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école cantonale d'art du valais
schule für gestaltung wallis

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STUDYING AT THE ECAV – ECOLE CANTONALE D'ART DU VALAIS

Small in size but highly competent, the Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais offers an artistic education at the tertiary level (**Bachelor and Masters degrees in Visual Arts**) and **professional artistic training** to obtain a **CFC** (Federal Capacity Certificate). It offers, as well, a preparatory course prior to admission to a specialized art school and several continuous education programmes.

Founded in 1948 and known as the ECAV since 1997, the Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais has been affiliated since 2008 with the HES-SO. Its location, in the heart of the Valais Alps above the town of Sierre, has helped it to forge a strong identity. Switzerland's linguistic and cultural differences are well-represented among the students and teachers and the legendary hospitality of Valais is a strong influence, as it regularly welcomes numerous foreign students who come to study here. An Artists-In-Residence programme which exists since 1997 will, in fact, be renewed in 2010.

Over the years, its ex-centric alpine location has become one of its central research and investigation themes. This artistic and creative reflection evolves within its own special atmosphere and defies most customary approaches.

The ECAV offers each student an education adapted to his or her needs, according to the type of training which he or she has chosen earlier. The Master's classes take an in-depth approach to environmental art, to art in the public sphere and to committed art. Students participate in theoretical and practical courses given by specialized teachers and tutors from all over the world and their assistants.

Our training centre in Sierre, which can welcome around 250 students, includes workshops which allow studies of all the techniques and important media used in today's art.

The School offers numerous options for housing and, thanks to its location, an ideal lifestyle for studies, research and creation.

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MASTER – ARTS IN PUBLIC SPHERES

QUALIFICATION AWARDED

Master of Arts HES-SO in Fine Arts

DESCRIPTION

The MAPS – Art in Public Spheres program is a HES-SO Masters course in visual arts addressed to artists, actors and actresses of the artistic world wishing to pursue or to initiate investigation of the artist's relation to the public sphere, which is considered in this situation as being a social, political and cultural space. The course offers a practical and theoretical platform meant to question the force of context, its influence on artistic production, to understand the dialectic and critical relationship of an artist with a given environment, to explore conditions for exhibiting an artistic work and its relationship with the space of artistic intervention. In Sierre, an Alpine town with an industrial history, the course finds options for specific work and reflection. The location, characterized by its striking natural environment and its ex-centric location, is an ideal site for detailed on-the-ground studies of themes such as reflection around environmental art, artistic and curatorial interventions in the public space, the dialectic between peripheral and centralized regions, between ex-centric contexts and urban realities.

The network of HES-SO Masters of Visual Arts studies has been designed around three sites: the Haute Ecole d'Art du Valais (ECAV) in Sierre, the Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design in Geneva (HEAD) and the Ecole Cantonale d'Art in Lausanne (ECAL). Each school offers specific areas for in-depth studies:

- › MAPS – Arts in Public Spheres, ECAV, Sierre
- › WORK.MASTER – Contemporary artistic practices, HEAD, Geneva
- › TRANS – Teaching mediation, HEAD, Geneva
- › CCC – Critical Curatorial Cybermedia, HEAD, Geneva
- › European Art Ensemble, ECAL, Lausanne

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES

The course in fine arts provides the basis for employment as:

- › Independent artist
- › Cultural mediator
- › Project assistant
- › Independent curator

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- › Artistic director in the field of publishing
- › Art critic
- › Cinema director
- › Studio manager

as well as work in all professional environments associated with art, such as museums, art galleries, cultural centres, etc.

