



Vice-Principal (International) - Report

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to note the attached paper.
Executive Summary:	<p>The report provides an update on key activities and initiatives being overseen by the Vice-Principal (International) and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International student applications for 2015/16 • Development of an International Strategy • International Partnerships • International TNE Task and Finish Group • International Student Experience • VP International Travel <p>Appendices 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been included in the additional background reading for Council members.</p>
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies	<p>4.1 Promote global research interactions by creating major collaborations and nurturing their success.</p> <p>4.2 Increase study-related opportunities outside of the UK for London-based students.</p> <p>4.3 Extend the portfolio of QMUL’s transnational education programmes.</p> <p>4.4 Increase the number of students (including associate students) from outside the UK whose education is presented, in whole or in part, on our London campuses, while adhering to the highest quality standards.</p>
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	N/A
Strategic Risks:	QMUL risks 1 (Student Recruitment); 2 (Student Experience); 9 (Reputational Development and External Relations); 10 (Partnerships); 14 (Development and implementation of strategic development projects in support of overarching plan).
Equality Impact Assessment:	N/A
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	Prior consideration by QMSE

Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	No
Timing:	N/A
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Date:	28/05/15
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Professor David Sadler, Vice-Principal (International)

Vice-Principal (International) – Report to Council

1. International student applications

1.1 Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate Taught (PGT)

As indicated in Table 1 below, International (both EU and non-EU) applications at UG and PGT levels have been strong this year.

Table 1

UG						
	EU			NON EU		
	2014/15	2015/16		2014/15	2015/16	
	Counts	Counts	% Change	Counts	Counts	% Change
HSS	1,985	2,194	10.50%	4,669	5,583	19.60%
S&E	614	731	19.10%	1,929	2,137	10.80%
SMD	343	353	2.90%	646	653	1.10%
Total	2,942	3,278	11.40%	7,244	8,373	15.60%
PGT						
	EU			NON EU		
	2014/15	2015/16		2014/15	2015/16	
	Counts	Counts	% Change	Counts	Counts	% Change
HSS	1,229	1,336	8.70%	9,429	10,613	12.60%
S&E	69	111	60.90%	985	1,147	16.40%
SMD	94	106	12.80%	1,097	1,248	13.80%
Total	1,392	1,553	11.60%	11,511	13,008	13.00%

Source: QMUL monthly applications digest 18/5/15

Whilst the above statistics, along with modest increases in acceptances overall, indicate the prospects for healthy recruitment for 2015/16, it is too early to say for sure whether or not we will see similar growth in enrolments. The volume of applications has placed great pressure on our processing capacity, and delays have arisen in the application to offer turn-round time, although some resources have been made available to cope with particularly acute situations.

Like all UK institutions we also continue to face a series of sector-wide obstacles imposed on us by the Home Office and UKVI. Most recently these have included changes in secure English language testing requirements (that directly impact on our own admissions processes), and highlighted the fact that our visa refusal rates are currently higher than the Russell Group average, something colleagues across Professional Services are working hard to address. Similarly, the roll out of Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) and changes to police registration this year generally present the UK as a less than welcoming place to study and will present the need for us to introduce additional procedures around compliance during the welcome, orientation and enrolment period for new students.

1.2 Study Abroad and Exchange

Applications for the Study Abroad programme are currently up by 18% and acceptances up 16% on the final total for last year. With this in mind, we expect to see strong growth in enrolments in September. Science without Borders students remain important to the programme and we are likely to welcome similar numbers of Brazilian associates as last year.

Outward student mobility numbers are also increasing – with 40 students expected to take up summer programmes overseas (compared to 35 last year) and 80 students take up places under the international exchange programme (compared to 53 last year) as we continue to sign agreements with new partners, most recently with the University of Toronto.

The recruitment process to appoint a new Academic Lead for Study Abroad is currently underway following the end of term of the previous post-holder. From 2015-16 onwards it has been agreed that this position should report to the Vice Principal (International) whilst continuing to work closely in support of the work of the International Partnerships team in the International Office.

1.2 Postgraduate Research (PGR)

As per Table 2, overseas applications to PGR programmes have decreased compared to this time last year.

