

ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL

NEXT GENERATION CAMPUS



PRESS KIT
SEPTEMBER 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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ESSEC's Next Generation campus is a revolution! The campus was conceived to meet the needs of our students, to facilitate collective intelligence and to create a space for innovation, transdisciplinarity, and global openness. We have designed the campus in a way that allows us to offer students a five-star experience, combining cutting-edge facilities with a high-quality human environment.

This transdisciplinary approach is essential. We aim to develop leaders capable of diving deep into a subject, all the while maintaining a broad, open, and global perspective. The campus brings this ambition to life by breaking down silos between disciplines and encouraging dialogue between academic and non-academic stakeholders.

This campus was born from a profound transformation that links heritage and innovation, and reflects our strong commitment to the Cergy area, serving value creation and fostering sustainable and responsible development. It is a credit to the strength of the ESSEC community, with donors playing a key role in making this dream a reality.

Excellence cannot exist without responsibility. Together, we are building the future of ESSEC: driven by excellence and dedicated to shared progress.

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Vincenzo Vinzi, Dean and President of ESSEC Business School

A REIMAGINED ESSEC CAMPUS COMBINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, SUSTAINABILITY AND OPENNESS

A NEXT GENERATION CAMPUS THAT EMBODIES FUTURE-FIT BUSINESS EDUCATION

Since ESSEC's arrival in Cergy in 1973, we have evolved to ensure our campus meets the highest international academic standards. Today, we are proud to unveil our Next Generation campus, future-fit and designed as a hub for collective intelligence. This campus incarnates ESSEC's identity: a rich history and a springboard for the future.

ESSEC, with the firm Architecturestudio, has integrated new spaces to facilitate new ways of learning, researching, innovating, and collaborating with businesses. This transformation shifts the campus from being merely a place of learning to one with a vibrant atmosphere, fostering connections and dialogue among diverse communities (students, professors, alumni, professionals, and partners). Hand-in-hand with the local community, the new campus breaks down barriers between disciplines and cultures and between academia and society.

This Next Generation campus embodies the future-fit business education that we strive to create every day through our Transcend strategy, as we seek to reinvent international standards to better enlighten, lead, and change our world.

Stepping foot on an ESSEC campus means entering a place of knowledge and academic excellence, with an innovative environment and creativity in the air—a World School. The campus itself inspires a sense of pride: in our history, our strength, and our achievements, pride in what makes us unique. It also represents the pride we take in our students and participants, our faculty, and all those who contribute to making ESSEC one of the leading business schools in Europe and around the world.



"The identity of ESSEC's campus is deeply rooted in our history. The generations who have walked through our doors since our arrival in Cergy in 1973, the richness of their memories and emotions, and the evolution of our campuses over the decades... All of this contributes to a unique alchemy of which we are proud heirs."

**Bertrand Sulpice,
Director of Campus
Experience and
Real Estate**

NEW BUILDINGS AS SHOWCASES ... OF OUR PEDAGOGICAL INNOVATION

Our campus welcomes nearly 8000 students per year. The remodeled campus has adapted to the new demands of hybrid learning by offering connected, adjustable, and sustainable learning environments. These new spaces encourage experimentation with new forms of learning, allow research and innovation to thrive, and are where we prepare students to become leaders capable of guiding the major transformations of our time.

Today's world calls for new knowledge and new skill sets, new ways of collaborating, new forms of leadership, and new decision-making processes. The challenge is to place academia at the heart of society and the economy, to create something that is as simple as it is essential, yet often forgotten: progress.

... OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENTS

ESSEC has actively committed to cultivating a society that respects both the environment and humanity since our foundation. Since 2020, ESSEC has prioritized environmental and social challenges in our global strategy via our *Together* initiative. Indeed, sustainability was also at the core of the campus transformation. In total, more than 8000 m² have been built to complete our Next Generation campus in Cergy.

These new campus buildings were designed with sustainability in mind: they consume 40% less energy than regulatory standards, significantly reducing CO₂ emissions. Constructed using low-carbon materials such as wood and rubber, they reflect our strong commitment to sustainability. The double-skin façade captures solar energy during the winter months, helping to retain heat and reduce thermal loss. In late 2024, ESSEC inaugurated a photovoltaic power plant with 770 solar panels installed on the campus rooftops.

