



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 -June 2024

Faculty Budget

The faculty generated £10.6m in quarter 3 2023-24 and £34.6m year to date. Full year cash generation is forecast to be £47.8m, £5.7m higher than budget due predominantly to higher tuition fee, OFS teaching funding, research overhead income and the reduction in pension contribution rates.

Key factors to note.

- Tuition fees were £60.6m at the end of quarter 3 2023-24, £2.2m higher than budgeted. Full year they are expected to be £2.2m higher than budgeted.
- Research overheads at the end of quarter 3 2023/24 were £7.4m, £0.3m higher than budgeted.
- FMD pay at the end of quarter 3 2023/24 were £55.2m, £1.1m higher than budget. The small overspend is due to the under delivery to date of the 5% vacancy savings target included within the budget.
- FMD non-pay costs at the end of quarter 3 were £5.5m 2023/24, £0.2m lower than budget.

Education update

Recruitment Position for 2024-25 academic year

Undergraduate: Overall application numbers for FMD UG programmes have dropped by 10% on YTD, but firm acceptances on offers have increased by 5%. Currently there is no concern regarding reaching UG recruitment targets in clinical programmes, but the situation will continue to be monitored.

Postgraduate: Overall YTD Home applications have remained similar, with a 9% increase on offers, 30% increase on acceptances, and 29% increase on firms. This is due in part to an increased focus on conversion activity, and improvement of admissions processes. YTD Overseas numbers remaining positive, with YTD increases in applications of 4%, offers 14%, acceptances 15%, and firms 2%. The significant increase in YTD acceptances is due in part to the success in British Council Women in Stem Scholarship awards offered this year. Financial modelling taking this into account however indicates that we are on track to deliver the targets.

Application summary - Home & Overseas																			
	24/25 Targets	23/24 Enrolments	Targeted growth %	24/25 Apps	23/24 Apps to date	Apps % in/(de)crease	24/25 Offers	23/24 Offers to date	Offers % in/(de)crease	24/25 Accepts	23/24 Accepts to date	Accepts % in/(de)crease	24/25 Firms	23/24 Firms to date	Firms % in/(de)crease	24-25 Accepts 13-05-24	24-25 Accepts Increase	Accepts % in/(de)crease	Accepts % in/(de)crease
UG																			
Blizard	85	99	(14%)	661	650	2%	546	551	(1%)	103	102	1%	10	15	(33%)	81	22	(4%)	5%
Dentistry	15	23	(35%)	761	578	32%	32	24	33%	23	21	10%	0	0	-	18	5	6%	4%
WHRI	80	79	1%	455	479	(5%)	379	412	(8%)	74	91	(19%)	6	9	(33%)	66	8	(6%)	(13%)
UG Total	180	201	(10%)	1,877	1,707	10%	957	987	(3%)	200	214	(7%)	16	24	(33%)	165	35	(4%)	(3%)
PGT																			
BCI	139	135	3%	869	821	6%	592	447	32%	289	209	38%	76	69	11%	272	17	40%	(2%)
Blizard	93	80	16%	645	556	16%	384	326	18%	196	155	27%	42	51	(17%)	183	13	24%	3%
Dentistry	84	74	14%	1,114	1,114	-	280	311	(10%)	141	143	(1%)	81	65	25%	130	11	(1%)	(1%)
IHSE	94	65	45%	65	39	67%	40	18	122%	24	11	118%	17	7	143%	24	-	140%	(22%)
WIPH	327	325	1%	1,714	1,727	(1%)	1,186	1,067	11%	604	531	14%	173	168	3%	570	35	12%	1%
WHRI	241	247	(2%)	1,090	1,146	(5%)	788	784	1%	407	382	7%	123	140	(12%)	396	11	9%	(2%)
PGT Total	978	926	6%	5,497	5,403	2%	3,270	2,953	11%	1,662	1,431	16%	512	500	2%	1,575	87	16%	-
DL																			
BCI	58	34	71%	124	139	(11%)	87	89	(2%)	55	58	(5%)	25	20	25%	52	3	(5%)	0%
Blizard	299	280	7%	364	341	7%	235	228	3%	154	125	23%	102	66	55%	144	10	26%	(3%)
Dentistry	18	10	80%	24	41	(41%)	15	29	(48%)	10	22	(55%)	7	6	17%	10	-	(52%)	(2%)
IHSE	30	34	(12%)	17	11	55%	9	0	-	3	0	-	2	0	-	2	1	-	-
WIPH	42	42	-	108	124	(13%)	84	93	(10%)	43	40	8%	18	9	100%	41	2	2%	5%
WHRI	95	81	17%	136	132	3%	81	76	7%	43	44	(2%)	22	27	(19%)	44	(1)	10%	(12%)
DL Total	542	481	13%	773	788	(2%)	511	515	(1%)	308	289	7%	176	128	38%	293	15	9%	-
Grand Total	1,700	1,608	6%	8,147	7,898	3%	4,738	4,455	6%	2,170	1,934	12%	704	652	8%	2,033	137	13%	(1%)

Table 1: 2024-25 HOME & Overseas recruitment numbers 13-5-2024 (YTD comparison)

NSS

FMD achieved an overall return rate of 79.9%, which equates to 108 additional responses compared to last year, 11% above the overall university rate of 69%. Close monitoring continues of the faculty

NSS action plan as part of the work with the NSS task force, with a number of actions logged in the 2nd quarter of this year.

Faculty/School	School/Institute	30th April 2024 (Final)				Diff in respondents 2022-23	Diff in respondents 2022-23 %
		Survey population	Opt outs	Number of Respondents	Response rate		
FMD	Blizard	64	0	51	79.7%	11	-1.9%
	Medicine	435	6	330	75.9%	76	-6.3%
	Dentistry	90	0	83	92.2%	5	1.5%
	William Harvey Institute	62	0	56	90.3%	16	-0.6%
FMD Total		651	6	520	79.9%	108	-4.5%
QMUL		5045	19	3507	69.5%	476	-0.8%

Digital Education Studio Development- Key outputs:

- DES was the Joint Runner-up for the [2024 Roger Mills Award for Innovation in Learning and Teaching](#) for the development of the Digital Health MOOC (University of London - Centre for Online and Distance Education conference/CODE).
- [CARE agenda programmes](#) are progressing in line with agreed launch dates. Curriculum design/development is in progress across the board following completion of module design phases.
 - MA Medical Education (launched Sept 2023)
 - MSc Advanced Neonatal Practitioner (Sep 24 launch)
 - MSc Cancer Biology (Sep 24 launch)
 - An introduction to leadership skills and practice in healthcare (w/ Dentistry Sept 24 launch)
 - BSc Pharmacology and Drug Discovery (Sep 25 launch)
- Transforming digital assessment and feedback: Cadmus pilot evaluation report available. This pilot has now been extended to all faculties.

Research Update

We are promoting multi-disciplinary and cross cutting research activities pan-university proposal for a new “Early Life Research Institute (ELRI)”, (approved by SET May 2024). FMD has made significant preparations for REF2029 with an initial analysis of the current position of research outputs and forecast of need to achieve the desired position in the next REF submission.

