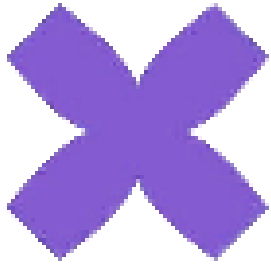


WELCOME GUIDE FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS





To train independent creators, artists and designers who are committed to artistic research and capable of developing an original and distinctive practice tailored to contemporary international challenges in art and design.



Discover EBABX
Study at EBABX
Plan Your Stay
Discover Bordeaux

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Ebabx in figures

- . Approximately 250 students
- . 10 per cent international students
- . Two 5-year study programmes (3 + 2 years)
- . Two qualifications: the National Diploma in Art (DNA, first cycle) and the Higher National Diploma in Visual Arts (DNSEP, second cycle)
- . 2 specialisations: Art or Design
- . 31 teaching staff; 2 teaching assistants; 10 technical staff (photography, video, sound, wood, metal, materials, ceramics, digital and models, digital technologies, IT, digital printing, large-format printing and screen printing)
- . 19 administrative staff and technical and maintenance staff
- . 2 buildings: the main school building and the annexe
- . 1 exhibition and experimental gallery, the EBABX gallery
- . 80 partnerships (businesses, cultural organisations, local stakeholders)
- . 58 partner institutions and universities in Europe and worldwide

DISCOVER EBABX

The school has around 250 Art and Design students and prepares them for the national DNA (Diplôme National d'Art – Bachelor's degree level, EQF6) and DNSEP (Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique – Master's degree level, EQF7) qualifications. Around 12 per cent of students are international, and come to study at the EBABX for a single semester or for the entire duration of their degree.

Teaching is delivered by artists, designers, theorists and researchers, teaching assistants and workshop technicians, all of whom are active in the professional world and support students across all disciplines throughout their course.

The EBABX also offers public courses (painting, drawing, life drawing, photography, sculpture, mixed media, etc.) to over 250 amateur students.

The institution is situated in the heart of the Sainte-Croix district, a leading centre for higher education in the arts (visual arts, music, dance, theatre), alongside the École du TNBA (theatre), the Pôle d'Enseignement Supérieur Musique et Danse (PESMD) Bordeaux Aquitaine and the Institut de Journalisme de Bordeaux Aquitaine (IJBA). The EBABX is also a partner of the CAPC Museum of Contemporary Art in Bordeaux, the Musée d'Aquitaine, the MADD Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, BAM Projects, POLA...

The school is a member of several networks: the 'Grand 8', which brings together art schools and preparatory classes in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, and the National Association of Art Schools (ANdÉA) at national level.

Since 2026, a comprehensive refurbishment of the premises has been underway, with a focus on accessibility and environmental sustainability.

In particular:

- The school is now heated by the metropolitan area's district heating network - replacing a gas-fired boiler;
- All existing light fittings have been replaced with LED lighting, reducing energy consumption by two-thirds;
- Once the ongoing roof renovation is complete, the roof will consist largely of solar slates, which will cover half of the school's electricity needs.

All of these renovation works will lead to a significant reduction in energy requirements and, consequently, in EBABX's greenhouse gas emissions.

From the 16th century to the present day, a long history of arts education in Bordeaux



Michel Eyquem de Montaigne

Statue by Nicolas MILHE, a contemporary sculptor from Bordeaux and lecturer at the EBABX,

Salle des Pas Perdus, Bordeaux Court of Appeal

The history of the EBABX is part of a long artistic and educational tradition, the origins of which date back to Michel de Montaigne, who is said to have envisaged, as early as 1584, the creation of a school in Bordeaux modelled on the Academy of Florence.

Officially founded two centuries later, the institution gradually took shape through the merger of the Academy of Painting, Sculpture and Civil and Naval Architecture with the municipal school of drawing - intended in particular for workers in the shipbuilding sector - before developing, from 1889 onwards, a curriculum combining fine arts, decorative arts and industrial arts.

This distinctive feature of Bordeaux, which has endured despite the separation of the architecture department in 1970, has helped to foster a culture of the visual arts, graphic design, publishing and new media, and has established dissemination and publication as key areas of artistic and educational research.