Table 2

	PGR					
	EU			NON EU		
	2014/15	2015/16	% Change	2014/15	2015/16	% Change
	Counts	Counts		Counts	Counts	
HSS	95	75	-21.10%	383	335	-12.50%
S&E	145	134	-7.60%	577	400	-30.70%
SMD	21	28	33.30%	49	27	-44.90%
Total	261	237	-9.20%	1,009	762	-24.50%

A more detailed analysis of the available data shows drops in many disciplines and across regions which may suggest a change in reporting, however the introduction of a mandatory MRes by SEF for example may have impacted on the number of applications we have received from China, an important source country for PGR recruitment. Further work needs to be carried out in conjunction with the Doctoral College and Research Degrees Office to try and ascertain the situation. Despite these declines, PGR acceptances are exactly the same as at this time last year so the actual situation in terms of enrolment is likely to be better than the data above may imply.

Under our co-funding agreement with the China Scholarship Council (recently extended for another 5 years), early indications are that we can expect in the region of 40 students, an increase on last year and most likely maintenance of our position as the second largest recipient of CSC scholars in the UK, second only to Cambridge. A key part of our strategy to increase the number of overseas PGR students in future, is to consider entering into more such co-funding agreements with government agencies. The International Office has already begun work, with support from the Doctoral College, into assessing partnerships those organisations other Russell Groups institutions are already working with. A discussion around how internal bidding for co-funded

places could be managed in future will be discussed at VPRAG in July and then with the Faculty Executives and QMSE in due course given financial implications.

2. International Strategy

A key priority for 2014/15 has been the development of an International Strategy in support of the main QMUL strategy and corresponding risk register. An International Strategy Task and Finish Group was established in January 2015 to oversee this process. Please see Appendix 1 for terms of reference, membership and meeting schedule.

Following the initial work of that group a revised draft has recently been circulated for consultation to ensure that feedback from across QMUL is considered. Consultation activities have involved discussions at Senior Leadership Group, Senate, 121 meetings with HoDs of Schools and Directors of Professional Services and three all-staff consultation events held at Mile End, Whitechapel and Charterhouse Square, with records of each available on request. At present work is ongoing to identify Indicators of Progress to monitor the strategy. Subject to these being finalised, and minor amendments being made, the final draft of the strategy, indicators of progress and risk register will be considered by QMSE for approval in July 2015. It will then be presented to Council and Senate for information. A VP International Advisory Group (VPIAG) will be established for the 2015/16 academic year and oversight of the strategy's implementation and monitoring will sit with this group, reporting to Senate.

3. International Partnerships

3.1 Partnerships Board

At the beginning of 2014/15 revisions were made to the Terms of Reference and membership of Partnerships Board (previously Educational Partnerships Board, a sub-committee of Senate) to more accurately reflect the work of the Board (please see Appendix 2 for revised Terms of Reference). To date, 28 partnerships have been considered this academic year, summarised in Appendix 3.

Partnerships Board has also considered proposals for the revision of current policies and procedures as follows:

- Approval Procedures: review of the procedures used in the evaluation of potential partnerships. Revised Due Diligence and Risk Assessment guidance will be finalised for 2015/16.
- A revised policy on joint and double degrees in Queen Mary Collaborative Provision Framework (QMCPF): discussion paper relating to the potential for QMUL to offer joint awards will be submitted to Senate in early 2015/16.
- Arrangements for the Termination of Collaborative Partnerships: proposal to review and enhance the current termination procedures.
- Agreements with overseas sponsors/governments: new process of partner approval in the area of co-funding

3.2 Confucius Institute

Further to Council approval earlier this year, contracts have now been signed with Hanban (the Confucius Institute headquarters in Beijing) and work has begun on a schedule of activity with our Chinese partner, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFU) to establish a Confucius Institute (CI) at QMUL. An implementation committee has been convened and detailed plans are currently being drawn up to support the business case with a view to an official launch event being

held in February 2016. To date, no official announcement on the CI has been made either internally or publicly, however plans were discussed in length at Senate (particularly around the potential impact or influence our Chinese partners may have on the academic freedom of CI staff) and the implementation committee will work with colleagues in Marketing and Communications on a communications plan over the summer.

3.3 Northwestern Polytechnical University

Building upon our reputation and experience of operating Joint Programmes within China, a proposal for a third joint programme, in Materials Science and Engineering, has been developed by the School of Engineering and Materials Science with Northwestern Polytechnical University in Xi'an. Separate paper includes full details.