... OF OUR LOCAL ROOTS AND INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

Since ESSEC arrived in Cergy in 1973, we have forged strong ties with local stakeholders, businesses, and institutions, actively contributing to the region's economic and social activity. Located in the heart of the François Mitterrand Park, the new campus strengthens our community ties and our international outlook. This is central to the global ambitions of ESSEC and CY Alliance, the network of local higher education institutions to which we belong.

Today, the campus welcomes both French and international students (ranging from undergraduates to executive education participants) as well as researchers and alumni. Our goal is for everyone to find an environment that suits their own way of learning and finding ways to get involved.. We seek to foster intercultural dialogue, because diverse perspectives are an essential asset in developing responsible and visionary leaders. These spaces are designed to encourage dialogue—because it is through sharing ideas that critical thinking, creativity, and innovation emerge.



FINANCING THE NEW GENERATION CAMPUS

The total investment for our new campus amounts to 70 million euros. ESSEC is grateful to its major donors, whose dedication and support are essential to ESSEC's growth and influence.

- **Local authorities:** the Île-de-France Region, the Val-d'Oise Departmental Council, the Cergy-Pontoise Agglomeration.
- **Individual donors through the ESSEC Foundation:** a Wall of Major Donors has been erected in the Grand Hall, inscribed with the names of 195 donors.
- **Accenture France:** the Pierre Nanterme Center for Responsible Leadership honors Pierre Nanterme (1959–2019), a major donor, 1981 ESSEC graduate, and CEO of Accenture from 2011 to 2019. Accenture's support for the construction of the Pierre Nanterme building is part of a long-term relationship with ESSEC, fueled by active collaboration and a shared vision of higher education as a lever for transformation.
- **Six campus spaces bear the names of major donors:** the external wooden structure of the Research Green Tower, two Active Learning rooms, the ESSEC Ventures Incubator, the Pitch Room in the Pierre Nanterme Center for Responsible Leadership, and the Climbing Wall in the Sports & Recreation Center.





THE GRAND HALL: RICH IN HISTORY, REINVENTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

As the entry to the ESSEC campus, the Grand Hall is more than just a passageway. It is a portal to campus life, filled with emotion and memories, having welcomed generations of students over the last 50 years.

Inaugurated on January 2nd, 2025, this historic heart of the Cergy campus has been completely renovated. This ambitious project, led by the architectural firm LaHaut, marked a key milestone in the campus transformation and reflects our forward-facing vision.

The Grand Hall was fully modernized over eight months of renovations: new floors, walls, ceilings, lighting, glass roofs, access control gates, and a brand-new façade have all given this space a fresh new look. The expansion of the extension also improves accessibility and flow, transforming it into a true gathering place.

Another major feature of this renovation is the Wall of Major Donors. This illustrates the trust and support of those who contribute to ESSEC's excellence, reminding us that our campus is a team effort.

With these new improvements, the Grand Hall has once again become the true beating heart of the campus: a bright, open space where students, faculty, and visitors cross paths.



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“The old hall, full of memories, already had its charm as a meeting place. The light and the space stand out in the new Grand Hall, and make the campus even more lively and conducive to discussions.”

**Julia Demule,
ESSEC Grande École
(Master in Management)
student**



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“The Wall of Major Donors in the Grand Hall is a way to highlight the people whose generosity has made ESSEC's growth and renown possible. This space puts philanthropy quite literally at the heart of campus, embodying ESSEC's key values of humanism, responsibility, and openness, and inspiring future generations.”

**Thierry Fritsch, E80,
President of the
Fondation ESSEC**



THE PIERRE NANTERME CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP: LEARNING, INNOVATION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Located at the heart of the Cergy campus, this new 3,000 m² building is entirely dedicated to active learning, innovation, and entrepreneurship. By combining new teaching methods with a stimulating environment, it transforms the student experience. The building embodies a new way of learning, creating, and leading—aligned with the values of Pierre Nanterme, former Chairman and CEO of Accenture and ESSEC alumnus.

Designed to facilitate international exchange, the building is connected to the Singapore and Rabat campuses via integrated screens. These allow students to enjoy the same immersive and shared experience in real time, regardless of their location.

On the ground floor, ESSEC Ventures—the school's incubator—supports project leaders in developing their ideas. Coworking areas, work pods, and social zones create an ecosystem conducive to interaction among students, startups, companies, and partners. The pitch room stands out for its flexibility: it can be transformed into a presentation space, event venue, or reception hall depending on project and collaboration needs.

