

APPLICATION GUIDE

15th ESNAM ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (2027)

Please read carefully before registering online !

Dear candidates,

You are about to apply for the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette – Margareta Niculescu (ESNAM) entrance examination. Online registration will be open from **Monday 4 January 2027 at 9.00 am until Monday 1 February 2027 at 5.00 pm** (Paris time: UTC +1).

We advise you to prepare all the required information in advance, as you will have to fill in your details in one go (**it is impossible to put the document on standby**). This guide is available to help you with this process.

The average time to fill in the form is about 30 minutes provided that you prepared the information in advance. Make sure you have a good internet connection..

Once you have completed the form, you must ensure that you submit both the form and the supporting documents separately before the closing date and hour for your application to be considered eligible.

Good luck with your preparation!

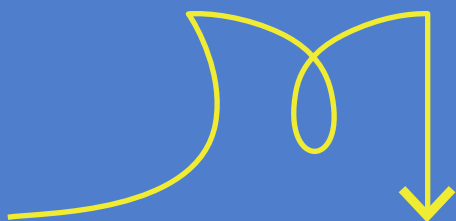
The ESNAM entrance examination takes place every three years. The procedure and conditions governing the examination are set out in the ESNAM Academic Regulations.

In 2027, the examination rules are changing!

Selection for the first-round is now based on an assessment of a complete administrative and artistic application pack.

This includes:

- The duly completed application form
- Supporting documents
- An artistic portfolio
- Video submissions
(detailed requirements and formats on pages 5 and 6)



Key dates

Online application

From 4 January to 1 February 2027

Opening of online applications: application form, supporting documents, artistic portfolio and videos.

1st round - Selection based on application files

Mid-February 2027

Announcement of the candidates admitted to the probationary workshop and the final exam (2nd round) > up to 32 candidates
Notification letters will be sent out.

2nd round - Probationary workshop and final exam

15–21 April 2027

At ESNAM, in Charleville-Mézières.

Publication of results

21 April 2027

Announcement of candidates admitted to ESNAM.

Conditions for applying

- Be aged between 18 and 26 on 1 September 2027.
- Baccalauréat or equivalent French or foreign qualification (level 4 / CNCP in France).
- At least one year of theatre experience and/or another artistic discipline (circus, dance, visual arts, etc.).

Please note that a « baccalauréat spécialité théâtre » is not considered to count as one year of experience in the field.

- Applicants of all nationalities are eligible provided they can demonstrate a basic/everyday level of proficiency in French (level A2/B1 of the [CEFR framework](#)).
- Applicants must pay the entrance examination registration fee: €60 (non-refundable).

► Exceptions to the age and diploma limits may be considered by an internal committee. In this situation the applicant is required to submit an additional letter, addressed to the director of ESNAM, clearly setting out the reasons of their request. This letter must be attached to the registration form.

Online application

Registration is available online only. The link to the form will be available **from 4 January 2027 at 9.00 am until 1 February 2027 at 5.00 pm** (Paris time: UTC +1) on the [dedicated page](#).

To register for the entrance examination, each candidate must:

- Ensure that he/she meets the conditions for applying (listed above).
- Complete the online form and provide the supporting documents in the formats requested (page 7).
- Pay the 60€ application fee (non-refundable).
- Submit his/her application (form + supporting documents) by 5:00 pm on 1 February 2027 at the latest (Paris time: UTC +1).

► **Any problem?**

please contact us by phone at **+33(0)6 33 26 65 78**

Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm (Paris time: UTC +1)

or write to concours@marionnette.com

► **For specific requests**

relating to a particular situation or disability

please contact sarah.andrieu@marionnette.com

and/or elodie.pigorot@marionnette.com

ESNAM will be closed from 20 December 2026 to 3 January 2027 included.