Indicative Major Bids (>£1M) currently in progress:

Funder	FMD Lead Academic	Price to Funder (£)	Status
FLF Round 9	Paul Vulliamy	Currently being costed	Deadline for submission June 18
NIHR Professorship 24/25 Precall	Xavier Griffin Rohini Mathur	Application in prep	Deadline for submission Jan 2025
NIHR Global Professorship 24/15 Precall	Victoria Bird	Application in prep	Deadline for submission Jan 2025
FLF Round 8	Garth Funston	£1.47M	Interviewed. Awaiting outcome
ERC Synergy 2024	Francesca Ciccarelli	£2.45M	Awaiting outcome
CRUK	Nitzan Rosenfeld	£2.6M	Awaiting outcome
EPSRC	Jane Sosabowski	£1.1M	Awaiting outcome
Wellcome Discovery Award	Gabi Ficiz	£1.68M	Awaiting outcome
MRC	Faraz Mardakheh	£1.68M	Awaiting outcome
Barts Charity (Transformational Funding)	Adrian Martineau	£3.2M	Awaiting outcome
BBSRC - Standard research grant: 2024 round 1: responsive mode	Ines Sequeira	£1.8M	Awaiting outcome
CRUK Grand Challenge	Benjamin Werner Ozgen Denis	£1.5M	In preparation
Wellcome Trust Discovery Award	Georgina Hosang	£1.1M	Awaiting outcome
Wellcome Trust	Gabor Czibik	£2.3M	Awaiting outcome
MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship	Paul Vulliamy	£1.34M	Awaiting outcome
EU – Horizon Europe Starting ERC Grant	Paul Vulliamy	£1.17M	Awaiting outcome
MRC Career Development Award	Eleri Jones	£1.4M	Awaiting outcome
Discovery Programme Foundation Awards	Andrew Finch	£1.5M	Awaiting outcome
NIHR/MHRG	Francois Van Loggerenberg (sub awardee)	£1.09M	Awaiting outcome
MRC Fellowship	James Scales	£1.6M	Awaiting outcome
BHF	Amrita Ahluwalia	£1M	Awaiting outcome
Greater London Authority	Anthony Mathur	£1.9M	Awaiting outcome
NIHR	Zudin Puthuchery Rupert Pearce	£1.74M	Awaiting outcome

FMD were awarded 83 new awards totalling £22.2M between February – May 2024 from funders including MRC, NIHR, ESRC, CRUK, BHF, industry partners etc. A subset of awards (>£400K) from this period are shown below.

Indicative Awards February - May 2024:

Lead PI	Award Total (£)	Funder
Finer, Sarah	£3,406,878.00	Wellcome Trust
Lau, Yun Fai	£2,439,633.57	M.R.C
Aziz, Qasim	£1,378,439.62	The Ehlers-Danlos Society
Rowe, Helen	£1,345,277.35	CRUK
Gabe, Rhian	£828,690.65	Prostate Cancer UK
Ombrato, Luigi	£744,164.16	CRUK
Sasieni, Peter	£502,885.35	CRUK
Lau, Yun Fai	£476,823	E.S.R.C.
Alves Godinho, Susana	£471,382.00	Wellcome Trust
Carless, Claudia	£467,331.97	Barts Charity
Marshall, Charles	£433,680	NIHR
Hajek, Peter	£418,184.75	NIHR
Quintin, Olivier Jean Louis	£406,760	NIHR

Capital Projects Update

Below is a brief update on the capital projects underway within FMD:

- **11-13 Charterhouse Square buildings:** This refurbishment project will complete in May 2024, with staff members from the William Harvey Research Institute and Barts Cancer Institute will relocate in June. The building will operate under New Ways of Working (NWOW).

Events

The faculty has hosted the following key events:

- **“Barts900 and Beyond – Closing Symposium” & “Barts900 and Beyond - Celebratory Reception”:** On Thursday 21 March 2024, this event concluded the Barts900 celebrations. Organised by Queen Mary in partnership with our key partners- Barts NHS Trust, Barts Charity with ~100 at the symposium.
- **Clinical Academic Training School Research Day:** Our Clinical Academic Training School held a one-day research symposium for clinical researchers with ~100 attendees.
- **Spring Lecture, delivered by Sir Patrick Vallance: “Why should governments care about Science”** On 22nd April, Sir Patrick Vallance talked about the contribution that science can make to support the government to make informed decisions and policies.



EDI Update

Following a competitive internal process, Dr Aylin Baysan, Clinical Reader in Cariology in relation to Minimally Invasive Dentistry, has been appointed as Faculty Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Lead. Aylin brings with her a wealth of expertise and experience, derived from her prior experience as Deputy EDI Lead as well as her professional practice, to lead the faculty in delivering on our core values of inclusion and equity.

Humanities and Social Sciences VP Report to Senate – June 2024

Faculty Leadership Team

Professor Jason Sturgess will step down this summer after four years as Head of the School of Economics and Finance (SEF). Professor Alp Atakan, who is already a professor at SEF, has been appointed through a full external and internal recruitment process as his successor from 1st September, 2024.

Professor Scott McCracken will also soon complete his full three-year term as Head of the School of English and Drama (SED). Professor Martin Welton, who is currently head of drama and has previously served as deputy dean for research (impact) for HSS, will serve as interim Head of SED from July 1st, 2024.

Interviews took place in March 2024 for several Faculty-level posts. We are pleased to report that Dr Matthieu Bernay (Law) has been appointed as the Faculty's new Dean for International from 1st May 2024, whilst Dr Caroline Morris (Law) will be taking up the position of Deputy Dean for Research (PGR) in September 2024.

Strategy 2030 Enabling Plan: Academic Strategy Development

The Faculty is now working towards the priorities identified in our revised Strategy 2030 Enabling Plan, which identified three main priorities for 2024/25: coherence and consistency in delivery; regroup and regenerate the humanities; and premium PGT delivery at scale (see <https://connected.qmul.ac.uk/faculties/humanities-and-social-sciences/hss-future/> for details). There is a proposal before Senate in this meeting to consider and advise on formation of School of the Arts as initial step towards the second of these priorities.

More broadly, most schools in HSS have recently held awaydays to translate the priorities into deliverable initiatives in their own context. Complementing these, the Faculty has hosted a Research Awayday, in which colleagues across the Schools identified three research-specific areas that support our larger priorities: visibility and reputation; funding bids and grant income; and interdisciplinarity. The HSS Education Dean Team also held an Awayday to translate the priorities for our educational mission, focusing in particular on consistency in student experience, the Principles of Programme Design, and the necessity for curriculum, assessment and portfolio reviews.

An HSS Faculty Awayday will be held on June 27th, when will integrate these and other ideas, assessing their robustness against future scenarios for post-election UK HE policy.

Interdisciplinary and Cross-faculty collaborations

QM Centre for Digital Collections, RCIF-funded, £547,896; led by Aoife Monks (SED). In this collaboration between the Library, SED, History, Geography, and FMD, existing space on the second floor of the Library will be reshaped to introduce state-of-the-art online curatorial facilities, cloud-based streaming, and new-generation cameras. The QM Centre for Digital Collections will enable us to take our research impact and outreach activities to a new level. As a university with archives of significant historical and cultural importance, this project will significantly upscale QM's digitisation research capabilities.

HEALS Centre (Health, Ethics, Arts, Law and Social Sciences), led by Professor Arundi Mahendran, FMD. HEALS brings together colleagues and students from HSS and FMD and the wider Queen Mary community to co-create a novel arts and social sciences-led approach to important questions in health, healthcare education and research. The first step will be to carry out a mapping exercise across HSS to identify the breadth and depth of education, research and public engagement activities that are already being undertaken on questions such as: what is health? what does it mean to be healthy? what does it mean *to be well* in this community? what does it mean to provide and receive care?



