

# Guide for incoming students





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Located in the heart of the Latin area, Nîmes School of Fine Arts (Esban, École supérieure des beaux-arts de Nîmes) enjoys an exceptional location and heritage that give a natural opening and build a close cooperation with the Mediterranean countries but also the whole of Europe and beyond.

Esban has, for several years, a proactive policy in favour of the development of international relations and, in particular, obtained the Erasmus Charter 2007-2014 and this year, the Erasmus + Charter 2014-2020.

The international strategy of the school favours:

- the greater mobility of students, teachers and staff
- the involvement of the institution in the creation of a European space for art teaching at higher education level
- the wider recognition of the school and its participation in a Mediterranean, European and Worldwide dynamic

This strategy is evident in various different actions (partnerships, English classes, educational trips abroad), which are developed in many fields such as training or research.

To encourage mobility, the school participates in European Community exchange programmes and is linked to international exchange agencies such as Erasmus, OFAJ (for exchanges between France and Germany) and soon CREPUQ (Québec-France). The students also can take part in training courses or educational trips organised with other institutions of higher education in Europe, Asia and Middle East.

In order to develop its courses, the school is also working on reinforcing partnerships with associated institutions through a proactive policy in favour of motilities for teachers and staff but also by implementing joint pedagogical projects with her partners.

The school is a member of national and international cultural networks (ELIA, Art Accord France, ANDEA, CampusArt) while its teachers take part to the research group of the school called Pra / Thex. Through these partnerships, the school is aiming to help build the European higher education scene of the future.

Finally, the school is working with renowned international institutions such as Universities, Grandes Ecoles, Museums, Cultural Institutions, Art Centres: Carré d'Art – Musée d'art contemporain, FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon, the University of Nîmes and Montpellier, Fine Arts School in Montpellier and Perpignan, the Ecole des Mines d'Ales, the Musée Régional d'art Contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon in Sérignan.

# School and studies

Nîmes School of Fine Arts is a higher education establishment devoted to academic art teaching in a European dimension.

Its primary missions are:

- artistic and cultural education
- initial and continued education in art field
- scientific and artistic research
- international cooperation
- the circulation of culture and artistic information
- the reinforcement and development of partnerships in artistic and professional fields

Affiliated to the European system of Degree, Master, Doctorate, the five years of study in art schools cover two stages:

The Programme Phase (3 years) corresponds to the semesters 1 to 6, validated by the DNAP option Art (the National Diploma of Plastic Arts, Art option). From the discovery of tools and means of expression to the emergence of a personal work; students go deeper into the studio practice and develop a personal approach while participating in a consistent offer of class, session of research and creation (Ateliers de Recherche et Création) and workshops led by guests artists.

The Project Phase (2 years) corresponds to the following 4 semesters, validated by the DNSEP (the National Diploma of Higher Education in Plastic Art Expressivity, Art option). Teaching

focuses on the development of personal research of the students and on the writing of a MA dissertation. Workshops, special sessions of research and production, study tours are planned during these years.

In Nîmes, the MA is characterised by an intense research on the Exhibition and its practice. These topics are developed thanks to our partnerships with Carré d'art – Contemporary Art Museum in Nîmes and Frac Languedoc-Roussillon so students can experiment the Exhibition as artists, but also as curators or producers.

At Esban students also participate to some cross-teachings such as artists' talks, conferences of history of arts, visits to exhibitions, study trips, workshops and master classes...

During their 2nd and 4th year they do some internships in order to discover the professional world (art centres, Frac, museums, galleries, artists, residences, publishing...).

Esban diplomas are registered and recognised by the French Ministry for Culture and Communications. Since exchange students are not officially enrolled at the school, they cannot be awarded its diplomas.

You can read more about Esban program of studies and organisation in our Catalogue of courses.

## **International exchange programmes and networks**

Other partnerships and agreements are in progress.

