

# FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DES ÉCOLES DE CIRQUE (FFEC) BREVET D'INITIATEUR SPÉCIALISÉ "CIRQUE ADAPTÉ" (BISAC)



**LOCATION:** France, Montreuil

**TARGET GROUP:** Youthworkers, educators

The Brevet d'Initiateur Spécialisé "Cirque Adapté" (BISAC) is a pioneering French diploma that combines the fields of circus arts and adapted physical activities for individuals with disabilities. This certification represents a significant step toward making circus arts accessible to all, with a particular focus on young people with physical, cognitive, or sensory challenges. BISAC is a unique qualification in Europe, serving as a model for the integration of artistic and therapeutic practices in the field of circus.

## Overview and Objectives

The BISAC diploma is designed for individuals aiming to teach and supervise circus activities tailored to people with disabilities. The main objective of BISAC is to equip circus educators with the tools and knowledge required to adapt traditional circus techniques to suit a wide range of abilities. This involves understanding both the physical and emotional needs of participants and creating an inclusive environment where circus activities foster personal growth, social interaction, and physical well-being.

The diploma focuses on the educational and therapeutic dimensions of circus arts, recognizing the profound impact these activities can have on individuals with disabilities. Through circus workshops, participants improve their motor skills, self-confidence, and ability to work in a group, while also experiencing the joy of creative expression. By offering adapted circus education, BISAC promotes inclusion, accessibility, and the holistic development of individuals with disabilities.

## Core Curriculum

The BISAC program covers several key areas to ensure that graduates are fully equipped to work in this specialized field:

- 🎪 **Circus Arts Pedagogy:** Students learn the fundamentals of circus disciplines such as acrobatics, juggling, aerial arts, and clowning, with a particular emphasis on how to adapt these activities for participants with different abilities.
- 🎪 **Adapted Physical Activities (APA):** A major component of the training is focused on how to modify circus techniques to suit various disabilities, whether physical, cognitive, or sensory. This includes understanding the principles of APA,

ensuring that activities are safe and accessible, and fostering an inclusive atmosphere.

🎪 **Therapeutic and Developmental Approaches:** The diploma highlights the therapeutic value of circus arts. Students learn how to use circus activities to promote physical development (such as motor coordination and balance), cognitive stimulation, and emotional expression for individuals with disabilities. This is particularly important for young people, as circus activities can help improve their overall quality of life.

🎪 **Risk Management and Safety:** Safety is a priority when working with individuals with disabilities. BISAC includes modules on risk management, ensuring that instructors are equipped to create safe environments for participants while maintaining the sense of excitement and challenge that circus activities bring.

🎪 **Communication and Social Interaction:** Circus is inherently a collaborative art form, and BISAC places significant emphasis on fostering positive communication and teamwork. The training helps instructors build strong relationships with participants, many of whom may have difficulty with traditional forms of communication. Circus activities often provide an alternative way to express themselves and connect with others.