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 March - May 2024
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

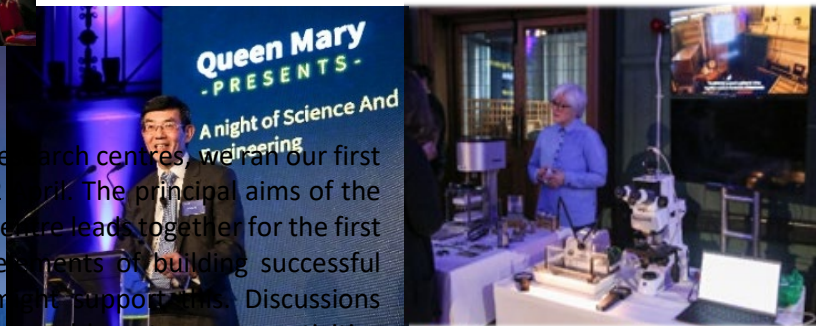
Since my last report to the Senate, I am delighted to advise that, in SBBS, Professor Caroline Brennan has been appointed as our new interim Head of School. We have also wished a very fond farewell to our long-serving Faculty Director of Operations, Anne Parry, who has supported the Faculty since its very inception and over the past 18 years. A recruitment process is underway to appoint a new Faculty Director of Operations and with this, we welcome Ellie Stewart as our interim Deputy Faculty Director of Operations who will be covering for Anne's position in the short-term.

Research

The Faculty of Science and Engineering has enjoyed an excellent spring period in terms of our recent awards. This has included a prestigious £4.3M grant tackling the risks of ChatGPT-like systems for medical and social computing in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science (EECS). We were also delighted to secure a EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training grant in the School for Engineering and Materials Science (SEMS). Due to be formally launched over the coming weeks, the award (~£7M) brings together pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to train future generations of bioengineers in next-generation organ-chip technology which is set to revolutionise drug discovery. With respect to fellowships, the School for Mathematical Sciences (SMS) have won an UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship (£1.52M) on quantum spacetime; the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences (SPCS) have won both a new Royal Society URF Fellowship (£1.8M) on exoplanet research and an extension to an existing URF Fellowship (£681k); and the School for Biological and Behavioural Sciences (SBBS) have been awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Training Network (~£242k) with a consortium of European universities.



At the end of February, the Faculty hosted its second Night of Science Engineering showcase event. This year we focussed on our partnerships. We invited key stakeholders from across industry, government, funders, third sector, and community-based organisations including feeder schools to learn about our world-class research and education. Over 130 external guests attended (almost double last year). In addition to developing our reputation the evening gave us the opportunity to launch our new research structure of twenty research centres and their respective webpages. (<https://www.seresearch.qmul.ac.uk/centres/>)



As part of the launch of our new research centres, we ran our first Faculty Research Away Day on 22 April. The principal aims of the away day were to bring research centre leads together for the first time to understand the crucial elements of building successful research centres and how we might support this. Discussions delved matters of research culture and how to ensure activities

contribute to wider faculty research aims. In particular, colleagues developed a working list of key flagship research areas including Antennas, Organ-on-a-chip, Gravitational Waves, Robotics, and Evolutionary Genomics. We will be working to further refine these areas to draw out their USPs for future

research communications and strategic planning.

This quarter, the Faculty is delighted to report that Prof. Yang Hao (EECS) has been selected to receive not one, but two awards for his achievements in the Antennas research area; the 2024 IEEE AP-S John Kraus Antenna Award, and the Fred W. Ellersick Prize Paper Award for his paper on reconfigurable intelligent surfaces for 6G systems, to be presented to him at the ICC 2024 in Denver, USA. We congratulate Prof. Hao on his wonderful achievements.

Our research has also continued to reach a wide audience – notable recent media interactions include:

- Professor Lars Chittka's *Nature* paper on bumblebees' innovative behaviour attracted significant attention, including features in outlets such as Scientific American, New Scientist, the Nature Podcast, and BBC Radio 4.
- Professor Jan Mol and Dr. James Thomas's paper on quantum transistors in *Nature Nanotechnology* was featured in *IEEE Spectrum*, a top publication for their field.
- The Centre for Digital Music (C4DM) has won funding to [collaborate with industry partner, AudioStrip](#), to develop "state-of-the-art" AI music source separation technology.
- Professor Andrew Leitch's contribution to a full [Nature paper on the genetic origins of the baobab tree](#) resulted in features in major publications such as The New York Times, Reuters, and Smithsonian Magazine.



Baobab trees are seen at sunrise in baobab alley near the city of Morondava, Madagascar, 2019

Education

Education Excellence Awards 2024



Queen Mary University of London recognised its 2023/24 winners of the Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes at a presentation on Thursday 23rd May. Science and Engineering colleagues won three of the Education Excellence Awards and a Principal's and President's prize. The photograph above pictures the winners alongside members of Faculty Executive who were present for the Awards ceremony. It was a fabulous evening celebrating successes in Education across the whole University. More information about our S&E winners can be seen below.

- Education Excellence Award winner: The BUPT-QMUL Joint Teaching and Learning Centre
Awarded for a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in teaching and learning, particularly in Transnational Education, holding workshops and a flagship international conference event and encouraging participation by industry, government and professional bodies here and in China.
- Education Excellence Award winner(s): Dr Tassos Tombros, Dr Mahesha Samaratunga, Dr Usman Naeem
Introduced a student engagement framework in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, supporting learners with peer-led sessions in getting back on track with their studies; since its introduction, student progression has significantly increased.
- Education Excellence Award winner(s): Dr Ruth Rose and Dr Timothy Fulton
Working with Student Services and co-created with students, they have improved the support provision for students in the School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences who have additional access requirements to ensure that programmes are accessible and inclusive for all students.
- Principal's and President's prize winner: Dr Lesley Howell & The HoloLens Team (Science and Engineering/Professional Services)
For co-creating augmented reality resources to help first year chemistry students develop necessary key skills which they can practice again and again outside the lab, building competence and confidence.

Graduation

We were delighted to share in the celebrations as our graduates attended the April Graduation ceremonies with their friends and family.

NSS response rates

The final number of responses across Science and Engineering are up from last year by 1.6%. Across three schools there was a significant increase in completion rates and for the other two schools there was an improved number of responses.

Degree Apprenticeships

The revised Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship will be taught through the London City Institute of Technology and be overseen by the Science and Engineering Faculty Degree Apprenticeship Team. Whilst the programme has been historically taught within and resourced by, the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), this new programme will be independently resourced, managed and delivered from EECS and SPCS but with dedicated resourcing.

The Faculty Degree Apprenticeship Manager will be supported by a new role of Director of Teaching and Learning (DA) and together they will be responsible for the teaching and support aspects of the programme.

The programme moves from a 4-year, 2 semester delivery with 2 pathways to a 3 year, 3 semester delivery with 4 pathways. The drivers for this are the changes to the DTSP standard, changes in Ofsted and IfATE regulations and input from employers on the delivery model and pathways. The aim is to grow the programme with this new model. The four pathways will be Software Engineer, Data Analyst, Business Analyst and IT Consultant.

The modules and content have been developed in line with the new DSTP standard with bespoke modules, covering common and pathway specific content.

Five new teaching roles have been created and are currently being advertised to ensure delivery for September 2024. Dedicated tripartite reviewer resource has been scaled according to the volume of students on programme, with recruitment for skills coaches taking place now.



