recommendations](#) by the Independent Panel Report to the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding. Their priority is to ensure that higher education provides value for money, supports economic growth, and leads to employment opportunities for students. Overall, our initial assessment of these reforms concludes that there are no significant risks or impact on Queen Mary. Key takeaways include:
 - a. More investment in Level 4 and 5 courses to support providers in deliver Higher Technical Qualifications with no change to fee limits currently.
 - b. Student number controls will be imposed on provisions in breach of B3 conditions – enforced using the OfS's existing powers.
 - c. Minimum eligibility requirements will not be taken forward.
 - d. Classroom-based foundation year course fees (price group D) will be cut to £5,760 from 2025/26. For other foundation courses, the maximum fee will remain £9,250 – expected annual fee loss ~£56K. This impact is limited to HSS.
31. The TEF 2023 ratings have now been [published](#) on the OfS website. The OfS are now publishing separate ratings for Student Experience and Outcomes along with an overall rating. Queen Mary has received Bronze for Student Experience, Silver for Student Outcomes and an overall rating of Silver. Colleagues can read the message to all staff and students from the VP Education and the QMSU President on [Connected](#), which also has links to our institutional and student submissions for TEF 2023.
32. The VP (Education) is commencing meetings with Heads of Schools and Institutes to discuss the TEF 2023 and NSS 2023 results in more detail, along with our approach to driving up both NSS scores and focusing on improvements to succeed in TEF 2027 to avoid potential financial

penalties from the OfS. In preparation of this exercise, detailed reports of the NSS and TEF results have been shared with faculties and schools.

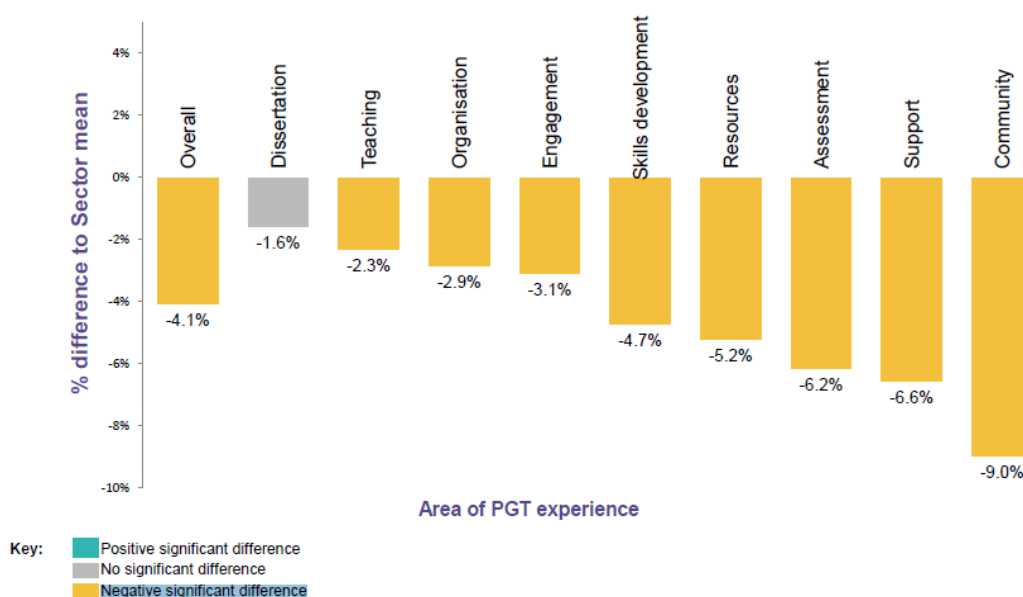
Appendix

PTES 2023 Sector Data

Queen Mary scored below the sector on 40 out of 43 questions. All areas of the PTES were below the sector benchmark. Dissertation was the only area that didn't have a negative significant difference from the sector.

