



Application for university title

Outcome requested:	<p>Council is asked to agree, subject to the passing of the University of London Bill 2017 and it receiving Royal Assent, that:</p> <p>[a] QMUL should seek the legal status of university;</p> <p>[b] the necessary application for university title should be submitted to HEFCE as the first step in this process.</p>
Executive Summary:	<p>[a] At its meeting on 16 February 2017, Council agreed to start the process of applying for university title. The passage through Parliament of the University of London Bill, which proposes that member institutions of the University of London should be permitted also to become universities in their own right, has subsequently been delayed.</p> <p>[b] The process comprises two consecutive stages: an application to HEFCE; and an application to the Privy Council for a Supplemental Charter. The University of London has secured agreement that the application to HEFCE will only comprise a letter from the Chairman of Council and some information about complaints referred to the OIA. HEFCE has also agreed to accept applications prior and subject to the passing of the University of London Bill. This will enable HEFCE to complete its work during the summer, so that QMUL could potentially approach the Privy Council immediately after the Bill is passed. Council is therefore asked to agree that QMUL should submit an application to HEFCE as the first step in this process.</p> <p>[c] Mills & Reeve LLP has completed an initial review of the QMUL Charter in reference to current governance practice. Stipulations on the content of university charters have not changed since 2006 and there is little in the existing Charter that does not relate directly to these. There is no scope, for example, to move the existing provisions on Council membership to the Ordinances. We have been advised to make QMUL's commitment to uphold freedom of speech within the law more explicit within the Charter, and to formalize the occasional practice of Council reaching decisions via email circulation.</p> <p>[d] Other straightforward amendments to the Charter will be proposed as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New clauses will be added to the preamble recording the incorporation of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1995, the granting of degree awarding powers in 2008 and the change to QMUL's legal title in 2013.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> References to “the Principal” will be replaced with “the President and Principal”. The definition of “external members” of Council will be clarified and normalized. The article dealing with terms of office of Council members will be amended to reflect current practice when elected staff members cease to be members of staff, and when elected and nominated staff members take sabbatical leave. The eligibility criteria for re-appointment and re-election will also be normalized across all categories. The President and Principal will be entitled to nominate Senior Officers, as well as Vice-Principals, as members of Council.
QMUL Strategy:	Effective governance supports the achievement of all strategic aims.
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QMUL Charter QMUL Ordinances University of London Statutes <i>Criteria and process for applying for university title and university college title</i> (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: September 2013)
Strategic Risks:	This paper relates to item 10 (Partnerships) on the strategic risk register.
Equality Impact Assessment:	Not required (there is no potential for this process to raise equality issues).
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	Senate on 8 June 2017. Governance Committee on 15 June 2017.
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA:	No.
Timing:	<p>The revised, provisional timescale is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QMUL Council approves the application to HEFCE on 10 July 2017; Parliament enacts the new University of London Act during autumn 2017; QMUL Council approves the draft Supplemental Charter on 19 October 2017, following detailed scrutiny by Governance Committee, and submits it to the Privy Council for comment; the QMUL Council approves the final Supplemental Charter by Special Resolution on 30 November 2017, or 12 April 2018; the Privy Council approves the Supplemental Charter and QMUL achieves university title during spring, or summer 2018.
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