Night of Science and Engineering (Education stalls)

The Night of Science and Engineering 2024 was a fantastic showcase of Queen Mary University of London's commitment to innovative teaching methods. This year was the first year we integrated Education stalls within the event which showcased how our leading-edge research directly informs our curriculum and empowers students with the latest technologies:

1. **Unleashing the power of augmented reality (AR) for skills-based learning:**
Our chemistry department has shifted the focus from "getting the right answer" to mastering key lab techniques. Using Microsoft HoloLens 2, we've co-created an AR library with students, providing immersive instructional guides accessible outside classes. This low-stakes environment allows for experimentation and fosters confidence in essential skills. Attendees at the event were even able to try out the AR technology firsthand.
2. **Formula student: building skills & race cars:**
The Queen Mary Formula Student team embodies student-led engineering at its finest. This society designs and manufactures single-seater race cars, fostering teamwork, technical expertise, and professional skills crucial for future careers. We showcased parts of their impressive student-built car at the event!
3. **Demystifying dinosaur behaviour through research:**
Our paleobiology research inspires engaging biology and zoology education. By studying dinosaur fossils and comparing them to living animals, we answer questions about communication, social structures, and their incredible size. We displayed some of these fascinating fossils at the event!

In S&E we are passionate about equipping students with the knowledge and skills for tomorrow's world. By integrating cutting-edge research with innovative teaching methods, we empower future generations of scientists and engineers!

TNE Activities

We are delighted to share the news that the Queen Mary Engineering School (QMES) has been ranked in the top 20 Joint Education Institutes in China, in the most recent meeting of the Sinop-Foreign Cooperative Education Joint Association. QMES was established in partnership with Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) in Xi'an China. The School won the award for its outstanding contributions and outstanding performance in the fields of talent training, international cooperation and leadership. There are 1,495 Sino-foreign cooperative education institutions at undergraduate level and above approved by the Ministry of Education of China, of which 204 are institutions (data as of June 2023). There are 8 UK institutions in the list, of which 5 are members of the Russell group.

In addition, QMES has secured the approval to increase the tuition fees of their programmes from

2024/25, which reflects the success of the partnership.

The case study of the BUPT-QMUL Joint Teaching and Learning centre (JTLC) "Progressing Beyond Teaching Collaborations in Transnational Education" has been published in "25 Years of UK Transnational Education in East Asia". This publication is the British Council's first-ever online publication about UK-East Asia transnational education (TNE) and covers 25 years of learning and reflections. Find out more [here](#).

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Following a competitive internal selection process, the Faculty is delighted to announce that Professor Claudia Garetto has been appointed as our new Faculty EDI Lead. We thank Professor Richard Pickersgill, who previously held this role but has since stepped down to take on the Deputy VP role, for his support and direction over the past years.

The Faculty EDI Lead is an important strategic role for our Faculty and Prof. Garetto takes it on after having been EDI Lead for the School of Mathematical Sciences since January 2022, leading the school's successful Athena Swan Bronze Award renewal application and sitting on the Faculty EDI Committee. Prof. Garetto will be kicking off her tenure with a hybrid event this June 'Celebrating EDI in Science and Engineering' and we look forward to reporting on this further in our next update.



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal (Education) – June 2024 Update
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the report
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This paper provides an update on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Leadership• Teaching, Learning and Assessment• Student Experience and Engagement• The National Student Survey• Student Surveys• The Queen Mary Academy• Office for Students and regulatory matters
Questions 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	Ben Hunt - Executive Officer (Education)
Sponsor	Professor Stephanie Marshall (VP Education)

Vice-Principal (Education) Update – June 2024

Education Leadership

1. Education Excellence Awards were held on 23 May 2024. Over 160 colleagues from across the University came to the Royal College of Pathologists to celebrate excellence and innovation in education and the student experience across the University. This event included members of the Senior Executive, Heads of School/Directors of Institutes, past award winners and nominees for this year. The awards celebrated 15 sets of colleagues who either won Education Excellence Awards or the Principal & President's Prize. More details on the winners can be found [here](#).
2. The refreshed Education and Student Experience Enabling Plan has now been finalised with three priorities, each aligned to delivery of the university's 2030 Strategy:
 - World-class, education consistently delivered by professionally developed educators;
 - Consistent advice and support for students;
 - Employability and real-world experience embedded in the curriculum.

The Enabling Plan was discussed with the Deans for Education and Directors of Education at an away day on 06 June 2024 at the London City Institute of Technology. Feedback was obtained from those present on how the three priorities can be address and developed at an institutional, Faculty and School/Institute level.

3. The [Principles of Programme Design](#) continue to be embedded within existing and new programmes. This work is key to the Education & Student Experience Enabling Plan (world class education). Senate is reminded that it approved and adopted the Principles of Programme Design in October 2023, to be applied to all new programme proposals received from that point forward. The Queen Mary Academy are now working with all Schools and Institutes to ensure that pre-existing degree programmes are full aligned to the approved principles.

Teaching, learning and assessment

4. On 30 April 2024, the Higher Education Commission working with Policy Connect published a national report into [Digitally Enhanced Blended Learning](#). This report, to which QMUL contributed substantial evidence, argues that blended learning can enhance widening participation, student outcomes, and modernise educational delivery. The university's Active Curriculum for Excellence (ACE) approach is highlighted in the report as a national example of best practice.
5. The Office for Students (OfS) recently published [additional guidance](#) on the retention of assessed work in accordance with Conditions of Registration B4 and B5. All universities in England are now required to retain assessed work for all students for five years following the date of the completion of their degree. (The retention of assessed work was previously suggested under JISC retention schedules for a total period of six years.) In practice, this may mean retaining items of coursework, exam scripts, grades and feedback by up to 13 years (based on the total duration of the degree programme inclusive of interruptions and resits, then adding 5 years beyond completion / graduation). Schools and Institutes will be expected to comply with this new OfS regulatory requirement from September 2024.

6. The summer examination period has now finished, with over 39,000 assessments conducted throughout May 2024. Marking is ongoing in advance of the Subject and Degree Examination Boards which will meet in June and July.

Student Experience and Engagement

7. EQSB considered and approved a proposal to rename Student Staff Liaison Committees (SSLCs) to Student Voice Committees (SVC). This change, which was proposed at the NSS workshops held over the course of 2023 with Deans and Directors of Education, aligns nomenclature and language used by the OfS in NSS and TEF, and increasingly used across the sector.
8. EQSB also approved updated Terms of Reference and Membership lists for School/Institute Education Committees, which can be augmented to fit local needs. These reaffirm the commitment that there should be student representation on each School/Institute Education Committee. An indicative schedule of business for Education Committees (aligned to scheduled meetings of EQSB and TPB) is being created and will be circulated to Schools and Institutes with the Terms of Reference and Membership lists.
9. The Careers and Enterprise Team presented an employability deep dive to the university's Senior Executive Team (SET) and Council. The session focussed on developments instigated in recent years to improve our Graduate Outcomes, as well as the proposed development of Employability in curricula as part of the Education and Student Experience Enabling Plan.
10. An inaugural Library Life pulse survey took place and closed with 560 responses to gain in-depth insight into the Library Services needs of the QM community.
11. Library Services secured £550k funding from RCIF to establish the Centre for Digital Collections in a collaborative project with HSS and FMD. The project plan and board are still to be confirmed.
12. At the end of March 2024, 232 students were reported as successful completers for Graduate Route visa eligibility.
13. Work is continuing to create standard templates for international student letters, such as no objection certificates for travel, authorised absence and confirmation of term time.
14. A new training programme for the Introduction of Student Wellbeing services which has been delivered to Student Support Officers initially and will be rolled out across all of Professional Services and to Schools/Institutes.
15. A revised version of Safeguarding Policy with additional content related to international activities has been sent to SET.
16. Changes are being made to the Extenuating Circumstances procedures to improve the experience both for students and for staff.
17. A Learner Engagement policy and implementation guide are being finalised and will be circulated ahead of the 2024/25 academic year.

National Student Survey

18. The NSS has now closed with a final response rate of 69.5%. This equates to 3,507 responses: the highest number received for QMUL. NSS results will be released by the OfS on Wednesday 10 July 2024. Feedback meetings are being arranged with the VP/DVP's Education and key colleagues from each School/Institute for July and August 2024.

