

FAQ Foundation Year

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 secondary school (*gymnase*), ideally with a fine arts major, wishing to access the admission procedure for an HES Bachelor programme in Design and Fine Arts.

To earn the specialised baccalaureate, students must obtain a passing grade in courses and workshops dispensed by ECAL and their specialised baccalaureate paper must be validated.

How do I register for the specialised baccalaureate?

The procedure for students wishing to register for the MSAD is as follows:

- Inquire at the school you are attending and register on vd.ch;
- Complete the online registration form on the ECAL website;
- Prepare a personal application for one of the options – Fine Arts, Film Studies, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Media & Interaction Design, Photography – and deposit it at ECAL;

Students whose applications have been selected will be called for an interview with the ECAL jury.

The decision to accept or turn down the application is made after the interview with the jury.

For information on deadlines and various other instructions, refer to the websites of the [Etat de Vaud](http://Etat.de.Vaud) and ECAL.

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 (entrance exam). However, the success rate of applicants who have successfully completed the Foundation Year is high thanks to the solid basic training in art and design they receive during that year.

Can I apply for admission to the Foundation Year even if I don't have the requisite diploma?

Yes. ECAL may exceptionally accept applicants demonstrating extraordinary artistic talent even if they do not meet the admission requirements. However, the applicants must first send the ECAL Director a written waiver request.

What does the waiver request include?

The applicant submits an application comprising a letter of motivation, a CV and a portfolio. If the request is accepted, he/she can then register for the Foundation Year entrance exam, in the option he/she has chosen.

I have a French Baccalaureate. What conditions do I have to meet to take part in the Foundation Year entrance exam?

Bac S are recognized without special distinction. Bac L are accepted without special distinction, but with mathematics (including the exam) in the final two years (*première* and *terminale*). Bac ES are accepted with an average of 14/20.

éc a l

Once admitted, can I change my major during the academic year if I realise that I am not happy with my initial choice?

Yes. You can apply to the Head of the Foundation Year for a change in major by the end of the autumn term at the latest. The results obtained by that point are often decisive. Any change in major is subject to approval by the Head and an interview with management.

Can I register for two majors when I apply for admission to the Foundation Year?

No. You may register for only one major. Don't hesitate to contact the ECAL Secretariat if you have any questions.