

# GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Hey EC members!

We represent the National Desk of Quality Agreements, dedicated to assisting and informing various layers of student representation within universities (of applied sciences) on matters concerning the quality agreements. Your programme's Education Committee also plays a significant role in the quality agreement process. In this document, we will briefly explain what quality agreements are and what you, as an EC member, can do to maximise your impact!

## Quality Agreements

In 2015, the grant system for students was replaced with a loan system. The government promised to reinvest the money saved into the quality of education, ensuring that the financial resources for students would still benefit them. To establish a framework for this, the Ministry of Education, institutions' umbrella organisations, and student organisations ISO and LSVb made agreements, which are now known as the quality agreements. Every educational institution developed a plan in collaboration with student representation. This plan should have outlined how they intended to spend the money during the period 2019-2024 and how they intended to monitor these expenditures. If you are unfamiliar with your institution's plan, please reach out to your programme board for information.

## The role of Central- Faculties - EC

Student representation has the right to approve the aforementioned plan, although the specific layer of student representation with this authority varies across institutions. Often, this right rests with the central student representative council, although in some cases, it may be decentralised (with academy or faculty councils). In rare cases, this right rests with you as the Education Committee. The plan itself should specify this information, but you can also seek clarification from your programme board or a policy officer.

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### Example:

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By channelling feedback to the relevant layer of student representation, plans can be adjusted, and the funds can be used for projects that genuinely enhance the quality of education. By channelling feedback to the relevant layer of student representation, plans can be adjusted, and the funds can be used for projects that genuinely enhance the quality of education.

### Rights of an EC

As an Education Committee you can be involved in the implementation of quality agreements within your programme, but your programme board is not obligated to involve you. According to the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), as an EC, you have **the right to consent, right to information and the right to advise**:

**The right to consent** allows you to provide consent for your programme's Education and Examination Regulations (EER). The right to consent to the quality agreements is often awarded to another layer of representation. (WHW [9.18.1a](#); [10.3C.1a](#))

**The right to information** allows you to request information from your board as an EC. If you are uncertain about whether a project is meeting its predefined objectives, you can exercise your right to information to obtain the necessary data to form an informed opinion. Your programme board is obligated to provide the requested information or explain why the EC does not require this information. (WHW [9.48.3](#); [10.39.3](#))

**The right to advise** empowers you to offer both solicited and unsolicited advice to your programme board. For instance, if you receive strong indications that a project funded by the quality agreements is ineffective, you can advise your programme board to take appropriate action. The board is obligated to respond within 2 months. (WHW [9.18.1d](#); [10.3C.1d](#))

## So what?

Education committees are fundamental to the quality of education programmes. You are also often the first person to signal problems with that quality.

The quality agreements are often drawn up for a faculty, or an entire (applied) university, but you will be the one to first notice their effects. As such, it is a good idea to ask your board for the plans pertaining to your programme. Find out what they're spending the money on, and if you are actually noticing positive effects. And talk to your faculty council to see if you might be able to cooperate on this issue!

**Questions? Contact us!**

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