Student Surveys

19. The PTES will close on 13 June 2024. The current response rate (as of 29 May 2024) is 11%.
20. An upgraded module evaluation platform, Evasys+, was piloted within six schools and institutes in 2023-24. The results from use of this system have shown an increase in module response rates across all piloted schools, a reduction in administrative burden and increased access to module organisers and leaders to feedback. There was no demonstrable demand for paper-based evaluations within the pilot Schools and Institutes. Those pilot Schools/Institutes were the Schools of Biological & Behavioural Sciences (Psychology), Business and Management, Law, Mathematical Sciences, and Politics & International Relations, and the Institute of Dentistry.

Queen Mary Academy

21. The President and Principal's Fund for Educational Excellence is now open for applications for funding in 2024-25. Funding will be awarded to projects in one of the following priority areas: Assessment and Curriculum Development, embedding the Principles of Academic Degree Programme Design. The panel will award four grants of £20,000 and four grants of £10,000 for financial year 2024/25. It will also award £5,000 to one project funded by the Drapers' Fund for Innovation in Learning and Teaching. The deadline for applications is Friday 21 June 2024. For more information visit the website www.qmul.ac.uk/educational-excellence-fund
22. The SEED Award panel met in April and considered 34 student applications, making 21 awards. This brings the total this for 2023/24 to 128 student awards.
23. The Queen Mary Teaching Recognition Programme is moving to the new Professional Standards Framework (PSF 2023). The first submission deadline for applications using the new PSF 2023 will be 27 September 2024.
24. The Academy is pleased to announce that 4 new Principal Fellowships of the HEA were awarded this year to date.
25. Colleagues from Queen Mary Academy recently presented a paper on assessment practice at the inaugural Freedom to Learn conference (Dr Steph Fuller, Dr Emily Salines, and Dr Jo Trelfa).
26. Dr Radhika Desai from the Institute of Dentistry has taken up a Queen Mary Academy Fellowship. Her focus is curriculum design, and her project aims to deliver an innovative dental undergraduate programme, co-created with students.

27. Dr Louise Younie from the Institute of Health Sciences Education has taken up a new Queen Mary Academy Fellowship. Her project aims to increase the uptake and embedding of co-creation in line with Queen Mary Strategy 2030.

Office for Students (OfS) and Regulatory Matters

28. The OfS has issued a statement clarifying that, as a non-departmental public body, it is subject to Cabinet Office guidelines during the pre-election period. Until the general election on 4 July, the OfS will be restricting their communications. They will not issue press releases or comment on higher education issues to either written or broadcast media.
29. The Government's Migration Advisory Committee have [concluded a review](#) of the graduate route, which recommended that changes to visa conditions for graduated international students should not change. There were several recommendations for reforms to the international adviser system.
30. As of the writing of this report, formal manifestos for the election have not been published. The Conservatives has stated that they will 'swap 'rip off' degrees for apprenticeships', by closing university courses and reinvesting £885m from closures to create 100,000 more apprenticeships by the end of the next parliament.
31. The OfS recently published its [annual review of financial sustainability](#), as well as [an insight brief](#), which received significant media coverage. It found that in 2022-23, 93 higher education providers reported a deficit. Based on this forecast, this figure will be 108 by 2023-24, 74 in 2024-25 and 57 in 2025-26.
32. The OfS have [issued a quality assessment report](#) into the quality of computing courses at Bradford College. Bradford College has a validation partnership with the University of Bolton that covers computing courses. The OfS found concerns relating to conditions B1 and B4 of registration, which are the level of educational challenge, non-technical assessment and the credibility of awards.
33. The OfS has [consulted](#) upon its freedom of speech complaints scheme and guidance, how it uses its strategic priorities grant, and NSS themes and thresholds. Queen Mary have responded to these consultations and taken part in an event regarding the OfS's future strategic direction.
34. The University has also submitted the OfS's annual capital funding return. The OfS made two grants, one of £50K and another of £2.2 million. These have been respectively allocated to the School of Business and Management building and the extension and reconfiguration of the ITL.
35. Queen Mary have taken part in a QAA's international pathways programme review, which explored student progression from international foundation degrees to year one programmes. We provided a sample of data for all international foundation programmes.
36. The QAA have [consulted on a new version of the quality code](#), which will be published on 27 June 2024.

Senate update: VP, Policy and Strategic Partnerships: April 2024 – June 2024

London City Institute of Technology (IoT)

Preparations are underway for our September 2024 Cohort as we seek to upgrade both the physical facility and curriculum of our apprenticeship programmes in response to learner and employer feedback. In terms of the facility itself, we are converting the sixth floor workshop into a student common room with relaxation/study space, alongside a new 100 seater lecture theatre on the seventh floor. This month, Taught Programmes Board approved the complete redesign of our Digital and Technology Solutions Professional programme to reduce the duration from four years to three years and from two days a week to one day a week to increase the attractiveness of the provision. Simultaneously, we have taken the opportunity to update the entire module curricula and are recruiting dedicated teaching resource.

Our partnership with Amazon is moving from strength to strength as we have now been contracted to deliver lv.3 pre-apprenticeship training to non-technical Amazon associates in fulfilment centres who wish to move into the Data Analytics Profession. This contract is a national agreement that will in the first cohort cover 40-55 learners. Eventually this will form part of a full skills escalator from levels 3 through 4, 6 & 7. This year we also welcome back Bloomberg as an employer partner alongside a new employer Reply.Inc.

Degree apprenticeships

Ofsted preparation and planning activities:

The Central Apprenticeship is actively engaged in extensive inspection activities to help to prepare and support colleagues at all levels across the apprenticeship community at QM to prepare for the full Ofsted inspection. Consequently, the following work has taken place:

Planning of Deep Dives:

- Deep Dives have been organised with Programme Directors to conduct mock deep dives into all the apprenticeship areas.
- Timetables and schedule have been agreed and implemented for the DTS level 6, Academic Professional level 7 and the Senior Professional Economist programmes.
- Session visits, interviews with senior leaders, module organisers, tutors, staff, apprentices and employers have taken place to gain insights into their roles, responsibilities and perspectives on their subject areas.
- Work scrutiny activities are planned such as curriculum documentation and mapping, review of apprentice work, progress reviews, OTJ files, policies and intervention records.
- Verbal feedback is given at the conclusion of the deep dive, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement for each area and a short report on each area is being produced.

This piece of work is ongoing and extensive and is likely to continue for the next five months.

Inspection Plan and SLT schedule:

To ensure that QM have a cross-university approach to the inspection process, a senior management schedule has been developed detailing all senior managers (along with their deputies) who will lead and be responsible for aspects of the inspection. For example, Leadership and Management, Safeguarding, Personal Development, Behaviours and Attitudes and the Quality of Education.

Head of Apprenticeships has met with the majority of leads to discuss next steps and to support this work through the design of position statements on each of the above themes.

ESFA audit and sampling checks:

The central team are currently undertaking monthly sampling checks on the apprenticeship evidence files and ongoing feedback is given to colleagues in the schools. Action plans are in place to resolve the auditing errors and to help improve compliance.

Crown Commercial Service audit:

The central team are also busy preparing for the above audit which is scheduled for July 2024. Feedback will be provided for the next Senate report.