STUDY AT EBABX

Courses run from September to June, comprising approximately 25 hours of teaching per week, combining theoretical input with practical approaches, individual experimentation and group work.

Understanding the study programme structure

Art and Design options

Ebabx offers two degree programmes, Art and Design, organised into two cycles: Bachelor's (graduate - EQF6) and Master's (postgraduate - EQF7). These programmes combine practical work, technical skills and theoretical reflection, whilst encouraging experimentation, project work, work placements and international mobility.

In Art, the programme gradually develops a personal practice and a research-based approach, exploring a wide variety of media and contemporary practices.

In Design, the programme is based on a holistic and contextualised approach to projects, combining analysis, design and experimentation. At Master's level, it is divided into two specialisations: product, spatial, scenography and publishing design, and graphic design.

Shared 'cross-cycle' workspaces encourage exchange and collaboration between students from different levels and disciplines.

The ‘Parcours’ and ‘Plateformes’

The ‘Parcours’ and ‘Plateformes’ system is one of the distinctive pedagogical features of EBABX: the aim is to guide students gradually from a focus on collective experimentation and discovery at undergraduate level towards a process of personal research and creation at postgraduate level. The school thus maintains a strong culture of collaboration whilst allowing for increasingly individualised study pathways.

In Cycle 1 (Bachelor’s degree, years 1 to 3), students choose:

- 1 option: Art or Design
- 1 elective course in critical theory and the humanities
- 1 course in contemporary art history
- 1 foreign language course (English or Spanish or French as a Foreign Language for non-French speakers)
- 2 technical modules
- 1 workshop
- 1 compulsory work placement (in Year 2)
- 1 session + 1 ‘memo’ methodology training course (Year 3)

Language courses

Language courses are a compulsory part of the programme.

For non-French-speaking students, these are French as a Foreign Language (FLE) courses, comprising 4 hours per week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

Regular attendance is required for these courses, which are worth 2 ECTS credits.

In the second cycle of the Master’s programme (years 4 and 5), the ‘Plateformes’ focus more on individual projects. They enable students to develop their artistic or design practice in greater depth through group and personalised support, research seminars, a dissertation and an exchange programme or work placement, culminating in the presentation of the DNSEP.

Erasmus students (and other study mobility students)

Upon arrival, each student is met individually by the academic services team to help them choose their study programme and optional modules. Following these meetings, changes may be made to the Learning Agreement in consultation with the sending institution.

A Bachelor's-Master's-PhD (LMD) degree structure

Coursework leads to the award of credits and a transcript in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS):

- The DNA qualification, at Bachelor's level, is equivalent to 180 ECTS credits, or 30 ECTS credits per semester;
- The DNSEP qualification, at Master's level, is equivalent to 120 ECTS credits, or 30 ECTS credits per semester.

A first-class environment and exceptional resources

The school's premises, comprising 2,400 m² (main building) + 1,000 m² (annex) + 75 m² (EBABX gallery), house: classrooms, large open-plan areas and spaces for group workshops, technical workshops, a lecture theatre, a library, a recycling centre and a café: the Café Pompier.

A library housing over 15,000 items - including books, monographs, specialist journals, videos and multimedia resources - focuses on contemporary art and design. Its collections are organised around three themes: current developments in the art world, art history, and the cultural, social and political context.

The EBABX Gallery, situated near the school, is used for both exhibition and display projects, and events open to the public.

Technical production workshops, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and organised into three centres, enable students to learn the basics, develop their skills and experiment, alongside workshop managers and specialist assistants:

- a **publishing, printing and finishing centre**: print shop (processing stations, plotter), screen printing, etc.
- an **image and sound centre**: video studio (editing suite, editing desks), sound studio (recording studio, instrument room, listening room), multimedia, photography studio (shooting studio, black-and-white film processing lab), digital practices and new media, etc.
- a **materials centre**: wood, metal, resin, plastic, clay, ceramics, sewing, prototyping machines, laser cutting, 3D printer, model-making, electronics, etc.

