



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
Authors	Professor Sir Mark Caulfield, Vice-Principal (Health) Professor Frances Bowen, Vice-Principal (Humanities & Social Sciences) (<i>verbal report</i>) Professor Wen Wang, Vice Principal (Science & Engineering) Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education) Professor Helen Bailey, Vice-Principal (International) Dr Philippa Lloyd, Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) Professor Andrew Livingston (Research and Innovation)

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY – REPORT TO SENATE – December 2024

Faculty Budget

The faculty generated £4.1m in period 3, £0.2m lower than budgeted due to lower tuition fee income. Year to date cash generation is £12.8m, £0.4m worse than budgeted, due to lower tuition fees partially offset by lower non pay and FRF expenditure.

The full year forecast is for cash generation of £51.9m, £1.5 higher than budgeted. The delivery of the forecast is challenging, given the significant additional costs expected to cover the Junior Doctors salary increase. The delivery is heavily dependent on a large number of roles becoming vacant and being able to delay reappointment to these.

Education Update

Undergraduate Enrolment position as of 18-11-2024

The faculty currently have 692 new UG enrolments for this academic year. Despite considerable efforts, the faculty are approximately 179 students below target.

	Target	Potential Enrolments	Enrolments	Enrolments to target
Blizard	114	91	91	23
Dentistry	116	117	117	-1
Institute of Health Sciences Education	504	437	437	67
William Harvey Research Institute	117	47	47	70
Wolfson Institute of Population Health	20	0	0	20
Total	871	692	692	179

Postgraduate Enrolment position as of 18-11-24 – September 2024 entry

Enrolment for September intake closed on 31st October 2024, with,340 new PGT enrolments for this academic year. Despite considerable efforts, the faculty are approximately 237 students below target.

	Target	Potential Enrolments	Enrolments	Enrolments to target
Barts Cancer Institute	197	158	158	39
Blizard	420	371	371	49
Dentistry	102	79	78	24
Institute of Health Sciences Education	120	118	118	2
William Harvey Research Institute	352	275	274	78
Wolfson Institute of Population Health	386	341	341	45
Total	1,577	1,342	1,340	237

Postgraduate Enrolment position as of 30-9-202418-11-24 – January 2025 entry

A new Jan 2025 task and finish group was formed this month (led by Chie Adachi) to oversee set up processes, and following marketing and conversion activity. A total of 9 new Jan start entry awards were added for 2025, with an additional 28 already in existence. T&F group now working on consolidating paperwork with DGLS for new Jan 2026 intakes. The faculty currently have 546 applicants (+11%), 215 offers (+68%) and 109 firms (+54%) against a target of 128.

International Partnerships and QMICA

QMICA continues to make progress in developing the Clinical Doctorate awards in conjunction with our international partners and approvals for both January and September intakes (40 places per year at Barts Health) for the DCLin (Med) and DCLin (Surg) have been confirmed, and overseas partners are in place. QMUL

Partnerships Board in Jan 2024 approved the partnership with GEMS Middle East Holdings FZ LLC to support student recruitment and a contract has been drafted; links with MAHSA University in Malaysia are also being explored. Senate approved the new award title of Clinical Doctorate (DClin) in October 2023.

Links to the DClin programmes:

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/coursefinder/courses/medicine-dclin/>

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/coursefinder/courses/surgery-dclin/>

Digital Education Studio update

In addition to key projects (below), the DES has been prioritising efforts to attract and convert students for January 2025 enrolment. Leading on a dynamic marketing campaign with industry partner (Hybrid), fast-tracking promotional videos for MSc Global Public Health, MA Medical Education and DClinMed, and launching a dedicated [webpage](#) for online programmes to improve the web experience for potential distance learning students.

- [CARE agenda programme development](#): 14 new modules (Q4 2024 development period)
- Fully online, flexible, 4 week “[Healthcare Leadership Foundations](#)” short course approved for accreditation by Royal College of Surgeons of England, along with 16 CPD hours validated by General Dental Council. Recruitment open for 3 occurrences in 2025 (January, March & September).
- Digital assessment and feedback – [Cadmus pilot](#). DES has led a University-wide implementation: Year 2 Pilot 2024/25 currently includes 53 modules, 23 timed exams, and 30 other assessments.
- DES-led project (in collaboration with TELT and QM Academy) to build upon QMplus baseline standards by implementing a “Snippet” tool, and working toward the development of QMplus templates to facilitate high quality standardisation across the organisation
- Contributing to MBBS and Barts Cancer Institute (BCI) PGT curriculum reviews to futureproof education offerings
- [FMD Immersive Learning Lab](#) – Trialled Virtual Reality (VR - Bodyswaps) system to scope potential education benefits. Visits to Digital Media Labs at Imperial College and Digital Simulation Team at Anglia Ruskin University to benchmark and scope future developments.

Research Update

The Faculty has secured 63 new awards totalling £10.4M between 1 October and 20 November 2024 from funders including MRC, NIHR, BBSRC, CRUK, the Blood Pressure Research Charity, and industry partners. A subset of awards (>£400K) since last report are shown below.

Project Lead	Funder	Price to Funder (£)
VP Health Team	The Blood Pressure Research Trust	5,000,000
FRANCESCA CICCARELLI	EU Commission - Horizon Europe	2,465,597
SASHA HOWARD	NIHR	1,858,702
KARIM BROHI	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (of the United States)	1,744,998
HORTENSIA GIMENO	NIHR	1,508,869
JAMILA KASSAM	NIHR	1,479,718
KATIE SHEEHAN	MRC	593,178
ADRIAN BIDDLE	NC3Rs	547,066
ANDREW STAGG	Abbvie Inc	519,428
CLAUDE CHELALA	CHANEL PARFUMS BEAUTE	469,843

We have made significant preparations for REF2029, our current position on research outputs against targets needed to achieve our desired position in the next REF are:

We have made significant preparations for REF2029, having performed a dry run in 2024 and planning another one in the new year, as well as working up 28 REF impact case studies.

Estates

Planning was finally granted for the Life Sciences Development in Whitechapel and QMUL will now join NHS Property Services in the finalised Section 106 agreements.

Events Update

- The William Harvey Day 2024, the annual celebration of research organised in partnership with our NHS Partner Trust, Barts Health, and the Apothecaries took place on Thursday 10th October. We secured four exceptional external speakers to deliver the named lectures: Prof Ros Eeles, Institute of Cancer Research; Prof David Crossman, Faculty Dean of St Andrews; Prof Michael Mainelli, the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of the City of London, and Prof Stephen Challacome, Kings College London. 430 individuals registered and >300 people attended on the day. The dinner was attended by 110 key external contacts and stakeholders. The event facilitated the strengthening of relations between the Faculty, Barts NHS Trust and the Worshipful Society of the Apothecaries.

EDI Update

FMD EDI Seminar Series: the next seminar will take place in March 2025, featuring Asma Khan is one of the UK's most prominent female chefs and an unstoppable force for social change in the food industry.

Wellcome Cafe Culture Events: a series of Cafe Culture events will start in 2025. Café Culture is an opportunity for colleagues within the Faculty to talk about the challenges they face in research culture, reflect on what a better culture would look like, and propose solutions for how parts of the system could change.

Athena Swan Dentistry Renewal for our Silver Award will be submitted this week.



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 October - November 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

Preparation for the Planning Round

During November the Faculty team has met with all our schools to review:

- Key priorities over the planning period and to understand impact on size and shape of school.
- How schools intend to improve cash generation and/or cost efficiency.
- Reforecasting of student number ambitions.
- Potential costs that could be removed from 2025/26 to meet the agreed contribution targets.

These meetings were scheduled in advance of the planning round conversations to ensure all key stakeholders were aware of the priorities and direction required across the Faculty in advance of making planning round requests. We are pleased with the positive engagement in these discussions and how they have helped shape planning round discussions and longer-term strategic thinking.

Our people

Since my last report the Faculty has submitted our Staff Survey Action Plan – this has been developed to align with school level plans, identifying key themes to work upon together. In order to keep this work at the top of our agenda, progress and actions will be reviewed quarterly at the regular meetings held with each Head of School and School Manager, and at the Faculty Executive Board meetings. Progress will be shared more widely via the new Faculty Newsletter, due to launch in December 2024.

The Faculty is progressing our new search for up to 30 strategic hires in the areas of AI, Machine Learning and Computational Modelling, identifying 82 exciting candidates across our schools to take to interview during November and December.

Research

The Faculty of Science and Engineering has had an incredibly productive period with respect to our research achievements. Notable recent awards have included a £2M Wellcome Trust career development fellowship in the School for Biological and Behavioural Sciences (SBBS). The School of Engineering and Materials Sciences (SEMS) have been awarded a sizeable NC3R infrastructure grant to further develop our world-class in-vitro models Organ-chip facility, as well as a Royal Society ICP grant for agriculture-related research in South Africa and Zambia. We have also been awarded several EPSRC grants including a coveted New Investigator Award in the School of Mathematical Sciences (SMS) and a fellowship under the EPSRC ICT Discipline Hopping scheme on artificial neuroscience in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Sciences (EECS).

