



école
nationale
de cirque
Châtelleraut

AUDITION

FOR THE

PREPARATORY

CLASS

SUMMARY

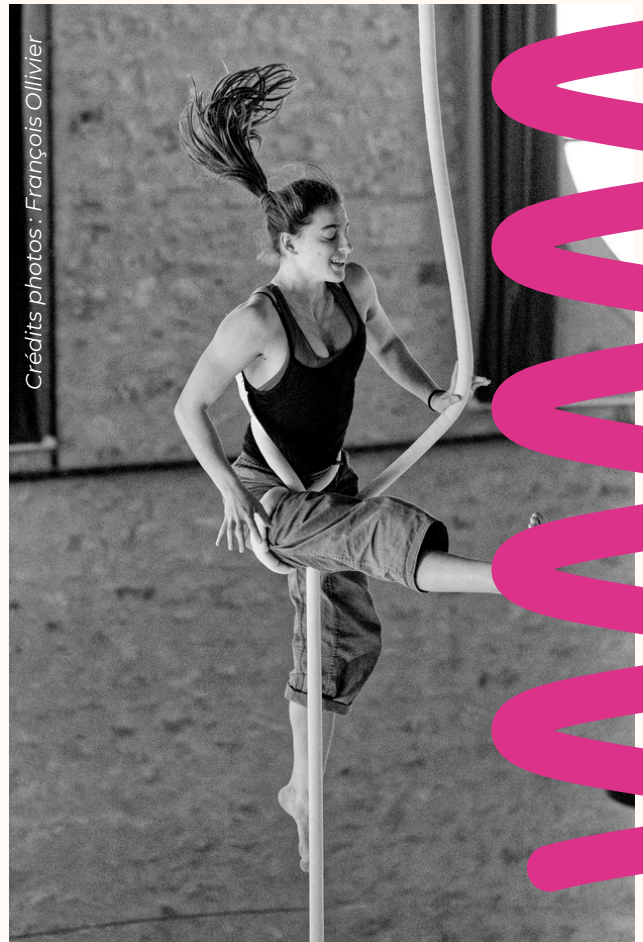
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THE SCHOOL

The **École Nationale de Cirque de Châtellerault** supports young artists in building their pathways toward higher education in circus arts. It operates in a context where contemporary circus is evolving rapidly: forms are constantly renewed, stage languages are expanding, and the expectations of higher education schools are becoming more precise.

The CPES is part of this movement. It offers a stable, structured, and demanding working environment that enables students to acquire solid technical foundations while developing a personal artistic expression.

The overall objective is simple: **to prepare each student to enter the higher circus school best suited to their profile.**



EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLES

The training is based on three complementary principles.

2.1. Reliable and Sustainable Technique

Students follow regular classes in physical preparation, acrobatics, balancing techniques, and their circus specialty. This work aims at mastering the fundamentals required by all higher education schools.

Each student benefits from a reference teacher who supports their project within their circus specialty. We apply a ratio of three projects per circus arts teacher in order to ensure individualized and high-quality guidance.

The emphasis is placed on safety, effort management, and body awareness. The goal is not immediate performance, but the construction of a stable and evolving technique.

2.2. Structured Artistic Openness

Dance, acting, movement exploration, and composition exercises allow students to understand what they want to express and how to do so.

These classes do not aim at virtuosity, but at the appropriation of simple tools: mobility, presence, gaze, rhythm, intention, and relationship to space. They help each student identify what constitutes their artistic language.

2.3. Progressive Autonomy

Each student learns how to organize their training, analyze their progress, and define their objectives. Regular interviews allow the pathway to be adjusted. This autonomy is essential: it prepares students for the demands of higher education schools, where self-management is an integral part of training.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

The CPES lasts two years. It adapts to the diversity of profiles, entry levels, and projects.

3.1. First Year: Establishing the Foundations

The first year focuses on building solid foundations. It includes:

- general physical preparation,
- fundamental acrobatics,
- balancing techniques,
- discovery or reinforcement of a specialty,
- contemporary dance, acro-dance,
- acting, improvisation,
- introduction to concepts of art and culture,
- initial reflections on the artist's project.

The objective is clear: **to stabilize technical skills and open students to a range of artistic tools.**

3.2. Second Year: Refinement and Preparation for Auditions

The second year strengthens preparation for entrance auditions:

- specialized physical preparation,
- in-depth work in the specialty,
- composition and project classes,
- advanced dance and acting training,
- structured support for application files, videos, and acts.

