



PESSAC BORDEAUX METROPOLE 2026

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIP HANDBALL



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UNIVERSITY
CHAMPIONSHIP
HANDBALL



université
de **BORDEAUX**

Ville de
PESSAC



GOUVERNEMENT

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Délégation
Interministérielle
aux Grands Événements
Sportifs



RÉGION
**Nouvelle-
Aquitaine**



LIGUE NOUVELLE
AQUITAINE
FFHANDBALL



MINISTÈRE
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SMART / université
de **BORDEAUX**

OUR PARTNERS

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

WELCOME



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Dear student-athletes, dear friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to Pessac, for the 2026 FISU World University Championship Handball

I would like to address you first, dear student-athletes, who are and who always be the beating heart of FISU.

Competing at the World University Championships is a career highlight for many of you. For others, it is a step up to the next level of performance. What you all have in common is your love of sport, your commitment, your fair play and your respect. You come together as rivals, from different places and different backgrounds, but you will almost certainly leave as friends.

Despite the challenging times we are all facing, you remind us of the special power of young people to reassure us that a better world is possible. You remind us of the need to prioritise sport, sustainability, inclusivity and healthy social exchange. FISU firmly believes that university athletes are the role models and future leaders the world needs.

Over the following 8 days, you will compete alongside some of the best student-athletes on the planet. The FISU World University Championships demand skill, athleticism, and single-minded determination to do your best. But beyond the competition, FISU urges you to have fun. May you return home with memories that will last a lifetime!

None of FISU's events would be possible without the generosity of our hosts. I want to extend our sincere gratitude to the National University Sports Federation of France, the organisers for their dedication and the volunteers for their passion.

FISU is also grateful for the ongoing support of the International Sports Federations. Together, we aim to provide the highest level of technical excellence on and off the field of play.

I am confident that the 2026 FISU World University Championship Handball in Bordeaux will give you every opportunity to shine, to interact and to grow as people.

I wish you the best of luck!

Leonz Eder
FISU President



WELCOME



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Dear student-athletes, dear friends,

It is a great honor, on behalf of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine University Sports League, to welcome you to Pessac, in the heart of Bordeaux Métropole, on the occasion of the World University Handball Championship 2026. This international competition, which brings together the elite of university handball, is the result of a collective commitment and a shared passion for sport and its values.

Pessac, a dynamic and welcoming city, will this week be the stage of powerful moments of respect, solidarity, and intercultural encounters. University sport here fully embodies this spirit of open-mindedness and curiosity towards others, where each match is also an invitation to dialogue. Here, in our community, we are dedicated to making people and conviviality the focus of the event and we are convinced that it is as much these exchanges as the competition itself that create unforgettable memories.

We especially thank the University of Bordeaux and the City of Pessac for its hospitality and dedication, the City of Bordeaux/Bordeaux Métropole, our institutional and private partners, as well as the volunteers and all those who work with passion for the success of this championship. Their dedication highlights the vitality and richness of our territory.

I wish all participants to fully embrace this adventure, to give their very best on the courts, and to enjoy discovering Pessac and the Bordeaux region, renowned for their cultural heritage, hospitality, and art of living.

Welcome to Pessac, welcome to the great family of international university sport !

Léo Gerville-Réache

President of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine University Sports League

SUMMARY

- 1.** *Host Country*
- 2.** *Host City*
- 3.** *Accommodation, transport, catering*
- 4.** *Registration, VISA and financial aspects*
- 5.** *Schedule and sport regulation*
- 6.** *Sport venues*
- 7.** *Contact us*



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1.

Host Country



France stands out as a leading destination for students and athletes from all over the world, welcoming more than 430,000 international students each year. Renowned for the excellence of its higher education, the richness of its culture, and its art of living, France combines an exceptional historical heritage, innovation, and warm hospitality. Coming to France means discovering a country where diversity, open-mindedness, and passion for sport intertwine, with a dense network of universities, prestigious schools, clubs, and high-level faculties.

Host region

Nouvelle-Aquitaine is the largest region of mainland France: it covers more than 84,000 km², includes 12 departments, and is home to over 6 million inhabitants. With an incredible variety of landscapes ranging from the Atlantic coastline, forests, and mountains to vineyards and farmland, the region is recognized for its dynamism, lifestyle, innovations (notably in agribusiness, aeronautics, and healthcare), as well as the richness of its natural and cultural heritage. Nouvelle-Aquitaine is also a territory where sport plays a central role, reflected through many international events and values of conviviality and excellence



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2.