Civic engagement and impact

- We have finalised our Civic Delivery Plan to drive forward QM's Civic University Agreement. We are now working with the Institute for Community Studies, part of the Young Foundation, who will be supporting us to create our Civic Monitoring and Evaluation framework.
- The third East London Research Network meeting was held in collaboration with East London Citizens (chapter of Citizens UK) on 22 May, where over 70 Queen Mary researchers, Citizens UK Community Organisers and East London community leaders came together to explore key priority themes for East London – work and wages, housing and homelessness, health equity, climate justice, migration and refugee justice and youth safety. The next steps are for each area to action plan moving forward the discussions, identifying opportunities to work together meaningfully on areas/priorities.
- The Civic Engagement Lead and the Centre for Public Engagement team delivered the National Civic Impact Accelerator (NCIA) principles of partnership workshops in the Spring and have designed a toolkit for developing equitable civic partnerships. This will soft-launch at the national civic conference, CiviCon, in June. We will then test the toolkit in reflection sessions with conference attendees and workshop participants in Autumn 2025, make any amendments and additions, and launch the final iteration in January.
- The Civic Engagement Lead and DVP for Impact (Culture, Civic and Community) supported a QM-led EPSRC Place-based IAA application which was submitted in March. We have been shortlisted for interview, and Alison Blunt, DVP for Impact will feature on the panel in June to talk to QM's approach to civic engagement and the value of the various partnerships on our application.
- As part of our Enhancing Research Culture funding, we are in the middle of mapping the breadth and depth of Queen Mary research taking place in, with and for East London, external partnerships and engaged teaching practice. We have a good number of submissions so far, and we'll be following up with Research Managers to complete the gaps in the coming months.

- We are working with a local filmmaker to create a short film introducing Queen Mary's approach to civic engagement. This will be hosted on our website and detail QM's commitment to East London through our Civic University Agreement and priority areas.
- We are also working with another local creative to create a short film showcasing Queen Mary research in, with, and for East London. This will highlight the importance of our research partnerships locally, whilst demonstrating how collaboration on societal challenges generates more impactful research.
- As part of the NIHR funded Tower Hamlets Health Determinants Research Collaborative (HDRC), the Health Inequalities Research & Partnerships Manager at Queen Mary is supporting various external research grant applications focused on patient and public involvement and engagement, and health and housing. They also recently led an online workshop for QM researchers to find out more about the HDRC and opportunities to be involved which was well received. QM has been shortlisted for a London Higher award for cross-university collaboration for our work with UEL and London Metropolitan University on the Tower Hamlets HDRC.
- QM hosted a delegation from ten universities in Thailand (29 April 2024) to find out more about our civic and public engagement work.

Centre for Arts, Culture and Creative Collaboration

We are pleased to welcome two new team members to the Centre this month:

- **Fahima Jahan Amin**, who is a recent QM grad and participant on the Centre's Assistant Producers Scheme is joining on a 6 month FTC as Strategic Partnerships Officers, developing a new comms strategy for the Centre and also supporting the Civic Engagement Lead to increase visibility and share stories internally and externally about the wide range of partnerships supported by both our teams.
- **Jenny Hewitt**, who is a postdoctoral researcher joins us to lead the Young Peer Research project developing training and networks to support QM academics and partner organisations who engage young peer researchers in their work

Funders' Workshop:

At the end of May, the Centre delivered a workshop consulting with national arts and culture funders and policy makers on the systems of evaluation and data management in the sector. The Department of Culture, Media and Support, AHRC, Arts Council England, The Audience Agency, The Centre for Cultural Value, GLA Culture Team and Wandsworth Council were in attendance. The insights generated will inform a major bid focusing on the civic role a university can play in supporting evaluation for its local cultural ecosystem.

Research Culture Workshops:

In June, the Centre is running x2 workshops that bring together QM researchers and local partner organisations to discuss and collaborate around two main themes - Young Peer Researchers (June 11th) and Evaluation for the Cultural Sector (June 19th). Over 50 arts and culture organisations are engaging in both projects so far.

AI and the Creative Workforce:

The Centre designed and delivered x3 workshops with 60 freelance creative workers, in collaboration with major arts unions Equity, BECTU, Musician's Union and Society of Authors who are members of our Cultural Advocacy Fellows scheme. Insights from the workshops are informing the CREATIF AI BRAID research project we are partnering with the Turing Institute on, which is submitting a follow up bid to extend the reach of the project over the next 5 years.

Thames Estuary and Skills Mapping:

The Centre convened a working group of Kent and Essex universities, with the London College of Fashion, to explore potential research collaborations around the Creative Industries in the Thames Estuary. We have also engaged a postdoc for 6 months to map skills gaps and scope opportunities for QM to forge new partnerships with industry and develop new courses and opportunities within creative industries training.

Centre Director Aoife Monks is on sabbatical from July-Dec 2024. Centre Manager Alex Brown will be leading Centre activities during this period, collaborating with academic and research leads on different areas of the Centre's work (Ed Charlton: Evaluation project, Jenny Hewitt: Young Peer Researchers, Alison Blunt: Civic, David Leslie: AI project).

Public Engagement

The Centre for Public Engagement team is currently recruiting a new Head of Public Engagement, and at the start of May, the team welcomed Aoife Sadlier into the role of Participatory Research Officer. The Participatory Research Officer is a new part-time post supporting participatory and co-produced research across Queen Mary for the next two years.

The CPE team has been busy preparing for the annual Festival of Communities which was to have taken place on Saturday 8th June in Stepney Green Park. More than 60 Queen Mary activities and more than 40 community activities were to be delivered on the day, but this year's Festival has had to be cancelled because of safety concerns.

The team continues to offer high-quality public engagement support, administering internal funding schemes for engagement with local communities, patients, and the public, and running advice sessions with staff and students.

The QM HDRC (Health Determinants Research Collaboration) team are supporting colleagues from QM, UEL, and London Met to submit a bid to the MRC & NIHR 'Understanding public involvement in a nonclinical setting' funding call in June. Over 30 researchers attended the bid planning session on 12 March.

Public Affairs

The public affairs function is currently being established within the Principal's Office supported by an external review and internal consultation across the Senior Executive Team, the communications team, and faculty

colleagues. This had included a presentation as part of the Senior Executive Team away day on the political context, and key policy opportunities and risks for Queen Mary.

The overall aim of the ongoing consultation is to agree strategic themes for the university to position itself within a new legislative agenda, a new Mayoral term in London, the evolving placed based agenda, wider local issues in public health and labour market reform, and continued scrutiny of universities and the management of contentious issues facing the sector.

The public affairs strategy has been focused on:

- Developing Queen Mary's understanding and policy on 'funding and reform' within the sector, and the new government's initial legislative agenda, including devolution, skills, international students, and inclusive growth.
- Designing public affairs support and parliamentary engagement for existing Queen Mary activities, including research, public programmes and major events, as well as Evidence Week in Parliament (AI & primary care) and working with third parties such as Sense About Science.
- Working with the communications team on key themes, including AI and the new term three 'education' theme and briefing political and policy stakeholders with the content produced across departments, and helping to deliver integrated campaigns.
- Supporting the development of a Civic Communications Plan mapped to local policy priorities and against the new Champions Network and Equitable Partnership work.
- Developing public affairs programmes for key strategic themes: skills & transforming the professions; reformer heritage & place; social mobility & inclusive education; inclusive growth & the Thames Estuary.
- Undertaking policy mapping through the general election to support policy capacity building within the university, and opportunity spotting for research and partnerships, including education, skills, health, devolution.

The public affairs function has also worked with the Mile End Institute to ensure co-ordination with the Principal's Office and promotion of the Institute and its programme of research and events which is recognised across the UK.

The function has provided co-ordinating capacity for consultation responses, as well as award submissions, including the Times Higher Awards, London Higher Awards and the Social Mobility Awards. It has supported specific areas of research and Queen Mary publications, including Child Migrancy, as well as recruitment of academics to policy roles, primary care and landfill research.

