



APPLICATION PROCESS



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DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR PROFESSIONNEL ARTISTE DE CIRQUE

de l'école supérieure des arts du cirque



L'ACADÉMIE FRATELLINI

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Managing Director **Stéphane Simonin**
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PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOL

The Académie Fratellini offers a training programme that includes:

- An 8-month preparatory course to prepare for the entrance exams to circus schools
- A training course based on the principle of alternation between classes (60%) and professional work (40%), leading to the Diplôme National Supérieur Professionnel d'artiste de cirque, equivalent to a 3-year university degree
- A state diploma as a circus teacher (not covered by this application process)

Pre-apprentices and apprentices attend general and specialised courses, both individual and group, in a variety of areas. Regular group courses include acrobatics, balance and physical preparation, as well as intensive courses or workshops in various artistic disciplines (dance, theatre, music).

Selections process

- Applications open: **January 6th 2026**
- Deadline for applications: **March 6th 2026**
- Announcement of successful applicants: **April 10th 2026**
- Auditions at the Académie Fratellini: **from May 11th to 16th 2026**
- Announcement of results **on May 16th 2026** :
 - Admission to preparatory classes
 - Admission to 1st year
- Confirmation of enrolment by selected candidates: **May 27th 2026**



Re-opening week-end © Valérie Frossard

Application deadline

→ March 6th 2026

Requirements

- Be aged between 16 and 29.
- Hold or be in the process of obtaining a bachelor's degree (baccalauréat) or a French or foreign diploma recognised as exempt from assessment or equivalent (level 4, European nomenclature, EQF). Admission is subject to obtaining this diploma before July 31st 2026. Professional qualifications registered at level 4 or 5 of the Répertoire national des certifications professionnelles (RNCP) in the field of circus are exempt, in particular the Brevet Artistique des Techniques de cirque (BATC) and the title of Artiste de cirque et du mouvement.
- Proof of at least two years' practice in the circus arts or, where applicable, in gymnastics, acrobatics or choreography, including at least 500 hours of training per year.
- Have no contraindications to intense physical activity.
- Choose a single speciality for the application (if the speciality is a duo, the application must be submitted by both individuals involved). This year, the school does not recruit in swinging trapeze, seesaw and German wheel.
- Be authorised to reside AND work in France. If you are a non-European or non-Schengen European citizen, you must have lived in France for at least one year before starting your course in order to have a residence permit allowing you to work in France.
- Have an interest in artistic research.
- Be available from May 11th to 16th 2026 to take part in the auditions at the Académie Fratellini.

General information

- Candidates who do not meet all the requirements may submit a request for exemption, which will be considered by the jury.
- No equivalence or professional or educational background will exempt you from the admission tests.
- The tests can be adapted for candidates who need it (temporary disability, dyslexia, handicap). If this is the case, please let us know in advance.



Registration form

→ <https://bit.ly/3XYRPHu>

Documents to upload

in a single folder entitled « SURNAME_FirstName_Specialty »

→ <https://bit.ly/4ruVFGe>

- Resume
- Cover letter describing your project
- Recent identity photograph
- Photocopy of a valid identity card or passport, or of a valid residence permit
- Photocopy of the baccalauréat or equivalent level 4 diploma
 - Foreign diploma: provide an official translation from the French authorities or from a sworn translator in France
 - Candidates taking the baccalauréat or equivalent in 2026 will have to provide proof of schooling
- For minors: parental authorisation to take part in the admission test
- Proof of practical experience in circus arts or, where appropriate, in gymnastics, acrobatics or choreography, of at least two years' duration, including at least 500 hours of training per year
- Presentation video [3GB maximum, .mp4, .mov, no editing effects (no slowed-down, repeated or sequenced images)]: 1 track of 12 minutes maximum divided into 3 parts:
 - **Part 1: 2 to 5 minutes**
 - Suspension exercise:
 - Abdominals: without gaining momentum, raise your legs straight up, a minimum of 5 times
 - Abdominals: legs at 90° for 10 seconds
 - Chained pull-ups: 5 minimum
 - Flexibility:
 - Splits (face and side)
 - Bridge
 - Balance:
 - Handstand, both legs up together and split
 - Moves that show your highest level of technique
 - Acrobatic basics on the floor (on a hard floor, if possible without a thick mat, safety rope and parrying):
 - Front handspring
 - Back handspring and somersault
 - Moves that show your highest technical level
 - **Part 2: 3 to 4 minutes**
 - Training on your specialised apparatus, showing your technical level
 - **Part 3: 3 minutes maximum**
 - Artistic presentation of your speciality, with or without music, with or without costume



Requirements

- Having been selected following step 1 of the admission process
- Provide the information requested within the deadline
- Be available on site throughout the audition week (Académie Fratellini, Saint-Denis)

Audition week

You will be welcomed at the Académie Fratellini from **Monday 11th to Saturday 16th of May 2026**.

Please ensure that you can be physically present all the week. An additional exercise will be requested on **Saturday May 16th**. The results will be announced on the same day.

→ Programme

- Individual technical assessment in the chosen speciality
- Group assessment in acrobatics, balance, dance and theatre
- Individual artistic presentation lasting no more than 5 minutes
- Interview with the jury, chaired by the Managing Director of the Académie Fratellini

→ Precisions regarding the individual assessment in the chosen speciality

Depending on your group, you will present a composition of your choice lasting no more than 5 minutes in your speciality, in front of the jury, the teachers and a well-informed audience.

For this presentation, the presence of a mat adapted to your apparatus (landing mat, etc.), chosen by the technical service of the Académie Fratellini, is compulsory. It is therefore recommended to take this into account when creating your composition. Under no circumstances can this be called into question.

If your speciality requires the use of an apparatus, please come to the auditions with the apparatus and the appropriate connecting elements. Unicycles and Cyr wheels are considered to be apparatus. Before coming to the audition week, make sure that the apparatus is in good condition and that it has been approved.

If you do not have your own apparatus, ask your current school to provide you with one on which you have already practised your speciality. We supply the Chinese poles and can provide you with an apparatus if transport is a problem, in which case please contact us.



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→ <https://bit.ly/4ruVFGe>

- Medical certificate authorising the professional practice of circus arts
- Civil liability insurance certificate
- Equipment approval certificate if you are using your own apparatus
- Technical data of the apparatus
- Technical sheet for the audition performance: timeframe for music and lighting
- Soundtrack for the audition performance if need be
- Proof of registration with the French social security or health insurance scheme covering you in France, less than 3 months old and bearing your name (for students from the European Union: the European Health Insurance Card or E106 form)
- If you are a French national, your certificate of participation in the Journée Citoyenneté et Défense or the census receipt issued by your local town hall if you have not yet participated in this day, or your exemption certificate, if applicable



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Deadline

→ Before September 2026

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- For non-French-speaking applicants: TCF level 4* compulsory if admitted at the beginning of the academic year
- Candidates who obtained the baccalauréat or equivalent (level 4, European nomenclature, EQF) in July 2026 must provide proof of this

*The TCF level 4: Test de Connaissance du Français, corresponds to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages



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