

What is the Specialised Baccalaureate in Arts and Design (*maturité spécialisée arts et design - MSAD*) ?

This one-year course is designed for the holders of a general education certificate from a Vaud high school (*gymnase*), wishing to access the admission procedure for an HES Bachelor programme in Design and Fine Arts.

Does successful completion of the Foundation Year guarantee automatic admission to a Bachelor programme?

No. Admission to Bachelor programmes is subject to an aptitude test.

However, the success rate of candidates who pass the Foundation Year is high thanks to the solid basic training in Art and Design provided during that year.

May I sit the entrance exam for admission to the Foundation Year course without a Baccalaureate/high school diploma?

For candidates demonstrating extraordinary artistic talent, ECAL may exceptionally waive any of the qualification requirements to access the entrance exam for the Foundation Year.

However, candidates must first send the ECAL Director a written application with a portfolio. If the waiver is granted, the admission procedure is similar to that followed by the other candidates.

With a French Baccalaureate, do I need a minimum number of points to sit the entrance exam for the Foundation Year?

In principle, the minimum average grade required for a *Bac S* is 10/20, and 12/20 for a *Bac E* or *L*.

Once admitted, may I change my major during the academic year if I realise that my chosen subject does not suit me?

You may apply to the Head of the Foundation Year for a change in major by the end of the autumn term at the latest. Results obtained at that stage are often decisive.

Any change in major is subject to approval by the Head and an interview with the management.