International reach: part of EBABX's DNA

Europe and the international arena have been a key part of EBABX's identity for many years.

For students, this involves, in particular, encouraging mobility through work placements or study abroad programmes. Such experiences foster creativity and enable students to acquire new skills, whether technical, linguistic or soft skills (adaptability, teamwork, professional conduct, etc.).

International students on degree-level mobility programmes (Cycle 1 and Cycle 2) are encouraged to undertake an internship and/or study period in Europe and beyond; they have the same access as any other student to the available funding: Erasmus+, grants from the Ministry of Culture or the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region.

Erasmus students are also invited to take part in activities that showcase their work and international experience: speaking at information sessions, organising an annual 'Erasmus' exhibition, taking part in *#ErasmusDays*, and so on.

Student life

Student card

This card serves as proof of your student status and, in particular, entitles you to discounts and so-called ‘student’ services (access to university catering facilities, university libraries, etc.)

Email address

At the start of the academic year, the school provides students with an email address in the format @EBABX.fr.

All communications will be sent exclusively to this @EBABX.fr address; it is essential that you check it daily.

Internal Regulations

The internal regulations set out the rules governing community life and specify the rights and duties of the entire EBABX community. In particular, they govern the organisation of the institution, the conditions of access and opening hours of the premises and workshops, as well as the procedures for exercising the rights and freedoms of students and staff.

Enrolment at EBABX implies acceptance of the rules and regulations.

Opening hours of the school and the annexe:

- Monday to Thursday from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm
- Friday from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

Student Health Centre

To promote access to healthcare and preventative care, the Student Health Centre (ESE) enables students to benefit - whilst ensuring medical confidentiality - from drop-in sessions, medical and nursing consultations, psychological support, as well as preventative initiatives organised on campus or at the ESE's premises.

The Student Health Centre also helps to identify and refer cases relating to preventive medicine, public health, mental health issues, addictive behaviours, and gender-based and sexual violence.

The Student Health Centre is located at 22 Avenue Pey Berland in Pessac and is open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm by appointment, either in person or via teleconsultation, and offers walk-in appointments following a telephone call (+33 (0)5 33 51 42 00).

Students with a disability

Ebabx is committed to supporting students with visible or invisible disabilities - including sensory, motor, mental or psychological, cognitive, and language and speech disorders - or those with a disabling illness, throughout their studies.

Depending on the difficulties encountered, various arrangements can be put in place, whether organisational (timetable adjustments, course adjustments, etc.) or practical (loaning of equipment, etc.).

To benefit from such arrangements, students should contact the disability liaison officer, Nina Drocourt, Head of Academic and Student Affairs, at n.drocourt@ebabx.fr

Common first name

Ebabx makes it easy for everyone to use a preferred first name and/or a preferred title, whatever the reason. Simply submit a request to Nina Drocourt, Head of Academic Affairs and Student Life, at n.drocourt@ebabx.fr

A certificate confirming the correspondence between your preferred first name and your official name may be issued to you.

Equality & diversity

The school is committed to combating all forms of discrimination and violence.

A support and reporting service aims to receive, in a confidential and impartial setting, reports of acts of violence, discrimination, psychological or sexual harassment and sexist behaviour and, where necessary, to alert the relevant authorities, support and protect victims, and deal with the reported incidents.

cellule.ecoute@ebabx.fr

Associations in EBABX

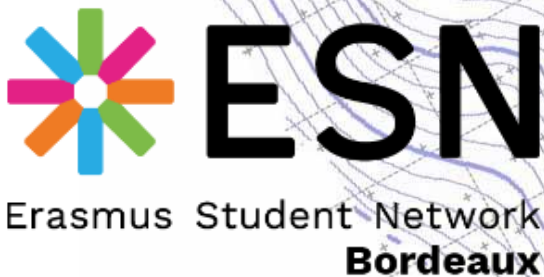
EBABX now has two associations:

- **Café Pompier:** run by students, Le Café Pompier offers a light lunch service for students and school staff, alongside a programme of live music in the evenings and at weekends, as well as a variety of other events.

