

## 1. Presentation of ESSAT

ESSAT Gabès was established in 2007 around an educational project that combines high academic standards, personal initiative, professional development, and innovation in higher education. The school is a private higher education institution accredited by the State under approval number 05/2007.

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### Mission of ESSAT:

- Train competent engineers.
- Develop scientific research and continuing education.
- Collaborate with the socio-economic sector for technological transfer.

## 2. Organization and Contacts

### 2.1 Leadership of ESSAT

- Director: Dr. ZRELLI Abdallah
- Vice-Director: Dr. MAZHOUDI Lotfi
- Director of Internships: Ouweis KABOW
- Secretary General: Hamza ABDEKADER

### 2.2 Departments and Programs

- Computer Science Department - Director: BENFRAJ Hajer
- Electrical and Automation Engineering Department - Director: Houda BEN MANSSOUR
- Civil Engineering Department Director: Bouthaina LTIFI

## 3. Specialties and Options

First-year students are enrolled in their specialties through national or specific competitions. ESSAT currently offers three specialties. Third-year students are distributed among the available options within their specialty, taking into account their preferences.

## 4. Duration of Studies

The training for each specialty includes approximately 2,700 contact hours spread over three years of study. The first and second years each consist of two semesters and include at least four weeks of professional internships. The third year includes one semester and at least sixteen weeks dedicated to the Final Year Project.

## 5. Teaching Modules, Units, and Credits

Teaching is organized into modules delivered as lectures, tutorials, and practical work. Modules that contribute to coherent learning outcomes are grouped into teaching units (UE). Each UE generally includes between one and four modules from the same semester. A semester normally includes between three and six teaching units and totals 30 ECTS credits.

Credits for each module are awarded on the basis of the workload required for engineering students to achieve the expected outcomes. The workload includes contact hours for all pedagogical activities,

individual work, and assessment activities. As a general reference, one ECTS credit corresponds to 25 hours of total student workload. One academic year corresponds to 60 ECTS credits.

## 6. Language Modules

In addition to cultural, technical, and communication objectives, French and English modules prepare students to progressively reach an independent-user level. For degree conferment, ESSAT requires students in the engineering cycle to demonstrate at least a B2 level in English, in accordance with the Internal Regulations.

## 7. Openness Activities

Engineering students at ESSAT must complete at least two semesters of openness activities, either within the School or externally. These activities may include cultural activities, sports, club participation, and learning an additional foreign language. Wednesday afternoons are generally reserved for these activities.

## 8. Attendance and Discipline

Attendance at all classes and academic activities scheduled in the curriculum is mandatory. Absences exceeding 25% in any module during a semester disqualify the student from the examination sessions of that module, in accordance with the Internal Regulations. In classrooms, gardens, and circulation areas, students must behave civilly and comply with rules of good conduct. Any conduct contrary to civic responsibility may lead to disciplinary sanctions.

## 9. Internships

Training in each specialty is complemented by internships during the first and second years.

## 10. Final Year Project (FYP)

In the third year, training includes a Final Year Project related to the specialty pursued. The project is carried out as professional engineering work under the supervision of at least one teacher and is defended before a jury. Only students who have validated the full 30 ECTS credits of the first semester of the third year, including all compulsory modules, fulfilled the other academic conditions set by ESSAT, and submitted their dissertation on time are authorized to defend the FYP.

## 11. Assessment Methods

Each semester module includes a final examination and may also include continuous assessment, according to the current study plan. Examinations are organized in two successive sessions: a main session and a resit session. A module with a final average below 10/20 in the main session remains failed and is subject to the official resit examination, provided the student is eligible under the applicable attendance and disciplinary rules. Absence from a final examination results in a mark of zero.

Continuous assessment may include supervised assignments, written and/or oral tests, reports, and presentations based on practical or synthesis work. When assessment is mixed, the module average is calculated using the weighting approved by the Scientific Council and published at the beginning of the academic year.

