

Gobelins Animation Department

Q&A

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ENTRANCE EXAMS

about the requested Tumblr

- **Is there an example of Tumblr designed specifically for the entrance exam?**

Yes, a template blog exists for each entrance exam:

- Common entrance exam to **Animation Preparatory Year** (PGA) and to Bachelor of Arts “**Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking**” (ARFA) <https://pga-bachelor-arfagobelins2021.tumblr.com>
- Entrance exam for direct entry to Master of Arts in **Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking** (CAAF) <https://master-caaf43gobelins2021.tumblr.com/>
- Entrance exam for specialisation in 3D Character Animation (3DCA)
French-speaking candidate : <https://ap3dgobelins2021.tumblr.com/>
International candidate <https://3dcagobelins2021.tumblr.com/>

- **Are the Tumblr examined directly upon application?**

The Tumblr are assessed by our juries only once the application periods have closed.

Regarding the common GOBELINS Preparatory Year entrance exam / Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, the Tumblr may be completed after the closing date for applications, productions may be added up to 8 March 2021 (date of the jury selection). If the candidate is eligible, they may continue to add to their blog up to the week preceding the oral interview.

- **Regarding the Tumblr, the explanatory pdf specifies that drawings based on photos are not acceptable. Does this refer to observational drawings only, or can free creations be inspired by photos?**

If we consider that a drawing inspired by a photo is a form of interpretation, its aim is not to accurately reproduce the photo (and is thus produced without the use of the photo); in this case it is effectively not an observational drawing. It is considered to be a free creation.

- **Is it possible to add other creative media to Tumblr, such as pottery or models, etc.?**

For the common Gobelins Preparatory Year entrance exam /Bachelor of Arts in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, we expect candidates to present their artistic production from the last 12 months. These productions must be numerous in quantity and of a wide variety. In this context, creations other than drawings are welcome.

- **With regard to the Tumblr, if we use a sketch-pad, must we post pages of the pad or the drawings one by one?**

For the common Gobelins Preparatory Year entrance exam /Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, by photographing full pages of your sketch-pads, the jury will have a more accurate idea of what you draw in general and will see your weak points, your strong points and the development of your technique. If you select only the drawings which you feel are interesting, you risk not presenting enough work, which may be an eliminating factor for this entrance exam. For the Masters entrance exam, you must select your best drawings. It is therefore not useful to scan your sketch-pad in its entirety.

- **What kind of drawings or works can we put on Tumblr? (For example, would a drawing of a character from a series or film that already exists be accepted?)**

For the common Gobelins Preparatory Year entrance exam / Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, everything is accepted, as long as there is a sufficient number and variety of works, most of the works are produced using traditional techniques and you avoid copying images which already exist. A personal re-interpretation of an existing character is therefore allowed, as is a creation inspired by a famous work.

- **How should drawings be posted on Tumblr? (By series? In chronological order?)**

For the common Gobelins Preparatory Year entrance exam / Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, we ask that productions be posted on Tumblr in chronological order, from the oldest to the most recent.

- **How many drawings must be posted on Tumblr?**

For the common Gobelins Preparatory Year entrance exam / Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, quantity is a decisive factor, it is up to the candidate to present what they believe is a large amount.

- **What is the deadline for posting work on Tumblr?**

Regarding the common Gobelins Preparatory Year entrance exam / Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, the Tumblr may be completed and added to after the closing date for applications, productions may be added up to 8 March 2021 (date of the jury selection). If the candidate is eligible, they may continue to add to their blog up to the week preceding the oral interview.

Derogation requests

- **Under what conditions can a derogation be requested?**

Candidates who do not meet the pre-requisites for an entrance exam may request a derogation. Such candidates must email an explanatory letter, accompanied by an online

graphic portfolio (free content) (Tumblr link, Drive link or equivalent, without a password) to the following address: info-concours@gobelins.fr

- **Is the deadline for derogation requests different to the deadline for applications?**

Yes, the deadline is not the same date. Derogation requests must be sent before Tuesday 2nd February 2021, regardless of the entrance exam in question.

- **Is it possible to obtain a derogation two years running, if we fail the entrance exam the first time round?**

No, it is not.

- **I can't apply for the Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, because I took my high school final exam 2 years ago. Could you advise me on a course to apply to (with a project method and skills training similar to Gobelins)?**

The best thing to do is to go to the RECA website (Network of French Animation Schools) at www.reca-animation.com to find a training programme which corresponds to your objectives. By signing up for the RECA newsletter, you will be informed of Open Days for the 28 schools. This will enable you to contact the teachers or students of these schools directly.