The building also hosts a 90-seat amphitheater, along with two classrooms. In total, this comes to 400 additional seats and new work pods, greatly expanding our capacity.

The Pierre Nanterme Center for Responsible Leadership also embodies a commitment to environmental responsibility. Its energy consumption is 40% lower than regulatory standards. The design incorporates an innovative system for water recovery and optimization, uses bio-based and low-carbon materials such as wood and rubber, and features a double-skin façade that captures solar energy in winter while minimizing heat loss.

The landscaping features biodiversity, greenery, and soil permeability, contributing to a campus that respects the environment.



"Accenture's support for ESSEC's new campus reflects our commitment to modern and collaborative education. It is part of a long-standing, trust-based relationship with ESSEC, built on shared values: excellence, loyalty, and a forward-looking vision focused on youth and action."

**Koen Deryckere,
President of Accenture
France and Benelux**



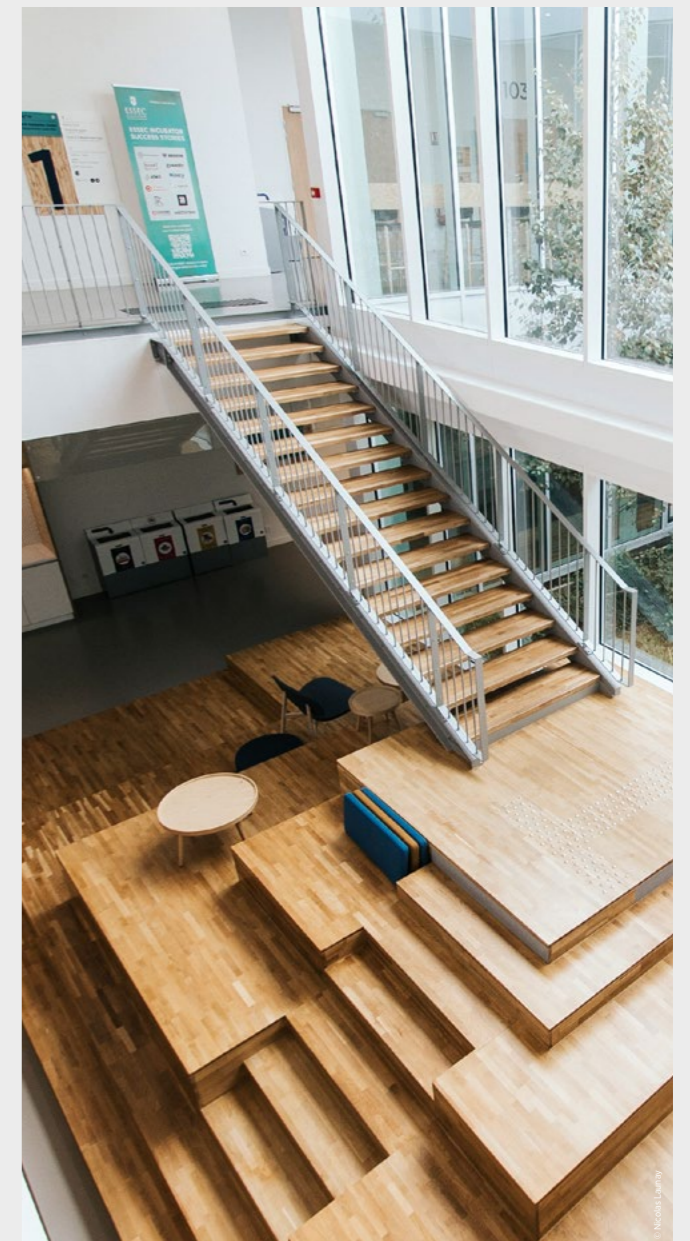
"Pierre was one of the most innovative leaders of his time, helping Accenture and clients lead in the new. He passionately believed in opening paths for others and would be so proud to be associated with this real-world incubator for innovative and inclusive leadership."

**Julie Sweet,
Chair & CEO of Accenture**



"The Pierre Nanterme Center for Responsible Leadership added a new dimension to my startup, Phytopolis. By joining this dynamic space at the heart of the ESSEC ecosystem, I was able to structure my project, build a team, and accelerate its development."