3.4 University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP)

A ULIP working group comprised of QMUL, ULIP and the University of London International Academy (ULIA) representatives continues to meet regularly, chaired by the VP Humanities and Social Sciences, to oversee the development of our partnership with ULIP. To date:

- £60,000 has been secured from the University of London to commission market research into potential courses and markets.
- Work has begun to establish a joint web presence for QMUL/ULIP and increased PR, with coordination between QMUL and ULIP communications/PR staff.
- In addition to the teaching already being carried out by CCLS at ULIP, a new distance learning MA International Relations (Paris) taught by the School of Politics and International Relations has now been approved with recruitment underway for a September 2015 start.
- Discussions around the delivery of a number of other possible programmes are ongoing.
- Initial handover meetings between RHUL and QMUL registry functions have taken place.

3.5 MBBS in Malta

Further to contracts being signed, work has been ongoing to finalise Malta governance arrangements. These set out key guiding principles and formalise the instruments of governance that will be critical to implementation.

3.6 International Partnerships Risks

For more detailed information on the risks associated with International Partnerships activity and the mitigating controls in place, please see separate Deep Dive Report produced for Audit and Risk Committee (Appendix 4)

4. International TNE Task and Finish Group

In response to growth in TNE activity at QMUL, and an increasing need to employ staff overseas on a variety of contracts, a TNE HR Task and Finish Group was established in 2014/15 to ensure compliance and a credible level of HR support for these activities. Membership of the group draws on the collective expertise of staff across QMUL and seeks to address issues including: contracts and terms and conditions (to include recruitment and termination of employment); pay and reward (including staff development; and externally driven systems (including immigration legislation, tax and pensions). For more information on the work of this group, please see Appendix 5. A draft TNE HR policy is expected to be presented to QMSE in the coming weeks.

5. International Student Experience

Further to the recommendations of the International Student Experience Task and Finish Group, a small International Student Experience (ISE) team was set up this year to address the international student experience. Whilst responsibility for this area of work rests with the VP Student Experience, Teaching and Learning, the VP International participates in monthly meetings with the team to ensure integration with other work streams and projects. Activities to date include: exploring opportunities to enhance induction and welcome week activities and resources for international students; assessing potential to create a private rental guarantor scheme for international students; conducting an audit of online resources and international student support across Professional Services and Schools.

6. VP International Travel

Since joining QMUL in September 2014, the VP International has travelled to India, the USA, Indonesia and China in support of existing activity and to develop new partnership and collaboration opportunities. To ensure staff with an interest can learn more about these trips and planned outcomes, we have established a new page on the International webpages of Connect and trip reports are available to colleagues on request.

Table 3 – summary of travel

Country/Region	Dates	Partners visited
India	12-19 January 2015	Amity University Research Councils UK/Science & Innovation Network, New Delhi British Council, New Delhi OP Jindal Global University Sannam S4 Consulting Manipal University Vellore Institute of Technology Anna University
USA	9-13 February 2015	Colombia University Northeastern University London Universities Reception at the Museum of New York
Indonesia	1-6 March 2015	Ministry of Human Development & Culture Dikti UK Trade & Investment, Jakarta Ministry of Research & Technology LPDP (Various institutions including Universitas Gadjah Mada. Please find the UUK trip report here .)
China	14-23 April 2015	Xi-an Jiaotong-Liverpool University East China University of Political Science & Law Shanghai Jiao Tong University Shanghai University of Finance & Economics Beijing University of Posts & Telecommunications Research Councils UK/Science & Innovation

		Network, Beijing British Council, Beijing Northwestern Polytechnical University China Scholarship Council Beijing Foreign Studies University
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Participation in a Universities UK International Unit mission to Indonesia in particular has helped establish better relationships, both with institutions and organisations in Indonesia but also here in the UK. The value of a series of Embassy and High Commission visits carried out by VP International are already becoming apparent and ongoing discussions following a series of high-level inward missions to QMUL, including the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and the Council of Rectors of Chilean Universities (CRUCH), indicate that new research links may be initiated as a result of our participation.

