



Update on research grants and KPIs – March 2020

Outcome requested:	Finance and Investment committee is asked to note the Research Metrics.
Executive Summary:	<p>At its previous meeting, the Committee asked to review the metrics for research performance twice a year. The Committee requested that the Executive identify and report on the most appropriate metrics for measuring progress.</p> <p>The accompanying paper presents data on grant awards so far this year, additional activities being carried out through VPRAG and plans for sub-indicators that are in development.</p> <p><i>The Committee's attention is drawn to the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The focus on revisiting our policies on overhead recovery</i> <p>The Committee is also asked to give feedback on the degree of detailed provided in the report and agree it is sufficient for their needs or not.</p>
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]	Research income and research environment
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	
Strategic Risks:	9 – Increased research volume
Equality Impact Assessment:	N/A
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	The information underpinning this paper is a standing agenda item at VPRAG.
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	No
Timing:	FIC March 2020
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Date:	3 rd March 2020
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Sharon Ellis

Research grants and contracts report August 2019 to end January 2020

Research income overhead data

The tables at Annex A show the overall Institution and individual School/Faculties(s) overhead targets and recovery rates for each grant/funding type against the applications and awards made. These data are being updated and presented each month to VPRAG (essentially the strategic and operational group responsible for driving the research culture and metrics at Queen Mary).

Key points from an Institutional perspective are:

- Government overheads have been below target on application in this period due to the number of clinical fellowships from Health Education England and a high level of professional staff in NIHR applications which do not attract overheads but recovered at the award stage. We will start work with HR to look at the validity of the current policy where staff who we believe are critical to the research endeavour are classified as professional service staff (e.g. nurses).

Key points from a School/Faculty perspective are:

- SMD are showing a lower return on Research Council work as a result of an HDRUK award with limited overheads allowed and awards requiring large mass spectrometry and BSU costs;
- S&E industry awards are below target, though this is driven by a large grant for a “centre” so not actually carrying out work;

As a result of looking deeper into these data, VPRAG agreed to review our overhead recovery targets, particularly related to industrial collaborations. We will also work on a clear policy statement and guidance on why overheads are important, what changes are allowed and the process for any exceptions. An update will be available for the next report or sooner (June 2020) if the Committee wishes.

Research Income

The Committee asked us to present the best data we felt would give them a sense of what is happening. The KPI will remain income as per our accounts but I do not feel that is meaningful in the context of this 6 monthly update. In the tables at Annex B, we present the total value of bids made over the 6 months and the value of the research grants awarded. These will not completely align as submitted grants can take up to a year to be awarded after submission. But the data is intended for us to understand the following:

- Is QMUL maintaining a strong pipeline of applications, the success rate of which can be understood against comparator benchmarks and mapped against our own performance year on year
- Is QMUL growing its research portfolio, which if maintained would lead to a sustained increase in income to score against accounts and be benchmarked

Key points are:

- Numbers of awards have remained broadly the same over the last 2 years;
- The value of awards has remained broadly the same in H&SS (c. £3.5-4m), are substantially up compared to the same time period last year in S&E (an increase of 37%), and marginally down in SMD by c. 15%;

- There have been some notable successes in the period, e.g. > £1.8m for fellowships, > £0.5 for a industrially funded centre to expand our work on “Organ on a Chip”, > £5m from competitive European schemes, c. £4m from NIHR and > £10m from Research Councils;
- Charity funding stood at > £36m (which brings zero overhead with the grant) but does bring a smaller amount of QR overhead;
- Success rates were H&SS (23%), S&E (23%) and SMD (36%), broadly similar to our competitors

These data reinforce the need for looking again at our overhead policy and targets (see above action already agreed at VPRAG). This includes considering a fresh approach on how overheads won through grants are disbursed to Principal Investigators, to see whether we can shift the dial towards more overhead bearing grant activity and grow our research income.

Other developments since the last report:

- VP R&I took up their post in November 2019 and is looking at a range of metrics, e.g. space utilisation per research active staff member, incentives for greater overhead capture etc., that are at the heart of creating the policies and environment to grow income in line with Strategy ambitions;
- Proposals have also been developed on the criteria for creating new University Research Institutes and a number of meetings held to flesh out ideas so that proposals can be considered over the spring;
- We will also start to look at further identifying where the lowest success rates are and developing ideas for addressing the underlying issues we find;
- For the first time, research as a theme featured in the planning round, with meetings attended by VP Research and Innovation and Faculty Research Deans (expect H&SS);
- Finance colleagues will also start to include data on research awards alongside research income and expenditure in regular updates to SET;
- We have supported additional resource in the Alumni and Engagement office to develop plans for greater engagement and hopefully income through Foundations and Trusts;
- Whilst too soon to evaluate the impact of changes made last year in the use of pump priming internal funds, we can report leveraged income from international funders in Mexico and Brazil (Collaborating Universities and Funding Bodies) at a ratio of 2:1. Further opportunities are in the pipeline;
- Intelligence on likely areas of research investment through Government sources have been shared widely within the research executives of the Schools and Institutes, with Research Deans asked to begin compiling ideas/concept notes in case of rushed calls following the Spending Review in March 2020;
- With colleagues in Planning, we are working up a proposed balanced scorecard to of headline and supporting measures to enable us to provide regular and meaningful information.

