



École supérieure d'art  
(ÉSAC / Cambrai)  
France



# The École supérieure d'art de Cambrai



The École supérieure d'art de Cambrai (ÉSAC) is an institution of higher education placed under the pedagogical supervision of the French Ministry of Culture. This public establishment of cultural cooperation (EPCC) delivers a specialized artistic education in graphic design, develops a research activity and offers a range of cultural activities open to the greatest number of people. The studies lead to the award of two diplomas:

## **National Art Diploma (DNA, Bachelor), 3 years**

This initial and generalist 1st cycle training is broken down as follows:

- Initiation and improvement in the various practices and techniques that cover the field of communication: graphic design, drawing, digital creation, photography, publishing, printing (engraving, silk-screening, riso, 3D), video, typography... but also performances and installations in space.
- The teaching of the graphic design project, practiced in small groups ( $\pm 15$  students), according to defined specifications.
- Ambitious creations in a real context, thanks to the many partnerships with local or regional cultural structures.

## **National Superior Diploma of Plastic Expression (DNSEP, Master), 2 years**

This complementary and specialised 2nd cycle training programme unfolds as follows:

- The teaching of the graphic design project, practised in small groups ( $\pm 10$  students), allows for the development of strong personal trajectories: methodologies, approaches and graphic writing are the result of an individual and singular construction. The projects are developed in realistic conditions, confronting the student with the challenges of graphic design: a commission, a context and an audience.
- Introduction to research, through the writing of a personal thesis in Master 1 and participation in the school's research programmes. The students are involved in two research programmes (graphic design in collections and archiving of digital creation), conducted in partnership with public, regional and national institutions.
- The development of a personal graphic project, at the end of the course, the specifications of which are entirely defined by the student and then carried out in all the school's workshops: prototype, distribution, etc.

The diplomas are anchored in a professional reality since the teaching team is made up of graphic designers, artists and theorists (critics and art historians) who are recognised in their field, in touch with professions that are constantly evolving. The school regularly welcomes external personalities: cycles of conferences, intensive workshops, seminars, master classes, research and creation workshops, professionalization. In addition to this, there are events programmed by the school (exhibitions, publications), exhibition visits and study trips.

#### **Closer ties with the Hauts-de-France Polytechnic University (UPHF)**

Since 2018, the ÉSAC has become a component institution of the experimental Hauts-de-France Polytechnic University (UPHF), while retaining its specific legal and financial structures. This rapprochement allows it to rely on the UPHF's Department of International Relations and a joint Erasmus+ (planned for February 2022).

#### **Regional educational network**

In the context of the regional offer, the ÉSAC stands out for its communication option, but maintains pedagogical links with each of the 3 surrounding Art Schools in the Hauts-de-France region (ÉSAD Valenciennes, ÉSA Dunkerque-Tourcoing, ÉSAD Amiens). These links have enabled it to pool a range of resources and to establish cooperation between teaching and research: the research axis "Hyper.Local" with ESAD Valenciennes and ESA Dunkerque-Tourcoing, and the "open(RE)source" professional training programme with ESAD Amiens

#### **National educational network**

The School is part of the national network of Art Schools (ÉSA) and is an active member of ANdÉA (National Association of Art Schools). The ÉSAC also maintains pedagogical cooperation with various schools, including the ÉSA de Caen, for the cross-curricular workshop Images en réaction(s)".

#### **<http://www.esac-cambrai.net/>**

The website presents the latest news, particularly in terms of cultural dissemination conferences, exhibitions and events (inside and outside the school). The Covid context has restricted the number of these activities in 2020/2021...

#### **@esac\_cambrai**

The school's Instagram account reflects the daily life of the school: educational projects, events, student life...

#### **Persons in charge of the school**

- Sandra Chamaret, Director  
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- Stéphanie Mahieu, Head of International Relations, Teacher  
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- Anne-Sophie Haegeman, Administrator  
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## International Relations



### **Erasmus+: a new stage**

With the recent appointment of a new management team, the school is undergoing a strategic change in its international relations. The ambition is to proceed cautiously, in stages, to build few partnerships, adapted to the scale of our institution (80 students).

A new Erasmus+ charter was obtained last December, for the 2021/2027 period. We will participate in the UPHF Erasmus+ Consortium, which will allow us to share administrative and financial management.

### **Teaching mobility**

We wish to establish relationships with art schools by involving our team so that there is real sharing, understanding of each other's backgrounds and complementarity of teaching.

Teaching mobility (incoming and outgoing) is actively sought in order to create a dynamic of discovery and exchanges in pedagogical and artistic practices.

### **Incoming mobility / your students with us**

We offer one formula for hosting your students: Bachelor's degree / year 2. Ideally, incoming mobility takes place in the second semester.

### **Outgoing mobility / our students with you**

We offer one departure formula to our students:  
Bachelor's degree / year 2: 2-month sequence in February/March

## Specific educational modules



The ÉSAC is working on a new pedagogical model, active at the beginning of the 2021/22 school year and oriented towards the international scene. These courses are designed as much for our students, who will complete a full cycle of several years, and for your students, who may join us for two months. We detail below three specific modules, among a more extensive educational offer.

### **Practical courses in English and Spanish**

New practical courses will be taught in English (photography, image culture, computer languages), according to the principle of EMI (English as a Medium of Instruction). On the other hand, following a reflection on multilingualism in Europe, we will offer courses in Spanish. This will also facilitate exchanges with Spanish partners.

### **Workshops Tools**

The ÉSAC has numerous and very well equipped production workshops: engraving, screen printing, Fab Lab (laser engraving and 3D printing), large format digital printing, editing, riso, photo and video studio...

Every year, during the month of March, the school organises a cross-cutting week of intensive workshops where students from all years mix. The general pedagogical axis is formal and conceptual experimentation using a machine or from a machine or a technique: a “tool”. Teachers and students explore and produce graphic objects that shake up the manufacturing process.

### **Discovery trip to Paris**

Paris is only 2 hours away from Cambrai. Each year, the teaching team organises a trip to discover the French capital, through the main museums, private galleries and temporary exhibitions that are in the news in contemporary visual arts.