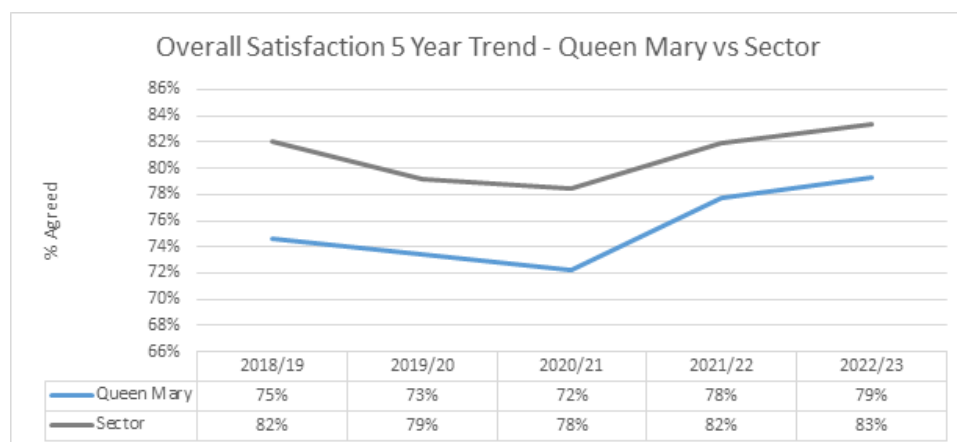
QMUL and the PGT experience benchmarked

The area taught postgraduates at QMUL were most positive about was Dissertation, with their agreement 1.6 percentage points below the Sector. The area taught postgraduates were least positive about was Community, which was 9.0 percentage points below the Sector, a significant difference.



Overall Satisfaction

Overall satisfaction for Queen Mary was 79% in 2022/23. This is 4% below the sector score of 83%, which is the same distance as 2021/22. The 5-year trend shows we are heading in a positive direction and we have narrowed the gap on the sector.

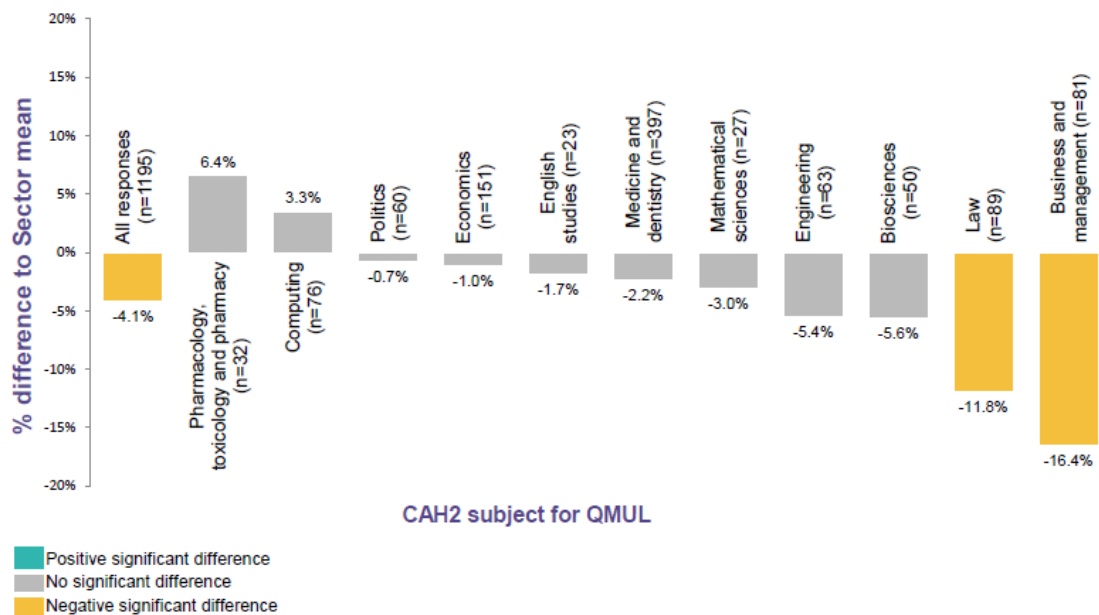


CAH2 Subject Level

The visual below shows how our subjects compared to the rest of the sector. It's important to note that SBM and CLLS had very low response rates (7% and 8% respectively) and it is possible this has impacted our scores in these subjects and doesn't reflect the true student experience. This highlights the importance of us needing to significantly improve our response rates, particularly in these two schools, as well as SEF – these three schools make up over half of our PTES population.

