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GENERAL PRESENTATION

Founded in 1900, Audencia Nantes is one of France's top schools of management and is now regularly listed among Europe's best business schools (11th best Master in Management in the world in the Financial Times ranking of September 2008).

After starting life in the city centre of Nantes, the school is now housed in an international, purpose-built campus just 12 minutes tram ride from the centre of this city that sits near the mouth of the river Loire.

Since 1968 the school has been supported by three major players in the country's dynamic western region – Nantes City Council, the Loire-Atlantique County Council and Nantes Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Audencia has a firmly global outlook, with a full portfolio of international and French-language programmes. The formation of Audencia Group in 2006, which has seen a smaller business school and a communications school in the region come under Audencia's wing, means programmes from Bachelor to Doctorate can now be offered, with international Masters, and three MBAs also taught.

Students at Audencia are instilled with a global perspective. On the school's cornerstone Audencia Masters in Management (Grande Ecole programme) (80% of total student intake) participants must spend at least a study semester abroad, the great majority choosing the USA. This overseas experience can be extended by up to a year, allowing students to complete an MBA at certain academic partners. This policy, launched in 1977 has seen more than 5000 Audencia students cross the Atlantic. In addition, those following the Grande Ecole programme must be able to speak three foreign languages by the end of their studies.

A human approach is central to Audencia's philosophy, with students required to complete an in-depth portfolio of personal skills during their studies and to widen their outlook with at least a study semester abroad. Modernity is not just seen in the shape of the state-of-the-art 3000m² Centre for Entrepreneuers recently opened on the 23,000m² campus, but also by heavy investment in new technologies and the ongoing recruitment of teaching staff versed in the latest management theories and methods.

Quality is a key concern. The school itself gained the rigorous EQUIS label from the EFMD (European Federation for Management Development) in 1998 and in 2004 successfully gained AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation. The addition of accreditation from The Association of MBAs in 2005 makes Audencia Nantes part of less than 1% of business education establishments worldwide to hold all three major quality standards.