COURSE ARRANGEMENTS

- › **ECTS credits** 120
- › **Duration** 2 years (full-time)
- › **Language** English and French
- › **Calendar** Start of courses: 19 September 2011

ADMISSION CONDITIONS

- › Diplomas required: Bachelor's diploma and/or equivalent training and experience.
- › Working knowledge of French and good knowledge of English
- › Admission is on the basis of an entrance exam. Admission files must include: a cover letter, a complete CV, a description of a research project, a portfolio containing documentation of recent works and projects, the registration form, copies of diplomas, copies of identity card/passport.
- › **Registration deadlines: May 15, 2011, for interviews to be held on June 9-10.** Precise dates, registration forms, study plans and timetables can be consulted and downloaded on the ECAV website (<http://www.ecav.ch/formation/master>)



BACHELOR

QUALIFICATION AWARDED

Bachelor of Arts HES-SO in Fine Arts

DESCRIPTION

The Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais (ECAV) has offered the Bachelor of Arts HES-SO in Fine Arts study program since 2006

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This program is aimed at candidates who wish to follow an artistic quest situated in a socio-cultural and political context. The ex-centric position of the ECAV and its small size favorize a laboratory approach – a space for research and experimentation – and offers students a privileged place for concentration.

Each student has an individual work space. In addition, a large industrial hall allows exhibition of works in progress. Laboratories for photography, IT, sound and video, a printing workshop (wood, etching, lithography and silk-screen), a machine workshop for working with wood, concrete, metal and casting, may be used by all the students. The ECAV also has numerous exchange programs available to its students, in particular within Europe, Africa and the Americas.

PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES

The course in fine arts provides the basis for employment as:

- › Independent artist
- › Cultural mediator
- › Project assistant
- › Independent curator
- › Artistic director in the field of publishing
- › Art critic
- › Cinema director
- › Studio manager

as well as work in all professional environments associated with art, such as museums, art galleries, cultural centres, etc. The bachelor programme should also lead to a master course which in its turn enables teaching art at obligatory schools and high schools as well as giving artistic lectures in local communities, institutional circle or associations.

COURSE ARRANGEMENTS

- › **Crédits ECTS** 180
- › **Type** Full-time
- › **Duration** 3 years minimum
- › **Langue** French and some English

ADMISSION CONDITIONS

- › Diplomas required: Upper secondary certificate in professional education, Upper secondary school certificate, Specialised upper secondary school certificate in visual arts or equivalent foreign qualifications.
- › Admission is on the basis of an entrance exam. Admission files must include: a cover letter, a complete CV, a portfolio containing documentation of recent works and projects, the registration form, copies of diplomas, copies of identity card/passport.
- › **Registration deadlines: May 15, 2011, for interviews to be held on May 23, 24, 25.** Precise dates, registration forms, study plans and timetables can be consulted and downloaded on the ECAV website (<http://www.ecav.ch/formation/bachelor>)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

STUDY COSTS

The school fees for the Bachelor and the Master in Visual Arts stand at CHF 1000.- . The cost for the material is CHF 700.- and you should also add the registration fees which are of CHF 150.-

ACCOMODATION

For the academic period, rooms at the Auberge Ecole Inn are available for the students of ECAV and from other schools. The monthly rate for a single room is CHF 350.- and CHF 400.- for a double room. The reservation should be done at the secretariat of ECAV: +41 (0)27 456 55 11

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Other accommodation :

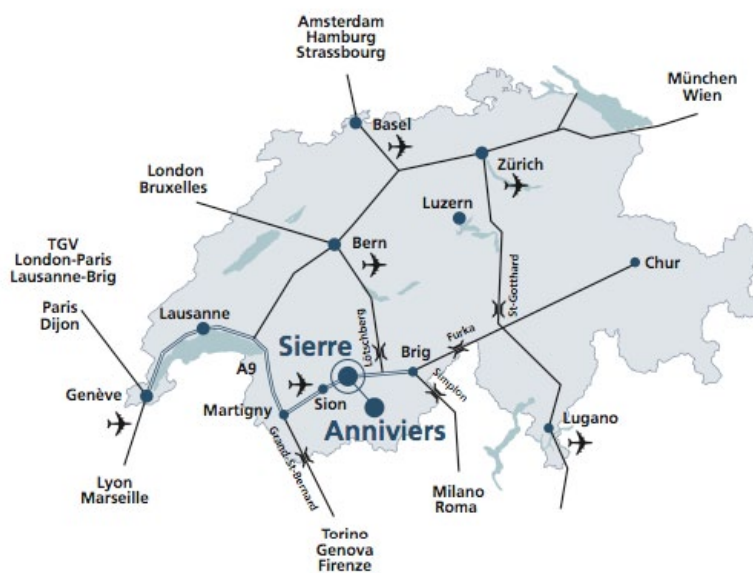
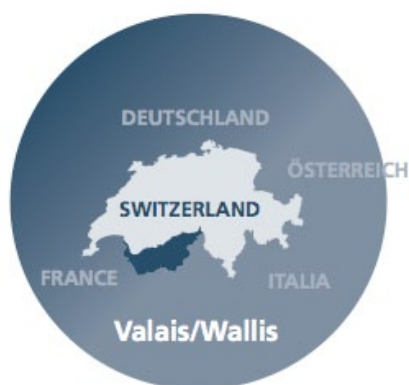
Tourist information in Sierre : +41 (0)27 455 85 35