### **Erasmus +**

Académie des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Tournai, Tournai, Belgium

Accademia di Belle Arti di Palermo, Palermo, Italy

Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, Florence, Italy

Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, Venice, Italy

BKF University of Applied Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

École nationale supérieure des arts visuels de La Cambre, Bruxelles, Belgium

Facultad de Bellas Artes, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Facultad de Bellas Artes, Universidad de Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain

Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno University of Technology, Brno, Czech Republic

Faculty of Fine Arts Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Hochschule für Bildende Künste Dresden, Dresden, Germany

Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest, Hungary

Southampton Solent University, Southampton, England

Università IUAV di Venezia, Venice, Italy

### **Other partners**

Cairo Faculty of Fine Arts, Cairo, Egypt

Luxun Academy of Fine Arts, Shenyang, China

### **Networks currently adhered to by the institution**

ELIA Artschools, [www.elia-artschools.org](http://www.elia-artschools.org)

PARADOX Fine Art, [paradoxfineart.net](http://paradoxfineart.net)

Art Accord France, [www.artaccordfrance.fr](http://www.artaccordfrance.fr)

CampusArt, [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)

# Erasmus, how does it work?

The Erasmus program permits the selected students from European Universities holding inter-institutional agreements with the Nimes School of Fine Arts to study for a full academic year or a semester at our School.

Students hailing from the associated universities will receive a warm welcome proportional to the dimension of the school: 140 students, 22 teachers, an international office... As soon as they arrive, they will benefit from personalised support and accompaniment that will allow them to undertake their activities in the best possible conditions.

## International Office

The International Office is open from Monday to Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm.

International Relations Coordinator:  
Lola Wohlfahrt [lola.wohlfahrt@ville-nimes.fr](mailto:lola.wohlfahrt@ville-nimes.fr)  
0033 (0) 4 66 76 72 12

## Nominations

Students don't apply directly for admission to Esban. The International Office at the home university is in charge of sending the student's application to Esban.

Details of nominated students must be emailed or posted by the International Office of the sending institution to Esban International Relations Coordinator.

This email/letter must necessarily include the following data:

1. Full name of the student
2. Email address
3. Area of study
4. Study Level (Undergraduate or Master) + the number of ECTS that the student should have

obtained before departure  
5. Period of study (Fall Semester, Spring Semester, whole year)

Nominations must conform to the terms of each bilateral agreement with regard to the area of studies, level of studies and number of students. Any change to these conditions must have our prior approval.

Nomination deadlines:

For Fall Semester or the whole year: May 15<sup>th</sup>  
For Spring Semester: November 15<sup>th</sup>

## Applications

Upon reception of the nomination sent by the Home University, Esban will send e-mail to the student and to his/her International Office containing all detailed information about application procedures.

The following documents have to be sent by Post and e-mail to Esban:

- Completed application form
- CV (English or French)
- Motivation letter (English or French)
- A printed Portfolio (max. DIN A4, about 10 to 15 works, labelled with size, material, etc.) & a digital version by e-mail.
- two passport photographs

These documents are required for the enrolment of exchange students at the Nimes School of Fine Arts.

Application deadlines:

For Fall Semester or the whole year: May 30<sup>th</sup>  
For Spring Semester: November 30<sup>th</sup>

## Admission procedure

Admission is decided by the Esban



International Affairs Commission formed by the Director, the Director of Studies and minimum 1 teacher per cycle. They decide together which level and which course concerns the student and who will be his counselling teacher amongst the teaching team and his tutor amongst the students.

An acceptance letter is posted by the International Office to the home university and is sent to the student by e-mail:

No later than June 30<sup>th</sup> for Fall Semester or whole year mobility

No later than December 20<sup>th</sup> for Spring Semester mobility

As soon as the student is accepted, he/she will receive by e-mail useful information regarding courses, accommodation etc.

### **Learning Agreement**

Nîmes School of Fine Arts requires the Learning Agreement prior to the beginning of the stay. Therefore, the home institution will have to send the learning agreement for approval and signature after receiving the acceptance letter. Exceptionally, it can be agreed after the student's arrival in Nîmes.

# Studying in Nîmes

## Academic calendar

The academic year is organized in 2 semesters. The Fall Semester begins in September and ends early January. The Spring Semester begins mid-January and ends in June. The courses usually last all year and exams are held at the end of each semester.

