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## COLLABORATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AGENCY FOR THE QUALITY OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF CATALONIA AND THE UNIVERSITY QUALITY AGENCY OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS FOR THE VERIFICATION, MODIFICATION, FOLLOW-UP, AND, IF NECESSARY, ACCREDITATION OF HIGHER ARTISTIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

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### PARTIES

On one hand, Mr. Francesc Xavier Grau i Vidal, President of the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (hereinafter, "AQU Catalunya"), appointed by Agreement GOV/267/2022, of December 6, to assume the role of President of AQU Catalunya (DOGC No. 8809, December 9, 2022), acting in the exercise of the functions attributed to him by Article 11 of Decree 315/2016, of November 8, approving the Statutes of AQU Catalunya. On the other hand, Mr. José Luis Pons Hinojosa, President of the Balearic Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (hereinafter, "AQIB"), appointed by the Board of Directors of AQIB on September 25, 2019, and reappointed on July 18, 2022, with the competence to sign agreements and conventions according to Article 18.d of the statutes of the Consortium of AQIB, approved by Agreement of the Government Council on April 22, 2005.

### DECLARE

Organic Law 2/2006, of May 3, on education, establishes in Article 45 that higher artistic education includes higher studies in music and dance, dramatic arts, conservation and restoration of cultural assets, design, and fine arts, which encompasses studies in ceramics and glass.

Article 19 of Royal Decree 1614/2009, dated October 26, establishing the organisation of higher artistic education regulated by Law 2/2006, of May 3, on education, stipulates that educational administrations will promote periodic systems and procedures for internal and external evaluation of the quality of these studies. The basic reference criteria will be defined and regulated in the context of the European Higher Education Area. The purpose of evaluating the quality of these studies is to improve the teaching, research, and management activities of the institutions, as well as to promote excellence and student and faculty mobility.

The study plans for higher artistic education are regulated by Decree 26/2014, dated June 13, which establishes the study plan for higher artistic education leading to a degree in superior artistic education in the specialty of dramatic arts with a focus on interpretation. Additionally, it is regulated by Decree 43/2013, of September 6, establishing the study plan for higher artistic education in the Balearic Islands leading to a degree in superior artistic education in design with specializations in graphic design, interior design, fashion design, and product design, and it regulates the evaluation process. Furthermore, the Order of the Minister of Education and Culture, dated October 6, 2008, amending the Order of the Minister of Education and Culture, dated September 1, 2003, establishes the general aspects of the curriculum for the higher degree

in music education. It determines, on an experimental basis, the curricular development of the courses that comprise these studies in the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands. There is also mention of a draft decree for the study plan of higher artistic education leading to a degree in superior artistic education in music.

That the abovementioned Decrees envisage a system and procedure for evaluating the quality of these study programmes, the criteria for which must be defined and regulated within the context of the European Higher Education Area.

That the evaluation of the quality of these study programmes aims to enhance the teaching, research, and management activities of the institutions, as well as to promote excellence and mobility among students and faculty.

That it is also the responsibility of the aforementioned quality agencies to assess the study plans of master's degrees on artistic education, in accordance with Article 13 and subsequent articles of Royal Decree 1614/2009, dated October 26.

That one of the functions of AQU Catalunya is the evaluation, certification, follow-up and accreditation, in accordance with international academic and social standards, of programmes leading to the issuance of an official or specific degrees offered by higher education institutions, as specified in Article 3.1.c) of Law 15/2015, of July 21, on AQU Catalunya.

That AQUIB is interested in AQU Catalunya collaborating in the task of evaluating the quality of study plans for higher artistic education leading to degrees or master's degrees in various fields or disciplines offered in the Balearic Islands, and of having evaluation reports that can serve as the basis for subsequent reports from AQUIB.

In accordance with Article 3.1.p) of Law 15/2015, dated July 21, it is stipulated that tasks can be entrusted to AQU Catalunya, which in this case is specified through a collaboration agreement.

Therefore, AQU Catalunya and AQUIB decide to sign a collaboration agreement with the content and under the terms and conditions specified in the following.

## CLAUSES

### Clause one – Purpose

1. The purpose of this agreement is the issuance of evaluation reports for higher artistic education programmes offered in the Balearic Islands, upon request from AQUIB, within the framework of the verification, modification, follow-up, and accreditation programmes for official university degrees of AQU Catalunya (VSMA Framework).
2. As a result of this evaluation, AQU Catalunya will issue preliminary and final reports for the verification, modification, and, if applicable, follow-up and accreditation of study plans for higher artistic education. These reports will be in accordance with the specifications set by AQUIB.