Difference in PGT experience by subject

Relative to the Sector, overall satisfaction for QMUL PGTs was highest in Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy (n=32); being 6.4 percentage points above the benchmark. The subject within which respondents were least satisfied overall, to a significant extent, was Business and management (n=81); which was 16.4 percentage points below the Sector.



Further Updates

A more detailed report is currently being produced and will be shared as soon as possible. This will cover the institutional and sector data in more detail, as well as Faculty and School/Institute level data.

There will be PTES Power BI dashboards being developed, which will make the data much more accessible. It will also make it much easier to analyse the data at a more granular level (e.g. programme level). These are expected to be completed by the end of the first semester 2023/24.

Senate update: VP, Policy and Strategic Partnerships: June – October 2023

London City Institute of Technology (IoT)

Works on the IoT capital project have now come to a conclusion, and the full 8 floors of the facility are now open to students and staff with 74 new starts on our Technology Degree Apprenticeships this September. Exploratory conversations with employers such as Ocado, QinetiQ and Unilever are underway for a series of Engineering Degree Apprenticeships (Advanced Robotics Engineer, Systems Engineer & Postgraduate Engineer with Management) for September 2024 entry. We plan to host an internal open day for staff shortly and are working with private office in the Department for Education to secure the Secretary of State for Education to launch LCIoT officially, probably now in 2024.

Degree apprenticeships

ESFA Audit

- The mock ESFA audit has been conducted by KPMG in which they reviewed and scrutinised our internal management control systems and our regulatory checks and balances on the apprentices files. They also used the ESFA Provider Data Self-Awareness Toolkit (PDSAT) to test the integrity of the data, which is also used internally by us to help to identify and mitigate potential problems.
- We will shortly receive their report with the key findings and recommendations to help us achieve greater compliance going forward and improve our data practices so that we mitigate the risk of financial claw back.

Apprenticeship management system – SMART assessor - implementation plan

- We are currently in the development and testing phase of implementation. Staff training has taken place and new processes and systems are being developed and agreed.

Apprenticeship recruitment

- There are approx. 199 new apprentices joining the university this September at Masters and undergraduate degree level. The onboarding and induction activities are taking place, and all apprentices should be fully inducted by mid-October 23.

Civic Impact

- Sarah Gifford (currently Community Engagement Manager, Centre for Public Engagement) will start as Civic Engagement Lead on 6 November. We are delighted to appoint somebody to this role on a permanent basis who brings with them such a deep knowledge of both Queen Mary and our local communities.
- Queen Mary is a leading and founding partner of the Civic Universities Network, which is led by Sheffield Hallam University. We are hosting a dinner for the network on 10 October and hosting a range of local civic partners there.
- We are also hosting an OECD/EEOLE visit to review civic university work in London as part of the [National Civic Impact Accelerator](#) Programme on 19 October, with UCL, University of East London, London Metropolitan University, Goldsmiths and University of Northumbria in London participating. QM is a partner

on the NCIA and the Centre for Public Engagement is leading on a strand of work on equitable partnerships, building on pilot workshops held at QM last year.

- Key priorities for the coming academic year include launching a Civic Champions network, developing and delivering a comms and engagement plan internally and externally, availability of space on campus, and finalizing a monitoring and evaluation framework.
- QM's strategic civic partners are: London Borough of Tower Hamlets; GLA; Barts Health NHS Trust Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service; London Citizens; Ocean Estate Regeneration Trust; Women's Inclusive Team; East London Business Association; Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust; University Schools Trust; Newham FE College. All partners are represented on QM's Civic Advisory Board, which is co-chaired by Alison Blunt, Deputy Vice Principal for Impact (Culture, Civic & Community) and Aelswith Frayne, Head of Employment and Skills, LB Tower Hamlets.
- From 2023/24, QM's Civic Delivery Group will include all priority theme leads and a representative from the East London Research Network. It will be chaired by the Civic Engagement Lead (Sarah Gifford from early November). Working groups consisting of academic and professional services colleagues will focus on key areas and report to the Civic Delivery Group.
- The next meeting of the East London Research Network will be in November and will focus on research with schools and young people in East London (see e-bulletin for further information and email civic@qmul.ac.uk to join the network).
- As part of the NIHR funded Tower Hamlets Health Determinants Research Collaborative, QM has appointed Briana Applewhite as Health Inequalities Research and Partnerships Manager, based in the Centre for Public Engagement. Briana will work with colleagues at QM, her counterparts at UEL and London Metropolitan University, and with LB Tower Hamlets, Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service, and local residents to develop co-created research and funding opportunities.

