



destination
Saarbrücken

an ERASMUS-guide to HBKsaar

Welcome to Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Saar (HBKsaar)

Dear ERASMUS students,
Thank you for your interest in studying at HBKsaar.
This guide will provide you with all important information
you may need to plan your stay and your study in
Saarbrücken.

A comprehensive catalog of all lectures, seminars and
courses held during a semester at HBKsaar is available
online at: www.hbksaar.de

Just follow the link *Vorlesungsverzeichnis*.

The International Office is responsible for counselling
foreign students so should you have questions, please
don't hesitate to contact us.

The International Office wishes you a successful and
pleasant time studying at HBKsaar.

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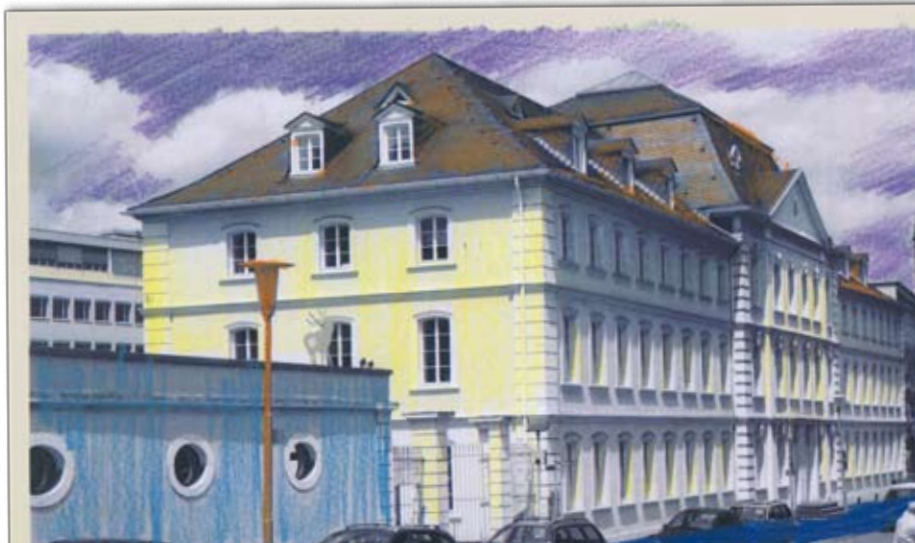
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Saarbrücken City

History and location

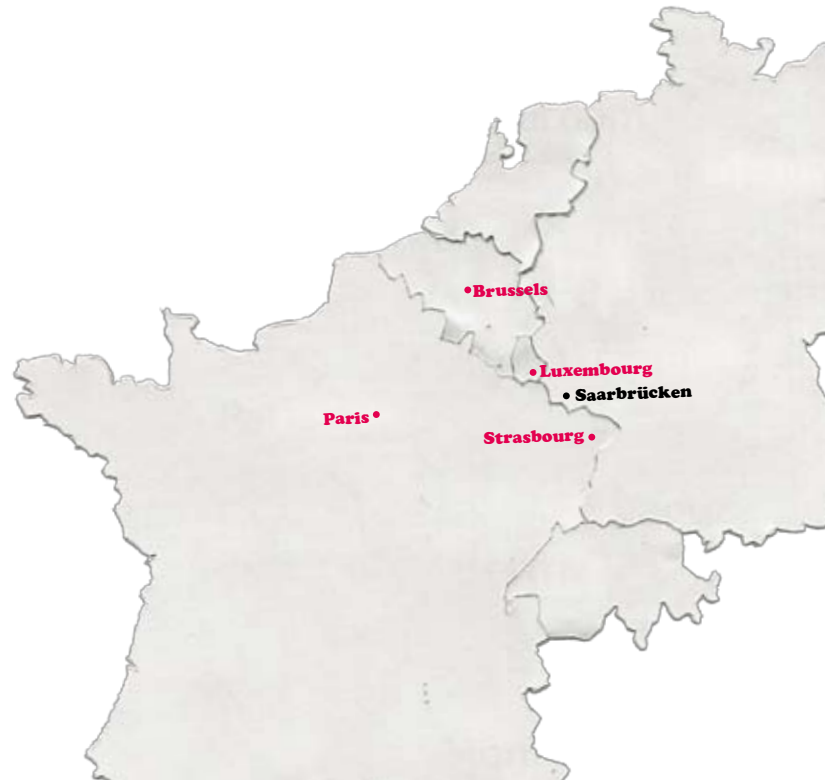
Saarbrücken, the state capital of Saarland, is situated at the heart of the Saar-Lor-Lux-Region in the South West of Germany. With its more than 180.000 inhabitants Saarbrücken is the economic centre of the Federal State of Saarland, where around one million people live. It is an important university and research location. Indeed, computer sciences, European competence and materials science there have an outstanding reputation worldwide.

