

### **HES-SO at Paléo: “Ether” – the project that connects the skies and earth at Plaine de l’Asse**

**With suspended clouds, exciting stage performances and interactive, fun experiences, HES-SO will be bringing an ethereal touch to the subject of fragility at this year’s Paléo Festival. In the “Ether” project, more than 120 students from 18 higher education institutions will be exploring the things that connect us with the skies and earth. This collective creation, which is both technological and poetical in nature, is the result of six months’ collaboration between students from HES-SO’s six faculties.**

In 2025, HES-SO will be inviting the public to explore the subject of fragility in a universe where lightness and resistance coexist harmoniously. Inspired by the original notion of ether as an invisible yet essential space-filling element, the scenographic design will feature floating suspended structures such as moving clouds. Connecting the skies with the earth, they provide a shady space during the day and at night become the backdrop for light shows evoking the aurora borealis. Their apparent lightness conceals an ingenuity and robustness that shifts from physicality to disappearance, and from grounding to elevation. This creation is the fruit of collaboration between students in different fields of study from HEPIA, the Haute école du paysage, d’ingénierie et d’architecture in Geneva. It gives the students an opportunity to make practical use of their knowledge in a real-world project and to work with professionals.

*Ether* also includes five activities intended for the public, which have also been inspired by the project theme and designed by students in 18 schools at HES-SO. These activities offer an opportunity to investigate this fragility in all its forms. At their leisure, visitors will be able to save villages from flooding, discover their personal limits by putting all their heart into it or express their emotions in splashes of colour. The space will also be hosting the “Face Nord” stage as its focal point, and six groups of current and former HES-SO music students will be appearing on the stage.

Each year, as an “innovation partner” of Paléo Festival Nyon, HES-SO creates a new scenographic environment based on a particular theme, as well as activities designed and led by teams of students from its faculties. The students, who all participate on a voluntary basis, come from different regions and disciplines, and get to know each other in workshops and a boot camp. This six-month adventure challenges their professional skills and human competence, and provides a unique and unforgettable experience.

#### **What our students have to say**

*“The project gave us an opportunity to discover and exceed our limits, both personally and as a team. Despite the doubts and tiredness, we were able to keep ourselves motivated, trust each other and move forward together. We learnt that sometimes confidence and being a bit mad are our staunchest allies and that the stuff of dreams demands a lot of effort and hard work.” Léa Beuchat, landscape architecture student, Haute école de paysage, d’ingénierie et d’architecture de Genève (HEPIA)*

*“Volunteering for the HES-SO project at Paléo was a chance to work in a multidisciplinary team and discover the different disciplines at HES-SO. The experience gave me an opportunity to meet*



*different partners on the ground and find out how the festival works from behind the scenes. This project was an invaluable learning environment in which to develop key social work skills. Even though I was exhausted by the end, the adventure brought me great personal satisfaction and precious memories.” Gloria, social work student, Haute école de travail social de Genève (HETS-Genève)*

Interviews with the students or their supervisors can be arranged on request, as can media visits.  
Further information: [www.hes-so.ch/paleo](http://www.hes-so.ch/paleo)

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