

### **3.1 Our principles of Governance**

In accordance with our mission, ICD Business School is committed to upholding the following six principles in all aspects of our academic and corporate governance.

#### **3.1.1 Student-centred**

Academic and corporate decision-making will always reflect the interests of learners and the maintenance of academic standards. The college will promote and develop a student-centred learning environment - and teaching and learning culture - and will involve learners as partners in its educational provision and governance. Academic council and Governing Body will also be committed to the continuous enhancement of the college's academic and pastoral supports, and of the learning opportunities offered to its students.

#### **3.1.2 Academic independence**

As a small, independent provider, ICD Business School has a particular obligation to guarantee the separation of academic and corporate decision-making. As such, its governance must be designed and implemented to ensure that Academic Council and its subcommittees have the responsibility and authority to control the academic affairs of the college and discharge their other duties free of undue commercial considerations and corporate influence. These principles of separation and independence shall extend beyond the tripartite relationship between the college management team, governing body, and academic council to encompass all matters relating to the protection of the integrity of academic processes and standards. Trust and respect for the professional judgement of academic staff members, external examiners, and the external academic council member will be at the heart of the college's governance.

#### **3.1.3 Accountability & transparency**

The core principles of transparency and accountability will guide all of ICD's engagements with internal and external stakeholders. We will engage in transparent decision-making, communication, and the timely disclosure of clear, factual information which accurately reflects the position and practice of the college. Governing body and academic council will ensure that the college meets all of its legal and regulatory reporting and quality assurance obligations and that all forms of external review are approached with due diligence and care, and in a spirit of openness and good faith. The

college will also ensure that key information – about both its educational provision, and its quality assurance procedures and evaluations – will be made publicly available to internal stakeholders (including learners) and external stakeholders, and this information will be accurate, objective, easily accessible and up to date.

#### **3.1.4 A culture of Self-Monitoring & Improvement**

In addition to its quality assurance obligations, ICD Business School will promote a culture of continuous and rigorous self-monitoring and evaluation oriented towards the enhancement of its policies and processes, learning environment, teaching and learning strategies, programme performance, and institutional management standards. This will entail the periodic, critical review and analysis of the effectiveness of the college's educational provision *and* its quality assurance system and the development of indicators and measures of quality to guide future self-evaluations. In order to provide a firm basis for sustained change and self-improvement, governing body and academic council will act meaningfully in response to the college's self-monitoring and evaluation findings and will be accountable through clear, transparent, and documented decision-making and follow-up. Commitment to quality enhancement and improvement are in practice central to ICD's corporate and academic governance.

#### **3.1.5 An inclusive quality culture**

In addition to designating, documenting and communicating the roles and positions explicitly responsible for QA, ICD will promote quality - for all of its staff and learners – as a way of life. Quality assurance and enhancement will be integrated into all of the normal activities of the college and academic governance and decision-making will be undertaken in a manner that is inclusive, participatory, and representative.

#### **3.1.6 Internal Control & Risk Management**

ICD's governing body will be responsible for ensuring that the college is prudently financially managed, and that there are effective procedures in place for the identification, management, and mitigation of risk. The college will regularly evaluate its financial position to ensure that it has a sustainable resource base for continued provision and will have established arrangements in place for the protection of all enrolled learners. The Governing Body will make certain that periodic reviews are undertaken to assess the business case both for the sustainability of current provision

and for any new programme development or related initiatives, and will consult with and report to Academic Council on these matters as a matter of principle.