Regie Antille in Sierre : +41 (0)27 452 23 23

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

Distances from

- > Bern: 1h14
- > Geneva: 1h58
- > Lausanne: 1h08
- > Milano: 2h25
- > Zurich: 2h06
- > Basel: 2h09
- > Paris: 5h27



ADDRESS AND CONTACT

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STUDYING IN SIERRE – THE TOWN AND ITS REGION

Sierre, also called “Cité du soleil” – “City of the sun”, is said to be the most sunny town of Switzerland. Lying in the middle of the alps, in the Valley of the Rhone, which is also the origin of this river, Sierre offers plenty of cultural and physical activities. More than 10 ski resorts are reachable within 30 minutes from Sierre. At least 20 others within 1 hour. During the summer countless hiking trails and small lakes invite to hiking or bathing. During the whole year Sierre and its surrounding localities put on numerous events such as “*Scènes valaisannes*, theatre festival on various stages” in February, *Dreamago*, cinéma uncovered in May, *Sismics Festival*, cartoon festival in May, *Sierre Blues Festival*, blues music festival in June, *L'été sierrois*, Friday night concerts at the Château Mercier in July, *Tohu-Bobu*, the last summer music festival in September and many many more.

LAKE GÉRONDE

An open-air swimming pool, grass “beach”, beach volleyball and pedalos make Geronde and its lake like a little seaside resort in itself. Located amongst hills and vineyards, it's a place for relaxation and enjoyment just 15 minutes from Sierre town centre. The more romantic will be moved by walks along the banks, to the sound of lapping water or croaking toads. Right next to the lake, you'll find the “petits lacs”, a place to relax in the middle of town.



WALKS

From hillsides to the eternal snow of the glacier, from Finges Valais Natural Park to educational paths, you have a whole host of possibilities for excursions, for all levels and all interests.

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Our strategic position in the heart of Valais means you can easily access regions such as Crans-Montana (15 km), the Val d'Anniviers (20 km) and Leukerbad (24 km) as well as their infinite possibilities for walks. Below, you will find a few ideas for routes among the thousands of kilometres of walking routes in the region.

“As I see it, the Valais appears not only to be one of the most magnificent landscapes that I have experienced; it has besides the extraordinary capacity to offer multiple equivalents to our inner life.” **Rainer Maria Rilke**



THE FINGES VALAIS NATURAL PARK

The Finges Valais Natural Park is a Mecca for biodiversity in Switzerland. In a restricted area, the Rhône and its gravel islands, torrid steppes, dry pinewoods, an alluvial forest with a tropical feel, ponds and prairies all overlap. This diversity, characterized by the presence of one hundred extremely rare species, means that the park has an important international status.

“We have just discovered the forests (Finges) strewn with little lakes, blue, greenish, almost black. What land could have this many details, such vast texture; it is like the final movement of a Beethoven symphony.” **Rainer Maria Rilke**

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WINTER SPORTS

From the Sierre-Salgesch region, within just a few minutes, you have access to 410 km of pistes! In fact, we are located 15 km from Crans-Montana, 20 km from the Val d'Anniviers and 24 km from Leukerbad. Right on the doorstep, you'll find 7 ski resorts - Crans-Montana - Leukerbad - Grimentz - Zinal - St-Luc - Chandolin and Vercorin – at your disposal.