**Summary of partnership proposals considered by Partnerships Board
November 2014-June 2015**

Collaborative proposal	Brief description
Revised proposal for a Dual Degree LLM with Singapore Management University(SMU)	Dual award LLM programme: graduates will receive both the QMUL LLM degree award, and the SMU degree award.
Articulation Agreement with Amity University, India	2+2 Articulation agreement into Mechanical Engineering
Study abroad agreement with Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) and EECS	BJTU students to study the first three UG Bachelor's degree at BJTU and then Study as associate students in the final year of their degree programme at QMUL through the Study Abroad Programme. Following this they can apply for a 1 year Masters programme at QMUL in a related subject.
Professional Doctorate in Intercultural Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in collaboration with the Refugee Therapy Centre(RTC) and Wolfson Institute:	A joint Clinical Doctorate in Intercultural Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy.
Memorandum of Agreement with REED SMITH LLP for the delivery of internships for undergraduate Law students	LLB Law in Practice with an additional one-year work-based placement at Reed Smith LLP.
Erasmus+ Programme Agreements with the following institutions:	Staff and student mobility with the following institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Aristotle University of Thessaloniki with the School of Law; • Lille University 1 (Sciences et Technologies) with SBCS; Vigo University, Spain, with CCLS; • Koç University in Istanbul with School of History; • Bocconi University, Italy, with the School of Law; • Humboldt University, Berlin and the School of History.
MOU and Agreement with University of Maryland College Park	University of Maryland students studying at the University of Maryland London centre to take one academic module at QMUL through the Study Abroad programme as part time Associates.

Study Abroad agreement with Arcadia University College of Global Studies	Students on the Arcadia Study Abroad programmes to continue to attend QMUL as Associate students.
University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA	Student Exchange Agreement with the School of Law.
Agreement with UCL	This is included in a joint QMUL (SMD) - UCL bid to Health Education England (HEE) to support William Harvey Institute to deliver an MSc in Genomic Medicine as part of the NHS "Modernising Scientific Careers" programme. UCL will contribute to the programme by teaching a number of QMUL modules.
Marie Curie European Joint Doctorate (EJD)	Joint PhD arrangement with Birmingham University and the Polytechnic Institute in Turin (SEMS)
Erasmus+ Joint Masters in Advanced Intellectual Property	Proposal within the Erasmus+ Joint Masters framework submitted by CCLS: University of Alicante to be lead institution.
Collaboration with Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), China	Joint Programme in Materials Science and Engineering
Agreement with the University of Minnesota	Study Abroad
Collaboration with Birzeit University, Palestine	Memorandum of Understanding to cover existing joint research activity with the School of Law.
Collaboration with Toshiba Medical Systems Ltd	Toshiba Medical Systems Ltd to provide access to imaging equipment for a new module – 'Imaging in Sports Medicine' within the PGT taught programme in 'Sports and Exercise Medicine'.
University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand	MOU and student exchange agreement

Agreement with the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) – CCLS	Internship programme at OHIM and other collaborative activities in the area of Intellectual Property
Agreements with the following Chinese partners : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL); • Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU); 	<p>1+1+1 arrangement: under this model students would complete the first year of their Masters study at the Chinese University, second year at QMUL on a normal 1- year Masters programme, and the third year back at the Chinese university.</p> <p>4+1 arrangement: Students complete their UG programme at the Chinese university and apply to QMUL to do a Masters.</p> <p>Schools in HSS</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sichuan University; • Central South University (CSU); • Renmin University of China (RUC). 	
Agreement with Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SHUFE)	Reciprocal student exchange agreement between SHUFE and the School of Economics and Finance.
Agreement with the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (School of Law)	Collaborative activities in the field of International Shipping Law.
Erasmus+ Programme Agreements	Staff and student mobility with the following institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copenhagen University (existing partner); • La Sapienza University (existing partner); • Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) (new partner); • Tübingen University (CCLS) • Bologna University (SPIR) • University of Cyprus (SEMS)
Articulation Agreement with Amity University, India: revised proposal	1 + 2 to BEng: Following completion of one year of BEng at Amity, students would be granted admission to the 2 nd year of the 3-year BEng at SEMS.
Agreement with Aksum University, Ethiopia (IHSE)	Development activity to be undertaken by IHSE staff in the University of Medicine Aksum. This is part of the Ethiopian Medical Education Partnerships Project (EMEPP) funded through a grant from THET (Tropical Health Education Trust).
MOU with the University of Naples (UNO) - Law	Collaboration with UNO Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Migrants' Rights in the Mediterranean
Exchange agreement with Shanghai Jiaotong University (SJTU)	An exchange agreement for two students from QMUL School of Law and the KoGuan Law School SJTU
Exchange Agreement with BUPT	BUPT and QMUL will accept up to 6 PhD students, for periods of 3 months, 6 months or 12 months to do joint-research.
Erasmus+ Joint Masters in Advanced Intellectual Property	Proposal within the Erasmus+ Joint Masters framework submitted by CCLS: University of Alicante to be lead institution.