Eligibility for the common entrance exam Gobelins Preparatory Year in Animation - Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking

- **Can the 5 images of art works to be presented include a video?**

Yes and no. Yes, you can choose a film, but you must not post it on Tumblr. In this case, you select an image which is representative of the film, for example the film poster, or an image in which we recognise the film's hero and therefore what the film is about. Similarly, you can select the cover of a favourite book.

- **Regarding the images of 5 art works, can we do a screenshot of a short or feature film to speak about a particular shot?**

Yes, but in this case, try to choose an image which is representative of the film, for example the film poster, or an image in which we recognise the film's hero and therefore what the film is about.

- **Could you give us more details about the 5 art works by other authors than ourselves that we must present?**

The 5 images of art works must be stills. This could be a painting, an installation, a film poster, book cover, record album cover, the photo of a choreographic, theatrical or architectural work, or an art photo, etc. You must choose the works independently, they must be works which have had an impact on you personally. The aim is to assess your open-mindedness, your sense of curiosity, your artistic culture and your ability to share your passion with the jury.

Regarding this last point, the jury will attempt to determine the specificity of each candidate, and during the final decision and the organisation of the preparatory and bachelor classes, the jury's task will be to include a wide variety and complementarity of profiles, in terms of artistic interests, in the same class. The aim of this is to ensure rich exchange between students of the same class and to stimulate their creativity.

Miscellaneous questions regarding the entrance exams

- **How many applications do you receive? How many candidates are admitted? (PGA/ARFA)** For the 2020 session of the common Gobelins Preparatory Year entrance exam /Bachelor of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, we received 778 applications, of which 309 were eligible. 35 were admitted to the Preparatory Class, 30 to the French-speaking Bachelor ARFA , 26 to the English-speaking ARFA (download the jury minutes in pdf format => <https://www.gobelins.fr/formation/prepa-animation-prepa-gobelins-animation>)
- **What is the proportion of Preparatory admissions versus high school undergraduate admissions to the Bachelor?** See the Jury minutes, downloadable in pdf format => <https://www.gobelins.fr/formation/prepa-animation-prepa-gobelins-animation>
- **How many times can a candidate take the common entrance exam for Gobelins Preparatory Year in Animation - Bachelor of Arts in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking?** As long as you meet the pre-requisites relative to the year you obtain your high school diploma, you can take the exam. In other words, twice if you sit the exam just after your high school diploma.
- **If a candidate is admitted to the Gobelins Preparatory Year and wishes to continue with the Bachelor of Art in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking, do they have to sit the entrance exam again?**
Yes, they do.
- **Are the selection criteria for the Preparatory Year the same as for the Bachelor?**
No. Even if they are almost certain to continue in the Animated Filmmaking sector, a candidate admitted to Gobelins Preparatory Year is only at the initial step of their study path, and the guidance of the school during this preparatory year will enable them to confirm their choice.
On the other hand, candidates admitted to the Bachelor have demonstrated to the jury that this Gobelins training programme corresponds exactly to their career project, and that they have the required profile to take full advantage of this educational project.
- **What aspects of the CV do you take into account for applications to the Preparatory Year? What do you require specifically from the CV and cover letter?**
In the cover letter, the candidate must justify their choice and present their study project. The CV must present their academic background, diplomas obtained or ongoing and their areas of interest.
- **How do you find out about candidates' backgrounds?**
We learn about the candidate's background from their CV and cover letter.
- **Is the new common Gobelins Preparatory Year / Bachelor of Arts in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking entrance exam easier than the former**

exam for entry to the first year of the Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking programme?

The two exams are not comparable. The new exam makes admission to the 1st year of the Bachelor more accessible to high school graduates and is not open to students who have already spent a year in higher education.

- **Why did you discontinue the written exam which had proven its worth from a quality perspective?** The former exam had become increasingly discriminating. Written exams require a physical presence in Paris. The technical pre-requisites demanded skills that are very difficult for high school students in their final year to acquire. On average, the candidates admitted had already spent 3 years in higher education. On enrolment to our programmes, they signed up for another 4 years. A growing number of students having gone through this lengthy preparation for the entrance exam became bored during their studies, because they had already acquired a part of the skills on the syllabus. Our new syllabus aims to:
 - Promote direct entry for young undergraduates (a public with a capacity for learning and to which Gobelins provides real added value to their studies)
 - End discrimination towards candidates who cannot travel to Paris to sit the entrance exam, and therefore foster diversity and, in particular, cultural diversity (more international candidates)

- **Are the selection criteria the same for a high school graduate and a student who has already spent a year in higher education (in a preparatory class)? What is the required level for candidates who are self-taught?**

The criteria are the same, except for the expected level in drawing. For a candidate who has had intensive training during a preparatory year, we expect to see a more advanced level in drawing.

