Education Abroad in FRENCH

Benefits of International Experience

Whether you’re considering a major or minor in French or want to improve your French skills while studying another subject, you are probably aware of the importance of education abroad to your field.

As a student working towards language acquisition, spending time abroad in an immersion setting is crucial to developing proficiency and confidence in speaking that cannot be matched elsewhere. In addition to honing your language skills, time in a French-speaking country will allow you to gain greater cultural understanding and a more nuanced perspective on both your host culture and home country.

Sojourns abroad as a university student, or as an intern for a foreign company or organization can also be valuable components of your UVA education and significant experiences to put on your resume. Education abroad opportunities are excellent for the development of new interpersonal and cross-cultural communication skills, as well as a chance for personal growth.

Academic and Timing Considerations

The French Department recommends education abroad for those students who have already advanced to the 3000 level of study. It is important to assess your own language capabilities, goals, and the requirements specified by any particular program in which you would like to participate. All students who wish to partake in an education abroad program must have a GPA of 2.5 or greater.

Depending on the type of education abroad program you select, you may receive direct or transfer credit for the courses you complete abroad. Up to twelve credits toward the French major may be earned in approved foreign study programs, and up to six credits may be earned toward a French minor. Courses which students seek to take for major or minor credit must be pre-approved by the Director of the Undergraduate Program of French.

To ensure a well-integrated study abroad experience, the department and the International Studies Office recommend planning early in your academic career. Speaking with an education abroad advisor and your French academic advisor as early as first year will help you find the best program with the best coursework suited for your goals while still allowing you to graduate on time.
International Opportunities in the French Language

This list is a starting point, you are not limited to these options.

Africa

- **Senegal**, CIEE: Language & Culture *
- **Senegal**, University of Minnesota: Studies in International Development
- **Madagascar**, SIT: Urbanization and Rural Development §
- **Morocco**, UVA in Morocco (semester) *
- **Morocco**, UVA in Morocco (summer)

Europe

- **Belgium**, CIEE: Business, Communications and Culture in Brussels
- **Belgium**, IFE: Field Study and Internship *§
- **France**, January Term: UVA in Paris
- **France**, UVA Exchange in Lyon 2
- **France**, UVA Exchange: Sciences Po Lille
- **France**, UVA Exchange: Sciences Po Paris
- **France**, IAU College: Aix-en-Provence
- **France**, IFE: Field Study and Internship *§
- **France**, Sweet Briar College: Junior Year in France *
- **France**, Middlebury College in Bordeaux
- **France**, Middlebury College in Paris
- **France**, Middlebury College in Poitiers
- **Switzerland**, SIT: International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy §

North America

- **Canada**, UVA Exchange: University of Montreal

*Internship available
§ Fieldwork/Field Study Available