

To be circulated to leadership team, faculty,
staff and students preceding EEAA on-site
visits (please translate and circulate if necessary)

Dear colleagues in theological education,

You will soon be receiving a visit from an EEAA visiting evaluation team to your campus. The European Evangelical Accrediting Association has operated in quality assurance of theological education for over 30 years and is the only European-wide network of this kind, linked to the Evangelical Alliance and worldwide to over 850 schools. The EEAA has been asked to evaluate your institution and its study programmes so we would like to briefly present the nature and purpose of this visit.

Who is coming and what can you expect?

The Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) is made up of men and women who are trained in quality assurance and quality development, but they are also highly experienced and personally involved in theological education, and thus understand and empathise with your challenges. They will attend classes, visit the campus, examine documentary materials, arrange formal and informal meetings with most of you, and do their best to form an accurate picture of your school. They are also open to schedule additional meetings as permitted by their availability.

If you want to know more about the standards by which your school will be measured and the exact nature of an accreditation visit you can consult our website (www.eeaa.eu).

Your role

There are many benefits to accreditation, but the most significant is the opportunity to increase the effectiveness of a school and its programme. Time after time we have had schools tell us how beneficial it has been to undergo a process of external evaluation. These benefits however are closely tied to the quality of the information that we are able to access and this is the main purpose of our visit.

The leadership of your school has provided us with a vast amount of excellent documentation, but during the visit we would like to communicate with you who actually work and study within the school. Our main question will be: "How can this school increase its effectiveness, according to its mission, vision and values?" Perhaps as a member of the leadership team, you see the need for some organisational changes. Possibly you are a faculty member and, an important professional actor in the educational process, you can see areas that need improvement. Perhaps you are a staff person and have specific suggestions to improve your contribution to the running of the school. Or perhaps you are a student and, as the principal "consumer" of your school's study programme, you have some constructive suggestions that you would like to express.

We are coming to listen, and to observe carefully, in order to propose changes that can contribute to the overall quality of your school. We would ask you for constructive honesty relative to any areas that need improvement. Please do not attempt to show only the best face of your institution, as the goal of this exercise is to strengthen, not to criticize. Your frank feedback will not harm the accreditation of your school, but rather help improve its service for the kingdom. The leadership of your school has seen this letter, and shares our desire for honest self-evaluation in order to realise institutional improvement.

I wish you God's blessings and wisdom as you participate in this important time in the life of your school,



Marvin Oxenham
EEAA Coordinator