Online application form items

- Your contact details.
- Your INE number (for French nationals).
- Details of your general studies (dates, diploma, school, city/country).
- Details of your artistic studies (dates, diploma, school, teachers, city/country).
- Details of your professional background, both general and artistic (dates, function, organisations).
- Your reasons for joining the ESNAM.
- Your expectations regarding the course.
- Your specific needs.
- Links to your compulsory introductory videos.
- A questionnaire on how you found out about ESNAM.

 [To help you, you will find a pro forma template of the form.](#)

Compulsory videos

Each candidate must prepare three short videos that will enable the panel to gain an insight into their practice and approach to theatre and puppetry, as well as their motivations (the expected content is detailed on the following page).

These videos must be uploaded to a private YouTube channel.

[How do you create a YouTube channel?](#)

[How do you make a YouTube channel private?](#)

The link for each video must be provided in the application form.

As a precaution, we recommend that you submit a Word or PDF document containing these links as supporting documentation.

These videos must be online by 1 February 2027 at the latest and remain accessible on the YouTube channel for the entire duration of the examination (up to and including 22 April 2027).

Standardised title: **SURNAME First name - Vidéo 1 concours ESNAM 15**

Please note that any video that does not comply with the technical requirements and guidelines set out below will not be considered. By entering the ESNAM entrance examination, you agree not to use artificial intelligence for the compulsory or supplementary videos.

Technical specifications for the videos

- Video length: between 2'30 and 3' MAXIMUM for videos 1 and 2, between 3' and 3'30 for video 3.
- At the start of each video: introduce yourself to the camera, stating your first name and surname.
- Videos must be filmed using a mobile phone.
- Fixed shot.
- No zooming.
- Lighting: indoor or natural light.
- No editing.
- No filters.
- No sound mixing: direct sound recording.
- No use of artificial intelligence.

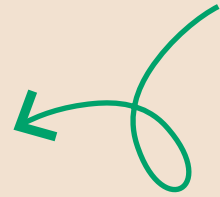
Content and duration	Assessment framework	Instructions	
Video 1 Scene with object or puppet drawn from the classical or contemporary theatre repertoire Between 2'30 and 3' MAXIMUM	- Text comprehension/approach to French - Interpretation/acting and manipulation	- Solo or with a partner - In French - No shadow theatre - At the start of the scene: after introducing yourself, state the title and author of the play	
Video 2 Free-form performance with object or puppet Between 2'30 and 3' MAXIMUM	- Manipulation - Acting - Relationship with the object	- Solo - With or without text, any text - If with text - Any text - At the start of the recording: after introducing yourself, state the title and author of the text	
Video 3 The candidate Between 3' and 3'30 MAXIMUM	Self-introduction and motivation - How did you come to be interested in puppetry? - What attracts you into puppetry? - What are your expectations about the school?	1'30 MAXIMUM	Solo
	What does being a puppeteer mean to you?	30" MAXIMUM	
	Introduce the object/puppet you have chosen for Video 2 - Explain your choice? - What does it bring to this scene? - Where does this object come from? Who made it? How, if you know?	1'30 MAXIMUM	

Supporting documents

► to be sent to concours@marionnette.com

Via the [Smash](#) file transfer platform

Accepted file formats: PDF, PNG, JPEG / maximum 2 MB per file



- A passport photo (portrait).
- Valid passport or identity card (both sides).
- A curriculum vitae.
- Proof of having passed the baccalauréat or an equivalent French or foreign qualification; foreign nationals should obtain proof of equivalence from a French consulate.
- For French citizens, an individual certificate of participation in the Defence and Citizenship Day (JDC).
- If concerned, a request letter for exemption to age limit or diploma.

Portfolio

Any documents that demonstrate your artistic abilities and world (photos, drawings, written work...). Any additional videos must be shared via a link, accompanied by a short written description. These links (URLs) and descriptions must be compiled into a single Word or PDF document.

