

2026 Admission Conditions and Procedures for Master's Programmes

Summary

I. REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Monday 23 March 2026 at 5:00 PM Swiss time.

II. REQUIREMENTS

Degree

A Bachelor's degree already obtained or expected to be obtained before 1 September 2026 ¹.

Language(s)

Fine Arts – Work.Master	French and English
Fine Arts – CCC	French and English
Fine Arts – TRANSforme	French
Design – Visual Knowledge	French
Design – Design Installation	English
Design – Media Design	English
Design – Fashion and Accessories Design	English
Interior Architecture	English

Language certification is required for candidates whose degree was not obtained in a Francophone or Anglophone institution.

III. APPLICATION FEE

150 CHF per programme, payable online at the time of application.

1 programme = 150 CHF / 2 programmes = 300 CHF

IV. 3 REGISTRATION STEPS

1. Request access to the application form

Submit a request for access to the online application form via the link on the [2026 Admissions](#) page

→ Access codes will be sent to you by email within 24 hours.

¹ For admission applications without the required academic qualifications, please refer to the special conditions document available on the [admissions website](#).

2. Complete the application form

Fill in the form and upload copies of your diplomas and certificates (completed or in progress), then proceed with the payment of the application fee.

→ You will immediately receive an email with a link to the Switch platform.

3. Upload your personal file

→ Clicking on the link received gives direct access, without any prior login or registration, to the Switch platform to upload your personal portfolio.

V. PERSONAL FILE TO SUBMIT

1. Curriculum vitae in French or English

2. Statement of purpose (maximum 6,000 characters, including spaces) outlining the applicant's motivation for the programme, the proposed study project, and their positioning within the relevant field (see section IV. below for details specific to each programme)

3. Portfolio of personal work

VI. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Admission to Master's programmes is through a two-round selection process, specific to each programme.

1st round: review and evaluation of the personal file submitted by each candidate.

2nd round: individual admission interview for candidates selected after the 1st round.

VII. RESULTS

The results of the 1st and 2nd rounds of the admission process will be published on the application portal created for each applicant at the time of registration². The publication dates are listed below.

VIII. CALENDAR

Monday 17 November 2025	Opening of online registration
Monday 23 March 2026	Deadline for registration
Monday 20 April 2026	Results of the admissions' 1 st round published on the portal
4-8 May 2026	Admissions' 2 nd round interviews
Monday 18 May 2026	Final results of the admissions' 2 nd round published on the portal
Sunday 31 May 2026	Deadline to confirm the offer to join the HEAD – Genève
Tuesday 30 June 2026	Deadline to submit language proficiency certification (if required)
Sunday, 1 September 2026	Deadline to submit proof of diploma granting access to the Master level

² There will be no communication by post, unless requested in writing.

Detailed Procedure

I. REGISTRATION

All candidates must register online by **Monday 23 March 2026**, at 5:00 PM CEST on the [admissions website](#). Only applications that are fully completed and submitted within the deadline will be considered. **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.**

→ Each candidate may apply for a maximum of two programmes. Candidates applying to two programmes must participate in the specific competition for each programme. Admission to one programme does not grant access to another.

Three steps for registration

1. Registration is completed online via the [admissions website](#). An access code will be sent by email within 24 hours.

→ Please keep these login credentials, as they will be required to access your application portal.

→ We strongly recommend starting the process several days in advance to ensure your application can be submitted on time. Please keep in mind the time delay between requesting access to the application form and receiving your login codes.

2. The online registration form must be completed by providing your personal information and uploading the required documents giving access to Master's level studies at HEAD – Geneva:

→ Documents to be uploaded with the administrative registration form:

- A curriculum vitae
- Original Bachelor's degree certificate (and official translation if applicable)
- Final official transcript (and official translation if applicable)
- If the degree is still in progress: a recent official enrolment certificate proving that your studies are ongoing. If admitted, you will be asked to provide your final diploma and transcript.

→ The form concludes with payment of the application fee.

→ Once this step has been validated, an access code for the Switch platform (where you will upload your personal file) will immediately be sent to you by email.

3. The personal file must be uploaded to the Switch platform.

→ The link to the Switch platform will be sent to you by email immediately after the registration form has been validated. Please check your spam/junk folder if you do not receive the email.

→ See **section IV** below for details on the personal file's content.

II. REQUIREMENTS

Degree

Candidates must hold a Bachelor's degree from a university or HES or an equivalent foreign qualification. The degree must be obtained by 1 September 2026. It is the candidate's responsibility to prove that they meet the admission requirements.

→ If there is any doubt, the HEAD – Genève Admissions Office is available via email at admission.head@hesge.ch to confirm the eligibility of qualifications.