The Faculty has also been awarded substantial new funding from UKRI as part of their [£500 million investment](#) to support and foster the next generation of researchers. Contributions from the BBSRC-funded London Interdisciplinary Biosciences Consortium ([LIDo](#)) programme, the NERC-funded Training Research and Equity in Environmental Sciences ([TREES](#)) programme and our new EPSRC Doctoral Landscape Award will support over fifty PhD students across biosciences, environmental sciences, engineering, and physical sciences over the coming years.

Beyond our grant activity, the Faculty has been actively engaged in multiple research-related events. On National Engineering Day (NED) we were [delighted to announce](#) that **Balvinder Kaur Dhillon**, a biomedical engineering student in SEMS, won the 'Junior Nobel Prize' at the [Global Undergraduate Awards](#). The Royal Academy of Engineering also named S&E graduate and social impact engineer, Navjot Sawhney, as one of five influential engineers in their campaign to inspire more young people from all backgrounds to pursue a career in engineering. The Faculty is also [celebrating 60 years of Robotics at Queen Mary](#) and throughout November and December we will be sharing content from the past 60

years on our social media pages, culminating in a celebratory event with a talk from Professor Yiannis Demiris, a professor at Imperial College and Royal Academy of Engineering Chair in Emerging Technologies.



60 years of QM robotics



London EvoDevo event

Colleagues from SBBS' Centre of Evolutionary and Functional Genomics hosted their first London Evolutionary Developmental Biology (EvoDevo) networking event in collaboration with the Crick and UCL, attracting over 100 researchers from across the UK. In SPCS, we will be welcoming Dr Daniel Toolan, a specialist in Polymer science from the University of Manchester to discuss the development of nanocomposite films, whilst the Centre for Multimodal AI in EECS will be organising the 2025 AES International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Audio. These activities highlight the ongoing success and recognition of our schools in terms of their collaborations and engagement with the community.

This quarter, the Faculty is delighted to congratulate Prof. Lars Chittka (SBBS) on his selection for receipt of two awards for his achievements in the field of entomology research; the Founder's Memorial Award from the Entomological Society of America, and a Distinguished Visitor Award at Cornell University, where Prof Chittka was also invited to give the prestigious Perry Gilbert lecture.

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

- **Dr Samuel Pironon's** (SBBS) [article](#) in *The Guardian* which discusses the **identification** of 33 global 'dark spots' with **thousands of unknown plant species**.
- **Dr Weini Huang** and **Dr Elisa Scanu's** (SMS) [article](#) in *Nature* which reveals insights into the mechanisms of **extrachromosomal DNA (ecDNA) in cancer cells**.
- Our **[first industry collaboration with Molycop](#)** - a **global leader in mining consumables** – was announced via a research agreement for an innovative PhD project focusing on advancing chemical composition and heat treatment techniques for martensitic steels.



- **Prof James Busfield** (SEMS) recently appeared on BBC Radio 4's *The Infinite Monkey Cage* in an [episode titled Fantastic Elastic](#). James joined a panel comprising a gold medal winning Olympian, comedians, materials experts and hosts Brian Cox and Robin Ince, to delve into the **fascinating world of elasticity**.
- **Prof Rachael Bedford's** (SBBS) findings that **removing screen time** in the hour before bed **improves toddler sleep quality** gained traction in niche outlets such as [Nursing Practice](#) and [Sleep Review Magazine](#).
- In an article for the *New Scientist*, [“The universe could vanish at any moment. Why hasn't it?”](#), **Dr Katy Clough** (SMS) contributes to discussions regarding a **cataclysmic quantum fluctuation**, the ‘big slurp’, and the potential reasons for why this obliteration-scenario has not yet taken place. Katy has also appeared on BBC Radio 4's [In Our Time episode about Wormholes](#) in discussions led by Melvyn Bragg.
- Researchers in **EECS** have published several new books including; [Understanding Artificial Intelligence: Neither Catastrophe nor Redemption](#) by Prof Shalom Lappin and [Unveiling the Magic of Computation](#) by Prof Paul Curzon and the late Prof Peter McOwan.

Education

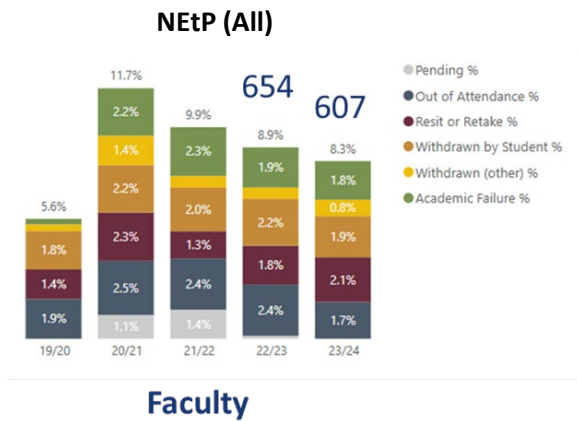
S&E Contribution to Outstanding OfStEd result and new leadership

A full institutional OfStEd inspection took place 14th-17th October 2024. For S&E, this inspection included a deep dive of the Level 6 Digital and Technology Solutions Professional (DTSP), and the Level 7 Digital and Technology Solutions Specialist standards (DTSS) programmes. As an institution, across all categories we were rated as ‘Outstanding’. A huge amount of effort and commitment was demonstrated by the entire team within S&E including colleagues from SPCS, EECS and at Faculty level. A massive thank you and congratulations to all involved. From January 25 Dr Jon Jackson will be the Director of the Degree Apprenticeship (DA) provision in S&E. Jon has been a DTSS programme lead at one of our competitors since 2018, so brings with him a wealth of experience having worked with a range of different apprenticeship employers.

Student Not Eligible to Progress (NEtP)

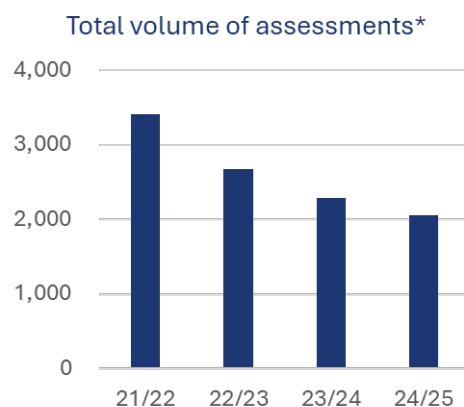
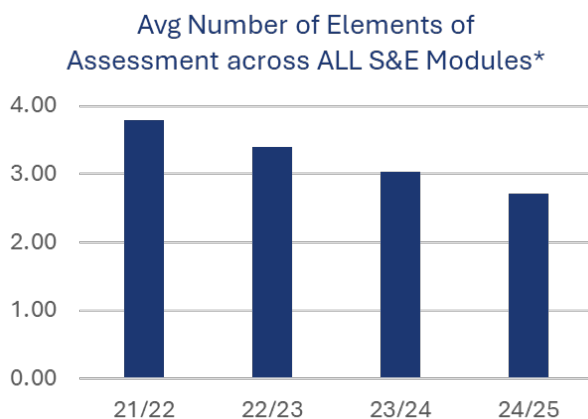
S&E continues to drive measures to ensure success for our students with a high proportion eligible to progress from one developmental year to the next. This ensures students will fulfil their potential by graduating on time and gaining graduate level employment. All Schools within S&E are actively monitoring student engagement and take a proactive approach to intervention to reduce NEtP. Strategic oversight of this takes place via the Faculty Student Support Operations Group whose KPI (NEtP <5%) is in line with Strategy 2030. NEtP (All) decreased as a percentage across S&E from 8.9%

(22/23) to 8.3% (23/24), and also real terms with the number of students NEtP down from 654 to 607. Colleagues are thanked for their contribution in reducing NEtP overall, though it is noted that the figures vary from School to School and even subject to subject. New initiatives in place for 24/25 include: (1) Student withdrawals being signed off by Heads of Schools via the new online change of circumstances system, (2) Faculty monitoring of interruption and withdrawals stats (3) new progression rules for foundations students, (4) additional exam scrutiny processes in Schools with high academic failure with DEB chair oversight.



Bringing assessment load in line with the sector average

Even before the QMUL Principles Program Design and Assessment Design were developed, the S&E Faculty Executive have pushed for the removal of over-assessment from our programs. Analysis of the academic model following the changes made over the last 12 months, but in particular, those made in July 24, shows that we continue to bring down the average number of elements of assessment per module (data shown is a crude average across ALL modules, rather than weighted per 15-credit module). Alongside this we have taken a pro-active approach to removing small modules and urgent review of small-programs. Combined with the decrease in average number of elements of assessment per module, this has resulted in a significant reduction in the total assessment load for the Faculty. These more streamlined offerings have enabled us to focus more on quality over quantity. The appointment of a Faculty Quality Manager, alongside a revised workload allocation model and the development of an individual teaching review framework will enable us to further monitor the quality of delivery.



