ENHANCING QUALITY IN THE ARTS

EQ-arts Quality review visits offered by ELIA
EQ-arts offers a distinctive approach towards Quality Assurance and Enhancement, using a methodology specifically tailored for Higher Arts Education Institutions and which embraces all arts disciplines. We offer a rigorous evaluation process that draws upon a European qualifications framework, respects the individual vision and national context of institutions while maintaining a clear focus on the student experience. We are a community of trained and highly experienced QA experts who have tested our methodology of institutional review through conducting institutional and subject reviews across Europe since 2004.

**We offer**

- Institutional and/or subject peer review by an international panel of ELIA trained and experienced experts
- Workshops:
  - Training and development of QA experts
  - Qualifications frameworks and learning outcomes
  - How to prepare for an institutional/subject peer review
  - Trained and experienced QA experts for national accreditation processes.

**Services**

EQ-arts offers higher arts education institutions, preparing for European Quality measures, comprehensive guidance about how to establish a ‘quality’ culture:

- Preparation and Guidance to meet the Requirements of National Quality Assurance Agencies
- How to enhance the quality of the students learning experience
- How to develop and embed Quality Assurance and Enhancement to meet European measures
- Rapid and full engagement with the process supported by model guidelines developed by teaching peers
- Staff with little experience of Quality Assurance and Enhancement processes will be provided with full support and a developmental process
- A comprehensive model of how to write a Self-Evaluation Document (SED).
Review Process
A tested, sound and developed process appropriate for all the disciplines of higher arts education that is the product of experience since 2004 and uses highly qualified and experienced peers; Employs the same four basic questions as the European University Association (EUA):
• What is the institution/subject trying to achieve?
• How is the institution/subject trying to achieve it?
• How does the institution/subject know it works?
• How does the institution/subject go about making changes and improvements?

A two visit Review process
A flexible Review Process that normally involves an Expert team of Reviewers and a Rapporter visiting the institution for two and half working days for each visit. Both the Preliminary and Main visits are based on a similar pattern but focus on two different levels of concern.

Experts meet various groups relevant to the aims of each visit invited including:
• Senior managers
• Staff at all levels, academic and administrative
• Students
• Employer, professional bodies
• Graduates

Outcomes of the EQ-arts two visit Review process
The EQ-arts panel of experts will produce a comprehensive Review Report fully owned by the institution that explains the thoroughness of the process employed by EQ-arts in collaboration with the institution.
The Report will highlight good practice and areas for further development and contain appropriate recommendations related to
• Institutional, faculty and programme management processes
• Quality Assurance and Enhancement developments and methods
• Staff development processes
• Programme currency and development
• Programme organization
• Learning and teaching processes
• Student support processes
• Learning resources

The Institution owns the final Review Report and can use it to support the institution’s relationships with
• The process of statutory accreditation, validation or other Quality review
• Potential international or national partners
• Ministries of education and other governmental departments
• National agencies
• Cultural bodies
• As an internal policy document and long term plan.
Distinctive Features

A binary approach – Institutional and Subject

- EQ-arts offers both institutional, and/or subject reviews to test how Quality Assurance and Enhancement processes are embedded at all levels.
- EQ-arts has developed a review methodology adopting a bottom-up approach that is specifically suited to higher arts education.
- The EQ-arts methodology nurtures trust and mutual respect between experts and Institutional Staff.
- This non-confrontational approach is informed by national and transnational expertise and insight.
- EQ-arts tailors each Review to the specific needs of the reviewed institution and/or its disciplines, subjects and programmes.

EQ-arts results

As a result of engaging in the EQ-arts two visit Review process institutions and staff will find that they have an improved confidence and understanding of:

- How to establish manage and develop a quality educational environment.
- How to ensure the quality of the students learning experience.
- How to develop and embed Quality Assurance and Enhancement to meet European measures.
- The value and function of Quality Assurance and Enhancement processes.
- How to write a Self-Evaluation Document (SED).
Panel of experts
Please find the list of trained and experienced experts at www.eq-arts.org

Experts Training
EQ-arts provides continuing training of existing Experts and the induction of new Experts
EQ-arts - Expert Training motivates participants and emphasises team work and the development of the appropriate competences.

Outcomes of Training
• A comprehensive knowledge of the benefits of institutional review
• An understanding of the role of the Review panel
• An ability to plan, carry out and follow up institutional visits according to agreed procedures
• Objectively analyse evidence presented in the self-evaluation document and during visits
• Respond to evidence with appropriate observations and recommendations
• Work together as an Experts Panel to arrive at a shared evaluation report
• Understand qualification frameworks and assess the appropriateness of learning outcomes.

Experts Competences
• Teamwork ability and a capacity for sustained concentration
• An open minded approach and an ability to detach personal experience from the impact of the immediate process
• A capacity to read digest and analyse a large quantity of written material
• An ability to prioritise information and issues arising from documents and verbal answers
• Verbal communication skills to be able to chair review meetings and phrase and articulate open and appropriate questions
• Focus and listening skills to accurately perceive the views and answers provided by other participants
• Writing skills to help form a report and make appropriate notes during meetings.

Upcoming training sessions will be announced at www.eq-arts.org
EQ-arts creates an elevated level of education and experience to meet National and EU QAE Standards and a noticeable improvement in Quality Management Policies and infrastructures especially in:

- Appointing Senior members of staff with knowledge and competence to manage QAE responsibilities
- Embedding learning outcomes and written assessment criteria
- Developing active student engagement with QAE processes
- Strengthening institutional management engagement with QAE processes
- Developing and enhancing positive Faculty/School engagement with QAE processes
- Designing and implementing online QAE management systems
- Raising awareness within the institution regarding QAE policies
- Stimulating the projection and implementation of good practices
- Stimulating the process of clarification and formalisation of procedures regarding quality assurance and enhancement.

Management group
Prof. John Butler, Head of School of Art, Birmingham City University, UK
Robert Baker, Independent QA&E consultant, Ireland/France
Paula Crabtree, Rector Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Norway
Prof. Anthony Dean, Faculty of Arts at the University of Winchester, UK
Lars Ebert, ELIA Senior Advisor, EQ-arts Co-ordinator
Maren Schmohl, Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, Germany

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EQ-arts is an initiative of ELIA, it has ENQA Affiliate status and co-operates with the EUA.