Language (s)

Fine Arts – Work.Master	French and English
Fine Arts – CCC	French and English
Fine Arts – TRANSforme	French
Design – Visual Knowledge	French
Design – Design Installation	English
Design – Media Design	English
Design – Fashion and Accessories Design	English
Interior Architecture	English

French language requirements	English language requirements
Candidates whose high school diploma or Bachelor's degree was not issued by a French-speaking institution must, after admission, submit by 30 June:	Candidates whose high school diploma or Bachelor's degree was not issued by an English-speaking institution must, after admission, submit by 30 June:
a B2-level French language certificate according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) . This certificate must be produced by a language school or other recognized institution.	a B2-level English language certificate according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) . This certificate must be produced by a language school or other recognized institution.
	or a TOEFL test taken no earlier than 1 July 2024, with a minimum score of 72.
	or a IELTS test taken no earlier than 1 July 2024, with a minimum score of 6.
Candidates holding an upper-secondary school diploma of Secondary II level (Maturité) from a German-speaking Swiss canton or from Ticino that includes French as a subject, as well as candidates holding a tertiary-level A qualification (Bachelor's degree or equivalent worth at least 180 ECTS credits) with French as the official language of instruction, are exempt from the requirement to provide this language certificate.	

If the required certification is not submitted by **30 June 2026**, the admission offer will be automatically voided.

III. APPLICATION FEE

A non-refundable application fee of CHF 150 per programme is required. If applying for two programmes, the fee totals CHF 300.

Applicants may pay the fee online or attach a proof of payment to their online registration form. This fee remains non-refundable even if the application is deemed ineligible during the requirements verification stage (see section II. above).

IV. PERSONAL FILE

Each applicant's personal portfolio must be uploaded to the Switch platform by **Monday 23 March 2026**. The link to the Switch platform is sent by email immediately after the registration form is validated. Please make sure to check your spam/junk folder in case the confirmation email is filtered.

The personal file must include the following components:

1. A curriculum vitae in French or English
2. A statement of purpose (maximum 6,000 characters, including spaces) outlining the applicant's interests and motivation for the programme, as well as:

Fine Arts – Work.Master [text in French or English]	the applicant's intellectual and professional positioning within the field of contemporary art
Fine Arts – CCC [text in French or English]	the initial concept of a research project, accompanied by relevant bibliographic and artistic references.
Fine Arts – TRANSforme [text in French]	the description of a collective practice project and fields of action.
Design – Visual Knowledge [text in French]	the proposed study project.
Design – Fashion and Accessories Design Design – Design Installation Design – Media Design [text in English]	the proposed study project.
Interior Architecture [text in English]	the applicant's intellectual and professional positioning within the field of interior architecture, particularly in relation to the contemporary challenges of the discipline.

3. A portfolio of personal works:

The entire personal file must be submitted as a single PDF file, clearly organised and no larger than 50 MB using the template provided [here](#).

[Link](#) to combine PDF files online | [Link](#) to compress a PDF file online

This single PDF file includes textual and visual elements (text, photos, drawings, diagrams, plans, etc.).

Websites, blogs, Tumblr and Instagram must be mentioned in the form of links.

Videos (or extracts), no longer than 10 minutes, must also be provided in the form of YouTube or Vimeo links (with login and password if necessary).

No audio-visual files may be uploaded to the Switch platform.

Candidates who fail to comply with these formal instructions may be disqualified.

Applicants' files are deleted from the platform at the end of the admissions process.

Fine Arts – Work.Master – CCC – TRANSforme	Interior Architecture & Design – Design Installation – Media Design – Fashion and Accessories Design – Visual Knowledge
The portfolio should demonstrate advanced artistic skills. It includes a rich and considered selection of recent work or ongoing projects. As the MA courses are specialised and expert courses, the choice of work included in the portfolio should allow for an understanding of: - the candidate's artistic or professional positioning. - the potential development of the candidate's practice. - the alignment of the candidate's project with the chosen programme. The portfolio may include any type of work deemed relevant to the application: works, research, sketches, drawings, photos, reproductions, digital productions, videos, publications, documentation of artistic experience, references, research experience, or curatorial activities.	The portfolio should demonstrate advanced design skills. It includes a rich and thoughtful selection of recent work or ongoing projects. The selection of work included in the portfolio should provide an understanding of the candidate's professional positioning or research and potential for development. The portfolio may include any type of work deemed relevant to the application: research, sketches, drawings, photographs, reproductions, plans, publications, digital productions, videos, documentation of design activities, or research experiences.

V. ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Admissions to Master's programmes are conducted through a two-round process, specific to each programme.

1st round

The 1st round involves the review and evaluation of the candidate's personal file by a panel of academic staff.