Saarbrücken is currently evolving from a stagnant mining town to a vibrant centre of service, science, research and modern technology. Major companies and service providers, as well as almost all federal state authorities, are headquartered in Saarbrücken. The more than 200 specialist shops lining the modern pedestrian precinct and picturesque little streets and hidden courtyards are an excellent place to browse. A wide-ranging cultural programme and many different festivals and events attract thousands of visitors all year round.

The industrial era conferred a distinctive profile on the Saarland. A cultural landscape emerged characterised by monuments that document the history of human labour from the beginnings to the present day. One of the most significant symbols is the Völklinger Hütte, the only fully preserved ironworks from the heyday of industrialisation in the world. In 1994 UNESCO awarded the Völklinger Hütte the status of a World Cultural Heritage Site. Industrialisation in the Saarland began in the mid-19th century. From 1840 onwards, the production sites of the iron and steel industry as well as the coalmining industry flourished, through to the reconstruction years after the Second World War. The first major economic crisis hit the Saarland coalmining industry at the end of the 1950s. The decline of the iron and steel industry set in throughout the Saar-Lor-Lux-Region in 1975. Today, the former coalmines and iron and steel plants are being given a new lease of life as cultural venues or commercial locations.

The Saarland is strongly influenced by its proximity to France and the chequered history of a French-German border town. It has frequently changed hands between France and Germany during the last 200 years. Since 1957 the region has been an integral part of the Federal Republic of Germany, but the common passion for all French things is unmistakable. A certain *savoir vivre*, a *live and let live* mentality permeates the region's atmosphere.

If you draw a line from Brussels via Luxembourg to Strasbourg – the three most important centres of the European Union – the starting point nearest to all of these cities lies in Saarland. Saarbrücken is within easy reach due to an efficient airport close to the city, direct access to motorway in all directions as well as the railway connection. Since mid-2007 Saarbrücken is fully integrated into the European high-speed railway network. Saarbrücken is a location in the heart of Europe, from which Paris and Frankfurt can be reached in less than two hours by train.



Profile of HBKsaar

The Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Saar (HBKsaar) was founded in 1989 and has developed into one of the most important creative centres in the Großregion Saarland-Western Palatinate-Alsace-Lorraine-Luxembourg-Wallonia. The HBKsaar is a public institution with over 250 students and offers a challenging and fulfilling education in subjects that are contemporary and relevant to the artistic and creative fields. International renowned artists and designers assure a teaching of a high quality. The open study structure and the interdisciplinary orientation of the teaching as well as the distinctive emphasis on project works enable the students to be constantly involved in real work processes with concrete tasks. Consequently exhibitions and project presentations regularly emerged from the teaching and the research projects at HBKsaar and give innovative and creative impulses in the whole region.

Hence the HBKsaar has maintained the tradition of the Saarland art school since 1942 which is associated with famous names like Boris Kleint, Frans Masereel, Peter Raacke, Robert Sessler or Otto Stein.

The HBKsaar together with the University of Art in Nancy regularly organises glass seminars and design workshops in the Centre International d'Art Verrier in Meisenthal, a commune situated in the Vosges mountain range in the neighbouring Lorraine. Students are introduced there to the techniques in glass work under the guidance of international renowned designers.

Besides the regional connection to scientific and cultural institutions and enterprises the HBKsaar has established international educational links with a great number of schools of art and design in Europe, Asia and North America.