► If you feel it is necessary to send us the original documents in addition to their digital versions, please post them to the following address before the deadline (as evidenced by the postmark):

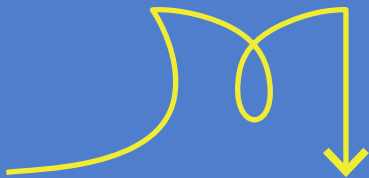
POLE INTERNATIONAL DE LA MARIONNETTE
7 PLACE WINSTON CHURCHILL
F-08000 CHARLEVILLE-MEZIERES

Entrance examination fee

The entrance examination fee is €60 (non-refundable) and must be paid by bank transfer. Please specify **droit-inscription-concours + SURNAME and First name** on the bank transfer form to:

POLE INTERNATIONAL DE LA MARIONNETTE
IBAN : FR76 3000 4008 7100 0034 5287 783
BIC : BNPAFRPPXXX

**Please note that your application and all the documents listed above must be sent to us by
1 February 2027 at 5.00 pm (Paris time: UTC +1).**



Entrance examination step by step

Administrative compliance of the applications

After registration closes on 1 February 2027 at 5.00 pm (Paris time: UTC+1): review of application forms, supporting documents, videos and requests for exemptions.

Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

First round: selection based on application files

The First-round selection Jury draws up the list of candidates admitted to the second round (probationary period and final exam). This shortlist may include up to 32 people.

► **An email confirming whether candidates have been accepted or rejected will be sent during the week of 15 February 2027.**

► **Candidates who have been shortlisted for the Second round will then be summoned by email.**

Second round: probationary workshop and final exam

From Thursday 15 to Wednesday 21 April 2027

At ESNAM, 16 avenue Jean Jaurès, 08000 Charleville-Mézières (France)

- **Wednesday 14 April 2027: arrival of the candidates**
- Information session and visit of the ESNAM
- **Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 April 2027: probationary workshop**
4 work-based sessions: visual arts/construction, body and movement, acting, puppetry
- **Monday 19 April 2027: preparation for the final exam**
- **Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 April 2027: final exam**

Each candidate is given a set of elements/materials from which they prepare a short performance using an object or puppet, which they present to the second-round jury. This is followed by a brief interview.

► **At the end of the entrance examination, the selection jury selects up to sixteen candidates to form the 15th class of ESNAM (2027–2030). The list of candidates who have been definitively admitted is displayed at the school and published on the same day on www.marionnette.com**

Post-examination

Week of 3 May 2027

- On registration : Individual video conference with the direction of ESNAM for candidates who were not admitted at the end of the Second round.
- First online information meeting for new students forming the 15th class.

Additional information

- In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, you have the right to access, rectify or delete your personal data, which you may exercise by contacting the Institut International de la Marionnette. The data collected is for the exclusive use of the ESNAM.
- Travel, meal and accommodation costs during the second round of the entrance examination in Charleville-Mézières are at the expense of the candidates. Candidates from territories or states outside mainland France may contact ESNAM's teaching department for assistance in finding accommodation.
- Tuition at ESNAM is free.
However, the following fees will be the responsibilities of the students during their studies at ESNAM:
 - Accommodation and daily expenses (food, transport, etc.).
 - CVEC (Contribution Vie Étudiante et du Campus - Student and Campus Life Contribution) to be paid each year: €105 for the 2026-2027 academic year (Students on French government scholarships are exempt).
 - Registration fees at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (URCA) for the « Licence Arts, parcours pratique artistique : marionnette ». €178 for the academic year 2026-2027 (Students on French government scholarships are exempt).
- The academic year will start at the beginning of September 2027.



CONTACT US

You can write at concours@marionnette.com

or phone at +33(0)3 24 33 72 50 / +33(0)6 33 26 65 78

Monday to Friday

9.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm (Paris time: UTC+1)



**ESNAM will be closed
from 20 December 2026 to 3 January 2027 included.**



Pôle international de la marionnette

Jacques Félix

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