New Programs

S&E conducted an urgent review of small-programs in September 24. A number of programs with very low student numbers were identified and Schools have taken swift action to close those that were no longer viable or where limited capacity precluded expansion. We have worked rapidly to replace these with attractive new programs, [BSc Mathematics with Computing](#) and [MSc Advanced Chemical Engineering](#) have received full approval whilst [BSc Applied Artificial Intelligence](#) is awaiting part 2 approval. Other programs have changed name to better reflect the content and make them more appealing for example MSc Computing and Information Systems becomes [MSc Computer Science \(Conversion\)](#) whilst MSc Advanced Robotics becomes [MSc Robotics and Artificial Intelligence](#).

Royal Society of Chemistry Horizon Education Prize

The innovative work of the [3DI Virtual Reality Institute](#) and the International Sustainable Chemistry Consortium ([ISCC](#)), co-founded by Queen Mary's Dr Stellios Arseniyadis, has been recognised with the 2024 Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) [Horizon Prize for Education](#). These initiatives unite institutions across the globe, including Queen Mary University of London, UCL, Marmara University (Turkey), and ICT Mumbai (India), offering interactive scientific training to anyone with internet access and a low-cost VR headset. The initiative is also shortlisted for a Times Higher Education (THE) Award 2024 under the category [Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year](#). The results will be announced on November 28th.



International

The first Semester of 24/25 has started strong on TNE and following successful rounds of recruitment, we have onboarded 1,356 new students across our JP/JEIs. We have 676 joining our 5 BUPT Beijing programmes, 193 joining our 2 BUPT Hainan programmes, 237 joining our 2 NPU programmes, and 250 joining our 1 NCU programme.

The joint pedagogical research centre between Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Nanchang University (NCU), was recently established and held a launch event on the 25th of November in London, where our TNE partnerships were able to showcase excellence in scholarship and education. Posters, workshops and ideas were shared between all our TNE partnerships to promote academic collaboration and best practice in education and research.

We are thrilled to confirm that Queen Mary Engineering School (QMES) was a finalist for the Education Partnership of the Year in the British Business Awards 2024, and were winners of the public vote section for best partnership. Sponsored by the British Council, the Education Partnership award seeks to recognise UK higher education (HE) institutions that are actively engaged with a Chinese partner to deliver significant impact on teaching, graduate employability, and wider positive aspects of the student experience. QMES were shortlisted alongside some major players in the TNE space and therefore we are so proud of our QMES team. Other finalists included;

King's		College		London
University	of	Nottingham	Ningbo	China
The	University	of		Edinburgh

Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The EDI vision for the Faculty is centred on fostering a sense of community amongst the Schools and has a Faculty approach to EDI rather than a School approach to better work on our priority areas: increase the gender balance in the academic population and improve its diversity, providing inspiring role models for our student population.



Black history Month has been celebrated by the Faculty on 30/10/2024 with an event with title [Reclaiming Narratives in Science and Engineering](#) to give visibility and voice to our staff and PhD

students of black heritage. The event started with a talk of Dr Rendani Mbvuha (EECS) on his research and experience as black academic and ended with a panel discussion with representation of the five Schools addressing topics as inclusive practices and effective ways of recruiting staff from under-represented groups.

An external speaker, Prof James Vickers (Southampton University) talked enthusiastically about his collaboration with [AIMS](#) (African Institute of Mathematical Sciences) that every year recruits and trains the best Maths students in the African continent, suggesting a potential partnership between QMUL and AIMS.

The well-being of our staff and students and the general feeling of inclusion and belonging have inspired the creation of the “EDI lunches”, monthly informal gathering with focus on a specific group of people: Early Career Researchers, PGR students, PS staff, Women, Queer, etc. This also appears as one of the actions in the Faculty Staff Survey Action plan. The first of these lunches, the ECR lunch, took place on 20/11 with good participation of lecturers from the five Schools. Three lecturers in SBBS have applied for ERIC funds to create a network of early career researchers in S&E.

Two Schools, SPCS and SEMS, have appointed new EDI co-leads to bring new energy and leadership to their EDI committees.



Senate

Paper Title	Vice-Principal (Education) – December 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 – December 2024

External and Regulatory Matters

1. The Government have announced changes to tuition fees: [Changes to tuition fees: 2025 to 2026 academic year - GOV.UK](#). These changes being able to increase fees for standard full-time courses to £9,535 for providers with TEF and an access and participation plan.
2. The Budget was held on 30 October 2024. The Chancellor announced changes to National Insurance Contributions (NI) meaning that companies pay NI at 15% on salaries above £5000 from April 2025, up from 13.8% on salaries above £9, 100. The hike is estimated to cost universities £372m. Funding from this hike will be used to fund education, including further spend on further education, the NHS and transport.
3. The Office for Students has published a summary report of their quality investigations, which the following slides explain the major themes of: [Slides on OFS Quality Investigations.pptx](#).
4. John Blake, the OfS's Director of Fair Access and Participation, has given a speech outlining the next stage of equality regulation in England: [What's next in equality of opportunity regulation - Office for Students](#). In it, he has reminded the sector of the three core, underpinning principles of access and participation regulation:
 - a. *Early intervention – ensuring the knowledge, skills and experience of HE practitioners is in the mix with our expert colleagues in the school system;*
 - b. *Partnership – particularly in this pre-HE space, collaboration is essential not only for efficiency but also to serve the best interests of students*
 - c. *And, of course, evaluation. Given how challenging our situation is and those differential impacts of Covid, we must understand whether metrics moving is a response to our activity; without a clear explanation as to why things are getting better, we cannot scale or replicate that impact; if a well-theorised intervention does not deliver, good evaluation can support others to re-direct their efforts.*
5. John Blake has also stated that new, strategic objectives for access and participation moving forward will be:
 - a. *Early, persistent, and consistent engagement – ensuring universities and colleges can play their part in giving all aspiring students the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills and experiences they need to be confident in the choices they make on their pathway to achieving their aspirations, at multiple points along their journey. This strand will subsume what I have, till now, called 'attainment raising' – instead of being a stand-alone, compulsory focus, building knowledge and skills directly will be part of the repertoire of activities, deployed where necessary.*
 - b. *Provision of full, frank, and fair information on all higher education – ensuring that no decision a student faces is taken without an awareness of all the options potentially open to them. This information needs to support students to make good choices for them - whether that is finding the right course, right location or even going directly into work if that is the right path for them. Our use of targets and metrics needs to facilitate this focus on students' interests.*
 - c. *Supported transitions – ensuring that there is collaboration between pre-HE and on course equality work, to make sure that students get ongoing support to settle into their new course.*
 - d. *A deepening of our commitment to collaboration with regional partnerships delivering against a shared national purpose and focusing on tackling local and regional challenges.*
6. One significant change in approach is to move to a system of cohort renewals for APPs, and having regional partnership structures for APPs.

7. The Office for Students has assessed completion and continuation outcomes at Birkbeck, University of London: [OfS publishes assessment report on student outcomes at Birkbeck, University of London - Office for Students](#). The report has found that Birkbeck are compliant with condition B3.

Education KPI Snapshots

8. Every school and institute has now been sent a 'snapshot' following on from the NSS meetings detailing:
- a. A 'current state' analysis of population and KPI performance
 - b. Future opportunities for improvements to education.
 - c. Links to resources and support.
 - d. An analysis of impact on KPIs and institutional risk.
9. For any feedback on the snapshots, including changes that could be made to them to support enhancement activity, please email Ben Hunt. These snapshots should be helpful in planning and prioritisation conversations over the coming months.

National Student Survey

10. The National Student Survey (NSS) will launch this year on January 27. The central communications campaign for the NSS is currently being finalised. A student voice webpage is currently being revamped to include information on different student feedback mechanisms.
11. Annual NSS meetings concluded in October. The Education Office intends to repeat meetings post NSS this year and would like to conclude them in August. As such, colleagues will be asked to delegate if they cannot attend meetings to ensure they do conclude in a timely fashion. Thanks to all colleagues for taking part.
12. This year, the NSS will have an additional online survey regarding sexual misconduct: [New survey to measure prevalence of sexual misconduct in higher education - Office for Students](#). Briefings and details of how this survey will run will be forthcoming in the next month.
13. Dates for PTES and PRES are to be confirmed.

Queen Mary Academy Update

Queen Mary Academy Fellowships

14. Three new QMA Fellows have been appointed to work on employability in the curriculum. This work aims to provide a consistent approach to employability in the curriculum through developing an Employability Framework. They are:
- Dr Paraskevi Argyriou Senior Lecturer in Psychology, School of Biological and Behavioural Science
 - Dr Lisa Diane Morrison, Senior Lecturer in Non-Profit Management, School of Business and Management
 - Dr Amiirah Nuckchady Senior Lecturer in Clinical and Professional Skills, Institute of Health Sciences Education.
15. Dr Jayne Dennis, Reader in Biomedical Education, School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences also takes up a new Fellowship. Her project will identify best practice in how to support scholars and enable scholarship activity that has a positive impact on the student experience.
16. Dr Georgy Petrov, Senior Lecturer in Management, School of Business and Management has also started a Fellowship. His project aims to conduct a comprehensive review of all undergraduate programmes and modules at the School of Business and Management to systematically embed employability skills into the curriculum.