Café Pompier on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

- **The Association of EBABX Alumni and Friends (EBABX graduates):** the association helps to publicise and promote its graduates and provides support for the creation of artworks, the production and distribution of films, and the publication of books...

In addition to these two organisations, EBABX works in partnership with the **Erasmus Student Network (ESN)**.



Erasmus Student Network

Bordeaux aims to help international students settle in and organises over 140 events, outings and social evenings each year for the 20,000 international students living in the

Bordeaux metropolitan area.

It's a great way to meet new people and explore the city and its surroundings.

ESN Bordeaux regularly takes part in international information sessions organised by EBABX.

<https://bordeaux.esnfrance.org/nos-projets/>

PLAN YOUR STAY

Visa and residence permit

The formalities depend on your nationality, the length and the nature of your stay (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N105>).

- ☞ **Students who are nationals of the EU, the EEA (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) or Switzerland** do not need a visa to study in France..
- ☞ **Students from other countries** must, depending on their circumstances, obtain a visa before their arrival.

To find out which procedures apply to you and to submit your application, please visit the official [France-Visas](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/)¹ website. For study stays of more than three months, the student long-stay visa serving as a residence permit (VLS-TS) is the most common option. It allows you to stay in France for the duration of the visa and must be validated online within three months of arrival.

Students wishing to continue their studies in France must plan ahead for the renewal of their residence permit, which must generally be done online three months before it expires. The validation and renewal procedures are carried out via the official [ANEF platform - Digital Administration for Foreign Nationals in France](https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/)².

¹ <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/>

² <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/>

To travel to Bordeaux, if you have a choice, take the train!

EBABX is mindful of environmental and ecological issues, particularly the carbon footprint of its activities including international mobility: if you have the choice, prefer the train or the bus to travel to Bordeaux and take advantage of the Erasmus+ “green” travel top-up on travel grant plus extra travel days.

For example, on a return journey Prague - Bordeaux:

- ✓ by plane: 468kg CO₂e
- ✓ by car: 443kg CO₂e
- ✓ by bus: 117kg CO₂e
- ✓ by train: 9,5kg CO₂e

To calculate your travel's carbon footprint and choose the best travel means: <https://impactco2.fr/outils/transport>

Apart from travel, many simple things can be done to lower your carbon footprint while an exchange student.

Want to go further? Check www.greenerasmus.org

Accommodation in Bordeaux

Bordeaux is both a major university city and a popular tourist destination, and finding accommodation is not always easy.

Find your accomodation

EBABX does not have any accommodation specifically for students, so they will need to find their own solutions.

To help with your search, here are the most commonly used websites:

- Classified adverts on LeBonCoin (almost all rental adverts are listed there): www.leboncoin.fr > section *immobilier* > *locations* > *appartements*
- Accomodation for Erasmus students in Bordeaux :
 - <https://erasmusu.com/fr/erasmus-bordeaux>
 - <https://www.roomlala.fr/>
- Staying with a private host: www.lokaviz.fr/
- Living in shared accommodation :
 - La carte des colocs : <https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/colocations/fr/nouvelle-aquitaine/bordeaux>
 - LeBonCoin : www.leboncoin.fr > section *immobilier* > *colocations*
 - On Facebook
 - La carte des colocs : https://www.facebook.com/groups/511833448920746/?ref=br_rs
 - Flat, rooms, subletting, shared accomations, house to rent: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/510387145778135/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/839382899426366/>

- For temporary solutions:
 - <https://www.adagio-city.com>
 - <https://www.aubergesdejeunesse.com/>

Finding accommodation in France: knowing your rights and getting advice

The website Info Jeunes (<https://www.info-jeune.net/comment-trouver-logement-pour-jeune-facilement/>) provides guidance and explains how to put together your application.

For your tenancy application, make sure you have the following documents (copies), which will almost always be required:

- your proof of identity (and that of your guarantor)
- proof of address (and that of your guarantor) dated within the last 3 months (rent receipt, telephone or electricity bill, etc.)
- a document confirming your status (e.g. student card)
- documents confirming your income and that of your guarantor (tax assessment notice, your last three payslips, etc.)

