

Welcome to New Staff

Evangelos Mitsokapas, EPSRC Research Associate, fixed-term from 1 Oct 2022 until May 2023

Reem Yassawi, Senior Lecturer in Mathematical Sciences, joined us on 1 October 2022 and is a member of the Dynamical Systems and Statistical Physics Group

Eleni Kartitzoglou, Teaching Fellow, joined us on 1 October 2022 until 31 August 2023

Dimitris Kalogiros, Teaching Fellow, 1 October 2022 until 31 August 2023

Ming Ng, Postdoctoral Research Assistant working with Ivan & Behrang on their EPSRC grant project, joined us on 1 October 2022 until 30 September 2024

Maryam Hosseini - Postdoctoral Research Assistant – 01 Nov 2022 until 05 December 2024

Anthony Baptista, Postdoctoral Research Assistant 7 Nov 2022 until 7 May 2024

Claudio Bellani, KTP Associate and Postdoctoral Data Scientist, working with Alex Shestopaloff on his UKRI Knowledge Transfer Partnership, joined us on 1 November 2022 until 31 October 2024

Hong Qi, Lecturer in Mathematical Data Science from 5 January 2023 Geometry, Analysis and Gravitation Group

Tarek Anous, Lecturer from 16 January 2023 Geometry, Analysis and Gravitation Group

Staff Survey: School Action Plan

Key focus areas	Summary of actions/mitigations relating to each key focus area including dates	Measures of impact including timelines
1. Level of education compared with peer institutions	Curriculum review, first year 2023-24 and rolling in following years	1. NSS improvement, improved performance of students, and improved staff perception of education we provide (within 3 years)
2. Supporting staff in taking on leadership roles across the University	Encouraging staff to undertake Leadership training and clarifying and providing workload adjustments	2. Having more SMS staff in Faculty or University roles (within 2 years)
3. Communicating vision that motivates staff	Inviting Faculty and University leaders to visit the School	3. Improving staff survey results about University and Faculty leadership (within 2 years)

Topics and Questions for Wen Wang (Faculty VP)

- What do you see as the strengths of and challenges for the School?
- The Faculty is taking an increasing role in managing Education within the Schools. At times, the perception in some areas of the School is that we are not able to provide what is appropriate for our students (e.g., in person exams) and that some processes have become inefficient due to increased scrutiny.
- The landscape for grants in Mathematics and the opportunity in Mathematics for industrial partnerships is different than it is for other disciplines in the Faculty. Also, within Mathematics there are differences as well. There is a sense in the School that this is not taken into account when considering promotion cases and in other similar situations.

- Studentships
 - a. The number of studentships in the School has declined. Despite the School having grant income in the middle of the Russell Group, the number of PhD students in the School is close to the bottom. We believe our reducing PhD cohort will have a negative impact on our next REF submission and is a major area of concern.
 - b. The process of awarding studentships has changed from the School distributing its allocation to a Faculty led process, focussed on themes. Whilst the School appreciates the importance of the themes, our discipline does not naturally fit within them, making it difficult to secure high quality candidates and excluding some key and successful areas of research in the School. Would there be a way the School could (subject to potential supervisors meeting the Faculty criteria) distribute the allocated studentships?
- Some staff feel that QM (and other universities) have moved away from communal decision making to a top-down approach modelled on corporations. How can we ensure that staff are properly engaged in the decision making?

Research Group Restructure

ACTIVITY	DATE/DEADLINE
Consultation with research groups	Ends 15th February
Final structure confirmed	End of February
Development of governance, role profiles, remit etc	Finalise by mid-March
Recruitment for Heads of Centre	
<i>Expression of Interest process</i>	Launches w/c 20th March Deadline 7th April
<i>Interviews</i>	w/c 17th April
<i>Heads of Centre appointed for 23/24</i>	By 28th April
Recruitment for Deputy Heads of Centre	
<i>Expression of Interest process</i>	Launches w/c 2nd May Deadline 19th May
<i>Interviews</i>	w/c 30th May
<i>Deputy Heads of Centre appointed for 23/24</i>	By 9th June
Implementation of new structure	August 2023

Flexible Research Funds and Research Enabling Funds

The School is in desperate need of expanding the PhD studentships we offer. One of the few ways we have available to do this is through the Flexible Research Funds (FRF) held by large grant holders.

We will soon be asking those holding an FRF again to consider how much they can contribute in light of this. This year in particular (when there was an exceptional roll over of funds), we ask FRF holders to reconsider what they can contribute. However, when at all possible, we ask those holders of an FRF to contribute a percentage of their fund for the *duration of the grant* so that we can plan for future years of the studentships. An e-mail will soon be circulated to those involved, and we are happy to go into discussion about the particulars if there are concerns.

Student Number Planning

Over the past 2 years we have taken an exceptionally large number of students.

There have been some questions about how QM plans to proceed.

It is appreciated that the current level of UG students is undesirable and indeed unsustainable. However, QM has ambitious targets to accommodate the growth in staff numbers and plans for further expansion.

This means that we as a School need to:

- Increase the proportion of Overseas UG students
- ***Increase our PGT offering and students studying at PGT level***

	ACTUAL NUMBERS 22/23		TARGETS FOR 23/24	
	UG	PGT	UG	PGT
Home	428	29	309	100
Overseas	100	51	113	91
TOTAL	528	80	422	191