## Study plan

Students will attend the courses included in the study plan of the official degree programme. They can choose some ARC, Ateliers de Recherche et Création. Students should consult Esban Catalogue of Courses and Guide of Studies where they can find useful information on subjects, professors, activities, etc... These documents are updated every year and can be found on Esban website, [www.esba-nimes.fr](http://www.esba-nimes.fr).

## Welcome Day

Incoming students are invited to take part to the Welcome Day held at the very beginning of each the semester. They will be introduced to the staff, to the teachers and they will visit the different sites and workshops of the school.

## Counselling Teacher and Tutor

Each incoming student has a counselling teacher and a tutor chosen amongst the students of his/her level. The counselling teacher and the tutor are mentioned in the official Letter of Acceptance. The teacher /tutor will help the student to find his/her courses, lectures and projects. The students can also ask at the International Relations Coordinator for further advice.

## Workshops, library and studios

The School offers a large choice of workshops

and studios (printmaking, sculpture, video, computers, etc.) where expert tutors guide the students in their creations and productions.

Students also have private and shared studios for their projects. As soon as the year starts, a workspace is assigned to the students. They can go there from 8am to 8pm.

Esban library offers a certain number of books and magazines in English. An agreement allows Esban students to register with the library of the University of Nîmes. Students also have access to the documentation center of Carré d'art - Museum of Contemporary Art.

## French language entry requirements

The language of instruction at the Nîmes School of Fine Arts is French.

Students must have sufficient French skills before coming in order to be able to follow lectures.

The TCF- Test de Connaissance du Français is test of proficiency in French and it's a preliminary requirement for non-French-speaking applicants. Organized by the International Centre for Educational Studies - CIEP ([www.ciep.fr](http://www.ciep.fr)). The TCF - costs around €90.

The level B2 is required in all components (reading, listening, writing and speaking). However the Esban accepts, for the Erasmus students only, letters from relevant staff (i.e. language/course tutors) stating that the student has a sufficient understanding to be able to be taught, comfortably, in French. This should also state that the student could communicate fluently in French.

### **French course**

Esban offers free French course to its Erasmus students (45h/semester). This course takes place at the University of Nîmes (10 min. walk from the school). Once enrolled, the students pass a placement test in order to organize the different groups according to language level. Upon completion of the course, the student will receive a certificate if he/she has attended at least 90% of the classes.

### **Student card**

The student card is handed out to students once they arrive. The student card will offer cultural incentives in Nîmes as well as discounted or free entries to National Museums.

### **Health Insurance**

Students have to prove that they have a health insurance; this is a mandatory requirement to receive the student card.

Health Care: students from the EU and Switzerland are entitled to medical care in the medical centres and hospitals that form part of or have agreements with the French National Health System (Sécurité Sociale). To be able to use these services, students must apply for the European Health Card at the health service offices in their country of origin. Foreign students from other countries than the above mentioned or who are not covered by national health plans, must have private health

insurance.

### **Repatriation insurance**

A proof of having taken out repatriation insurance is a mandatory requirement to receive the student card.

Before paying this insurance, students should check with their bank or agencies to which they are affiliated if they do not already have this insurance.

### **Third party insurance**

Students have to be properly insured during their stay in France. Third-party liability insurance is a mandatory requirement to receive the student card.

Many companies are offering this type of insurance.

### **Visa**

Non-European citizens must provide a photocopy of their 'cartes de séjour' (residence cards) at the time of their registration.

'Carte de séjour' renewal can be done at the Préfecture du Gard,

10 avenue Feuchères 30 045 Nîmes cedex 9,

+ 33 (0)4 66 36 40 40

[www.languedoc-roussillon.pref.gouv.fr](http://www.languedoc-roussillon.pref.gouv.fr)

Please note: the acquirement delay is one month.

# Living in Nîmes

## Accommodation

Exchange students can find an accommodation in one of the 5 residence halls in Nîmes.

For those who cannot or do not want to take advantage of the halls of residence, they can consult the Youth Information Centre:

Bureau d'Information Jeunesse  
Place de l'Horloge, Nîmes.  
Monday to Friday 10 am-6 pm.  
00 33 (0)4 66 27 76 96  
info line: 00 33 (0)4 66 27 76 80

Students can also ask the Esban International Office to:

- display their ad in the school hall
- get in touch with outgoing students who want to share or sublet their room/ their apartment.

