

## EQ-Arts – Mission and Vision

EQ-Arts was formally founded as an independent organisation (a *Stichting* under Netherlands law) in July 2015. Prior to this, the members of the EQ-Arts Executive Group have worked jointly in the area of international Quality Assurance and Enhancement in the arts since 2003. EQ-Arts has become a leading voice in discussions about Quality Assurance & Enhancement (QA&E) in higher arts education across Europe. Its mission is to become acknowledged as the leading European Quality Agency for Higher Arts Education.

### Mission

EQ-Arts supports higher arts education institutions through its provision of both external review and enhancement activities on their internal process of self-evaluation and enhancement of their quality systems with the aim of promoting a strong quality culture across the European higher arts education sector.

### Vision

EQ-Arts is an independent sector-specific (Arts) external accreditation and enhancement (not for profit) organisation with a focus on enhancement-led quality assurance for higher arts education across the Europe Higher Education Area (EHEA) and beyond.

EQ-Arts fully embraces the four principles that underpin the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) across the EHEA:

- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have primary responsibility for the quality of their provision and its assurance;
- Quality Assurance should be responsive to the diversity of higher education systems, institutions, programmes and students;
- Quality Assurance processes should support the development of a quality culture;
- Quality Assurance processes should take into account the needs and expectations of students, other stakeholders and society more widely.

EQ-Arts applies these principles in ways that respect the unique characteristics of higher arts education and honours the diversity of institutions in which the study of arts practice (in all its variants) is offered.

EQ-Arts recognises and upholds the following values:

- EQ-Arts believes all activities involving institutions, programmes and stakeholders of the European Higher Arts Education sector must start from a position of trust and EQ-Arts aims to strengthen this and ensure a co-ordinated, bottom-up approach to them.
- EQ-Arts is well connected to and known by the European Higher Arts Sector for its commitment to and respect for the sector's autonomy.

- EQ-Arts fully recognises the needs of society and the world of work for the development of creativity and generative critical thinking, which are key attributes of higher arts education.
- EQ-Arts stresses its commitment to value and preserve cultural, artistic, and pedagogical diversity.

EQ-Arts firmly safeguards its independence as an organisation and of its activities, since it believes this is necessary to be best able to enhance and guarantee the quality of Higher Arts Education.

EQ-Arts upholds the above values guided by the following beliefs in carrying out its activities through:

- placing particular emphasis on the enhancement of a student learning experience that supports students to become creative mediators in today's rapidly changing societies and art communities;
- promoting student-centred approaches to learning, teaching and assessment;
- encouraging the constructive alignment of teaching and learning activities, and assessment tasks;
- encouraging institutions to develop and enhance a quality culture which guides their mission and vision;
- adopting a review methodology based on peer review, in which the participation of students, relevant professional bodies and/or employers as stakeholders is embedded;
- ensuring that explicit criteria and transparent processes underpin all its activities;
- ensuring that its processes are open to external scrutiny;
- recognising a range of external and international reference points and/or criteria (primarily guided by the 2015 ESG);
- ensuring that the outcomes of its processes have formal status, are decided independently and are publicly available.