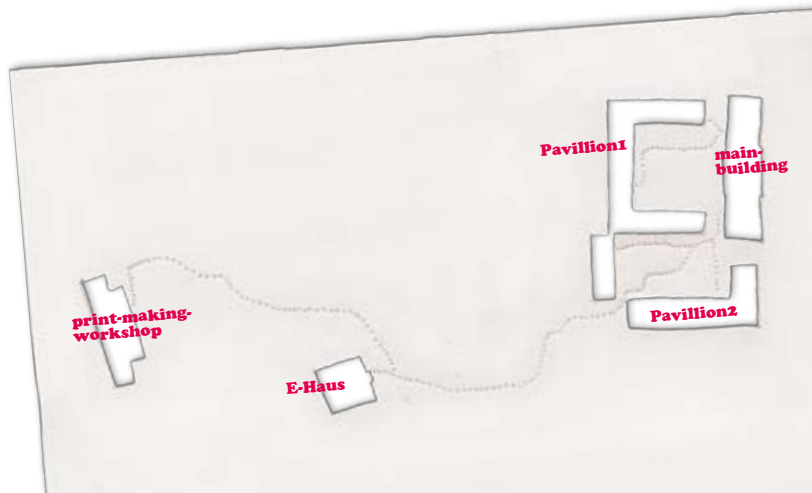
The international orientation, the practice-based teaching as well as the interdisciplinary concept which integrates the fields of art, design and research offer a stimulating study environment for students from all over the world.

Facilities and resources

The main building of the HBKsaar is situated in the Saarbrücken city centre. It houses the Chancellor's office, the administration, the studios and the lecture rooms, a wide-ranging library, a media library and the Hochschule archive and well-equipped workshops.

The workshops are equipped to industry standards and are run by highly skilled workshops managers and tutor technicians who contribute significantly to the teaching programmes. They provide the students with a comprehensive range of artistic, creative as well as scientific skills and experiences. Workshops for wood, metal, model building and CAD are equipped with the very latest industrial-standard machinery, like a milling machine. Specialised machines are supplemented by extensive hand and power-tools, based in workshops dedicated to 3D work.

The print-making workshop provides excellent facilities for mostly paper-based printmaking using a wide range of processes including letterpress printing, screen-printing, etching and lithography.



The photography workshop offers extensive facilities for both digital and analog photography. It includes a studio with professional lighting equipment and darkroom with a range of processing and printing facilities for small, medium and large-format film cameras.

A particularity at the HBKsaar is the sound studio which was founded 1994. It is one of the few studios specialised in the field of sound at German schools of art. Because of its professional equipment the sound studio is able to teach students of the University of Music of Saarland in the field of electronic music. Furthermore special introductory courses are offered for exchange students in the area of sound art, sound design as well as music for film and video.

The computer laboratory houses the latest fully networked PCs and Apple Macs, including Dolby Surround system and a high performance beamer. It offers regularly updated, industry standard software for multimedia, digital imaging, 2D and 3D design.

The video workshop is outfitted with high quality camera and lightning techniques as well as a studio with blue screen capabilities.

The HBKsaar also maintains a facility in the UNESCO World Culture Heritage Site at the Völklingen ironworks. This site is only at 10 km from Saarbrücken and offers the students an exceptional industrial and cultural working environment. Besides the existing studios and workshops different experimental laboratories and project-based facilities for technology orientated media in art and design emerge at the Völklingen location.

The Institute for Contemporary Art in Saarland situated in Saarlouis is an affiliate institute of the HBKsaar. It offers information about the artistic projects of the region as well as substantial data about the development of the Fine Arts in Saarland. This archive is made accessible for study and research work.