Host Cities



Bordeaux, the capital of Nouvelle-Aquitaine, is a vibrant European metropolis, renowned for its vitality, UNESCO-listed architecture, and passion for sport and culture. Crossed by the Garonne River and surrounded by famous vineyards, Bordeaux is today one of France's major student and sporting cities, where modernity and history coexist in harmony. A city of innovation, gastronomy, and encounters, it offers an exceptional quality of life, distinguished both by the richness of its cultural offerings and the quality of its sporting facilities.

At the gates of Bordeaux, **the city of Pessac** is one of the key municipalities of the metropolis, renowned for the quality of its living environment, preserved green spaces, and rich viticultural and architectural heritage. Home to a vast university campus, Pessac welcomes many French and international students and stands out for the diversity of its sports, cultural, and scientific facilities. It also places strong importance on the environment, innovation, and inclusion, offering an ideal setting to host international university sporting events.



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3.

Accommodation and catering.



Thanks to our partner the **CROUS**, all catering and accommodation facilities will be easily accessible and located less than 2 km from the Championship Village. Delegations and participants will enjoy menus specially designed to meet athletic needs, combining balance and energy throughout the competition.

The CROUS will also provide welcoming and convivial spaces, ideal for relaxation, and sharing, helping to strengthen team spirit and enhance the collective experience surrounding the event.

Transport

As part of its eco-friendly approach, the Organizing Committee has chosen to place sustainable mobility at the core of the event.

All official travel — *excluding airport and luggage transfers, and match days for the competing teams* — will be carried out using the Bordeaux Métropole public transportation network, renowned for its quality, reliability, and extensive coverage across the Bordeaux metropolitan area.

The TBM network offers modern trams, frequent bus lines, and self-service bicycles, making it easy to reach the competition venues, accommodations, and key areas of the university campus.

This transportation solution—practical, ecological, and user-friendly—perfectly reflects the Organizing Committee's commitment to reducing the event's carbon footprint while promoting soft and collective mobility



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4.

Registration

GENERAL ENTRY

DEADLINE :
21th December 2025

PAYMENT OF THE DEPOSIT

DEADLINE :
January 21th 2026

QUANTITATIVE ENTRY

DEADLINE :
21th March 2026

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY

DEADLINE : 21th May 2026

French VISA

To enter France and participate in the competition, a visa is generally required for most foreign participants. This official document will allow you to travel to France legally and fully enjoy your stay. **The visa application process is simple.** Please visit the official French government visa website using the link below to access all the information you need, including the specific requirements for your country and the type of visa applicable.

 <https://france-visas.gouv.fr>

Financial

Participation fees

The competing countries, upon arrival, shall pay their dues for **participation fees 80 EUR** per night and per person to the Organising Committee.

Travelcosts

The countries shall be responsible for their own cost of travel to the nearest official point of entry of the Championship and return. The designated entry points are the Bordeaux-Mérignac Airport and the Saint-Jean train station.



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5. General Schedule



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6.

Sport venues

The competition will include two phases: a group stage followed by ranking matches.

SMART

Events will take place at the **SMART Performance and Technology** Center in Pessac, University of Bordeaux — a 4,200 m² state-of-the-art **connected sports facility** inaugurated in 2024.

Dedicated to **research, innovation, and athletic performance**, SMART features advanced technologies such as motion and muscle sensors, GPS tracking, and robotic cameras. It brings together athletes, researchers, and professionals to enhance performance and foster collaboration between sport, science, and technology.

More information: smart-u-bordeaux.com



Bellegrave

The handball court at the **Bellegrave sports hall in Pessac** is part of the Bellegrave Sports Complex located on Avenue du Colonel Jacqui. It is a high-quality facility featuring a nearly new wooden floor and modern equipment. The hall offers excellent access and free unlimited parking nearby.

It hosts **matches** and **training sessions** for the **local handball club**, Stade Pessacais Union Club Handball (SPUC), which also runs health and community sports activities. The facility is well suited for handball competitions with a lively and sportive atmosphere, welcoming women's, men's, and youth teams.



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7.

CONTACT US

General organization

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Championship Handball*



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