Arts & Culture

In October, Arts and Culture will be relaunching as the Centre for Creative Collaboration. This reflects the interdisciplinary nature of our mission, to work with colleagues across all faculties to support QM research impact through creative collaborations with the cultural sector. New website pages will be launched to share this news and promote engagement opportunities over the coming year.

- In July, Arts and Culture convened a workshop of major funding bodies for the cultural and creative sectors. The topic was data collection and evaluation, and how greater collaboration between government, universities and funding bodies can create innovative solutions to better support cultural organisations to access data and report on their impact. Attendees included the DCMS data analytics team, Arts Council England, Greater London Authority, Tower Hamlets Council, Esmée Fairbairn and many more. Feedback on the session was positive with many keen to see the network continue. 'I found the creative thinking we were asked to undertake very valuable in terms of my own thinking about approaches to evaluation and how we might develop our own practice as well as supporting other organisations in their evaluation/measurement of impact'. 'It was amazing to see how embedded universities like QMUL are with their local cultural sectors'.
- Following on from a session with the Cultural Advocacy Fellows on AI in the summer, QM is now collaborating with the Turing Institute and the Institute for the Future of Work to put together a proposal on AI impact assessments for the creative industries. Cultural Fellows from Musician's Union, Society of Authors and BECTU technician's unions are all joining the bid which will be submitted to the AHRC in October.

- Arts and Culture have received three years of funding from Research England to develop new toolkits for training young people as peer researchers, to support QM academics and foster a culture of high-quality research with young people. The first year will convene a network of interdisciplinary expertise from across all QM faculties and partners in the local cultural sector.
- The Assistant Producers scheme will be recruiting across October and November, engaging 15 students and recent graduates in a knowledge exchange programme to build skills as creative producers and then support QM research projects and local cultural organisations to deliver and evaluate workshops and events.

Public Engagement

We have secured funding from Research England for 3 years to recruit a Participatory Research Manager to the CPE, who will administer our Participatory Research funding scheme which provides grants of up to £10,000 to Queen Mary staff to undertake Participatory Research projects. We are also currently collaborating with the Young Foundation to develop a bespoke Participatory Research training offer for Queen Mary staff and students, which will launch in 2024.

Briana Applewhite joined the CPE in July as Health Inequalities Research and Partnerships Manager, working on the HDRC (Health Determinants Research Collaboration) project, in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council, London Metropolitan University, and the University of East London.

Sustainability

The new Head of Sustainability and Interim Director of Sustainability in place and have been reviewing existing activity and progress against the 2020-23 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan to inform the development of interim 23/24 action plan and longer-term sustainability strategy, targets and action plan.

The team are working with colleagues around the university develop and take forward initiatives that support the delivery of our sustainability objectives across research, education, operations and external partnerships. Please do contact the team with any thoughts or questions or ways in which you would like to be involved or to involve your students directly in projects: sustainability@qmul.ac.uk

- Staff and student engagement opportunities to note include:
 - **Sustainability Week 2023** will be week of 13th November.
 - There will a timetable of events hosted by those from teams around QM but also a few centrally organised key events (including Research Highways and QM Academy events) to bring the QM staff and student community together and give people the chance to be informed and engage with sustainability across research, education and operations, and to feed into the development of the sustainability strategy and action plan.
 - Queen Mary Climate Action Week (formerly Green week) will be in February 2024.
 - **New- Sustainability in the Curriculum Network:** community of practice run by QM Academy - first meeting 3 Oct and event 15 Nov. Contact sustainability@qmul.ac.uk or QM Academy to join network.
 - **Student projects on campus:** the Sustainability team are developing opportunities for students to learn and engage with sustainability in action on campus or with local partners. Contact team if interested.