## University housing

The CROUS - Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Sociales, is the organisation in charge of all public student dorms in Nîmes. The organisation is self-organized and independent from Esban.

Erasmus students have priority access to housing with the CROUS on condition that they remain in Nîmes the whole year (there may be exceptions in case of cancellations).

The International Office of the Nîmes School of Fine Arts can assist the student in his /her correspondence with the CROUS and try to make the process less complicated for him/her.

If interested, the student should contact the CROUS as soon as he knows he/she has been accepted at Esban.

## CROUS Office in Nîmes

Open Monday to Friday, from 8.30 to 12 AM and from 1 to 4 PM

Cité Matisse

1, rue Matisse CS 93022  
30 908 Nîmes Cedex 2 - FRANCE

00 33 (0)4 66 64 18 61

Fax. + 33 (0)4 66 23 10 42

*cu.nîmes@crous-montpellier.fr*

The CROUS provides rooms or small apartments in student's halls of residence. The average price of 9m<sup>2</sup>rooms (with shared bathroom and kitchen) is 170 Euros per month. The average price of 20m<sup>2</sup>apartments (with private bathroom and kitchen) is 350 Euros per month.

Rooms are equipped with beds and wardrobes (bed linen and towels are not provided). The kitchen is shared with the other students and they should bring their own kitchen utensils.

Studios are equipped beds and wardrobes (sheets and towels are not provided) and a separate kitchen. Students must bring their own kitchen utensils.

There are 5 halls of residence in Nîmes. All of them are located nearby a tram or a bus station.

Cité Universitaire Matisse

Résidence Georges Besse

Résidence Tour Magne

Résidence Clérisseau

Résidence Hoche

We recommend the student dorm at Résidence Tour Magne that is located in a unique setting and also very popular among the students.

For the Résidence Tour Magne, please contact Christine Muscio – 0033(0)4.66.64.18.61 - christine.muscio@crous-montpellier.fr

Please note:

- Students must purchase a home insurance, pay for the water to the CROUS and subscribe to a personal contract for electricity and Internet.
- As soon as possible (preferably before June 30) students must pay a deposit of 150 Euros for a room /381 Euros for a studio. The deposit will be returned once the student leaves the room (if there is no damage and if the student has paid all his rents). As long as the student doesn't pay the deposit, the room/ the studio is not booked.
- Because Esban acts as a guarantor for the payment of rent for the Erasmus students living at the residence hall, it takes the right to claim reimbursement of unpaid rents to the student and to inform the partner university.
- The student must start paying the rent from September 1, even if he/she arrives later.
- Students have to adjust their arrival to the opening hours of the front desk (generally from Monday to Friday)
- It is possible that there is no electricity in the apartment when the student arrives. The installation of electricity can take between 3 days and a week and costs 36 Euros (an intervention in the following 24h costs 165 Euros).
- Except in very special cases, it is not possible to interrupt the lease before its term.

### **Housing benefit**

With the CAF – Caisse d'Allocations Familiales, you may be eligible for housing benefit if:

- You are officially renting, co-habiting or sub-letting,
- You are living in an apartment, a university residence, a hostel, a furnished flat, a hotel, a room in a private home,
- Your accommodation is well-maintained and a minimum size of 9 m<sup>2</sup> (single) or 16 m<sup>2</sup> (double)

Visit [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr) to estimate your monthly amount and apply online.

- The amount of housing benefit awarded depends on your taxable income in France or abroad, on the type of your accommodation and the amount of rent paid (monthly or termly).
- If you had very little or no income, your benefit is calculated on a flat-rate basis depending on your situation.
- Only means-tested grants and Erasmus grants are non-taxable.
- You can claim housing benefit the month after you satisfy all the criteria for applying. If you apply late, your claim will not be backdated.
- You must make your claim as soon as possible
- You must ask the owner the lease and the rent receipts.
- If you are claiming for the first time, you must send a paper copy of your online application to the CAF, dated and signed.
- If you change accommodation, start a new job, move, etc., you must immediately inform the CAF. If you forget to do this quickly, you will have to pay back the extra benefit you received.