17. Applications are currently open for staff wishing to apply for Fellowship in academic year 2025/26. Information and the application form are available from the Queen Mary Academy Fellowship webpage: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/queenmaryacademy/educators/innovation-and-scholarship/queen-mary-academy-fellowships>

Centre for Excellence in Artificial Intelligence in Education

18. Dr Xue Zhou, Reader in Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the School of Business and Management has been appointed Academic Head of the new Centre. Dr Aisha Abuelmaatti, Senior Lecturer in IT Management in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science has been appointed Deputy Academic Head. The Centre will be launched at the Global MOOC and Online Education Conference taking place at Queen Mary on 12 – 13 December 2024.

Educational Leadership Development Programmes

19. Three leadership programmes have been launched since October, these include the Executive Leadership Programme, the Director of Education Leadership Programme, and the Programme Directors Leadership Programmes. Uptake and engagement with the programmes are being monitored through Priority 1 working group of the Education and Student Experience Enabling Plan.

External Awards

20. Congratulations to the Queen Mary educators who have been shortlisted for this year's QS Reimagine Education Awards. Nominees were supported to prepare their applications by the Queen Mary Academy.
- [The art of curating flourishing spaces: higher education and beyond](#): shortlisted for the Nurturing Wellbeing and Purpose Award
 - [Haptic Dental Trainers – revolutionising dental training for students](#): shortlisted for the Immersive Experiential Learning Award
 - [Flying Start programme in partnership with PwC and the ICAEW](#): shortlisted for the Power of Partnerships Award
 - [Building Bridges in AI: enhancing AI literacy across disciplines at Queen Mary](#): shortlisted for the AI in Education Award

Student Experience Directorate updates

21. Kate Price, the University Librarian and Head of the Department of Library Services, will be leaving Queen Mary on 20 December, and will be taking up the post of Director of Library Services at Imperial College London in January 2025. Alistair Morey, Head of Library Learning Support and Engagement, has been appointed to the post of Acting University Librarian while recruitment of a permanent post-holder takes place.
22. The Library have commenced work to achieve Customer Service Excellence (CSE) accreditation. They hope to have their formal assessment next Summer.
23. The Autumn Careers Fair was attended by 1,200 students. 47 employers exhibited including TfL, British Airways, NatWest and the Civil Service.
24. A briefing was delivered to Senior Tutor (or equivalent) roles. Additional sessions are scheduled in December and February to promote peer discussion and support.
25. The extenuating circumstances policy is being reviewed. This is coordinated by a working group consisting of academic and professional services staff from each of the three faculties, representatives from the Students' Union and the Directorate of Governance and Legal Services and the Student Support Officers Community of Practice Core group. The review plans to include evidence requirements, deadlines for submitting claims and outcomes as a result of an approved

EC. The updated policy will be circulated to schools and institutes for feedback in the new year. This will come to Senate for approval before implementation of the policy in 2025-26.

26. The requirements for a platform for Advisors and other student support professionals to record student interactions and email correspondence are being scoped in order to consider the options available.
27. Payment of research student stipends has been changed from quarterly to monthly from October 2024 following a collaborative project with teams across the University.
28. New student and returning student enrolment ended. We have 31,738 fully enrolled students and 13,074 of those are new students who started in 24/25.
29. The Bursaries Team have started the QM Bursary approval process and have approved awards for over 3,400 students.

Vice-Principal (International) Report to Senate **September – November 2024**

1. Introduction

Professor Helen Bailey joined Queen Mary in September 2024, taking up her post as Vice Principal International. Between September and October Professor Bailey has conducted induction activity to understand faculty and central professional services international operations. Professor Bailey has reviewed existing activity within the international portfolio including international student recruitment, international student experience, international education and research partnerships, global mobility and global engagement. Beginning in mid-November 2024, the enabling plan to deliver on the international components of Strategy 2030 will be developed through a process of collaboration and co-creation with faculty and professional services colleagues.

2. International Engagement

Since joining Queen Mary in September, Professor Helen Bailey Vice Principal International has led a series of outward and inward engagements for business development, partnership building and reputation enhancement. She was a delegate on UK Government/British Council higher education mission to Brazil led by Professor Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion. Queen Mary was one of six UK universities to be selected for the mission which included engagement with Brazilian Government higher education officials, national funding bodies and research and innovation agencies. A direct result of this was that Queen Mary hosted a high-level delegation of Brazilian funding agencies, higher education representatives and UK higher education government officials and experts to explore methods of measuring research impact through national frameworks.

After hosting David Santoso, CEO of Singhasari Special Economic Zone Indonesia at Queen Mary in October, Professor Bailey travelled to Indonesia in November to undertake a series of meetings with Indonesian government officials to explore strategic partnership opportunities in East Java. . This has been consolidated through the signing of an MoU at the UK-Indonesia Investment Forum held as a part of the state visit of the new President of the Republic of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, in November 2024.

3. International Student Recruitment

January 2025 entry

We continue to offer some of our most popular Postgraduate Taught and Pre-Masters programmes in HSS and FMD with a January start.

Programme Name	Deposit This Year	Deposit Last Year	Active Application This Year	Active Application Last Year	Active Firm This Year	Active Firm Last Year
LLM FT Commercial and Corporate Law	10	0	56	0	8	0
LLM FT Comparative and International Dispute Resolution	4	0	19	0	6	0
LLM FT Intellectual Property Law	10	0	28	0	8	0
LLM FT International Business Law	4	0	25	0	6	0
LLM FT Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law	1	0	5	0	0	0
MSc FT Banking and Finance	36	66	301	376	79	100
MSc FT Banking and Finance (Conversion)	23	2	158	70	40	14
MSc FT Banking and Finance with Integrated Pre-Masters (January start)	0	0	4	19	1	1
MSc FT Investment and Finance with Integrated Pre-Masters (January start)	1	2	9	5	2	2
MSc FT Management	88	92	549	771	149	143
MSc FT Management with Integrated Pre-Masters (January start)	4	4	32	39	10	5
Total	181	166	1,186	1,280	309	265

The key data for January 2025 PGT programmes is summarised in the table above. Notably, CCLS is offering five LLM programmes that were not available last year, contributing to year-on-year growth with 15 more deposits received compared to the same stage in the previous cycle. It is also worth highlighting that firm accepts have increased, despite a decline in applications.

Deposits and applications from India, our primary January market, and China have decreased. Our team in India attributes the decline in January intake interest to a gradual return to pre-pandemic trends. However, we may potentially see an increase now that some major festivals in India have concluded.

Deposits from the Rest of the World (ROW) have risen significantly. This is partly due to the introduction of the new LLM programmes and the strong performance of the MSc Banking and Finance conversion course in SEF, which recruited well in January 2024.

September 2025 entry

Undergraduate

The table below presents the number of overseas undergraduate applications received to date for September 2025 entry (data sourced from Power BI as of 19/11/2024). It also highlights the percentage change compared to the same period last year.

Applications	% change	Offers	% change	Accepts	% change	Firms	% change
4,469	-3%	2,061	-9	269	1%	85	57%

It is still relatively early in the application cycle to draw firm conclusions about our UG recruitment position. Applications are currently down by 3%, but with the UCAS deadline not until the end of January, we expect significant movement over the next two months. The decrease in applications is partly driven by a 27% drop from Saudi Arabia. This can be partially explained by the fact that Kaplan International College London (KICL) applications are not yet reflected in Power BI, which is likely impacting the Saudi application figures noticeably.

UKI remains our largest application market by a considerable margin, with an 11% increase year on year. It is also encouraging to see continued growth from Turkey, following a very strong year for enrolments in 2024.

Postgraduate Taught

The table below presents the number of overseas PGT applications received to date for September 2025 entry (data sourced from Power BI as of 19/11/2024). It also highlights the percentage change compared to the same period last year.

Applications	% change	Offers	% change	Accepts	% change	Firms	% change
9,525	6	6,811	22%	2,753	39%	464	8%

PGT applications have increased by 6% year on year, driven by a significant 30% rise in applications from China. This growth is partly attributed to changes in English language requirements for SBM programmes, adjustments to our 3+1 requirements, and our improved rankings in QS (#120) and US News (#92). However, while the year-on-year growth is promising, it is important to contextualise this improvement. During the previous cycle, PGT applications from China experienced a sharp decline, with an overall 30% year on year decrease (approximately 730 fewer applications) by the end of the recruitment cycle.

Applications from India are down by 13%, which is concerning, especially following substantial decreases for the 2024 intake. It is worth noting that several other Russell Group institutions are also reporting similar drops from India with UCL reporting a 10% year on year drop.

At Faculty level, PGT applications for HSS have increased year on year by 6%. This growth has been primarily driven by a significant 36% year on year increase in applications from China. However, other key markets for HSS, such as India, Pakistan, and Thailand, have experienced declines in PGT applications, though these markets are typically considered as late applying. Applications from India are currently down 17% year on year, with Pakistan seeing a 14% decline and Thailand a 22% decrease.