Depending on your financial circumstances, a guarantor may be required. This is a parent or close relative who can prove they have sufficient income (often three times the amount of the rent) and who will formally undertake to pay the rent in the event of non-payment.

Home insurance is compulsory. You can find out more from student insurance schemes or your bank. You should expect to pay around €30 to €65 per year.

Everything you need to know about your rights and obligations when renting a property in France: <https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N292>

In the specific case of shared accommodation: <https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34661>

Health and insurances

To ensure a worry-free stay in France, whether short or long, it is essential to arrange adequate cover for your healthcare or in the event of an accident. **The procedures vary depending on your country of origin and the length of your stay.**

You are from a member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area, Switzerland or the United Kingdom:

You must obtain a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** before you leave.

The EHIC makes it easier to seek treatment in the event of a health problem. It means you do not need to join the French social security scheme.

As healthcare costs are not always reimbursed in full by statutory health insurance schemes, it is strongly recommended that you supplement your health cover with insurance that will cover all expenses should the need arise.

You are from a country outside the EU, the EEA, Switzerland or the UK:

☞ Stay of less than 3 months:

You need **private insurance** that covers 100 per cent of any healthcare costs you may incur.

☞ Stay of more than 3 months:

You can enrol in the French student health scheme:

<https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr/>.

Supplementary private insurance is recommended to:

- provide cover whilst you are waiting for your entitlement to benefits from the French social security system to come into effect;
- cover the portion of expenses exceeding the French social security reimbursement limit.

Accident and repatriation:

In addition to your health cover, it is strongly recommended that you take out specific accident and repatriation insurance valid for the duration of your stay in France.

Examples of mutual insurance schemes and insurance companies offering health and accident/repatriation cover for international students:

<https://heyeme.care/en/foreign-student> (discount with the code EBABX-10)

<https://www.lmde.fr/mutuelle-sante/etudiants-etrangers/>

<https://www.assistance-etudiants.com/>

DISCOVER BORDEAUX

Bordeaux, a city of history and culture

Bordeaux is a city with an exceptional heritage, shaped by over 2,000 years of history. Its historic centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2007, bears witness in particular to its development in the 18th century, with its grand squares, quays and pale stone façades. Old Bordeaux, between the Cours Victor Hugo and the Cours de l'Intendance, has preserved traces of its medieval origins, whilst the rest of the city boasts a rich architectural and cultural heritage, with iconic landmarks such as the Place de la Bourse, the Grand-Théâtre, the Pey Berland Tower and the Cité du Vin.

A vibrant and creative city

Beyond its heritage, Bordeaux is a dynamic, cultural and creative city. Museums, theatres, galleries, festivals and events set the pace for cultural life throughout the year. As a major university city, Bordeaux is home to over 100,000 students and offers an environment that encourages international encounters and exchanges. The banks of the Garonne, along with the city's many gardens and public spaces, also offer plenty of opportunities to relax, take part in sporting activities or simply enjoy the city.

A way of life waiting to be discovered

Bordeaux is also distinguished by a way of life that combines fine dining, a warm, welcoming atmosphere and exploring the surrounding area. The city is, of course, world-renowned for its

wines, but it also offers a rich and varied local cuisine, which can be enjoyed in its markets, cafés and restaurants. Its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, the Arcachon Bay, the vineyards and the region's many natural sites also makes it easy to explore the landscapes and culture of Nouvelle-Aquitaine. For international students, **Bordeaux is therefore an ideal setting not only for studying, but also for discovering a new culture and making the most of the 'French way of life'.**

Bordeaux, a city of creativity

In cultural and artistic terms, Bordeaux boasts a particularly vibrant scene, combining heritage, contemporary creation and new artistic practices. The city is home to numerous museums and exhibition venues, including the **Museum of Fine Arts**, the **CAPC - Museum of Contemporary Art**, the **FRAC Nouvelle-Aquitaine MÉCA**, the **Museum of Decorative Arts and Design**, and the **Museum of Aquitaine**. This offering is complemented by galleries, independent spaces and venues dedicated to emerging art forms: **POLA**, **Bam Projects**, and others.

