The Institut supérieur des beaux-arts de Besançon offers programs leading to master’s degrees in art and visual communication.

The three growth areas that distinguish the institution are:
- Research. The school maintains agreements with European university laboratories in 3 research areas: the artist and the body, the social contract, and impressions.
- Internationalization. In addition to Erasmus exchanges, the faculty is very diverse, and students must study abroad in their fourth year. The school has more than 30 academic partners in many different countries.
- Production. Beginning in their first year, students are invited to create and exhibit their work under professional conditions thanks to a dense network of close cultural partners. The school’s alumni network is a particularly rich source of contacts. The institution is further characterized by two other dimensions: (i) continuous assessment (class council in years 1 and 2, and a teaching and learning assessment in June) and (ii) career planning and development (regular meetings with alumni to exchange good practices and to benefit from an array of projects).

**RESEARCH**

Research at ISBA is organized into three clusters, each attracting advanced scholars and featuring both a publication program and learning enrichment programs specific to years 3, 4, and 5. The three research clusters are:
- Art and body: This cluster deals with the role of the artist's body in his work.
- Impressions: This cluster grapples with the question of the meaning and means of reproduction of artistic work.
- The social contract: An examination of the question of artistic memory and, by extension, of the economic and social engagement of today’s artists.

**STRENGTHS**

- The Institut Supérieur des beaux-arts de Besançon is a part of the Grand Est network of schools in Besançon, Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Metz, Nancy, Châlonsur-Saône, Dijon, Epinal, and Reims.
- ISBA has an artists’ residence that houses visiting artists from all over the world.
- Continuing education (evening, after school, and weekend classes: arrangements can be made to audit the traditional curriculum)
- A built-in preparatory program: ISBA and the Jacot school of art in Belfort have an agreement that allows Jacot graduates to enroll in the ISBA program based on their academic record and without taking an entrance examination.

**LOCATION**

The city of Besançon occupies a special place on the European "Rhine-Rhone axis," a highway from the North Sea to the Mediterranean that links northern and southern Europe. More specifically, the city is located at the junction of the mountainous rangeland of the Jura mountain chain and the vast, fertile plains of Franche-Comté. Besançon is in the northwest corner of the Doubs department, in the Doubs valley. The city is about 90 kilometers from Dijon in Burgundy, Lausanne in Switzerland, and Belfort at the gates of Alsace and Germany. It is 327 kilometers from Paris as the crow flies.

**MAIN PROGRAMMES OF STUDY**

Instruction is available in two options—art and visual communication—leading to two national diplomas:
- The DNA (diplôme national d'arts plastiques, national diploma in visual arts) in 3 years.
- The Master, formerly known as the DNSEP (diplôme national supérieur d’expression plastique, higher national diploma in visual expression) in 5 years.

The latter is recognized as the equivalent of a French and European master’s degree. Since 2005, the institute has also been an approved center for the evaluation and validation of acquired experience for the two diplomas described above.