Students learn **how to present clear, coherent work adapted to the expectations of higher education schools.**

OPENNESS TO THE PROFESSIONAL FIELD AND HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOOLS

The program is not limited to classes. It includes progressive exposure to the circus world and the realities of the profession.

4.1. Meetings and Exchanges

The school regularly hosts artists in residence and organizes meetings with:

- professional companies,
- former students,
- pedagogical directors of higher education schools.

These exchanges help students gain a concrete understanding of the diversity of artistic pathways.



Crédits photos : François Ollivier

4.2. Audience Practice

Students attend performances (circus, dance, theater) in partner venues within the region.

They learn to analyze a work, identify what resonates with them or not, and nourish their own artistic research.

4.3. Stage Experience

Participation in public presentations, school projects, or creative experiences allows students to discover real stage constraints: lighting, space, rhythm, and relationship with the audience.

4.4. Internships and Immersions

Depending on individual projects, internships may be carried out within companies, schools, or partner organizations. This helps clarify future orientations.

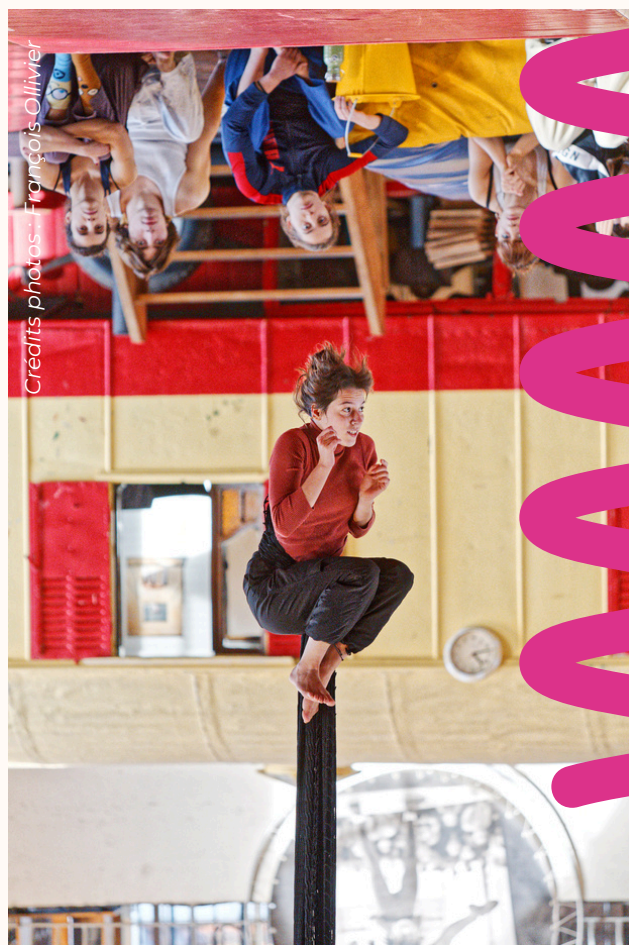
INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT

Each student benefits from regular follow-up with the teaching team.

These interviews allow for:

- assessing progress,
- clarifying objectives,
- adjusting workload,
- identifying the most relevant schools,
- preparing the transition to higher education.

This follow-up is a key element of the CPES: it ensures that each pathway remains coherent, realistic, and aligned with the student's ambitions.



PURPOSE OF THE CPES

The CPES is neither a complete professional training nor a higher education school. It is a **preparatory stage**.

Its purpose is to provide students with:

- a solid technical level,
- a clearly identified specialty,
- an emerging artistic identity,
- practical training autonomy,
- an understanding of the artist's profession today,
- a clear project for entering a higher education school.

ADMISSION CONDITIONS

7.1. Candidate Profile (Minimum Requirements)

- be between 16 and 22 years old;
- submit a complete application file for pre-selection;
- be able to attend all selection workshops, demonstrate strong motivation and curiosity for art and the world around us;
- be able to independently manage housing, daily life, administrative procedures, nutrition, and health.

7.2. Fees

Selection: application file fee / €65

Training: registration and tuition fees / €500 per year, payable in September of each training year.



7.3. CROUS Grants

Students enrolled in the CPES at ENCC may, subject to financial conditions, receive a means-tested grant awarded by CROUS. Applications must be submitted each year via the Student Social File (DES).

For international candidates, access to grants depends on their administrative status: only those meeting the residence criteria set by CROUS are eligible. It is important to anticipate this, as processing times for identity, residence, or visa documents may delay recognition of the status required to submit a complete DES. ENCC can support students in these procedures if necessary.