A city open to contemporary art forms

Bordeaux is home to venues and events dedicated to visual arts, digital media and new forms of creativity, such as the Bassins des Lumières, housed in the former submarine base. The city also offers a regular programme of concerts, shows, performances, exhibitions and festivals: Bordeaux's cultural calendar features several hundred events each year, allowing visitors to discover cultural institutions as well as independent initiatives and emerging scenes.

The **Bordeaux Culture website** (<https://culturebordeaux.fr/>) allows you to find the programme of events for numerous cultural venues and organisations across the metropolitan area.

A few cultural attractions worth visiting in Bordeaux

For contemporary art

- **CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux** - housed in the former Entrepôt Lainé, the CAPC is one of Bordeaux's leading venues for contemporary art. Exhibitions, installations, performances and events offer visitors the chance to discover contemporary French and international art.
- **Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine La MÉCA** - The FRAC houses a major collection of contemporary art and organises exhibitions, talks and events. It is based at the MÉCA, an iconic building representing contemporary architecture in Bordeaux, which also houses several regional cultural organisations.

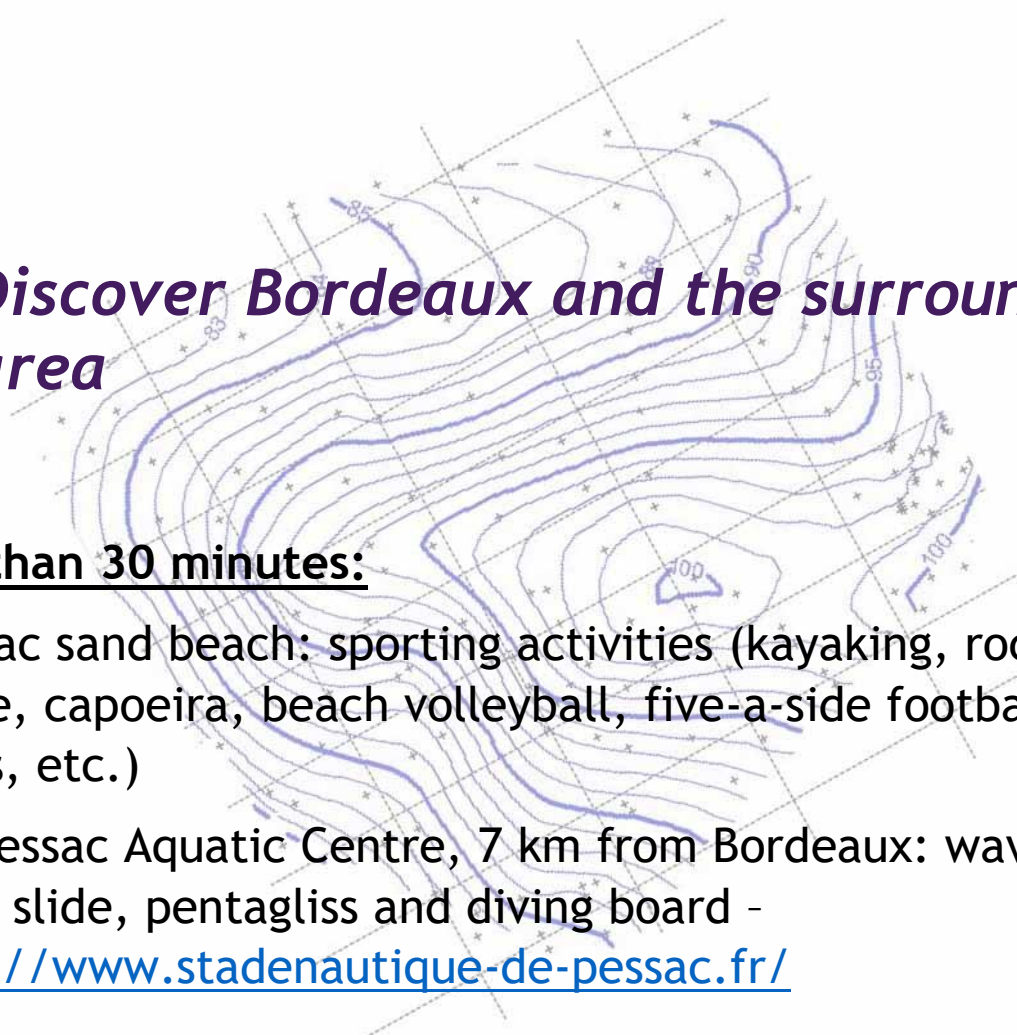
To explore art history, heritage and design