Evaluation criteria – 1st round

In the 1st round, applicants' personal files are assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance of know-how to the field of the intended course – judged on the basis of the portfolio
2. Motivation – assessed on the basis of the text setting out the applicant's motivations and training project
3. Ability to articulate clear and coherent thought in the field concerned – judged based on the text setting out intellectual and professional positioning
4. Alignment of the artistic/design development with the level of the intended course – assessed on the basis of the dossier as a whole

Criterion 4 is of a general nature and is designed to identify applicants who are insufficiently prepared or overqualified for the intended course.

Publication of results (selection)

Candidates will be notified by email **during the second half of April 2026** that a 1st round decision has been published on their application portal.

→ Candidates selected after the first round will receive an email invitation to the interview.

2nd round

The 2nd round of the selection process consists of an individual admission interview, to which candidates selected after the 1st round are invited by email.

Admissions interviews take place **from Monday 4 to Friday 8 May 2026**.

Fine Arts – Work.Master	Interview in French or English, at the applicant's choice
Fine Arts – CCC	Interview in French or English, at the applicant's choice
Fine Arts – TRANSforme	Interview in French
Design – Visual Knowledge	Interview in French
Design – Design Installation	Interview in English
Design – Media Design	Interview in English
Design – Fashion and Accessories Design	Interview in English
Interior Architecture	Interview in English

→ These interviews must take place at HEAD – Genève for all candidates whose address is in Switzerland or in the Rhône-Alpes region (unless force majeure applies). Other candidates may choose between an in-person interview at HEAD – Genève and an interview by videoconference. This choice must be specified during registration and cannot be changed, except in cases of force majeure.

Candidates are expected to begin the interview with a presentation of approximately 8 minutes, in which they give an overview of their work and present their training project. Candidates are specifically required to present:

Fine Arts – Work.Master Fine Arts – TRANSforme	a clearly articulated artistic and/or research project
Fine Arts – CCC	a clearly articulated research project
Interior Architecture Design – Visual Knowledge Design – Fashion and Accessories Design Design – Design Installation Design – Media Design	a clearly articulated design and/or research project

Evaluation criteria – 2nd round

During the interview, which is the 2nd round of the process, applications are assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Creative skills: aesthetic uniqueness, mastery of the skills and techniques of the field of the intended course, ability to conduct an experimental and multidisciplinary approach, dialogue between the practice and its social, economic, political, and cultural context
2. Reflective and conceptual skills: knowledge of the history and issues of the field of the intended course, ability to articulate a coherent thought process, reflective and critical stance on the artistic / design work
3. Profile and motivation: degree of development of the training project, determination to commit to the chosen field, ability to listen and engage in dialogue

Publication of results (admissions)

On **18 May 2026**, the final results of the 2nd round of the admissions process will be published on the application portal. Applicants will be notified by email that the results have been posted to the application portal.

VI. RESULTS

The results of the various stages of the admissions process are published on the application portal.

→ Access to the portal is available via this link: <https://age.hes-so.ch/> > **Login Local** using the same credentials provided during registration. **It is advised to keep the initial email with these details.**

Admission decisions for both the 1st and 2nd rounds of the selection process will be communicated exclusively via the application portal. No decisions will be sent by email or telephone.

→ Only an email notifying you that a decision has been published on the application portal will be sent to the email address provided during your registration³.

→ Candidates wishing to receive admission decisions by post must send an email to admission.head@hesge.ch with the subject line "Admission Response", including the postal address where results should be sent.

Successful candidates must confirm their enrolment at HEAD – Genève by **31 May 2026**.

→ Admissions are valid only for the 2026-2027 academic year and cannot be postponed.

→ Final admission to HEAD – Genève is contingent upon obtaining the required degree, and submitting the required proof of proficiency in English or French, if applicable (see section II. above).

VII. CALENDAR

Monday 17 November 2025	Opening of online registration
Monday 23 March 2026	Deadline for registration
Monday 20 April 2026	Results of the admissions' 1 st round published on the portal > If unsuccessful: the process ends for the current year. > If successful: candidates will receive by email a date and time for their 2 nd round interview
4-8 May 2026	Admissions' 2 nd round interviews
Monday 18 May 2026	Final results of the admissions' 2 nd round published on the portal > If unsuccessful: the process ends for the current year. > If "on the waiting list": candidates will be contacted between 1 June and 31 August 2026 if a spot becomes available > If successful: admission is confirmed for the 2026-2027 academic year
Sunday 31 May 2026	Deadline to confirm the offer to join the HEAD – Genève
Tuesday 30 June 2026	Deadline to submit language proficiency certification (if required)
Sunday, 1 September 2026	Deadline for submitting by email proof of having obtained the diploma granting access to the Master level (for applicants who were still completing their studies during the admissions process).

³ There will be no communication by post, unless requested in writing.