- **Sustainability in Labs network** and LEAF programme: over 15 lab teams currently involved in the LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework) programme which supports lab to reduce the environmental impact of the research. Contact Sustainability team or Kate Thornton to get involved.
- Highlights of progress against operational sustainability targets:
 - Good progress against the 30% carbon reduction target. Queen Mary has a 30% carbon reduction target from 2018/19 to be achieved by 2024/25. Data from energy use in buildings and vehicles- (Scope 1 and 2 carbon) shows that there has been a 305 reduction by FY 2022/23 and that the target is on track to be achieved.
Further work is required to calculate the university's wider carbon emissions (scope 3 3) in line with sector reporting requirements for instance those related to business travel, and supply chain. A rolling programme of investment in energy and carbon reduction initiatives across our estate which include LED lighting, building management system upgrades, heat recovery from IT equipment, insulation, boiler upgrades and this alongside grid electricity continuing to decarbonise has helped us to meet our carbon reduction target.
 - Waste targets: Recycling rates have decreased, and a thorough review of waste management is underway to identify actions to reduce waste and increase recycling.
- Student experience:
 - The SU and Sustainability team continue to work together with students to deliver an engaging sustainability programme to help students learn, engage and take action. The Big Green Survey and Welcome Week engagement continues to show that this is important to students. A programme of volunteering opportunities, educational opportunities, and engagement opportunities will be offered. The first events of this year have been well attended- the Reuse fair and the Canal Clean up.
 - QM submitted a response to the [UKRI draft Concordat for Environmental Sustainability of Research Practice](#) and will be considering how this will need to be taken forward within Queen Mary.
 - Queen Mary is an active member of the Tower Hamlets Climate Partnership which has been reformed to enable Tower Hamlets and those based in the area to support the low carbon transition. There will be opportunities for those with specific research or education interests to be involved in the group.

VP Research and Innovation Report to Senate

October 2023

I would like to begin with a date for Senate's diaries: our second **Research and Innovation Awards** will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 2 May 2024. We are aiming to identify a larger venue so we can invite all our nominees and their nominators to join us, and I am looking forward to another memorable celebration. Work is underway to consider how we can improve the nominations process, and further information on this and the awards for 2024 will be announced in due course. I very much hope that Senate will hold the date in their diaries and be able to join us in May.

Future Research Assessment Process response and REF preparations

Queen Mary has submitted its response to the Future Research Assessment Process (FRAP), which is the consultation on the shape of the next REF. I would like to thank everyone who fed into our response, we have been grateful for your considered and careful comments and have included as many as possible within the final submission. The new REF proposes a number of changes, under two main headings: firstly, it aims to shift the level of assessment from the individual to the institution, secondly, it includes a measure of research culture, which Research England view as essential to research excellence. You can read more about the initial decisions and the shape of the consultation [here](#).

Queen Mary welcomes many of the proposed changes to the REF: the enhanced focus on research culture aligns strongly with our institutional value of inclusion, and the new attention to engagement – the process by which we create impact – enables us to showcase our strengths in areas such as public engagement and innovation and our role as a civic university.

However, we are concerned that some of the elements of the submission may have unintended consequences, and we have focussed our FRAP response on these. We are aware that our views are shared by many Russell Group institutions, and are also reflected in their response.

1. We believe the primary purpose of the REF should be to provide evidence of the benefits of public investment to inform allocation of funds. The key way we do this is through measuring research excellence. The element of the submission which does this is the Contribution to Knowledge (formerly Outputs). Given this is the primary purpose of the exercise, we argue strongly that the weighting attached to Contribution to Knowledge should be no less than 60% - anything lower risks diluting the purpose of the exercise.
2. We suggest that the weighting given to the re-shaped People, Culture and Environment element is too high (currently 25%). The precise details of this element are still unknown, and are unlikely to be clear until 2025. Given this, we suggest a weighting of 15% for PCE in recognition this is the newer aspect of the assessment where confidence in the robustness of the approach still needs to build.
3. We highlight the risk of unintended consequences for Early Career Researchers or those who are still establishing programmes of research created by the removal of the criteria for all researchers to submit one output. This could create a perverse incentive to concentrate resources on more established researchers, with important implications for equity and inclusion. We propose that the requirement that all researchers submit one output is reintroduced.