- **Musée des Beaux-Arts** - It houses a significant collection of paintings and sculptures, ranging from the Renaissance to the present day, and is a must-visit destination for anyone wishing to explore the history of European art.
- **Musée des Arts Décoratifs et du Design** - Housed in an 18th-century townhouse, the MADD explores the relationships between the decorative arts, design, architecture and lifestyles.
- **Musée d'Aquitaine** - A unique place to learn about the history of Bordeaux, the Gironde and the wider region, from prehistory to the present day.

For the performing arts and music

- **tnba** - The Bordeaux National Theatre in Aquitaine is one of the region's leading venues for the performing arts, with a programme dedicated to theatre, contemporary creation and hybrid forms.
- **Rock School Barbey** - As a venue for contemporary music and a music school, it is a key part of Bordeaux's music scene and hosts concerts, emerging artists and events.

- **Opéra National de Bordeaux** - Based at the Grand-Théâtre, it presents a programme of opera, dance, concerts and recitals.
- **Le Rocher de Palmer**, in Cenon, is a major venue in the Bordeaux metropolitan area, with a particular focus on world music, urban cultures and contemporary art.
- **Le Krakatoa**, in Mérignac, which has been awarded the SMAC (Scène de musiques actuelles) state accreditation.
- **La Villa Valmont**, in Lormont, an international centre for residencies, presentations and outreach focusing on contemporary writing.



Discover Bordeaux and the surrounding area

Less than 30 minutes:

The Lac sand beach: sporting activities (kayaking, rock climbing, savate, capoeira, beach volleyball, five-a-side football, table tennis, etc.)

The Pessac Aquatic Centre, 7 km from Bordeaux: wave pool, water slide, pentagliss and diving board -

<https://www.stadenautique-de-pessac.fr/>

At 45 minutes:

The Gironde estuary, with its hidden islands and the UNESCO-listed Vauban Citadel in Blaye.

The vineyards and châteaux of the famous wine regions of Médoc, Sauternes, Saint-Émilion, Pessac-Léognan, etc.

At 1 hour:

Arcachon, by train

The Arcachon Basin, the Dune du Pyla, the small oyster-fishing ports and Cap Ferret.

The Landes Forest, the largest forest in Europe.

[Beaulon Castle](#) with its thirteen water springs, which have a strange blue hue.

La Sauve-Majeure Abbey: A UNESCO World Heritage Site (25 km from Bordeaux, accessible by bike via the [Roger Lapébie cycle path](#)).

The [Pair-non-Pair Cave](#): this prehistoric site contains some of the world's oldest cave engravings.

[The Château de la Brède](#): a 14th-century historic monument surrounded by a moat, and the birthplace of Montesquieu.

At 1h30:

Cognac and its famous cognac houses, accessible by train.

Lacanau for water sports, accessible by bus.

The town of [Nérac](#) is home to Roman ruins, a 14th-century Renaissance castle and the Church of Saint-Nicolas with its 19th-century stained-glass windows. Accessible by train and bus.

The Domaine de Bombane on Lake Hourtin, situated 66 km from Bordeaux.

Lake Cazaux: is the second-largest freshwater lake in France. It stretches as far as Biscarosse. It boasts numerous unspoilt coves and fine sandy beaches.

Audenge swimming area: situated at the entrance to the harbour, is a seawater reservoir shaped like an outdoor swimming pool with three pools at different levels.

At 2 hours or more:

Saint-Palais-sur-Mer, one of the most popular resorts on the Côte de Beauté.

The Périgord and its châteaux, the Lascaux cave, Sarlat and its market, Périgueux, and the wines of Bergerac.

The Château Lalande, now the Hôtel Le Stelsia, is a colourful example of how historic heritage can be reimagined.