Applications for S&E programmes have risen by 12% overall, which is a very positive development. Particularly encouraging is the 11% increase in applications from China. Nevertheless, it is important to remain cautious, as the conversion rates from markets such as Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, and Kenya are expected to remain low. These markets continue to represent some of the Faculty's largest sources of PGT applications.

FMD is currently the only faculty to experience a decline in PGT applications, with a 7% year on year decrease. Unlike HSS and S&E, applications for FMD programmes from China have fallen significantly, down by 30%. Additionally, there has been a year-on-year decrease in applications from India (-5%) and Pakistan (-11%).

4. **Global Partnerships and Opportunities**

The International Partnership team and Global Opportunities team merged in November 2024, to form the Global Partnerships and Opportunities team, which will see one core team manage our global partnership network. As our engagement and relationships continue to evolve and often have multiple strands, having one team supporting this work will provide a more efficient service to stakeholders both internally and externally.

The team recently submitted a bid for the British Council’s Women in STEM scholarship fund for the 2025-26 academic year, to provide scholarships for female students wishing to pursue further studies in a STEM related field. The outcome of the call is expected in early December.

Progression partnership recruitment (PGT)

51 students enrolled on Queen Mary programmes in September 2024; with a further small intake expected in January 2025. A number of new progression partnerships have also been signed during the summer and into the autumn term of 2024. They are summarised in the table below.

Institution	Country	Faculty
Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies	India	SBM & SEF, HSS
Podar World College	India	SBM & SEF, HSS
South China University of Technology	China	CCLS, HSS
Universidad del Rosario	Colombia	CCLS, HSS
China University of Political Science & Law	China	CCLS, HSS
Wuhan University	China	SEF, HSS

Incoming Student Mobility

The Global Partnerships & Opportunities (GPO) team welcomed 565 autumn 2024 and FY 24/25 associate students, 345 full-time fee-paying study abroad students, 19 part-time and 201 exchange students. It is expected that increased numbers of fee-paying associate students will enrol for the spring 2025 intake, there are currently 465 firmly accepted students.

GPO also welcomed groups of students and visiting faculty through bespoke faculty-led programmes in autumn 2024 with students and faculty from Columbia University, USA and Lewis & Clark College, USA being hosted by the School of the Arts.

In 2023/24 Queen Mary welcomed its highest ever intake of associate students. In total 1285 associate semester/FY students enrolled at Queen Mary; a 21% increase compared with 2022/23.

Queen Mary Summer School

22 courses have been confirmed for the 2025 Queen Mary Summer School, all three faculties are represented in the course offering. New courses include Cognitive Psychology, Environment and Empire and Visual Analytics. Applications will open at the end of November and partner universities are eligible for a 10% discount on tuition fees.

Outgoing Summer & Short-Term Student Mobility

The team have recently secured funding through the Simon Gaskell fund (DDAE) and the university's Access and Participation Plan, to support 10 Queen Mary students with Bangladeshi heritage to go to Kuala Lumpur to join a career building course for one month, this programme is called The Global Leadership Summer Programme. This programme supports an initiative to improve attrition rates within this demographic as outlined in the Access and Participation Plan. The team are also working on increasing other funded short term summer opportunities for 2025 and will launch the GO Summer Programme in December 2024. In support of this new initiative, the team has secured tuition free places with Nanyang Technological University, China, Singapore Management University, Singapore and Tec de Monterrey, Mexico.

Outgoing Student Mobility

The Global Partnerships & Opportunities team are currently supporting 188 students who are abroad on study/work abroad programmes in 2024/25.

2024/2025 (currently abroad)

School	Number of students
School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences	19
School of Business and Management	14
School of Economics and Finance	4
School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science	5
School of Geography	11
School of History	17
School of Law	16
School of Mathematical Sciences	9
School of Physical and Chemical Sciences	6
School of Politics and International Relations	15
School of the Arts	71
(Students studying a Modern Language)	(44 of the 71)
	187

The application for 2025/26 exchanges closed in November and are currently being reviewed by faculty academic colleagues. A breakdown of the numbers is below:

2025/2026

School	Number of students
School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences	23
School of Business and Management	14
School of Economics and Finance	21
School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science	4
School of Engineering and Materials Science	14
School of Geography	10
School of History	10

School of Law	23	
School of Mathematical Sciences	12	
School of Physical and Chemical Sciences	2	
School of Politics and International Relations	23	
School of the Arts	60	
(Students studying a Modern Language)		(34 of the 60)
	216	

Turing Scheme Funding

In July, the Global Partnerships & Opportunities team were awarded £595,475 in Turing Funds to support students studying and working abroad in 2024/25. The funding is expected to support 115 students on semester/yearlong study or work placements. Over 70% of these students come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The remaining funding will be used towards supporting short-term placements in summer 2025 for between 20-40 further students.

5. External environment considerations

The UK international higher education sector faces challenges and opportunities shaped by domestic policies, global competition, and geopolitical shifts. Key factors shaping the sector include:

Geopolitical Shifts, Security Risks, and US Influence

The Trump presidency may heighten global instability, impacting international student mobility and partnerships. U.S.-China tensions, coupled with reduced multilateral cooperation, may disrupt research collaborations and redirect students to more stable countries like the UK. The election of Donald Trump to President may also play out well for UKHE with the potential for more outbound mobility from the US to the UK, as well as sponsor bodies in the Middle East likely to favour UK universities over the US as they did during his first term in office. Security concerns related to China are growing, related intellectual property and sensitive research. Heightened scrutiny of research partnerships and visa applicants from China may lead to reduced recruitment and funding, affecting STEM and postgraduate programmes in particular .

Post-Brexit geopolitical shifts continue to impact EU and UK collaboration. While EU student enrolments have fallen significantly, the UK's recent rejoining of the Horizon Europe research programme provides renewed opportunities for cross-border research funding and partnerships.

Competitive Pressures from Australia and other Nations

Australia's stricter visa requirements, such as higher financial and English language thresholds and reduced post-study work rights, could deter students and divert them to the UK. Canada also imposed student number controls in earlier in the year. These changes may see students making their decisions on study destination earlier in the cycle if they know their opportunity to secure admission in a G8 university for instance is more limited, or early deposit deadlines are imposed by those institutions.

Domestic Policy and Economic Concerns

The Labour government has committed to retaining and strengthening the post-study work visa (Graduate Route), which allows international students to stay in the UK for 2–3 years after graduation. This policy is vital for attracting talent in high-demand fields like STEM and supporting the UK's reputation as a welcoming destination. International students remain central to university funding, balancing this with migration control pressures continues to generate political debate.

Future Resilience and Opportunities

A number of UK universities are enhancing student employability programmes as a key component of the offer to international students. In response to demand from governments and increasing emphasis on regional international recruitment models, Russell Group universities are beginning to foster transnational education (TNE) partnerships. Some are building strategic international partnerships for education delivery and research collaboration as a means of expanding recruitment and building opportunities for impact. Queen Mary is well-placed to compete in this context with longstanding TNE delivery experience. The International Enabling Plan will build on Queen Mary's advantage in this area of international activity,

6. Queen Mary International Communications

12 November 2024

[Queen Mary University experts attend COP29](#)

News item – A delegation of academics and researchers is participating in COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, showcasing the University's commitment to delivering impactful, interdisciplinary research that promotes a sustainable future.

4 November 2024

[Queen Mary University of London hosts delegation to advance national impact framework in Brazil](#)

News item - Professor Colin Bailey and Vice Principal International, Professor Helen Bailey, welcomed a high-profile Brazilian delegation to the University. The event shared strategies for how UK universities measure their impact.

23 October 2024

[Experts warn Pandemic Agreement fails to address key global health challenges](#)

News item - At the first Policy Insights Series event of the academic year, organised by the Queen Mary Global Policy Institute (QMGPI), experts highlighted that the WHO's proposed Pandemic Agreement overlooks political barriers and vaccine inequities.

21 October 2024

[Queen Mary announces dual master's degree programme with top Indian university](#)

News item – A partnership agreement signed with Shoolini University in India to allow students from India to earn a dual master's degree with both an Indian and UK qualification.

4 October 2024

[New VP for International welcomes Wuhan University to Queen Mary](#)

News item – Professor Helen Bailey welcomed senior leaders from Wuhan University to formalise a collaboration agreement, which establishes an academic partnership to enhance student opportunities.

20 August 2024

[Queen Mary University of London hosts inaugural Mexican symposium to strengthen academic ties](#)

News item - Queen Mary University and the Polytechnic Foundation and The National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico (IPN) hosted the First International Symposium of IPN Students in the UK on August 19-20.

19 August 2024

[Helen Bailey joins Queen Mary as new VP for International](#)

News item - Professor Helen Bailey, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, has been appointed as the new Vice Principal for International at Queen Mary University of London.