4. We welcome the focus on reducing bureaucracy. However, we highlight that some of the measures proposed for this may not have this effect in practice. One key example here is the use of HESA data to replace the staff list. We are aware of concerns with the HESA Data Futures Project, including the unreliability of the current error reports. We are also aware that the use of HESA will require the addition of more granular UOA level data, with a higher degree of accuracy. While we recognise our responsibility to ensure that our data is accurate and fit for purpose, we believe this potentially creates a significant but hidden administrative burden.

A full copy of our FRAP submission is available from [my team](#) on request.

Impact

Over the summer, we have undertaken redesign of the Queen Mary Impact Fund (QMIF), with the aim of achieving four key objectives:

- 1) Ensure we are funding projects which are most likely to achieve impact of a scale and significance sufficient to be part of a REF return (whether in 2028 or in future REFs).
- 2) Improve understanding and transparency of QMIF, promoting researcher engagement and trust.
- 3) Increase the value of making an application to both successful and non-successful applicants, by making better use of internal and external expertise through the process.
- 4) Clarify post award processes and responsibilities – enabling projects to start more quickly and efficiently once funded.

We have used service design principles to underpin this work. In service design, the needs of the service users are placed at the heart of the work. In this case, our primary users are researchers themselves, although we also considered the needs of impact supporting professional service teams (QMI, BD, CPE...) and of our expert external reviewers.

The redesigned service will offer three levels of award:

- 1) Exploratory Impact Awards (£5,000 to £10,000): Ideal for testing ideas, planning impact journeys, generating early-stage impacts, and supporting small-scale projects. These awards may lead to larger initiatives.
- 2) Impact Project Awards (£10,000 to £20,000): Geared toward building on exploratory awards or equivalent-stage projects, these awards focus on specific deliverables to support innovative ideas.
- 3) Impact Accelerator Awards (£20,000 to £50,000 per project, £100,000 exceptional cases): Targeted at projects with clear opportunities for commercial or societal impact. These awards foster relationships with partners and investors to advance research.

Exploratory Impact Awards are open throughout the year (apart from December). Applications will be assessed as they are received, with the aim of providing rapid feedback and funding to enable researchers to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

Both Impact Project Awards and Impact Accelerator Awards are allocated termly. These awards are assessed by external expert reviewers as well as by an internal panel, and so we need additional time to conduct this process. Deadlines for upcoming calls are:

	Autumn call	Spring call
Applications close	20 November 2023	11 March 2024

Panel sessions	Mid-December 2023	Late April 2024
Decisions	January 2024	Early May 2024

Further information about the calls and the process are [available here](#). Prospective applicants are invited to contact the [Impact Team](#) to discuss their application before completing the application form.

Over the past year, the volume and quality of applications to QMIF have grown considerably, with the result that the fund now receives many more applications than it can support. However, the Impact Team is keen to hear from all researchers who have a potential QMIF project, in order that we can provide support to help them submit the strongest possible application to the fund. The team will be working closely with School/Institute Impact Leads over the next year, to support identification of high potential projects in order that we can provide proactive support to the researchers to facilitate their applications to the fund. The Team can also provide advice on external funding that may be suitable for each project, including supporting with applications for these funds.

Research Culture

I am delighted to welcome our new Research Culture Team to Queen Mary. As of September, the team of 3 FTE is now fully established, based in the Research Services Directorate but providing support across the university. They are keen to meet with as many researchers as possible and would welcome invitations to attend Departmental or School/Institute meetings. Please contact [Mark Whelan](#), Research Culture Manager, if this is of interest.