studio Langendorf



Final project Tanja Weber



studio Langendorf

General structure and areas of study

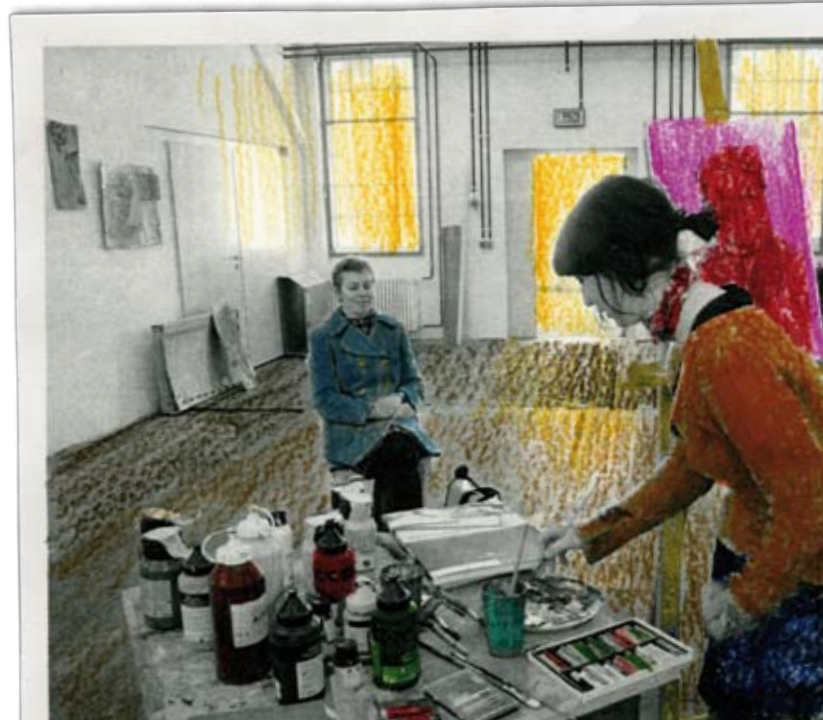
The HBKsaar offers the following courses: Fine Art, Communication Design, Product Design, Media Art & Design and Art Education.

The courses lead to diplomas in art or design and the art education course is completed with the first state examination. These degree programmes are integrated in undergraduate (Grundstudium) and graduate (Hauptstudium) study programmes. The standard course length is 10 semesters. During the first two years students are introduced to the basics of art or design. The *Vordiplom* (intermediate exam) completes this first part. In the third and fourth year the courses are problem-orientated with a strong emphasis on special projects. The fifth year is mainly dedicated to work on the diploma-thesis and examination which concludes each programme.

The HBKsaar is currently changing its study programmes to the internationally recognized Bachelor/Master course scheme. It first introduced the modularisation of the curriculum of its course art and education in the winter 2007/08. The HBKsaar has approved the introduction of the ECTS model for all courses of study so that they will be converted to the new Bachelor's and Master's degree system by winter semester 2009/10. The objective of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is to modularise course curricula and thus improve the transparency of course requirements and the comparability of student academic achievements.

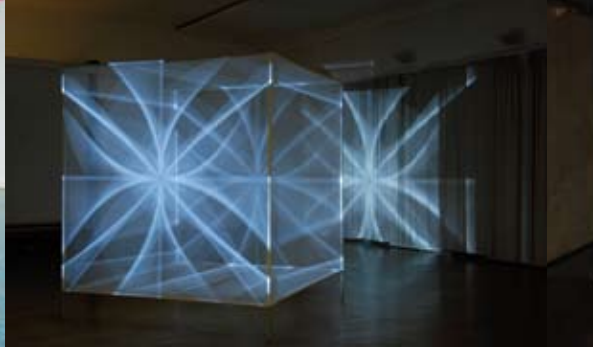
Painting

Painting is and remains one of the most important disciplines of fine arts. In the painting studios of HBKsaar, a teaching based on individual tutorials encourages the exploration and the development of a vast range of styles and themes of the painting. The artistic possibilities of development and formulations range from classic inspired panel through to installation space compositions.





Final project Martine Glod



studio Hausig



Final project Johanna Sunder-Plassmann

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Sculpture

Students can work and experiment in spacious studios and workshops located in the industrial environment of the UNESCO's world culture heritage site *Völklinger Hütte*. Sculpture, painting and design find a cross-disciplinary field of work and research in the former craftsmen workshops, *Handwerkergasse*.

The new project office S_A_R (Sculpture-Action-Research) develops and realizes projects in public space and participates active with artistic means in the conception and the planning of social states and spaces.

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Mixed Media

This multidisciplinary course encompasses different fields of new artistic media like Audiovisual Art and Sound Art, Video Art and Digital Media, Performance and Interactive Space Staging. These multimedia aspects are integrated in project works in many ways and generate experimental innovative works of high sensual quality.





studio Maksimovic



studio Kupferschmid



Final project Anika Engelbrecht



studio Brandolini

Communication Design

The fields of work of communication design are diverse. So the teaching is broad and multidisciplinary and provides a creative and energetic study environment. The course offers a challenging and fulfilling education in subjects that are relevant to a wide range of careers in the creative industries.

At HBKsaar the programme for communication design focuses on advertising design, typography, layout for print media or web design, illustration and communication strategy for marketing as well as corporate design.