7. Global Alumni Engagement

In the period 1 August to 20 November the following international alumni activity has been undertaken:

September 2024 – Head of Development, Gary Surridge joined Department of Law colleagues on a visit to Singapore, followed by a short visit to Kuala Lumpur.

In addition to the meetings and visits conducted by Professor Alan Dignam, Professor Fran Ridout and Rupert Seal, 14 alumni were met in 1:1 meetings, and an event for 22 Law alumni took place on the evening of 17 September.

October 2024 – alumni events for alumni from the School of Economics and Finance were hosted in Shanghai and Guangzhou

In support of Professor Stefan Krummacker's visit to Thailand in October we also supported by securing a meeting with Mr Yongyuth Yuthavong (BSc, Chemistry, 1966), Senior Specialist, Biotechnology, National Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, NSTDA

November 2024 - alumni events in Delhi and Mumbai took place for alumni from Business and Management, English, Drama, Languages, Linguistic and Film, Politics, International Relations and undergraduate Law.

Within the period the Department for Development and Alumni Engagement (DDAE) has also completed updated research and country profiles on Saudi Arabia, India, UAE and Armenia.

A delegation visit to Pakistan was postponed for security reasons, however the work on alumni events was completed and will provide a good foundation for the rescheduled visit.

8. Staffing

Mark Coddington, Global Projects & Policy Manager will be leaving on 1st December, and Michael Alamgir, fixed term Global Projects & Policy Manager, will be leaving on 24th January 2025. Jasmine Baul will be joining as Deputy Head of International Recruitment and Jessica Wong will start as PGR Recruitment, Partnerships & Sponsor Relations Manager in early 2025.

Senate update: VP, Policy and Strategic Partnerships: October 2024 – December 2024

London City Institute of Technology (LCIoT)

Recruitment is now actively underway for September 2025 programmes at LCIoT with early positive indications of growth from Amazon (up to 48 learners from 19 last year) and ongoing discussions with new employers including Oracle and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Colleagues also facilitated a 3-day collaboration with the British Council to host the UK arm of their EU Tech for Humanity Hackathon where QMUL apprentices won a fully funded study break to Edinburgh. Apprentices heard from global experts on the legal, political and ethical implications of technologies such as quantum computing & AI and recorded videos advising global policy makers on how they could better leverage these technologies for humanity.

We are actively waiting for the Data Scientist lv.6 standard to undergo revision before potentially competitively tendering for a cohort of around 100 learners p.a.

Degree apprenticeships

New Starts

Since Sept 2024, QMUL have enrolled approx. 250 new apprentices, of whom 107 are on the ILR R03 funding claim and the remaining 136 will be uploaded on the next funding claim.

Apprenticeship standard	No. of starts
Financial Services Professional	6
Investment Operations Specialist	16
Digital and Technology Solutions	85
Senior Professional Economist	88
Academic Professional	48
Grand Total	243

Ofsted Inspection

Since the last update the university has received its first full inspection from Ofsted (14th to 17th October 2024) and we have successfully received an overall grade of outstanding (grade 1) for the following key judgements:

QMUL Overall grade profile

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding	Grade 1
Quality of Education	Outstanding	Grade 1

Behaviours and attitudes	Outstanding	Grade 1
Personal Development	Outstanding	Grade 1
Leaderships and Management	Outstanding	Grade 1
Apprenticeships	Outstanding	Grade 1

This is a significant achievement especially as it's our first full Ofsted inspection.

QMUL are now the only Russell Group University in London who have received overall outstanding grade in all of the key judgment areas.

Other Universities awarded the grade of outstanding (grade1) are listed below.

Fig No 2 Universities awarded the grade of outstanding								
Name of University	Date of Inspection	Overall effectiveness	Quality of Education	Behaviours and Attitudes	Personal Developme nt	Leadership and Management	Safeguarding	Apps
Bournemouth University	04/06/2024	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Effective	Outstanding
Brunel University of London	30/01/2024	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Effective	Outstanding
Manchester Metropolitan University	04/10/2022	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Effective	Outstanding
Queen Mary University of London	14/10/2024	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Effective	Outstanding
Teesside University	29/01/2019	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Effective	Outstanding
University of Cambridge	10/09/2024	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Effective	Outstanding
University of Huddersfield	10/10/2023	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding	Effective	Outstanding

As can be seen from the table there are only seven universities in the UK to date who have secured the grade of outstanding. It is also worth noting that Manchester Met, Teesside and Huddersfield were inspected a few years ago under a different inspection framework.

Civic Engagement

- NCIA Equitable Partnerships work

As part of the Queen Mary partnership on the National Civic Impact Accelerator (NCIA), this term the Civic Engagement Lead (CEL) has led two sessions with HEI's across the UK and their Civic partners to reflect on how they are using the beta version of the toolkit we created for [Building Equitable Partnerships for Civic Engagement](#).

The CEL has also led a number of 1:1 conversations with different sectors, including the British Science Association, about equitable partnership working. The next steps are to update the toolkit content based on the feedback (including creating a case study showcasing the QM and Barts Health partnership), with launching the final version of the toolkit in early 2025.

- OECD/EECOLE (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) report launch

In October 2024, the OECD launched their report, [A Geography of Higher Education in England and Wales](#) at Toynbee Hall. This is assessing the role of universities in driving regional innovation and economic growth. In October 2023, QM hosted a visit as part of the intelligence gathering for this report, which showcased our civic work. The main recommendations for universities are to mainstream civic engagement in teaching and research activities and to prioritise the delivery of entrepreneurial education within the civic agreements of universities. Both of these areas already feature in our Civic Delivery Plan.

- East London Research Network (ELRN)

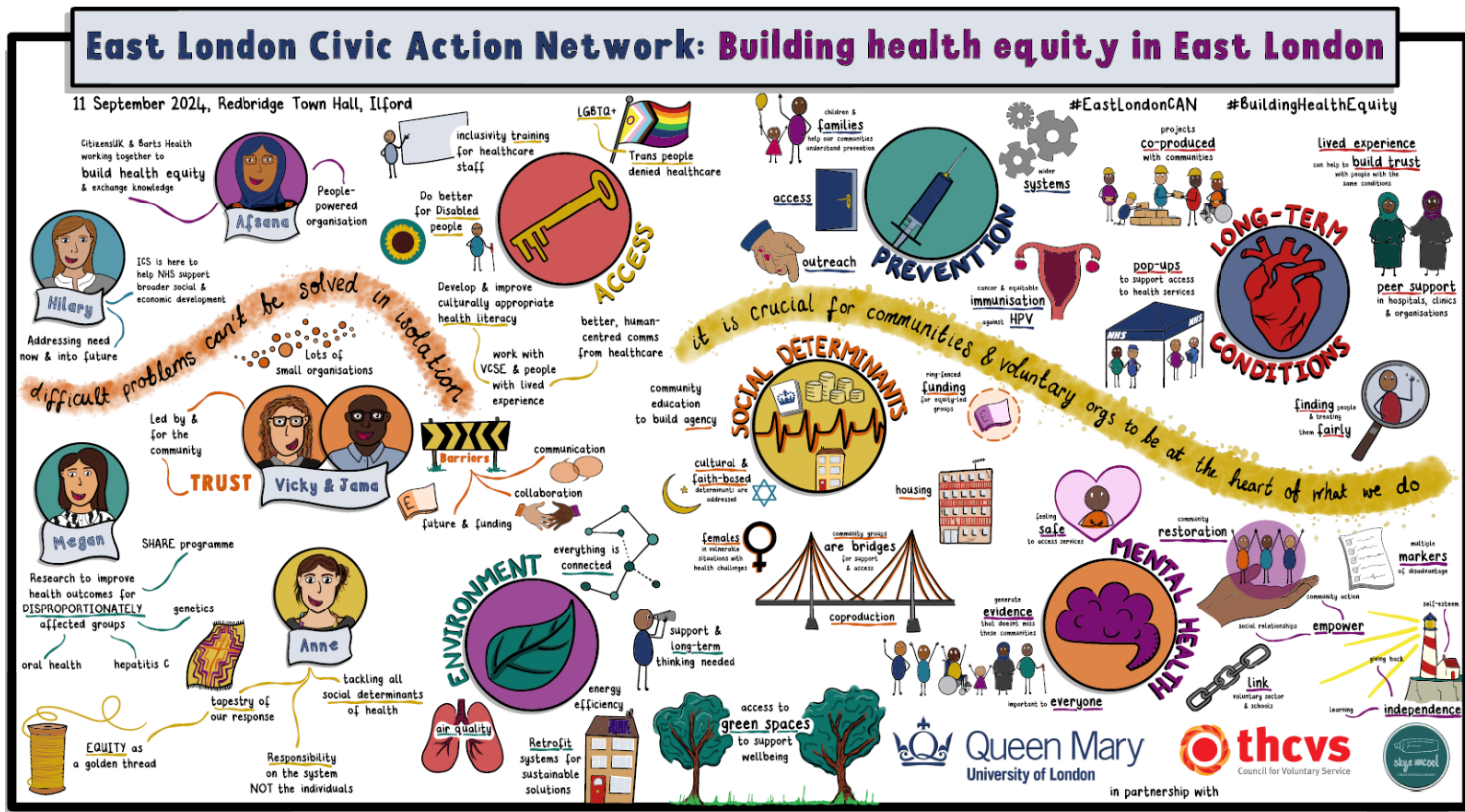
The first ELRN of 2024-25 will be taking place at the end of November and connect into our work from 2023-24 (supported by Enhancing Research and Innovation Culture funding) to build a civic research culture at QM. We will be running a workshop with QM researchers exploring how we develop research guidelines for research in, with and for East London. Through working with a Research Assistant, we are hoping to build a set of research guidelines with community partners to launch in Summer 2025.