Research and Innovation Board will consider a first draft of our Research Culture Strategy in November, and I look forward to sharing a fuller update in my next report. However, in its October meeting, the Board approved the creation of a new Research and Innovation Culture Funding Stream, which will be launched across the university this term.

The scheme will be open to all researchers and research supporting staff, and will allocate £250,000 of funds against two streams:

- 1) “Grass roots” grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects with potential to create particular benefit in their immediate area – this could be as small a unit as a Centre or a professional services or technical team.
- 2) Project grants of up to £50,000 are available for larger pieces of work which will add benefit across a number of teams.

Queen Mary uses the Royal Society definition of research culture, which is also widely used by other universities: “Research culture encompasses the behaviours, values, expectations, attitudes and norms of our research communities. It influences researchers' career paths and determines the way that research is conducted and communicated.”

Given the breadth of this definition, a wide range of projects and activities are potentially in scope for this call, including work to promote EDI, to support career transitions at different stages, to promote collaboration and interdisciplinarity, to support our technicians or to foster team science. I am particularly keen that we use this funding to address areas where we have existing challenges and opportunities to improve our research culture. Mark would welcome informal conversations with potential applicants and is happy to provide early feedback on whether ideas are suitable for the scheme.

Each project will be required to demonstrate how it will build evidence capture and evaluation into its design and will be required to spend its funding by 31 July 2024. Further details of the scheme will be announced in the next few weeks and I would be grateful if Senate could share this opportunity with their Schools/Institutes.

Business Development

Business Development continued to support a variety of funding applications including UKRI and IUK funded grants. Working closely with researchers and company partners, the team established some highly innovative research collaborations, and contract research with both large and small businesses alike such as **Dr.Wolf.Group, Volition, Unilever, Enhance3D, TC Biopharma and Roche.**

Of the 58 project enquiries and projects initiated since August with a potential value up to £12.5M, 6 projects have already been signed off with a value of £276,606 in the past 2 months with **Thames Water, Table Top R&D Limited, QinetiQ, DSTL and Social Mobility Commission.**

KTPs, IUK grants, and industry funded studentships provided excellent knowledge exchange opportunities connecting our researchers with businesses to solve some real-world challenges. 5 IUK bids were successfully supported for S&E with **Extend Robotics, Arda Biomaterials, Ranplan (IUK-Singapore), Authentise + Epec Wires (IUK-Eureka Stars)** in August and September.

The team is managing **13 live KTPs (10 for S&E and 3 for FMD)** and 3 KTP applications are currently being supported for submission in Nov/Dec.

Ongoing relationship building efforts include attending the **BioJapan conference**, hosting industry connect days, and meeting with industry partners on campus. The FMD team has coordinated with London & Partners (formerly MedCity) to attend the BioJapan conference in Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan in October 9th-13th. QMUL joins Kings College London, UCL, and Imperial College London, as well as 15 companies and Cancer Research Horizons, to represent Greater London. We currently have 14 partnership meetings scheduled and have additional meetings and pitching sessions to be held with multiple companies from the Ibaraki prefecture.

The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Business Development team are working closely with WHRI to organise an Industry Connect Day, focused on **Cardiovascular and Metabolism** – another focused research theme for FMD (and one being spotlighted at BioJapan). The event is scheduled for the 22nd November 2023 and includes contributions from the research managers of the Blizard Institute and Wolfson Institute, as well as the commercial and partnership leads for FMD. Event planning is progressing well.

In addition to our industry-wide event planned for November, the FMD BD team also arranged an introductory meeting between **Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS)** and Queen Mary Innovation (QMI) and DERI. The FMD BD team have been developing the relationship between Queen Mary and BMS by working closely with the academic partnerships lead at BMS. The in-person event was attended by the BMS academic partnerships lead and director of early assets (Europe), responsible for bringing new technologies into the BMS pipeline. The meeting gave BMS the opportunity to outline their strategic priorities and for QMI to showcase the promising technologies being developed at QM, as well as DERI to discuss collaborative research opportunities and studentships. We are hopeful that this is the beginning of a strong partnership between the two organisations.