Product Design

Product design covers a broad spectrum of product types, from a chair through to a complete interior design, from a spoon through to a car body.

Designers create objects which play an important part in our everyday lives. Students at HBKsaar learn the different processes of product design, from the conception to the manufacturing of the final product in various areas like furniture design, interior design as well as system design and industrial design.





studio Detzler

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Media Art & Design

Media Art & Design is an interdisciplinary course “between” art and design which encourages the creativity which can be generated by working across the discipline boundaries. The course offers a challenging and stimulating experience whilst providing the flexibility to explore areas that match individual ambitions. The practical focus of the course is the creation of electronic time-based works and interactive works. Media Art & Design encompasses Media Art, Sound Art and Light Art, interactive productions, innovative film-making like cartoons, animation or moving image in general, digital applications for internet, photography as well as the creation of virtual spaces.



Art Education

Art teachers are experts for specific communication, pedagogical and educational processes in the field of fine art which they plan on the basis of artistic and aesthetic experiences on one hand and of art scientific knowledge on the other hand. To this purpose they must command artistic and creative skills, specialist didactic skills and specialist skills in art sciences. Students of art education prepare for a career as art teachers at secondary schools. They always have to take a second subject at Saarbrücken University during the full course of their studies. Students of art education graduate together with prospective artists and designers.

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Information on admission

ERASMUS students are admitted on the basis of a bilateral agreement between their home institution and the HBK Saar and are registered as *visiting students*. They will be placed according to their interest and space availability. ERASMUS students are admitted for a period limited to a maximum of two semesters. They do not have to pass the language proficiency test. Good knowledge of English and at least some basic knowledge of German are nevertheless recommended in order to make their stay in Saarbrücken as successful as possible.

Application procedure

ERASMUS students must be officially nominated by their home university.

The application must contain the following documents:

- ★ Application for admission; the application form can be found under www.hbksaar.de, link *download*
- ★ Curriculum Vitae (with personal data)
- ★ Portfolio; the portfolio should be a collection of the most recent work. It helps the school to evaluate the achievements and determine the academic standing of the applicants. It can be a booklet (not larger than A4), CD or DVD.

Closing dates for application:

Winter semester: 30th June

Summer semester: 31st December

In case of acceptance, the HBK Saar sends the home institution a letter of admission.

Enrolment

The exact deadline for enrolment is given on the letter of admission.

To enrol ERASMUS students must come to the International Office of the HBK Saar and present the following documents:

- ★ A valid identity card or passport
- ★ A proof of health insurance
- ★ 1 passport-sized photo
- ★ The learning agreement

Academic calendar and deadlines

An academic year at the HBK Saar is divided up into 2 semesters:

Winter semester: 1st October to 31st March

Summer semester: 1st April to 30th September

Lectures are held during the lecture period or Vorlesungszeit:

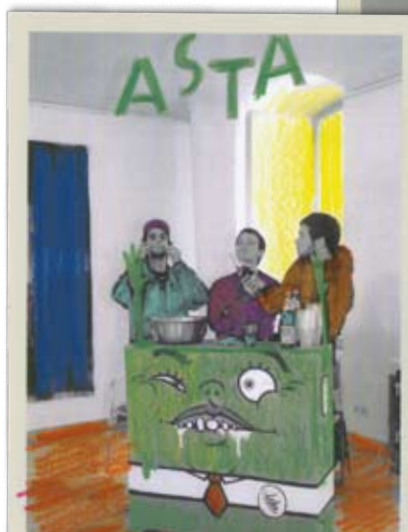
Winter semester:

Lecture period: mid October to mid February

Summer semester:

Lecture period: mid April to mid July

We would like to point out that no lectures or classes are held during the **non-lecture period** (Vorlesungsfreie Zeit):
mid February to mid April and mid July to mid October.
During the Christmas and New Year holidays much of the HBK Saar is closed and no lectures take place.



Important documents

Learning Agreement

A Learning Agreement is a programme of study that ERASMUS students define with their departmental coordinator, listing module name and credits for each of the courses they will attend during their stay at HBKsaar. A comprehensive catalog (*Vorlesungsverzeichnis*) of all lectures, seminars and courses held during a semester at HBKsaar is available online at www.hbksaar.de. The Learning Agreement is a contract between the student, the home university and the host university. It is available at the home university.

