

CALL FOR STUDENTS

JOIN US IN GENEVA

ELIA LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM 2025
THE POWER OF MANY
15 - 17 OCTOBER

— HEAD
Genève

ELIA



Co-funded by
the European Union

ROYAL  TALENS

THE POWER OF MANY

Have you already taken a leadership role through your practice or at your art school, university or academy?

We invite students to be part of the conversation at the
ELIA Leadership Symposium 2025: The Power of Many.

Although the event is now at full capacity, we still have spots available for students. And thanks to ELIA's Supporting member fund your travel and accommodation bursaries will be covered! This years' symposium will take place from 15 – 17 October 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted by Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Genève, HES-SO).

As the world faces political tensions, global conflicts, economic instability, and growing social division, leaders in higher arts education continue to tackle complex and evolving challenges. The ELIA Leadership Symposium offers an open and vital space for leaders to come together and explore how to navigate ongoing change and uncertainty.

If you are already stepping into leadership within your artistic practice or creative education community, this is your chance to connect with international changemakers, contribute your perspective, and immerse yourself in discussions shaping the future of higher arts education.

Over three days, you will take part in a curated programme of high-level sessions, keynotes, panels, performances, and interactive breakout sessions addressing the pressing challenges faced by higher arts education today. This is an exceptional opportunity to connect with rectors, deans, artists, cultural practitioners, curators, directors and presidents of leading arts universities from across the world - right in the heart of Geneva.





BURSARIES AVAILABLE

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION COSTS WILL BE COVERED

TOGETHER, WE WILL EXPLORE:

- The power of collective intelligence: amplifying collaboration at scale for creative problem solving and meaningful change
- Systems for knowledge and skill-sharing: designing structures that enable wide participation, shared ownership, and innovation
- Cultures of care and resilience: building supportive environments that promote wellbeing, cohesion, and long-term sustainability
- Leadership through crisis and change: navigating funding cuts, enrolment drops, political pressures, and systemic instability.

Selected students will receive bursaries covering travel to and from Geneva, as well as accommodation for the duration of the event. These bursaries are funded by the ELIA Supporting Members Fund.

THANKS TO ELIA SUPPORTING MEMBERS



University of the Arts Utrecht



Zurich University of the Arts



Amsterdam University of the Arts



Willem de Kooning Academy



University of the Arts London



LUCA School of Arts

WE ARE LOOKING FOR STUDENTS WHO:

- Have already taken on leadership roles, either within your university or another institution
- Are interested in collaborating and networking internationally
- Have a strong interest in collective intelligence and collaborative problem-solving
- Are curious about higher arts education systems and how to navigate their challenges and complexities in times of rapid change

WHO CAN APPLY?

Students from ELIA member institutions at any level (bachelor, master, or PhD) are eligible to apply for the student bursaries.

Important: Due to the limited time before the event, students applying for bursaries must hold the necessary documentation to enter Switzerland without requiring a visa. Please ensure your travel documentation allows for visa-free entry before applying for financial support.

Students should provide the following in their application:

- Contact details
- Institution details and proof of enrolment
- Evidence of visa-free entry to Switzerland
- Biography
- Motivation to join the Symposium
- Any relevant experiences or projects

Submission deadline: 15 September 2025

APPLICATIONS must be completed in English using this [online form](#); any APPLICATIONS not following these requirements will not be considered.

For any questions, please feel free to reach out to ELIA Conference Manager Janja Škerget at janja.skerget@elia-artschools.org

Photo credit: Tom Cox @ ELIA Leadership Symposium 2023