Application can be done on [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr). When downloading your form, the final page contains your Internet application number and the list of documents you will need to show to the CAF. It is date stamped so that your claim will be processed correctly.

### **Cafeterias**

Students can go to the university cafeterias in the city, managed by the CROUS.

Restaurant Universitaire du Parc, 45 A Rue Ménard, 04 66 67 36 35

Restaurant Universitaire Saint-Césaire, 380 Chemin du Moulin à Vent, 04 66 68 70 20

Restaurant Universitaire, 1 Rue du Docteur Georges Salan, 04 66 36 84 67

## Bank account

It is easy to open a bank account in one of the many banks operating in the city with a passport or an ID card. The International Relations Coordinator of the Nîmes School of Fine Arts can assist the student in this procedure.

## Public transport

### Bus

In Nîmes, urban transport is carried out by TANGO network, [www.tangobus.fr](http://www.tangobus.fr)  
In the surroundings (Gard region), transport by bus is carried out by EDGARD, [www.edgard-transport.fr](http://www.edgard-transport.fr). All journeys cost 1,5€.

### Train

By train, Nîmes is 2h50 from Paris, 1h20 from Lyon, 1h from Marseille or Sète, 30 minutes from Montpellier and Arles, 3h30 from Barcelona and Geneva...  
Visit National Railways Company website to plan your trip: [www.sncf.com](http://www.sncf.com)

## Airports

Aéroport de Nîmes: [www.nimes-aeroport.fr](http://www.nimes-aeroport.fr)  
(30 min. from the city centre by car)  
Aéroport de Montpellier: [www.montpellier.aeroport.fr](http://www.montpellier.aeroport.fr) (1h from the city centre by car)  
Aéroport de Marseille: [www.marseille.aeroport.fr](http://www.marseille.aeroport.fr)  
(1h30 from the city centre by car and by train)  
If no one picks you, be careful to look at the possible connections between the airport and Nîmes.

## Climate and location

In Nîmes we have a Mediterranean climate without extreme hot or cold periods. There are four definite seasons, with temperatures sometimes in excess of 30°C during the summer and averaging 0°C to -2°C accompanied by rare snow in winter.

Sited in the middle of nature and warmed by the southern sun, Nîmes has outstanding quality of life. You can hang out with friends in the nice gardens, terraces and squares. The beaches and

seaside are close to the city and you can easily reach Camargue by train or bus. The countryside is also very attractive for hiking, for its rivers and others outdoor activities.

Nîmes has a rich past and history (romans vestiges such as Maison Carrée, Arènes, Pont du Gard) and a dynamic contemporary art scene thanks to Carré d'art - Museum of contemporary art and the galleries of the city. You can also enjoy contemporary music, dance and theatre at Nîmes Theatre, Paloma or Periscope.  
Nîmes is very close to other cities with an extraordinary cultural life: Arles, Avignon, Montpellier, Aix-en-Provence...

## Cultural life

They are many cultural places and festivals in and around Nîmes. Here is a non-exhaustive list.

In Nîmes :

Carré d'Art – Musée d'Art Contemporain à Nîmes [www.carreartmusee.com](http://www.carreartmusee.com)

Musée des Beaux Arts de la Ville de Nîmes [www.nimes.fr/index.php?id=279](http://www.nimes.fr/index.php?id=279)

Paloma (live music) [paloma-nimes.fr](http://paloma-nimes.fr)

Anima/Zo (arts) [www.zoanima.fr](http://www.zoanima.fr)

La vigie (Contemporary art) [lavigieartcontemporain.unblog.fr](http://lavigieartcontemporain.unblog.fr)

Théâtre de Nîmes [www.theatredenimes.com](http://www.theatredenimes.com)

Périscope (theatre) [www.theatreleperiscope.fr](http://www.theatreleperiscope.fr)

Other cities:

Musée Fabre à Montpellier [museefabre.montpellier-agglo.com](http://museefabre.montpellier-agglo.com)

La Panacée, centre de culture contemporaine  
[www.montpellier.fr/3215-panacee-centre-art-contemporain.htm](http://www.montpellier.fr/3215-panacee-centre-art-contemporain.htm)