Sustainability

SDG Mapping: Over the last two and a half months we have been working with external consultants to map Queen Mary's university-wide activity against the SDGs. Key deliverables will include a methodology for continued in-house impact assessment and a framework for us to build an impact report and institutional narrative, celebrating our work supporting the SDGs.

Engagement: Climate Action week saw 12 different activities delivered, and over 200 students and staff engaged. Our canal clean-ups have engaged over 100 students and staff this year. We are working to develop partnerships with the Lower Regents Coalition and Wash Wombles groups to offer students and staff further opportunities in this area.

Our allotment development project is moving into its final stages, with a formal usage strategy being developed to ensure maximal usage by students, staff, and the local community, where feasible.

Moving forward, we continue to collaborate with the universities involved in the London Student Sustainability Conference, sharing best practice and identifying opportunities for collaborative events.

Education: The QM Sustainability in the Curriculum Network is now working towards bringing the vision for a sustainability module, for students and staff, to fruition. Two meetings have taken place with a focus group, pooling expertise to pull together an application for funding to co-create the module with students and staff. In June, the network will come together for another best-practice meeting, drawing on presentations of case-studies from across the university.

Latin American initiatives

Professor Alonso and I are currently working on delivery of a 3 week Leadership programme for final year IPN undergraduates this August, as well as a 2 day research symposium, also in August, with our pgr students from IPN, with guests from IPN, Mexican industry and others attending. We also have around 10 PhD and Master's students in the pipeline for this September.

People, Culture and Inclusion Update

The update for People, Culture & Inclusion over the preceding period is shorter than many due to the schedule of meetings – there has not been an additional instance of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Steering Group before this paper was prepared. Minutes for the next meeting will be shared with Senate, in the usual manner, at the next opportunity to provide assurance of our progress in this space.

Beyond this update, I wish to draw to Senate's attention the University's success in the University's Human Resources awards 2024; The Equality Diversity & Inclusion Team were shortlisted for an award for our progress in Recognising Citizenship – an umbrella project which has included the rapid development of staff networks and their leadership. I would like to thank all involved for their contributions and wish our many staff affinity networks luck in their next steps.



Senate

Paper Title	Research & Innovation Report
Outcome requested	To note the R&I updates from the last quarter
Points for Senate members to note and further information	Updates from central R&I teams and strategic areas
Questions for Senate to consider	n/a
Regulatory/statutory reference points	n/a
Strategy and risk	Links to R&I Enabling Plan and Strategy 2030
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Directly to Senate
Authors	Prof. Andrew Livingston, Executive Officer R&I
Sponsor	Prof. Andrew Livingston

R&I Senate Report

June 2024

Research Strategy

Work to implement the R&I Enabling Plan is ongoing. As Senate will know, the University Research Institutes are strategic investments aligned with our research priorities which facilitate recruitment of top research talent and interdisciplinary collaboration across the three faculties. A third URI on Early Life was approved by SET in April and is in the early stages of establishment. We are in discussion with the cross-Faculty group of researchers that proposed the URI around the direction of recruitment of strategic hires for the new URI and will update Senate in the next report.

In the previous report to Senate we noted the links between our Research and Innovation activities and our aspirations to raise our reputation. Following a session on research reputation at the SET Away Day in April we are incorporating feedback on how we communicate the University's ambitions, strategic developments in East London and regional, national and international track record of impact in our research narrative materials. The Impact Engagement Team is also working on a refresh of the central research webpages to better communicate these key messages and to improve user experience. This work will continue through the summer and we will update Senate in the next quarter.

Research Impact

The Impact team has been focusing on recruitment. Three vacant Impact Officer posts for FMD, HSS and S&E have been advertised. Melissa Jhurry has been recruited to the FMD post and Maria Morelli has been recruited to the post for HSS. Evie Edwards joined the team in May 2024 as the second Impact Officer for HSS. Anna Klockner, formerly the S&E Impact Officer, has been promoted to Knowledge Exchange Manager and recruitment for her replacement is underway.

Assessment of the applications to the Spring round of the Impact Fund is almost complete, with the ratification panel scheduled for 3 June 2024. 12 applications totalling £465,518 will be reviewed for a final decision at the ratification panel. We will provide a further update in the next report.

Research Culture

The Research Culture Team held their first [Sharing Research Cultures](#) event in late March, bringing together over 40 colleagues from across Queen Mary to listen to five talks that showcased best practice and the vibrancy of local research cultures in our schools, institutes, and professional service departments. A second Sharing Research Cultures event is planned for later in the year.

The Research Culture Team has also been working closely with the Research & Innovation Analysis and Planning Office to ensure that Queen Mary engages comprehensively with [Research England's consultations](#) regarding the People, Culture and Environment section of REF 2029 that will take extend across 2024 and 2025. This has so far included working with an institute in FMD to express an interest in [acting as a pilot REF Unit of Assessment](#) in a test exercise and arranging for one colleague to apply to attend each of [Vitae's 13 REF PCE workshops](#) on indicators and metrics.

R&I Awards

The second Queen Mary Research & Innovation Awards took place on 2 May 2024 at the Barbican Centre. The event was a celebration of the brilliant achievements of our research community, with awards for early career researchers, interdisciplinary team, impact, research supervisor, research support and research technician, among other categories. Details of the 2024 winners can be found on the [R&I webpage](#).

We were joined at the awards by important external stakeholders and partners in the research, innovation and civic landscape. Our external panel chairs included Prof. Chris Smith, AHRC Executive Chair; Prof. Julia Black, President of the British Academy; Brian Sharkey, Head of Partnerships & Transformation at Barclay's Eagle Labs and Somen Banerjee, Co-Director Public Health at Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust. This engagement with external stakeholders allowed us to showcase Queen Mary's research achievements, as well as recognising the excellent contributions of colleagues.

REF

Expressions of interest were invited to submit a test unit of assessment (UoA) for the new [People, Culture and Environment \(PCE\) section](#). A new timetable for this pilot has been released. Queen Mary has expressed an interest in submitting UoA 3 (dentistry) and we are open to discussing further engagement. As noted above, a number of staff have submitted an expression of interest for a series of workshops to develop the indicators for this PCE pilot. We await further information regarding expressions of interest for pilot panel members and secretaries, and we have appropriate staff members engaged for this opportunity.

Meetings for workstreams in the internal REF governance structure have been initiated, with the exception of the EDI group, which is not yet required at this stage of preparations.

Initial systems testing for Symplectic Elements is underway in two Faculties; it will begin in the third and final Faculty soon. In collaboration with City University, the Impact team at Queen Mary has established a network of Symplectic Elements users across the sector to collectively develop the impact module to manage the gathering of impact case study claims and evidence. The network had its first meeting on 13th May 2024, which was attended by c.20 institutions.

Doctoral College

As Senate will be aware, the Doctoral College has been focussing on delivery of the 2024 Summer Training Research Initiative to Support Equity and Diversity (STRIDE). The purpose of this programme is to support students from under-represented groups to gain research experience with financial support for the activity. This is part of Queen Mary's commitment to 'open the Doors of Opportunity' and is designed to give funded research experience opportunities to undergraduate students to help them to consider further study at postgraduate level and a career in research. Although it has only been running for a few years, we have already seen its success in encouraging students from under-represented groups to apply for postgraduate research programmes at Queen Mary. The programme is open to UK fee paying undergraduate students who identify as Black Asian and Minority Ethnic or Gypsy/Traveller. The Doctoral College will offer 30 studentships (10 per faculty) for 8 weeks during summer 2024. For the 30 available spaces on the 2024 programme we received 425 eligible applications from students across QMUL. The STRIDE website also received the most hits of any of the Doctoral College website, attracting interest and contacts from students across the UK and beyond. The student applications reflected the diversity of our UG student community and the appetite to discover more about postgraduate research.