Joint Research Management Office

Senate may already be aware of the introduction of The Funding System (TFS) introduced by UKRI to replace J-eS. The aim for TFS was to provide enhanced customer experience. Unfortunately, the system has been affected by several operational issues which have impacted on our ability to submit applications. These issues have affected most UK universities. We have been working with UKRI to raise the issues and understand there will be a full review into the problems with the aim to have the system fully operational as soon as possible. In the meantime, researchers submitting grant applications are advised to do so in advance of the deadline, and to contact Jan Clarke should they have any problems with the system. I would like to pass on my thanks to Jan and her team for all their help supporting our researchers to overcome these challenges, which I know have placed a significant degree of additional administrative burden on the process.

We have been notified that we will be the subject of a Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) inspection for our clinical studies. Dates of the inspection have been announced, and it will take place from 13 – 17 November 2023. The JRMO is currently preparing support plans for the clinical trials team, and beginning preparations with the individuals who will be interviewed by the inspectors. We do not yet know which trials will be inspected and will communicate further once we have this information.

Doctoral College

The Doctoral College is continuing its work to develop a comprehensive overview of PGR data within the institution. The current data report was presented to Research Innovation Board in July and suggested Queen Mary undertake a comprehensive review of PGR degree types and fees, in order that we can develop a more considered approach to cost recovery and to enable us to consider the attractiveness of our fee packages in an internationally competitive market. The Fees and Degrees working group with report to Research Innovation Board in February. The working group will analyse the types of PGR degree offered at QMUL as well as the fees charged. The working group will make recommendations for degree types for consideration.

Work is ongoing and close to being completed (January 2024) on the PGR payments project that will support uplift of PGR financial data and support monthly payments to PGR students in receipt of stipends that are administrated through Queen Mary. This will enable us to pay our students more regularly, and is an important part of helping us to provide our PGR students with a first-class experience at Queen Mary.

The Doctoral College has taken on responsibility for PGR training and development and is working on a comprehensive review and audit of training for PGRs. The new PGR training programme will focus on delivering support across the institution to deliver excellent student training and student experience, including how we support future career success whether in universities or in other roles.

Finally, the Doctoral College will be starting a broader programme of work to support diversity and widening participation in PGR at Queen Mary. This builds on the excellent [STRIDE internship programme](#), which was featured by UKRI as part of their 'Jobs that Change the World' campaign earlier this year. New activities include providing comprehensive wrap around support for PGR applications and a campaign demystifying PGR and the pathways to research careers. Work is also being done on admissions data to support KPIs around widening participation in PGR.

Queen Mary Innovation Ltd

The past academic year has seen a significant expansion in QMI, to enable the team to provide enhanced coverage to all faculties. This will enable us to respond to increased demand from the

Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and to provide dedicated support to Humanities and Social Sciences for the first time. We have also boosted our communications capacity, particularly with a view to enhancing our engagement with prospective partners and funders for this work.

Other focuses for the QMI team over the past year include:

- Extending the investor network for spinouts, developing fundraising strategies to increase access to capital (in collaboration with other universities and regional partners)
- Contributing to planning for improved entrepreneurship across the University
- Engaging with Barts Life Sciences and others in supporting the Innovation District Development
- Increasing the use of impact funds to accelerate development of promising projects and contributing to revision of impact fund processes.

I am pleased to report that this work is already showing impact. Over 23/23, we recorded 93 new IP disclosures, accompanied by £1.9m new IP Income generated and 24 new IP agreements. Our research led to the creation of four new spinouts, taking our total portfolio to 24 companies with turnover of over £60million.

Over the next year, QMI will focus on broadening and accelerating the pipeline of licensing and spinout projects. The team will continue work to engage all faculties to stimulate demand and increase project disclosures and will develop training programmes for academics and researchers to increase entrepreneurial skills and awareness of QMI services. They will also focus on external engagement, with key priorities around improving the way we communicate the Queen Mary Innovation story externally and better marketing for technologies and opportunities. Finally, they will focus on raising more funds to progress projects to commercial outcome, including using external accelerators for promising businesses and developing plans to enhance our Queen Mary accelerator funding.