The end-of-year project included in the study plans is supervised by a teacher and assessed through a written report and an oral presentation before a jury.

## 12. Calculation of Averages and Validation Rules

For each module, an average is calculated from the marks obtained in the various assessment components according to the study plan of the current academic year. The average of a teaching unit is calculated using the weighting coefficients defined in the study plan.

Credits allocated to a module are validated and capitalized as soon as the student obtains a module average of at least 10/20 in that module. Credits allocated to a teaching unit are validated and capitalized when the student obtains an average of at least 10/20 in that teaching unit and has passed each compulsory module belonging to that teaching unit.

Compensation between compulsory modules is not permitted. Each compulsory module must be passed individually, and the corresponding learning outcomes must be achieved. Validation of the teaching unit average, the semester average, or the annual average does not override failure in a compulsory module.

The semester average is obtained from the averages of the teaching units for that semester, adjusted by their respective coefficients set in the study plan. The annual overall average is the arithmetic mean of the averages of the first and second semesters.

## 13. Progression Rules

A student may progress from one academic year to the next only after successfully validating the full 60 ECTS credits assigned to the current academic year, including all compulsory modules. Students who have not validated the full 60 ECTS credits may not progress automatically to the next academic year and must first complete the official resit examinations for all failed modules, subject to the applicable attendance and disciplinary rules.

For the third year, authorization to proceed to the Final Year Project is granted only after the student has successfully validated the full 30 ECTS credits of the first semester of the third year, including all compulsory modules.

## 14. Resit Examinations

A student who has not validated the full 60 ECTS credits of the current academic year in the main session, or the full 30 ECTS credits required in the first semester of the third year, must sit the official resit examinations for all failed modules, subject to the applicable attendance and disciplinary rules.

At the end of the resit session, the average of each module, the average of each teaching unit, the semester averages, and the annual overall average are recalculated under the same conditions as in the main session, taking into account the best marks obtained in the final examinations during the main and resit sessions. ECTS credits obtained for passed modules remain acquired; only failed modules are subject to resit.

A compulsory module with a final average below 10/20 remains failed even if the average of the teaching unit, the semester, or the year is equal to or greater than 10/20. If, after the resit session, the required 60 ECTS credits for the year, or the required 30 ECTS credits for the first semester of the third year, are still not validated, progression is not authorized.

## 15. No Exceptional Progression by Compensation

There is no automatic or exceptional progression to the next academic year where the student has not validated the full 60 ECTS credits of the current academic year, including all compulsory modules.

A student with missing credits must first complete the official resit session for the failed modules and validate the missing credits before progression to the next academic year can be authorized.

The same principle applies in the third year: authorization to proceed to the Final Year Project requires prior validation of the full 30 ECTS credits of the first semester, including all compulsory modules.

Neither the annual average nor the semester average may be used to compensate for failed compulsory modules or missing ECTS credits.

## 16. Repeating a Year

If, after the resit session, the student still has not validated the required credits, the student repeats the year. Validated and capitalized teaching units remain credited to the student. At the start of the repeat year, the student may also retain the benefit of modules in which a mark equal to or greater than 10/20 was obtained, even where those modules belong to non-validated teaching units.

The Director of the School, upon the recommendation of the head of department, may require the repeating student to complete an internship or project during the repeat year. In such a case, progression to the next year is contingent both upon validation of the year and upon validation of the internship or project.

## 17. Degree Conferment

The national engineering degree is awarded only to students who have passed all compulsory modules, validated all required teaching units and ECTS credits of the program, obtained an overall average equal to or greater than 10/20, and met the following additional conditions:

- Validation of all required internships.
- Demonstration of at least a B2 level in English.
- Completion of the required openness activities.
- Obtaining a mark equal to or greater than 10/20 in the Final Year Project.

## 18. Extension of Study

Third-year students who have validated the first semester and have not yet met one or more of the degree-award conditions may benefit from an extension of studies of up to six months, under the conditions determined by ESSAT. This extension does not waive the obligation to pass any failed compulsory module.