Béarn, the homeland of Henry IV, Pau and the valleys and ski resorts of the Pyrenees. And just across the border: Spain.

Laàs Castle is a collectors' home open to the public, housing the second-largest collection of decorative arts in the former Aquitaine region (after that of the MADD - Museum of Decorative Arts and Design in Bordeaux).

The Basque Country and its villages, Biarritz and its surf spots, Saint-Jean-de-Luz, Bayonne, Anglet.

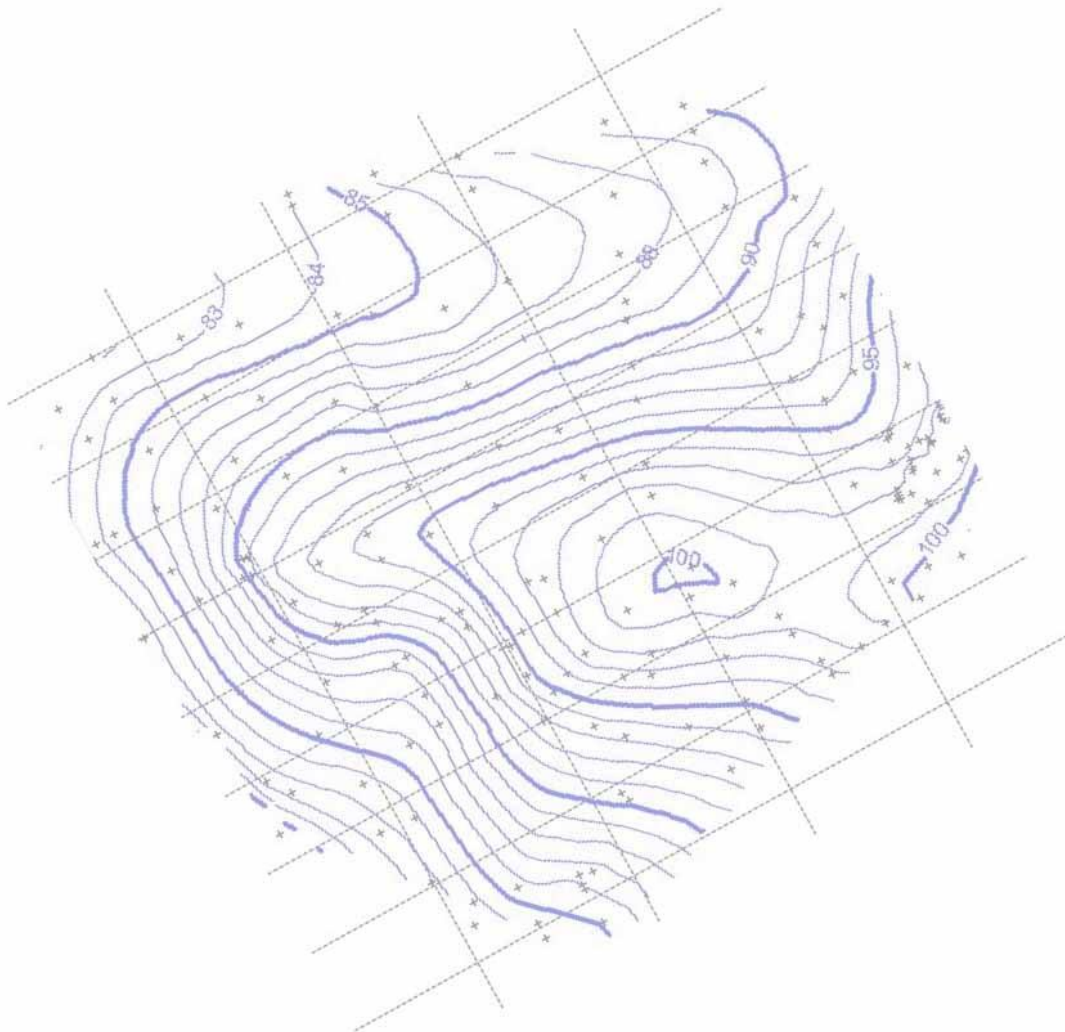
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