- ELCAN

Following the success of the launch of the East London Civic Action Network in September, this has initiated a number of meetings for QM with Newham council's public health team, leaders at Barking & Dagenham local authority, the North-East London Integrated Care Board leadership team (NEL ICB) and the MP for Dagenham and Rainham, Margaret Mullane.

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We are planning the next steps with FMD, our Civic Advisory Board and Delivery Group, and we will be running a series of follow-on sessions focused on the actions and priority areas that came from the stakeholders at the Building Health Equity in East London event.



QM Centre for Creative Collaboration

Artist Janetka Platun and David Mills in Dentistry were successful in winning an Arts Council National Lottery Project grant for £20k to do an 18 month project on the Art of Teeth - creating new artworks using sculpture and dental scanning technologies at the Barts Pathology Museum along with community engagement on dental inequalities in London and Newcastle.

This is a project that has come out of the one hour conversation we commissioned Janetka to have with David in 2020 as part of the Queen Mary Conversations series and the subsequent panel discussion – they have continued to work together ever since, and developed the project further through a CPE large grant.

Arts Council England have renewed their MoU with Queen Mary, after a meet with us in the Centre to review progress and learning so far. In 2017, QM was the first university to sign an MoU with the Arts Council. Since then, they have been developing more strategic partnerships with universities and have used QM as an example of an ongoing successful relationship especially in recent years with current research and skills collaborations developing around data and evaluation, creative youth work and funding models for small arts organisations. We are looking at some kind of public renewal announcement in 2025 to highlight the ongoing relationship between QM and ACE.

A new network for QM researchers interested in peer and participatory research involving young people was launched in October. In-SPYRE (Sharing Practice: Youth orientated Research Experiences) will create a space

for sharing skills and best practice around working with young researchers. The next in person event will feature young peer researchers from Toynbee Hall sharing their perspectives on how to successfully engage young people in research.

Public Engagement

The CPE beat three other bids to win a tender to work with Imperial College London's Public Engagement Team on their 'Understanding the potential of digital platforms for participatory research' project. This consultancy project represents the CPE's efforts to build its reputation externally and generate income. From October 2024-January 2025 we are working with Imperial to deliver a literature review, survey and focus group examining how digital platforms can be used to facilitate participatory research.

We have completed the annual CPE Large Grants and Participatory Research Grants processes and are funding 12 projects from academics, staff and students from across the university. The first monthly Small Grants round closed in November. We will be identifying projects with a strong potential for impact and feeding them into the Research Impact Team's REF pipeline.

Striving to celebrate the brilliant engagement work that takes place across Queen Mary, we have launched the [Engagement Champions](#) initiative that is designed to recognise and celebrate individuals who go above and beyond to foster a positive, inclusive, and engaged environment within our community.

CPE staff continue to support Queen Mary colleagues through regular Advice Surgeries, training, events, drop-in sessions and grant reviews to assist with the development of high-quality and impactful public engagement projects and funding applications. For example, Dr Aoife Sadlier reviewed Robin Basu Roy's (Blizard Institute) application to the IMPRINT Public Engagement Grant, which was ultimately successful (£12,000).

Public Affairs

The public affairs team has focused on establishing the policy committee, which is a cross-department committee designed to map policy issues, review government priorities, the legislative agenda, and wider public debates that impact on Queen Mary's reputation, policy engagement and the operating environment.

It has examined the budget, industrial strategy, as well as the recent government announcements on sector wider reform that accompanied the fee and maintenance increases. The committee is now beginning to set out what Queen Mary's key policy positions are on the central reform themes announced and developing them in partnership with colleagues for public and political engagement and forthcoming consultations.

The public affairs team has begun planning its first campaign on social mobility, including a partnership with the Mile End Institute on polling attitudes to social mobility and the professions in East London. This is an exciting innovation and aims to support building profile for Queen Mary with a wider set of policy audiences. We are currently scoping an events programme, including a 'Live from the IoT' and policy seminar on the outcome of the polling and wider tertiary reforms. Central to this work has been the Ofsted rating of

'Outstanding' for the apprenticeship provision at the Institute of Technology. This has provided the basis for an effective engagement strategy with local MPs, and parliamentarians across government, particularly the Education Select Committee and relevant parliamentary groups.

A priority has been further development of institutional positions on industrial strategy, and a skills narrative that has focused on developing policy positions around key themes for a tertiary system, including: a community widening participation system; being a first mover on degree apprenticeships with a start up and social innovator mentality at a global institution; institutional reform within place and economy; agile employer partnerships.

The team continues to provide support for colleagues on policy mapping and political options to promote research, civic work and strategic events across the university.

Sustainability

The new Sustainability Board is due to meet for the first time in January, to review the proposed and refreshed sustainability Action Statement, setting in motion the next wave of progress.

SDGs: Case studies continue to be collected across the university, with a new case study template developed. This will shortly be available on the SDG webpage to allow for direct submissions from individuals across the university, ready to be uploaded in the New Year.

Engagement: Planning for Climate Action week in February 2025 is well underway with prospective events being planned with Careers, Enterprise, Catering, Residential Life, the Sustainability Team and the School of Law, as well as our Students' Union and Officer-led events. Canal clean-ups have recently started up again, being full student-led, with our most recent having 10 attendees. At least three more are due to happen before Christmas. Efforts have come together across estates and facilities to allow for a smaller January offering of the Re-use Fair, with collection to begin in early December.

Education: In partnership with Queen Mary Academy, the development of the extra-curricular sustainability module is progressing well. A project manager has been employed on a part-time bases to steer its development, working with stakeholders to develop content. We are currently developing role descriptions for 4-5 student interns who will be recruited and start in January, helping to shape module contents through co-creation. Case studies continue to be collected of best practice as part of the employability framework development task group.

People, Culture and Inclusion Update

Since my last report, the University has celebrated Black History Month and, currently, Disability History Month; these are flagship activities of our [Annual Awareness & Inclusion Calendar](#), which so many in our community value.

In my previous report, I noted and celebrated Queen Mary's Race Equality Charter Bronze Award. This report I am able to share that Afua Acheampong (EDI Manager) who led much of this work, was invited to City Hall by the Mayor of London for his Annual Black History Month Reception.

Our three new EDI Leads for each of our academic faculties are settling in well and have held their first meetings of the year for their faculty committees. As a reminder, they are Prof Claudia Garetto (S&E), Prof Aylin Baysan (FMD), Dr Andromachi Geogousouli (HSS).

The EDI Team are currently leading:

- [A disclosure campaign](#) to increase data quality across the University, including allowing options to disclose information indicative of socio-economic background for the first time;
- Elections for our co-chairs of our Gender, Parents & Carers' and Menopause Staff Networks.

I would encourage Senate members to consider sharing or updating their data as part of the campaign, and contacting the team (HR-Equality@qmul.ac.uk) with interest in chair roles.

I would typically affix minutes of the latest Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Steering Group for assurance of Senate. However, we have not met since my last report (and are due to do so on 27th November).

R&I Senate Report

November 2024

External engagement and reputation building

We continue to build our reputation and recognition of our research and impact through proactive engagement with external stakeholders and influencers in the research & innovation landscape and the use of consistent messaging about our research strengths.

The first phase of the revamped Research and Innovation webpages project went live on October 31st. This provides [a new landing page](#) and a reworked and refreshed section “Explore our Research”, including streamlined, user-focused “Meet Our Research Community” and a new “Interdisciplinary Research” subsections, plus a new Research Highways subsection focused on challenges and key RDI topics of interest to our users. Phase Two is now in hand, which will create a new “Collaborate” section: we know that “collaborate” is a key search term for users of our research pages. This will bring together industry, commercial and community research collaboration into a new narrative. Preparations are underway for R&I Awards 2025, biomed and life science thought leadership events “Charterhouse Challenges”, our first R&I Parliamentary Reception in March 2025, and a pair of policy and practice roundtables focused on Smart Cities in January.

Knowledge exchange

Three Queen Mary projects were shortlisted for the [PraxisAuril KE Awards](#) in the categories: ‘Commercial Achievement of the Year’ (Dr Hamit Soyel, ‘Dragonfly AI’), ‘Innovation in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion through KE’ (Dr Maggie Inchley, ‘The Verbatim Formula’), and ‘KE team of the Year’ (SKETCH). Dr Inchley won the award in her category and has also been shortlisted for THE Awards 2024 in the category ‘Knowledge Exchange/Transfer Initiative of the Year’. We congratulate Dr Inchley for these fantastic achievements.

