



Sector-specific Quality Assurance (HE Arts)

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European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA)

ELIA is the primary independent network organisation for higher arts education. With over 300 members in 47 countries, it represents some 300,000 students. ELIA advocates the arts on the European level, creating new opportunities for its members and facilitating the exchange of best practices.





EQ-Arts:

Is a community of trained and highly experienced QA reviewers who have developed and tested a Quality Assurance methodology through conducting institutional and subject reviews across Europe.

EQ-Arts Management Group:

Professor John Butler (*Head of School of Art, Birmingham City University, UK*)

Robert Baker (*Independent QA&E consultant, Ireland/France*)

Paula Crabtree (*Rector, Stockholm University of the Arts, Sweden*)

Professor Anthony Dean (*Dean Faculty of Arts, University of Winchester, UK*)

Lars Ebert (*ELIA Senior Advisor, EQ-arts Co-ordinator, Amsterdam, Netherlands*)

Maren Schmohl (*Vice Rector, Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, Germany*)



Development of EQ-Arts: *A Brief History*

2002

ELIA establishes two successive Thematic Networks:

- Inter}artes (*Socrates*)
- artesnet Europe (*Erasmus*)

Qualifications Framework for the Creative & Performing Disciplines
Tuning Documents (*Dance, Design, Film, Theatre, Fine Art*)
Professionalises QA services:

- completes several QA reviews (*and follow-up reviews*)
- establishes a training programme for QA reviewers



2014

Becomes an affiliate member of ENQA

EQ-Arts becomes independent of ELIA

Begins developing co-operation with national QA agencies

2016

To become an independent accrediting body (*EQAR membership*)





EQ-Arts: *What We Offer*

A critically supportive approach towards *Quality Assurance and Enhancement* for the Higher Arts Education sector, offering rigorous institutional and/or subject peer review undertaken by an international panel of EQ-Arts trained and experienced QA reviewers (drawn from the subject fields), that:

- respects the specific vision, culture and national context of the institution
- draws upon both national and European qualifications frameworks, standards and guidelines
- maintains a clear focus on the student learning experience

EQ-Arts also offers workshops, which focus on:

- the training of QA reviewers
- workshops on using qualifications frameworks and learning outcomes
- supporting preparations for institutional/subject review



The EQ-Arts methodology: *Distinctive Features*

- reviews that are closely tailored to the specific needs of the institution and/or its subject disciplines (*involving peer reviewers with appropriate subject knowledge and experience*)
- a peer-review methodology that is built on trust and mutual respect between the reviewers and institutional staff (*all members of the review team are drawn from the Higher Education Arts sector*)
- a non-confrontational approach informed by national and transnational expertise and insight with a focus on quality enhancement
- a review methodology that tests the implementation of institutional QA systems in operation at subject/programme level
- follow-up visits to evaluate how QA and Enhancement processes are being embedded at all levels (*including any specific recommendations contained within the final report*)



The EQ-Arts methodology: *Key Questions*

The EQ-Arts methodology is based on the four key questions, similar to those used by many other QA agencies (such as the EUA – European University Association):

- 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 or improvements?



The EQ-Arts methodology: *The Review Process*

- a two visit review process (*often preceded by a preliminary scoping visit*)
- a carefully selected team of reviewers and an experienced rapporteur
- two and half working days for each visit
- reviewers meet with a range of representative groups:
 - rector, vice chancellor or principal (*CEO*)
 - senior management team
 - the group of staff responsible for the SER (*if different from the above*)
 - staff from all levels (*academic, administrative and technical*)
 - students (*from all levels, including PGT and PGR*)
 - graduates (*from different cohorts*)
 - employers and representatives of professional bodies

EQ-Arts: Review Methodology





The EQ-Arts methodology: *Report Sections*

The outcomes of the Review process is a comprehensive Review Report (*that is confidential to the institution*) that highlights areas of good practice, areas for further development and a set of commendations and recommendations concerning:

- Management and Leadership
- Effectiveness of QA&E processes
- Staff recruitment and development
- Programme Curriculum and Development
- Programme Organisation
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- Student Support
- Learning Resources



The EQ-Arts methodology: *The Final Report*

Following the conclusion of the visit – *and after having been agreed by all the members of the review team* – a draft Report is sent to the institution for any comments on matters of factual accuracy before the Report is finalised.

The final report is confidential to the institution and they can chose to (and do) utilise it in various ways, including:

- as part of their statutory accreditation, validation or other reviews
- to influence education ministries or other governmental departments
- as an internal strategy document and/or aid to long-term planning
- to support approaches to potential national or international partners



EQ-Arts: *Quality Assurance Reviews*

EQ-Arts has undertaken a number of Reviews at the invitation of institutions in the following countries:

- Turkey[®]
- Bulgaria[®]
- Lithuania[®]
- Romania (*in partnership with the EUA*)^{*®}
- The Netherlands
- Czech Republic[®]

* *Four separate institutional reviews of Arts provision were undertaken in Romania using an EUA devised methodology*

[®] *Follow-up Reviews were conducted at institutions in these countries*





EQ-Arts: *Co-operation with other QA Agencies*

EQ-Arts currently co-operates with the following Quality Assurance agencies:

- EUA
- AQ-Vienna*
- SKVC Lithuania*
- QAA Scotland
- NVAO (NL/BE)

* *EQ-Arts is in the process of signing formal co-operation agreements with these two agencies*

* *The agreement signed with AQ-Vienna will cover Austria, Germany, Switzerland, former Yugoslavia, the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Hungary*





The EQ-Arts: *Reviewer Training Programme*

The training is delivered through the simulation of a QA review visit, and aims to provide the participants with:

- a comprehensive knowledge of the benefits of institutional/subject review
- an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a review panel, and of a meeting chair
- the ability to plan, carry out and follow-up institutional visits according to agreed (EQ-Arts) procedures
- the ability to triangulate information, analyse and objectively evaluate evidence in order to formulate appropriate observations and questions
- the ability to work effectively within the context of review team in order to arrive at a shared evaluation report
- relate the provision being reviewed to relevant qualification frameworks and assess the appropriateness of learning outcomes in that context

EQ-Arts information: *Contact Details*



EQ-Arts Website:

QA Reviewer Training:

More Information:

www.eq-arts.org

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