- **Is knowledge of music, film or other arts unrelated to drawing taken into account?**

We are on the lookout for profiles demonstrating a great curiosity and wide interest in artistic fields. In this respect, during the oral interview, candidates must be able to share their own artistic culture with the jury. We do not expect this culture to be academic; on the contrary, it must reflect a personal interest, a factor which is decisive for all our entrance exams.

- **Should candidates have pre-existing mastery of software for the ARFA-PGA programme?**

No, this is not required. The programme includes contextualised use of software.

- **Is it an advantage for a candidate to have followed an Anima Podi MOOC for the entrance exam? Or the Gobelins school holiday workshops?**

Yes, this is obviously an advantage, in the sense that Anima Podi enables you to confirm (or not) your vocation. It also demonstrates a keen interest in the school.

- **Is it possible for a student to request entry directly into the 2nd year of the Bachelor ARFA?**

No, it is not possible to increase the number of students in this year.

- **If I fail the Gobelins Preparatory Year / ARFA Bachelor entrance exam, which other preparatory class would you recommend before re-taking the Gobelins entrance exam?**

It all depends on what you have done before and what you already know, your approach to learning and your professional project. If you fail the PGA-BachARFA exam, it's very probably because this programme is not entirely suited to you. You need to rethink your career project by asking yourself the right questions.

- **How can we prepare for the entrance exam?**

You need to enjoy producing a large amount of drawings and practise a lot to improve. Find out more about the specificities of the school and think about how they correspond to your expectations and your personality. Compare them with other programmes.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MASTER OF ARTS, AP3D, LGPA

- **What is the level of certification of your Master of Arts?**

The Master of Arts in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking has a dual certification:

- RNCP (National Directory of Professional Certification) level 7
- Master of Arts (European diploma)

- **What does CAAF stand for?**

Master of Arts in Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking.

- **Is it possible to enter the Gobelins Master of Arts if, after a Bachelor in another field, we have personal and professional experience in animation?** Yes, the Master of Arts is open to candidates with at least 3 years of higher education in animated filmmaking and/or 3 years' professional experience in this field.

- **What level of 3D animation is required to enter the Master of Arts?**

You need at least basic knowledge of Maya software or animation with another software. Likewise, for 2D, you need to master the basics of character animation. A demo reel without 3D or 2D will be excluded directly.

- **For the demo reel required for the Master, is it better to emphasize the field we are interested in, or do you wish to see our range of skills without a visible preference?**

What we are looking for above all in the demo reel is an accurate reflection of your skills.

- **Are there any elements to prioritise for the demo reel for the Master?**

As the demo reel is limited to 2 minutes, you must select your best works, while providing an overview of your skills in the pre-requisites (2D and 3D animation, pre-production, character, background, drawing, colour and story-telling).

- **I'd like to know if, for entry directly into the Master 1st year, our demo reel needs to be mostly in 2D, or if wide use of 3D is an issue.**

We do not have any requirements for the balance between 2D and 3D in the demo reels for the Master. However, if there is no 3D or no 2D animation at all in your demo, it will be excluded immediately.

- **For the 3D Character Animation programme, is it useful to include projects linked to pre-production in the demo (storyboard, character design, background design, or illustrations, etc.) in addition to 3D elements?**

In small proportions, this can demonstrate to us the skills you have already acquired. In large proportions, it will be difficult for us to understand why you want to enter this programme which is specialised in 3D character animation.

- **What elements of the CV do you take into account for the LGPA programme?**

We are interested in every aspect of your CV. Firstly, its format; it must be clear and well-structured, which is essential to enable admitted candidates to find a host company rapidly, and sign an apprenticeship contract. Furthermore, we select CVs with a background that highlights experience linked directly or indirectly to the audio-visual and animation sector. Any experience demonstrating organisational skills or requiring initiative are also preferable.

QUESTIONS ON PROGRAMME CONTENTS

- **How many students are there in a programme?**

- GOBELINS Preparatory Year has 35 students
- The Bachelor in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking has 30 students in the French section and 26 in the English section. The PGA/ARFA selection rate is 1 in 8.
- The Master in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking has 30 students in the French section and 26 in the English section. The selection rate is 1 in 4.
- There are 26 places in the One Year Bachelor in Line Production - the selection rate is 1 in 4.
- There are 30 places in the 3D Character Animation programme - the selection rate is 1 in 2.

- **Does the ARFA programme include work placements?**

Work placements are mandatory for all our programmes. The school helps students to find a work placement, by teaching job-seeking methods specific to the sector.

- **Are there international work placements?**

Work placements abroad are encouraged, but are not mandatory.

- **Who are your international partners?**

There are academic exchange programmes for Master students, in particular with Calarts and Art Center in the USA, GUEDAI in Japan, The Animation School in South Africa, La Cambre in Belgium, the Filmakademie in Germany, MOME in Hungary, IADT in Ireland and TAW in Denmark, etc.