Annex A

OVERHEAD RECOVERY AGAINST TARGET REPORT - Aug19 - Jan 2020

O/H Value and % QMUL element only - excluding Partner Organisations

		Applications					Awards				
		£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var	£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var
Research Council (RCUK)	Research	81.3	23.3	85%	45%	40%	12.4	5.3	104%	45%	59%
Government	Govn	20.9	7.6	32%	45%	-13%	7.1	10.3	69%	45%	24%
Industry	Industry	7.8	2.1	90%	50%	40%	4.2	0.8	73%	50%	23%
European Commission	Europe	51.0	13.1	53%	20%	33%	6.5	1.7	63%	20%	43%
Charity	Charity	40.3	0.6	2%	0%	2%	8.7	0.1	1%	0%	1%
Charity - Non Competitive	Non Comp	11.8	0.2	2%	0%	2%	14.3	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Other	Other	1.7	0.6	35%	0%	35%	0.1	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Studies with no DI staff costs	No DI Staff	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Studentship	Studentship	11.9	0.3	36%			7.9	0.0	-1%		
Non Applicable	Non Applicable	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Fellowship	Fellowship	64.1	12.6	42%			9.2	1.3	44%		
Total		290.7	60.5	52%			70.3	19.6	70%		

		Applications					Awards				
		£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var	£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var
Research Council (RCUK)	Research	45.7	10.1	72%	45%	27%	1.6	0.3	39%	45%	-6%
Government	Govn	18.2	6.5	29%	45%	-16%	4.5	1.1	60%	45%	15%
Industry	Industry	6.6	1.9	98%	50%	48%	3.2	0.7	80%	50%	30%
European Commission	Europe	14.8	3.8	61%	20%	41%	3.8	0.9	71%	20%	51%
Charity	Charity	34.8	0.4	1%	0%	1%	8.2	0.1	1%	0%	1%
Charity - Non Competitive	Non Comp	8.8	0.2	2%	0%	2%	11.3	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Other	Other	1.2	0.4	35%	0%	35%	0.1	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Studies with no DI staff costs	No DI Staff	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Studentship	Studentship	8.5	0.0	0%			7.3	0.0	0%		
Non Applicable	Non Applicable	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Fellowship	Fellowship	23.4	1.7	23%			5.7	0.7	42%		
Total		161.9	25.1	42%			45.7	3.8	52%		

		Applications					Awards				
		£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var	£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var
Research Council (RCUK)	Research	28.1	9.6	95%	45%	50%	9.4	4.1	111%	45%	66%
Government	Govn	2.0	0.8	138%	45%	93%	1.1	0.5	10%	45%	-35%
Industry	Industry	1.2	0.2	46%	50%	-4%	0.9	0.1	27%	50%	-23%
European Commission	Europe	28.8	6.4	41%	20%	21%	2.7	0.8	56%	20%	36%
Charity	Charity	4.4	0.2	5%	0%	5%	0.3	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Charity - Non Competitive	Non Comp	0.0	0.0	8%	0%	8%	0.0	0.0	8%	0%	8%
Other	Other	0.5	0.2	35%	0%	35%	0.0	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Studies with no DI staff costs	No DI Staff	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Studentship	Studentship	3.4	0.4	41%			0.4	0.0	86%		
Non Applicable	Non Applicable	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Fellowship	Fellowship	26.8	7.1	48%			2.6	0.6	51%		
Total		95.1	24.9	58%			17.4	6.1	53%		

		Applications					Awards				
		£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var	£m	OH £m	OH %	Target OH %	var
Research Council (RCUK)	Research	7.0	3.0	104%	45%	59%	1.5	0.9	153%	45%	108%
Government	Govn	0.3	0.1	126%	45%	81%	0.0	0.0	59%	45%	14%
Industry	Industry	0.1	0.0	135%	50%	85%	0.1	0.1	272%	50%	222%
European Commission	Europe	7.5	2.9	92%	20%	72%	0.0	0.0	0%	20%	-20%
Charity	Charity	0.9	0.0	1%	0%	1%	0.2	0.0	4%	0%	4%
Charity - Non Competitive	Non Comp	0.0	0.0	0%	0%	0%	0.0	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Other	Other	0.0	0.0	74%	0%	74%	0.0	0.0	0%	0%	0%
Studies with no DI staff costs	No DI Staff	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Studentship	Studentship	0.1	0.0	0%			0.1	0.0	-66%		
Non Applicable	Non Applicable	0.0	0.0	0%			0.0	0.0	0%		
Fellowship	Fellowship	13.4	3.7	49%			0.9	0.1	29%		
Total		29.4	9.7	70%			2.8	1.0	90%		

Annex B

Award Count at 2018-2019							
	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Total
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY	24	12	31	29	25	39	160
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING	13	18	18	23	15	13	100
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES	7	4	10	3	6	3	33
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	44	34	59	55	46	55	293
Award Count at 2019-2020							
	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Total
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY	35	16	22	18	32	32	155
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING	18	19	16	12	12	8	85
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES	8	6	6	5	1	7	33
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	61	41	44	35	45	47	273
Awards Value at 2018-2019							
	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Total
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY	£3,026,857	£3,619,348	£15,083,044	£9,243,037	£6,407,588	£ 20,779,706	£58,159,580
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING	£1,617,549	£3,704,371	£3,019,765	£2,358,238	£2,156,423	£ 1,189,417	£14,045,763
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES	£1,154,322	£147,304	£1,095,145	£779,817	£747,869	£ 58,826	£3,983,283
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	£5,798,728	£7,956,817	£19,197,953	£12,610,575	£10,440,712	£ 22,027,949	£ 76,188,626
Awards Value at 2019-2020							
	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Total
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY	£6,667,911	£5,214,890	£9,167,716	£4,261,074	£11,219,233	£ 12,795,805	£49,326,629
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING	£4,859,532	£4,781,396	£3,090,251	£3,994,154	£3,820,879	£ 1,785,118	£22,331,330
HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES	£651,509	£795,795	£784,738	£444,655	£118,677	£ 652,994	£3,448,368
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	£12,178,953	£10,792,081	£13,042,705	£8,699,883	£15,158,789	£15,233,917	£75,106,327