7.4. Number of Places

The 2026/2028 cohort will consist of between 8 and 12 students, in order to ensure optimal teaching conditions.

7.5. Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is French. However, several members of the team can communicate in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian if necessary.

7.6. International Students

Non-European Union nationals must obtain a “student” residence permit in order to complete the two years of training at ENCC.

The procedure takes place in two stages:

Step 1 – Before arrival in France:

The student must apply for a long-stay visa equivalent to a residence permit (VLS-TS) marked “student” at the French consulate in their country of residence. This visa is mandatory to enter France and begin the training.

Step 2 – After arrival in France:

Within three months of arrival, the VLS-TS must be validated online with OFII (French Office for Immigration and Integration). This validation is required to legalize the stay for the entire year.

Obtaining and maintaining this status is the responsibility of the student; ENCC can provide support if necessary.

ORGANIZATION

8.1. Schedule

The program runs from early September 2026 to early July 2028.

It includes a minimum of 25 hours per week.

Daily classes are scheduled according to a timetable and may take place from Monday to Friday, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Internships or periods of research and creation may also take place on weekends or during certain school holidays.

8.2. Facilities and Equipment

- training hall: 800 m² equipped stage
- the Circothèque: classroom and resource center dedicated to live performance
- the big top: ring and 546-seat grandstand equipped for professional performances
- Classes may occasionally take place in other partner venues.

8.3. Attendance

All classes are mandatory, and any absence must be justified.

SELECTION INFORMATION

The 2026 selection process will take place in two phases:

- Pre-selection based on the complete application file (administrative file and videos).
- Final on-site selections at ENCC.

For any questions, whether administrative or technical, a single contact address is available: **contact@ecoledecirque.org**. Please specify the subject of your request in the email subject line.

9.1. Application Deadline

The complete application file, including proof of transfer of €65 (see bank details below), must be submitted **by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026**.

- Bank details:

Ecole Nat. Cirque Châtellerault

IBAN: FR76 4255 9100 0008 0030 4198 423

BIC: CCOPFRPPXXX – Bank: Crédit Coopératif de Poitiers

IMPORTANT: Any application submitted late or incomplete WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. Documents must be in PDF format.



9.2. Pre-selection Based on Application File (Administrative + Video)

9.2.1. Administrative File Must Include

- Application form;
- Medical form;
- Information sheet;
- CV;
- Passport photo (file size under 1 MB, JPG/JPEG format);
- Medical certificate of physical fitness for circus arts practice issued within the last 3 months;
- Proof of payment of €65.

9.2.2. Videos

The four videos must be sent in a single file, as described below.

Video 1 – Circus Specialty

Present the technical work you master in your circus specialty. The video must show the quality of your technique, control, precision of movement, and ability to link different elements under training conditions.

The video must be filmed in a single continuous shot (one take, no editing or cuts).

Duration: 2 to 4 minutes.

Video 2 – Acrobatics / Acro-dance

Provide a compilation of excerpts presenting acrobatic sequences performed with control. The video may include acro-dance elements (acrobatic movements integrated into dance—controlled falls, floor work, rotations, inversions, variations of support) and/or acrobatic elements from gymnastic disciplines (artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline), such as cartwheels, inversions, jumps, flips, saltos, or dynamic transitions.

The video must include a variety of skills performed at your highest level.

Duration: 2 to 4 minutes.

Video 3 – Dance / Movement

Based on the meta-theme “The Influence of Wind”, create a danced composition combining written sequences and improvised phases. Explore how wind acts on the body—through momentum, resistance, fluidity, rupture, or vibration—and translate these forces into your dynamics, supports, directions, and quality of movement.

Duration: 2 to 4 minutes.

Video 4 – Acting

Present a short personal and sincere text about yourself (at least 5 lines). Say it once naturally, then a second time with anger, and a third time with joy. Non-French-speaking candidates may speak in their native language.

The video must be filmed in a single continuous shot (one take, no editing or cuts), indoors or outdoors. Address the camera directly.

Duration: 2 to 4 minutes.

9.3. Final On-site Selections

You will be invited between Thursday, June 4 and Saturday, June 6, 2026, approximately from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

You will be assessed through workshops in:

- physical preparation,
- acrobatics and trampoline,
- balancing techniques and flexibility,
- dance/movement,
- acting,
- circus specialty,
- interview.

9.3.1. Location of On-site Selections

École Nationale de Cirque
2 allée de la Laïcité – La Manufacture
86100 Châtellerault