- **Which software is most widely used by your students (ARFA)?**

On the ARFA programme, the digital tools specific to animation are: Maya, TV Paint, Animate, Première, Photoshop, After Effects and Storyboarder.

- **What foreign languages do you teach?**

Foreign languages are not taught at GOBELINS. During the entrance exam, all students applying to our programmes are tested on their ability to speak English. They must have a minimum level to follow classes in English and interact with other students. Students are frequently immersed in situations where English is the required language, which helps them to progress enormously. While it is not an obligation for international students, we provide a list of links to online courses (free or paying) in French as Foreign Language, to encourage them to learn French.

- **How are the Bachelor classes organised?**

The Bachelor of Arts, like most of our programmes, is based on learning through projects. The programme is divided into modules, each module is a practical project punctuated with theoretical points.

- **Is there an end-of-study film for the Bachelor ARFA?**

The end-of-study film in Bachelor ARFA is a commission produced in teams, in partnership with the Annecy Film Festival.

- **In the animation department, do we also learn how to make 3D animation films? Over the course of the Bachelor ARFA, you learn the basics of 3D and 3D character animation, in addition to other skills linked to pre-production, story-telling, 3D compositing and animation. In the Master programme, you perfect your skills in 3D character animation and you may, if you wish, produce your end-of-study film in 3D. The 3D Character Animation programme focuses solely on 3D, but you do not produce a film.**

- **During the 3 years of Bachelor of Arts, do students work mainly with traditional techniques or on computer also? What is the proportion devoted to each technique? In the first half of the programme (first 3 semesters), students mainly use traditional techniques (less for colouring and not at all for the 3D project). The second half of the programme focuses mainly on computer use, in particular for the commissioned film. This educational choice is aimed at developing the students' ability to anticipate, which enables them to be more efficient when they move onto computers.**

- **Is it better to go for the Animation Master if our professional project leans more towards storyboard than animation?**

Yes, because the Master of Arts in Animation Character Animation and Animated Filmmaking prepares you for all professions along the film-making chain, and in particular design professions such as storyboarder.

- **What salary can we expect to earn after graduation?**

The sector is governed by a branch agreement which defines the minimum remuneration according to each profession. One day's remuneration for a junior animator is €120 per day (animator is the sector with the highest rate of employability). Salaries vary greatly according to the type of project and economic context.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- **What is the status of your school?**

GOBELINS is a school under the Paris Ile-de-France Chamber of Commerce & Industry. It obtained the status of Consular Higher Education Establishment on 1 January 2021. The Paris Ile-de-France Chamber of Commerce & Industry is the school's major shareholder.

- **Can we apply for the school via the French "Parcoursup" procedure?**

At present, applications for courses in animation must be made directly via the school's website: www.gobelins.fr

- **Is your school accessible to persons of reduced mobility? Yes, the school is accessible to persons of reduced mobility.**

- **Is the CROUS scholarship valid for the Bachelor of Arts? Can it be accumulated with the school's social fund? How much is the grant allocated by the school's social fund?**

Some of our programmes are eligible for CROUS scholarships (Bachelor ARFA, Master of Arts, AP3D). Excellence scholarships are endowed by patrons (Odon Vallet) to partially fund tuition fees. All details can be found on our website, under the section Student Life / Tuition funding

- **Do you have partnerships for student accommodation?**

Our website has a section devoted to accommodation, under Student Life / Accommodation

- **What is the difference between the Paris 13eme campus and the Gambetta campus?**

- The Paris Saint-Marcel campus houses animation and video photography programmes (73 Boulevard Saint-Marcel 75013 PARIS).

- The Paris Gambetta campus houses programmes in graphic design / motion design, web & mobile design, video games and multimedia print communication (247 Avenue Gambetta 75020 PARIS).

- **For the general French high school diploma, do you recommend taking specific specialities and options in order to apply for Gobelins?**

No, we do not recommend any specific specialities or options. It has no importance.

- **Is the RECA a reference for French schools only? What about schools abroad?**

RECA (Network of French Animation Schools) currently brings together 28 French animation schools which commit to issuing transparent information on their training aims and methods, in addition to their administrative organisation. Numerous overseas schools have established academic partnerships with RECA schools. For example, GOBELINS is a partner of the following schools => Art Center in the USA, GUEDAI in Japan, The Animation School in South Africa, La Cambre in Belgium, the Filmakademie in Germany, MOME in Hungary, IADT in Ireland and TAW in Denmark, etc.

- **Do you still organise the Animation without Borders programme?**

Yes, we do.

- **How do you enter an animation school if you do not have a French high school diploma?**
By requesting a derogation.