**Victor Magaud,
Founder of the startup Phytopolis,
incubated at ESSEC Ventures**





THE RESEARCH GREEN TOWER: A SPACE DESIGNED FOR KNOWLEDGE AND THE FUTURE

The Research Green Tower, a highlight of the Next Generation Campus, embodies ESSEC's academic excellence and its commitment to sustainability. This building is dedicated to researchers, housing research spaces, seminar rooms, and work environments—all designed to foster collaboration.

On the ground floor, a room specifically for scientific seminars and thesis defenses lays the foundation for this ambition. The first floor features adjustable meeting and co-working spaces, designed to accommodate a variety of working styles and practices. The five upper floors are home to the offices of ESSEC's faculty members.

The ESSEC Metalab Institute for AI, Data and Society has a dedicated space within the tower equipped with the tools and resources needed to host seminars and workshops for ESSEC stakeholders, students, and partners. The institute is supported by a guild of over 70 professors specializing in AI and data.

The tower is directly connected to the Grand Hall, and will also be linked via a walkway to the Nautille building and the Pierre Nanterme Center for Responsible Leadership to facilitate moving around the campus.

Finally, a peripheral gallery of wooden support columns makes it possible to expand the tower without adding extra load to the existing concrete structure.



"The Research Green Tower embodies ESSEC's ambition: to offer its faculty an environment that fosters cutting-edge research, innovative teaching, and cohesion, serving both students and ESSEC's academic influence."

**Roméo Tédongap,
Dean of Faculty**



"At ESSEC Business School, we believe that a supportive and dynamic environment is essential to fostering innovation and excellence in research. The opening of the Research Green Tower marks a significant step forward in our commitment to providing an exceptional setting for discussion and collaboration among our faculty, PhD students, and visiting scholars."

**Ha Hoang,
Associate Dean
for Research**

THE SPORTS & RECREATION CENTER: AN ECO-FRIENDLY GYM WITH STRONG COMMUNITY TIES

inaugurated in April 2023 under the patronage of Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, then the Minister of Sports and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Sports & Recreation Center quickly became a landmark of the Cergy campus. This 2,700 m² building, open to the François Mitterrand Park, illustrates the central role that ESSEC gives to sports, both in its pedagogy and in student life.

For nearly 25 years, ESSEC has developed expertise in sports business, notably through an international sports marketing chair launched in 2001. This momentum has led to the training of many high-level athletes, including Amélie Oudéa-Castéra and Tony Estanguet, three-time Olympic champion and president of the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee. In 2020, the creation of the ESSEC Sports Chair, supported by major partners such as Paris Saint-Germain, EDF, Allianz France, and the French Basketball Federation, further reinforced this expertise.

Designed as a multi-sport facility, the Sports & Recreation Center includes a large 1,200 m² hall, a climbing wall, two rooms for weight training, dance, and martial arts, and a rooftop tennis court. It's more than a gym: it is a place for taking in daily student life, a place for learning cooperation, pushing one's limits, and fostering respect.

In line with the sustainability goals promoted by the Together Institute for Sustainability & Social Change, the building was designed to minimize its environmental footprint. Water and energy consumption were taken into account from the design phase. For example, there is a system that recovers heat from wastewater to supply the showers. The climbing wall, made in France, is built on a wooden frame sourced from sustainably managed forests (PEFC certified). Finally, the flooring, made of linoleum, is entirely natural and recyclable.

The Sports & Recreation Center is a key ESSEC site, designed to foster greater openness and interaction with the surrounding area. The SRC received the Génération 2024 label from the French government, which means it is open to all local schools and sports associations. This initiative closes the gap between the educational and sports worlds, promoting physical activity and sports among young people.



"The SRC is a fantastic and essential educational tool. Philosophers, psychologists, and physiologists—backed by scientific evidence—know that movement structures thought, stimulates creativity, and ensures both mental and physical well-being. This sports center is a gift for the overall development of every member of the ESSEC community."

Thierry Lardinoit,
Academic and Executive
Director of the HEPTA
Bachelor, Academic Director
of the ESSEC Sports
& Specific Talents Center



"As president of the Bureau des Sports (student sports club), I have seen the Sports & Recreation Center become an essential part of student life. I also had the honor of welcoming Tony Estanguet there, a powerful moment that showcased how the SRC makes it possible to come together and strive for excellence."

Edgar Savigny,
President of the Bureau
des Sports, 2023-2024



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