To address barriers to KE, a project has been initiated in collaboration with the Impact Team, HR and the Faculties to improve the reward and recognition of KE at Queen Mary. Over the next few months, we will launch initiatives aimed at improving the recognition of KE activities in the promotion process, including training for academics and promotion panel members.

Research Impact

57 people attended the Impact Forum in November to hear about the importance of collaborative working with partners. The Forum featured presentations from academics who have experience in building and maintaining strategic collaborations that contribute to their impact from research.

The Research Impact Strategy group is working with HR to develop initiatives across the institution to support reward and recognition for impact. The Impact and Engagement Officers have been meeting all of the prospective REF impact case study authors on the faculty long lists to develop future plans for impact and engagement that will strengthen reach and significance of case studies and plans to capture future evidence. The Autumn round of the Impact Fund has received 35 applications from all three faculties and the Impact Team is happy to report a significant increase in the quality of applications supported.

REF 2029

SET received and supported a comprehensive update on REF 2029 preparation to date, including an outline of next steps. This report can be found [here](#).

Research Culture

The Research Culture team successfully delivered the '[Sharing Research Culture 2 : Interdisciplinarity & Collaboration](#)' event in October. The online event drew attendees from across the university to listen to a mixture of internal and external speakers to highlight the importance of interdisciplinarity and collaboration in building a positive research culture against a broader funding landscape that is increasingly prioritising interdisciplinary research. Another Sharing Research Cultures event is planned for Spring 2025 and details will be announced in due course.

The Research Culture Team have launched a second round of [Enhancing Research & Innovation Cultures funding](#), open to any PGR or member of staff interested in undertaking research culture initiatives. Several projects funded last year have received nominations for awards and other marks of esteem, and the successful projects for the second round will be announced in December.

Regarding Research England's ongoing REF 2029 consultations, Queen Mary was fortunate to send colleagues to 6 out of the 13 thematic workshops organised by Vitae focused on selecting indicators and metrics for the People, Culture and Environment (PCE) element of the REF. The research culture team has produced a report summarising key points and this has been uploaded to the [internal REF 2029 webpage](#) for colleagues interested in reading it.

Doctoral College

The Doctoral College are continuing to seek funding from external sources to support the impactful STRIDE (Summer Training Research Initiative to support Equality and Diversity) programme. In 2024, 35 undergraduate students undertook paid placements as part of STRIDE across all schools. Alongside the running of STRIDE, the Doctoral College has now rolled out DAISY (Diversity and Inclusion Survey) data collection for all student applications to postgraduate research programmes. This will give us greater depth of data on our PGR community and allow us to better understand the most underrepresented groups in PGR at QMUL. This data should also allow us to support widening participation initiatives such as STRIDE to support wider diversity in our research community.

We are working alongside colleagues in the strategic development office to build and develop a plug in to the QMUL course booking system that supports student recording of skills training. This will allow us to continue to offer the Queen Mary Diploma of Researcher Development (QDip) to our PGRs who successfully complete their skills training and their research degree programme. This system will be significantly more user friendly and will allow greater understanding of student engagement with skills training.

JRMO

As part of a task and finish exercise to identify the reasons for underspend on research grants, the JRMO team have been working with other Professional Service sections to identify and deliver a number of solutions.

The JRMO, working closely with IT, has now initiated a quarterly report alerting both Senior Research Faculty Managers and PIs of projects that have been active for more than 6 months but have zero expenditure against the account. The report will be sent to Faculty Research Managers to disseminate and facilitate engagement with PIs. This should support expenditure to better align with projected research activity.

We had already introduced a 7 working day turnaround for activating projects on our systems from the award notification date. This is currently achieving an average success rate of 80%, which should allow for staff recruitment and customer set-up processes to begin earlier; this was identified as an issue contributing to underspend on grants.

Trusted Research continues to be high on the agenda for government and the JRMO are actively monitoring developments and working on guidance materials for researchers and university policies. We would encourage any PIs who have concerns or interest to undertake the online training available at <https://www.jrmo.org.uk/international-research-and-export-control/trusted-research-and-export-control/>.

Business Development

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

FMD BD has had three prolific months building up to a potential record in contracts with industrial partners at the end of the year. Of note, a three-year contract with Chanel Parfums in Paris, to fund a multi-omics approach to skin biology in different populations (£469,842.82). This is an ongoing collaboration with the group of Professor Chelala. FMD BD kickstarted a series of presentations in the different departments with a shared QMI/BD presentation at the Wolfson in October. On the outreach front, further internal presentations (Dentistry, WHRI) including an industry connect day (BCI, May 2025) are in preparation.

Faculty of Science & Engineering

The S&E team has supported five Innovate UK projects during Q1 and the first half of Q2 2024/25. This has included applications to Sustainable Medicines Manufacturing, open innovation Smart Grant and the Design Foundations calls (total value to QMUL £800K). Companies involved include Exactmer, SymphoMe, Seep Living and Hello Freedom. The KTP pipeline includes planned submissions from Archipelago (Dec 24), RT Software and Modern Synthesis, all SMEs. With FMD, the team has supported 12 industry-sponsored PhD studentships for the first cohort of the new Next Generation Organ-on-a-chip technologies (COacT) CDT valued at £1M in industry income. We welcomed Mariam Malik as a Scientific Bid Manager (S&E) to the team in October. Mariam will support large, interdisciplinary R&I proposals of high value (>£2M). As an introduction to QMUL and to develop new processes in this regard, Mariam is supporting a bid to the EPSRC Healthcare Translation call led by Pat Healey (EECS) and Jennifer Lau (Wolfson) with clinical and industrial partners. We have converted several leads from the closure of Nanoforce Technology, the first of which is a rolling contract with Calla Lily to access research equipment in SEMS, a contract managed through the team's consultancy function.

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Partnering work has supported the ongoing application of a bid for the AHRC Centre for Law and Social Justice call, drawing on expertise to add value and connections from 40 partners to the centre design to develop an innovative centre design. Other activities this year include supporting applications for expert advisory positions to government work: the Social Mobility Commission, Competition and Markets Authority, and advisory work for the Legal Service Board. All have created profile and contributed to impact development.

Consultancy

The service continues with a portfolio of 60 opportunities to date this financial year. A particular line of opportunities proving very active are the commissioned services from public sector organisations with reputationally interesting programmes of work with organisations such as the

Care Quality Commission, Department of Health and Social Care, and increases in budgets and scopes for the smoking cessation programmes with local authorities in Newham, Tower Hamlets, and Waltham Forest.

QMI

QMI teams have been concentrating on growing the spinout pipeline and increasing the investment-readiness of companies emerging from the pipeline. Numbers are growing and we are confident that we will have companies ready to access the capital that will be made available by the proposed new vehicle when it is formed early next year. The entrepreneurship programme and brand are beginning to take shape, and London Social Ventures (LSV) is now at full speed.

The LSV [website](https://londonsocialventures.com) has launched, and LSV have begun their communications and messaging programme. The website can be found at londonsocialventures.com. On the 23rd October London Social Ventures hosted a launch event that brought together over 100 guests from a variety of sectors, including universities, policy makers, impact investors and peers from the wider impact economy. At the launch, some of the first cohort of the venture programme presented their business ideas to the guests, showcasing some of the promising new social businesses founded by students and academics.

The new Commercialisation and Benefit Sharing Policy, approved on 5th July, is being routinely used, and has been very helpful in speeding the foundation of two new spinout companies, Mebomine and Elcella.

Biopharma activity has been increasing. Two spinouts are at an advanced stage of development (Excella, an appetite suppressant, and Refleks, an osteoarthritis therapeutic). The team have also supported an RVC DSIT application to set up a contractual JV which will hopefully lead to another spin out, Pharos AI. Earlier in the pipeline, other potential spin outs under review are ones for a breast cancer diagnostic, TREX (an RNA-based methodology for molecular biology research), a bacterial diagnostic, and another for a company to develop AI enhanced simulators. The team are also negotiating several licenses.

A range of social venture projects are underway including: Nature Recovery Systems, (Geography), Film production and practice-based research (School of Arts), public health projects (Wolfson Institute for Population Health). In addition, we have provided early commercialisation advice to 11 academic projects and supported the development of two successful applications to the QMUL Impact fund for projects with social venture potential.

In technology and engineering, the spin-out Mebomine Ltd, a health board data analytics company, was established this quarter after first being first disclosed in 2016. Mebomine have secured an initial contract with a large provider of provider to Pharmaceutical Industry. The plan is to secure further, larger contracts from this company, and secure new contracts from other companies in the pipeline and raise finance by mid-2025. At an earlier stage, a compostable superhydrophobic coatings opportunity continues to build to spin-out, with significant technology evaluation projects with a number of companies, most notably a healthcare company that would like to produce composable colostomy bags. Aerosolar secured a transformative contract with a US solar panel manufacture. The hope is that Aerosolar will raise a significant finance by mid-2025.