### A Model of Good Practice in Europe

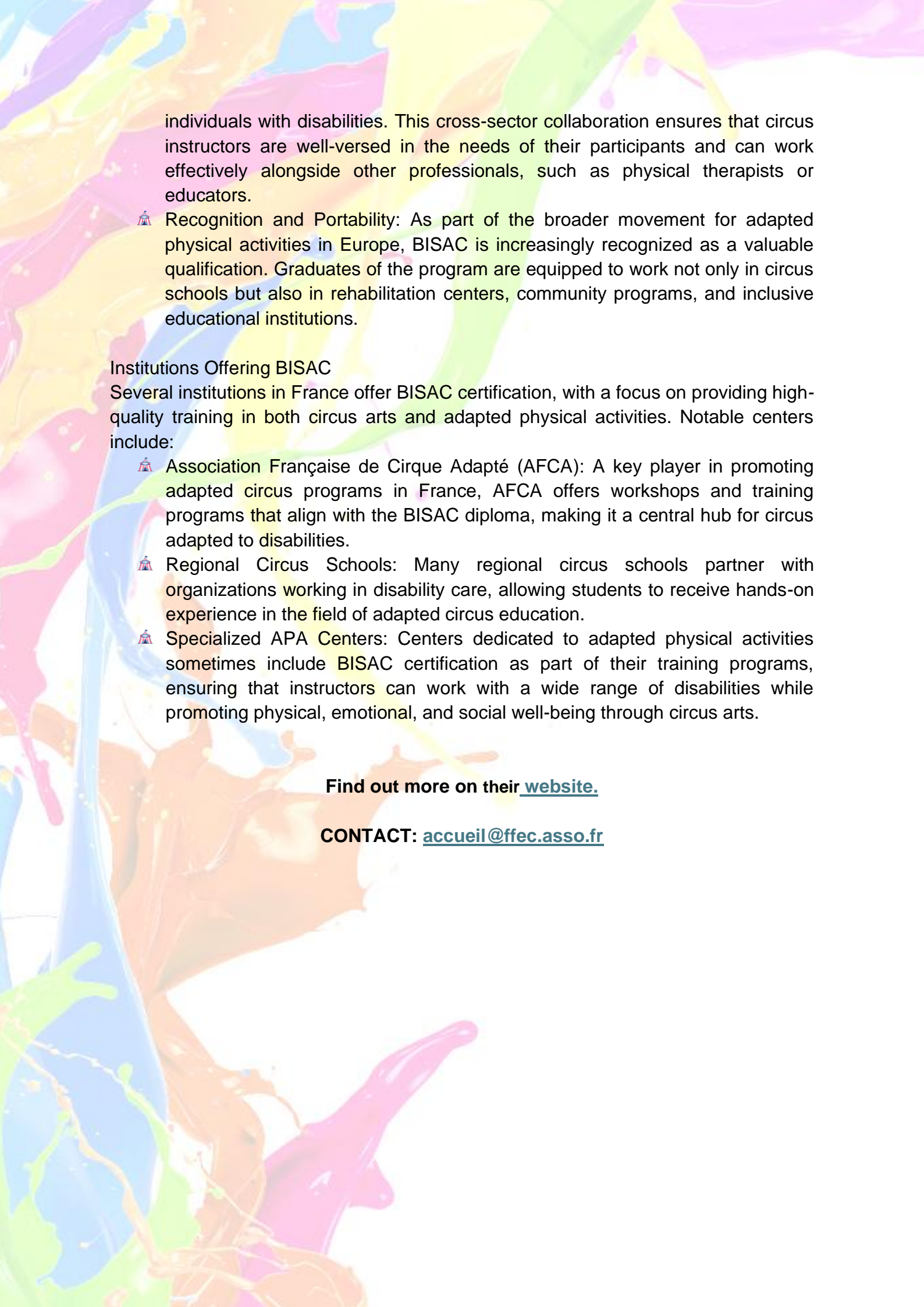
BISAC is not only a national diploma but also a model of good practice across Europe in the field of circus activities for young people with disabilities. The integration of artistic, pedagogical, and therapeutic approaches sets it apart as a comprehensive certification that combines creativity and care. In recent years, the BISAC model has gained recognition in other European countries that are exploring inclusive approaches to physical and artistic education.

There are several reasons why BISAC is considered a best practice:

🎪 **Inclusive and Accessible Circus Education:** The diploma reflects a broader trend in Europe toward making cultural and recreational activities more inclusive. BISAC-trained instructors are able to create programs that welcome young people of all abilities, ensuring that everyone can participate in circus activities regardless of their physical or cognitive challenges.

🎪 **Therapeutic Impact:** Circus arts have a unique capacity to serve both as a form of recreation and as therapy. By focusing on individual abilities rather than limitations, the BISAC program helps young people develop essential life skills such as self-confidence, resilience, and social interaction, while also improving their physical coordination and cognitive abilities.

🎪 **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** BISAC training is often conducted in partnership with healthcare providers, schools, and specialized institutions that serve



individuals with disabilities. This cross-sector collaboration ensures that circus instructors are well-versed in the needs of their participants and can work effectively alongside other professionals, such as physical therapists or educators.

- 🎪 **Recognition and Portability:** As part of the broader movement for adapted physical activities in Europe, BISAC is increasingly recognized as a valuable qualification. Graduates of the program are equipped to work not only in circus schools but also in rehabilitation centers, community programs, and inclusive educational institutions.

#### Institutions Offering BISAC

Several institutions in France offer BISAC certification, with a focus on providing high-quality training in both circus arts and adapted physical activities. Notable centers include:

- 🎪 **Association Française de Cirque Adapté (AFCA):** A key player in promoting adapted circus programs in France, AFCA offers workshops and training programs that align with the BISAC diploma, making it a central hub for circus adapted to disabilities.
- 🎪 **Regional Circus Schools:** Many regional circus schools partner with organizations working in disability care, allowing students to receive hands-on experience in the field of adapted circus education.
- 🎪 **Specialized APA Centers:** Centers dedicated to adapted physical activities sometimes include BISAC certification as part of their training programs, ensuring that instructors can work with a wide range of disabilities while promoting physical, emotional, and social well-being through circus arts.

**Find out more on their [website](#).**

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