ERASMUS students are expected to pick courses on their own initiative. Although they are required to obtain a certain number of certificates of achievement – Scheine* – in order to take exams and to complete their studies, it is largely up to the students to choose their courses and to draw up their own timetable. The Departmental Coordinator at the HBKsaar will help choose adequate courses.

Transcript of records

At the end of the studies in Saarbrücken, the achievements have to be certified on a document called the transcript of records. The transcript of records lists all the courses completed and all the ECTS credits attained by the student, thus enabling the student's academic achievements to be transferred to the study programme at the home institution. By presenting the Scheine* to the International Office at HBKsaar, the ERASMUS coordinator will issue the transcript of records. (Scheine are course certificates issued for participation and satisfactory completion of a course.)

Health Insurance

Students cannot enrol at the HBKsaar without proof of valid Health Insurance. Students should ask their home insurance fund to issue them a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or a substitute certificate. Students who are covered by a private insurance in their home country should ensure that their coverage is sufficient in Germany. A written proof coverage is necessary for enrolment at the HBKsaar. Students should ensure that their Liability Insurance and their Accident Insurance is valid for the entire period of stay.

Practical information

Student's Union Executive Committee (ASTA)

The ASTA represents the interests of the students and supports a comprehensive range of information and advisory services to all students. The ASTA provides help on a wide range of issues, including finance, social and legal matters as well as personal problems and concerns. It runs the HBKsaar cafeteria and organizes events of cultural or political relevance. You can contact the ASTA for questions about accommodation, job hunting, cultural events and activities, etc. Email: asta@hbksaar.de

Accommodation

Unfortunately, the HBKsaar does not have any subsidised housing or student accommodation. So all students, and also ERASMUS students have to find residential accommodation within the private sector on their own. We recommend to arrange accommodation in advance. The ASTA of the HBKsaar may be able to assist in finding accommodation.

A high percentage of HBKsaar students live in privately rented accommodation, most of them in shared apartments (Wohngemeinschaften or WGs). The best way to look for private accommodation prior to beginning your studies is through the internet. Information on rooms and flats to rent can be found on the following webpages:

www.saarbruecken.homecompany.de

www.studenten-wg.de

www.studentenwohnungsmarkt.de

A building project organisation in Saarbrücken offers halls of residence:

www.saarland-bautraeger.de

If you don't have a room after arriving in Saarbrücken, we recommend you to stay at the European Youth Hostel, Meerwiesertalweg 31, 66123 Saarbrücken, Tel: +49 (0)681 33040, Fax: +49 (0)681 374911, www.djh-info.de

Student card/ Semester travel ticket

By enrolling at HBK Saar, you will automatically receive a student card. The student card entitles you to one semester of free travel on most public transport within Saarland. These include the local buses and trains operated by members of the Saarland Public Transport Association (VGS), the regional buses of the RSW network and the local and regional services operated by Deutsche Bahn (DB) up to Waldmohr and Zweibrücken. In many cases, presenting your student card will entitle you to reduced ticket prices in theatre, cinemas, museums, concerts and other cultural events.

German course

During both the winter and the summer semesters, the International Office of the Saarland University organizes German language courses at different levels for international students.

In March, August and September, during the semester breaks, the International Office offers intensive German language courses lasting 4 weeks. These courses also include an exciting range of workshops (e.g. theatre, course newspaper) as well as varied recreational programme (excursions, film evenings).

You can find information about the courses at:
www.uni-saarland.de/de/studium/sprachkurse/deutsch

International contacts

The HBK Saar maintains an extensive international network and collaborates with the following universities within the framework of the European ERASMUS exchange programme:

Belgium

Sint-Lucas Art College, Gent

France

Ecole des Beaux-Arts et des Arts Décoratifs, Bordeaux
Ecole Supérieure d'Art et de Design, Reims
Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Rennes
Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Toulouse

Great Britain

Glamorgan Centre for Art & Design, Pontypridd

Italy

Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche, Florenz
Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, Milano

Netherlands

Academy of Visual Arts & Design, Enschede

Norway

Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Oslo

Romania

National University of Art, Bucarest
University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca

Slovakia

Academy of Fine arts and Design, Bratislava

Spain

Escola Massana, Barcelona
Polytechnic University College, Valladolid

Sweden

School of Industrial Design, Lund





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