Of the 425 applications:

262 applicants were Asian/Asian British

80 Applicants were Black African/Caribbean/British

232 applicants were first in their family to go to university and more than 50% of applicants are from backgrounds that would be described as having low social capital.

We hope to build on the data we have collected to support better and wider interventions that improve diversity in research at QMUL and influence conversations happening in this space across the sector.

In the last quarter, working alongside the Research Degrees Office and ITS, the Doctoral College has moved into the final stages of developing and delivering an online payments system to support the move from quarterly to monthly stipend payments to bring us in line with the rest of the sector. This will commence in October 2024.

JRMO

The long-awaited MHRA report was received on Friday 10 May and unfortunately two of our major findings have been upgraded to Critical. This has surprised everyone as the initial feedback was extremely positive. We now need to respond to the critical findings by the 30th May.

The two critical findings were :

1. Delayed sample analysis (lack of prospective impact assessment) –. This is trial specific.

2. Failure to implement CAPA (Corrective and Preventative Action) from previous review. This relates to a dental trial which had a serious breach. The result of the initial MHRA inspection CAPA was that any publications required a disclaimer that the trial was not conducted as a CTIMP (Clinical trial of a medicinal product). It was found that a publication was initiated without the disclaimer.

The JRMO have drafted a response to the critical findings and are confident that both items have been addressed sufficiently for these two points to be considered resolved.

There is a Royal Society Institutional audit beginning the week of 27 May. This will be a five-day audit of our processes and adherence to policies along with a sample of individual projects. The Royal Society team will be based at Dept W for three days and will be interviewing relevant section representatives.

The newly recruited International Partnership Managers have initiated meetings across the faculties looking at areas of research expertise and highlighting opportunities where international collaborations and funder relationships can be explored.

Business Development

Our new Senior Partnerships Manager for Medicine and Dentistry, Alex Gardiol, has recently started at Queen Mary. Alex is supported by Jemma Trick who joined the FMD team in early April and has already started managing aspects of Innovate UK partnerships and industry-sponsored studentships. The latest contract research project closed was for an investigator-led proposal from Prof Lindsay and Dr Stagg (Blizard institute) to study the inhibition of Trk2 in Inflammatory Bowel disease, funded by Takeda (£677k). As in previous years, contract research represents the largest FMD BD sector (48%). The new team has had an energetic start, not only ensuring continuity in the pipeline and supporting existing projects, but also taking on new business. Of note is the latest opportunity to develop an Innovate SMART grant between Metadeq and Prof Alazawi (Blizard) to develop a biomarker-based test for early detection of NASH.

The S&E team has continued to grow their pipeline of opportunities and submissions. S&E BDMs have supported two KTPs, 12 Innovate UK projects and three contract/UKRI research grants in Q3 of FY 23-24. This comprised the development of two standard KTPs with Power Roll and Astra Zeneca with a total project value £469,364 (outcome due Sept 2024). Two Innovate UK projects were successful this quarter, securing £292,487 and bringing the total Innovate UK funding income this academic year to just under £1.5M. The awarded IUK grants include a Smart Grant with Algorivm Ltd, and the UK-Australia Renewable Hydrogen call with Graphene Innovations Manchester. There was considerable interest in the UKRI AKTP scheme this year, with seven projects submitted by S&E staff and their SME partners. The success rate for this call was 35%; Queen Mary was awarded 4 projects (3 in S&E - with Lucideon, TTS Pharma, Power Roll; and 1 in HSS- with TTS Pharma) giving us an overall success rate of 50%. To help support the delivery of currently live and recently secured KTP projects, our new KTP project Manager, Melissa Tiskaya, will join the team in July 2024. Success with DASA was also

seen this quarter with a project submitted to an Engineering Biology call being awarded to Matteo Palma (£130k) leveraging funding and end user engagement from a Dstl-funded studentship.

The HSS Faculty has one partnership specialist supporting partner engagement and commercially orientated ways of collaborating in the faculty. As a faculty, its partnering leans strongly to collaborating in non-commercial ways, principally with socially and community driven sectors where QMUL is the partner with access to funding. BD advised and supported engagement with partners for the successful UKRI resilient coastal communities bid. The proposal engaged 34 partners to add £100k of in-kind value. This is a significant interdisciplinary project. Our Senior Partnerships Manager for HSS continues to support partnering for the bid to the UKRI centre for law and social justice. The proposal will be submitted in July 2024.

In terms of employer engagement and new partnerships, our partnership with Amazon is moving from strength to strength following the recently awarded Lv.6 Apprenticeships on Software Engineering and Data Analytics. We have also been contracted to deliver Lv.3 pre-apprenticeship training to non-technical Amazon associates (40-55 learners). Eventually Lv.3 pre-apprenticeship training will form part of a full skills escalator from levels 3 through 4, 6 & 7. QM welcomed back Bloomberg as an employer partner alongside a new employer, Reply.Inc, which is an Italian Software Development Firm. Reply.Inc has volunteered to deliver Hackathons, CEO Guest Lectures and are in broader discussions with QMUL about the apprenticeship levy strategy. Jamie Hilder, Senior BDM - Degree Apprenticeships, is busy evaluating and discussing opportunities for the 2025 inaugural cohort for lv.7 Advanced Robotics Engineer with BP, Ocado, Airbus, DSTL; and the 2025 inaugural cohort for lv.3 Paralegal and lv.7 Solicitor Apprenticeship with DWF, EY, Hogan Lovells, Slaughter & May.

QMI

QMI continues to recruit key external members to its board and welcomes Dr Tony Hickson, Chief Business Officer at Cancer Research UK, who brings a wealth of experience in the funding and practice of life sciences commercialisation.

The Investment Committee met to consider a number of applications. The committee is chaired by the DVP Impact (Research and Innovation), David Lee, and comprises internal and external members including legal, business and investment expertise. The Committee agreed to invest c. £1.2m in six spinout companies alongside existing investors. The money is drawn from exits from spinouts founded over ten years ago and the returns from these investments will, we hope, fund further support of spinouts in the future.

QMI Board have recommended a revised IP policy to the University which has been supported by Research and Innovation board and should, subject to legal review and approval by SET, come to Senate for review in June.

QMI are working with the University Officers to pursue a collaboration with other universities to raise a significant capital resource to invest in spinouts from our universities. We are close to agreeing Head of Terms and expect the process to conclude late 2024 or early 2025.

QMI have been working with external consultants to accelerate our pipeline of spinouts, culminating in an AI investor showcase in June, which we anticipate over 50 investors to attend. The showcase will feature a series of pitches from Queen Mary companies with an AI element to their business model. We intend to extend this to other sectors in the future. A number of our spinout companies will also be pitching at the MedTech World London Roadshow, hosted at QMUL and aimed at startups, investors, academics, and NHS decision-makers across the entire healthcare innovation ecosystem.

QMI are rebuilding their website to improve communications and have achieved press coverage for our entrepreneurs and spinouts, including in City AM, and the Sun and Daily Mail online.

QMI are working with HSS to develop a sustainable business model for the BLOC facility and to consider new ways to enable commercial activity in the area of film production.

The London Social Venture Fund project has begun and we welcome Amir Rizwan as Director. The 11 universities and public and private sector organisations involved are working together to build a strong social venture pipeline in London and to explore ways in which this critical mass of universities and partners can together support the growth of social ventures coming out of London universities in the coming years.