## Clause two – Specifics for Each Evaluation Procedure

1. To conduct the evaluations, AQU Catalunya will apply the methodology corresponding to the current VSMA Framework for higher artistic education. The entire methodology is published on AQU Catalunya's website.
2. AQUIB will oversee the coordination of communication with institutions and organisations of higher education within the Balearic Islands related to higher artistic education. AQUIB will submit requests to AQU Catalunya in coordination with the Catalan Agency and in accordance with the requirements of the evaluation methodology based on the requested evaluation process.
3. The Specific Commission for Arts and Humanities (CEA) of the Institutional and Program Evaluation Commission of AQU Catalunya is the responsible for issuing evaluation reports.
4. For verification and modification processes, AQU Catalunya will issue a preliminary report, which will be forwarded to AQUIB. Through AQUIB, the higher education institution responsible for higher artistic education will be able to submit factual errors for correction in the report. The Specific Evaluation Commission of AQU Catalunya will assess their inclusion and issue the final evaluation report.
5. For the follow-up process, AQU Catalunya will issue a final evaluation report.
6. Regarding the accreditation process, AQU Catalunya will appoint an External Evaluation Committee (hereinafter CAE) to evaluate the accreditation self-report prepared by the institution offering the higher artistic education qualification. The structure of the self-report will follow the format outlined in the Guide for the accreditation of higher artistic education. The CAE will conduct a visit to the center during which interviews will be held with various stakeholders. As a result of the evaluation of the self-report and the external visit, the CAE will issue a visit report transmitted to AQUIB. Through AQUIB, the higher education institution responsible for higher artistic education can submit factual errors for correction in the report. The CAE will assess their inclusion and issue the final evaluation report. The visit report issued by the CAE will be considered as the main evidence for the CEA to issue the accreditation report for the qualification. The CEA will issue a preliminary accreditation report, which may be favorable or unfavorable. In case of an unfavorable report, AQUIB will transmit the objections presented by the higher education institution responsible for the relevant higher artistic education to the CEA for the issuance of the final accreditation report.
7. The final reports of the evaluation processes will be made public on the websites of AQUIB and AQU Catalunya.
8. The final reports issued by AQU Catalunya do not provide any quality seal or certificate from AQU Catalunya.

#### **Clause four – Funding**

AQUIB will transfer the following amounts to AQU Catalunya for the verification, modification, or, if applicable, follow-up or accreditation of qualifications:

- Verification of one study programme: €1.200 €
- Follow-up of one study programme: 600 €
- Accreditation of one centre: €6.500 (from one to three study programmes); €8.200 (from four to six study programmes); €9.900 (from seven to nine study programmes).

The specified amounts will undergo annual updates based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of December 31 of the preceding year. Prior to commencing the evaluation process, AQU Catalunya will present the budget for the requested evaluation activity to AQUIB for approval. AQUIB will provide AQU Catalunya with the necessary data to generate the electronic invoice.

Payment will be made via bank transfer to the account number of AQU Catalunya ES48 2100 5000 5102 0003 0583, within one month following the issuance of the invoice, which will be processed once the final report is issued.

This evaluation activity is associated with education since it entails recognition as an official study within the European Higher Education Area and directly contributes to improved conditions for students. Therefore, despite being an activity subject to VAT, it qualifies as an exempt operation due to the reasons stated earlier.

#### **Clause five – Follow-up Committee**

The follow-up and control of the provisions established in this agreement will be carried out by a Follow-up committee formed by a member appointed by each of the signing parties. The functions of this committee will include, among others, the oversight and monitoring of the collaboration activities outlined in this agreement, as well as the monitoring of the financing.

#### **Clause six – Duration**

From the date of its signing, this agreement has a duration of four years, renewable for the same period.

#### **Clause seven - Termination Causes**

This agreement may be terminated:

- a) by mutual agreement of the parties.
- b) for non-compliance with the commitments established in this agreement, communicated within a minimum period of two months.

- c) for reasons established by current legislation.
- d) unilaterally by written communication to the other signing party, with a minimum notice period of two months.

#### **Eighth - Conflict Resolution**

Both parties pledge to make a concerted effort to resolve any disputes arising from the interpretation and execution of this agreement through mutual agreement.

As evidence of their agreement to the content of this agreement, the parties sign it electronically.

[Firma]

President of AQU Catalunya  
Francesc Xavier Grau i Vidal

[Firma]

President of AQUIB  
José Luis Pons Hinojosa