Festival Montpellier Danse  
[www.montpellierdanse.com](http://www.montpellierdanse.com)

Collection Lambert à Avignon  
[www.collectionlambert.fr](http://www.collectionlambert.fr)

Festival d'Avignon (theatre)  
[www.festival-avignon.com](http://www.festival-avignon.com)

Centre régional d'Art Contemporain à Sète  
[crac.languedocroussillon.fr](http://crac.languedocroussillon.fr)

Musée Régional d'Art Contemporain à Sérignan  
[mrac.languedocroussillon.fr](http://mrac.languedocroussillon.fr)

Musée d'Art Moderne de Céret  
[www.musee-ceret.com](http://www.musee-ceret.com)

Festival de photographies : Les Rencontres d'Arles  
[www.rencontres-arles.com](http://www.rencontres-arles.com)

Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles  
[www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org](http://www.fondation-vincentvangogh-arles.org)

Opening soon: LUMA Foundation in Arles

Festival Visa pour l'Image de Perpignan  
[www.visapourlimage.com](http://www.visapourlimage.com)

### **Cost of living**

Living in Nîmes costs around 350€ per month for the rent, 200 € for the food + 200 € for telephone, electricity and water, visits, nights out...

A baguette costs 0.9€  
A beer costs 2.5€  
A coffee costs 1.5€  
A diner in town, around 20€

# Contacts

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0033(0)4 66 21 38 73/65 05

Maison du Poète – 9 rue de la poudrière

30 000 Nîmes

**Gerard Montesinos, Technician for volume/sculpture**

from Monday to Friday – 0033(0)4 66 27 63 93

Ateliers du Mont Duplan – Rue André Girard

30 000 Nîmes

**Nicolas Grosmaire, Teaching assistant**

*nicolas.grosmaire@ville-nimes.fr*

2,5 days per week – 0033(0)4 66 76 32 18

**Frederic Gleyze, Teaching assistant for video/sound –**

*foxred@neuf.fr*

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**Isabelle Quaglia – librarian**

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# Useful documents

**Catalogue of courses/ Catalogue des cours**

Download it [here](#)

**Studies Guide / Livret des études**

Download it [here](#)

**Application Form**

Find this document below



## Student application form

This document must be returned by Post and e-mail to Esban International Office.  
You also have to enclose your CV, motivation letter, printed Portfolio and two passport photographs.

**Academic Year: 201 –201**

Fall Semester     Spring Semester

Field of studies: .....

### **Sending Institution**

Name and full address: .....

.....  
.....

Departmental coordinator, full name, e-mail and phone number: .....

.....  
.....

Institutional coordinator, full name, e-mail and phone number: .....

.....  
.....

Diploma/degree prepared: .....

Current year of study: .....

Number of ECTS that you should achieve during your mobility: .....

### **Personal Data**

First Name: .....

Last Name: .....

Gender:  Male     Female

Date of Birth: .....

Place of Birth: .....

Nationality: .....

Phone number: (with country and area code) .....

E-mail: .....

Address for correspondence: .....

.....

Brief description of the reasons why you want to study at Esban: .....  
.....  
.....

**French Language Proficiency**

Mother tongue: .....

Language of instruction at Home Institution (if different): .....

Are you currently studying French?  yes  no

Did you obtain official French language qualifications?  yes  no

Do you have sufficient knowledge in French to follow lectures?  yes  no

Do you need extra preparation in French to be able to follow lectures?  yes  no

**Other Information**

Have you ever studied abroad?  yes  no

If yes, when and where? .....

Do you have health insurance?\*  yes  no

Do you have the European Health Insurance Card?\*  yes  no

Do you have a third party insurance?\*  yes  no

\*These documents must be submitted at the latest on your arrival.

Do you have a disability that may affect your studies or which might require special arrangements or facilities?  yes  no

**Student**

**Sending Institution**

**Receiving Institution**

Date

Date

The student is accepted  
at our Institution

Signature

Signature of the Representative  
+ Stamp

The student is NOT accepted  
at our Institution

Date

Signature of the Representative  
+ Stamp

## Person in charge of the publication

Christelle Kirchstetter,  
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ésban



Erasmus+

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