

“French as a Foreign Language” Class Program

Intensive Classes

Student profile: Intensive classes are intended for adult students whose objective is to acquire French language skills for professional, academic or personal reasons.

Hours per week: 20 hours per week; the program consists of Standard classes + Culture Online

Duration: minimum one week

Class size: 14 students maximum per class

Pre-requisites: according to the student’s initial level (evaluated by the placement test)

- Level A1: complete beginners accepted at the start of the course
- Level A2: must have completed level A1
- Level B1: must have completed level A2
- Level B2: must have completed level B1
- Level C1: must have completed level B2
- Level C2: must have completed level C1

Learning objectives: Please consult the *Référentiel de formation* (syllabus) for overviews of each CECRL level. The goal of Culture Online is to discover French culture and the French-speaking world. These courses give tools to decipher French society and to better immerse oneself in Parisian life.

Approche méthodologique

Our teaching is based on a communicative method based on active participation of the learners (work in small groups, role-playing, etc.). Our teachers use recent FLE textbooks as well as numerous newspaper and magazine articles and rely on audio documents (French songs, recorded conversations, films, documentaries, digital and online resources, etc.). Course materials are custom-made by the teachers themselves.

Each day, students have assignments to do at home, which are corrected individually and returned the next day by the teacher. This exercise aims to develop written language skills. It is composed of various grammar, conjugation, writing, rewriting etc. exercises. At the end of their studies, students have developed balanced oral and written skills. An estimated 5 hours per week is spent on homework, including proofreading and studying the contents of the day's session and time spent on the homework assignments given by the teacher. This is essential to the student's progress and an integral part of the learning process.

Contents: Please consult the *Référentiel de formation* (syllabus) which details the pedagogical contents of each level. The Culture Online program completes the Standard program. Each week, via the ItsLearning platform, a new theme is presented allowing students to gain an in-depth and immediately useful understanding of French culture and current events. Examples of themes include: French gastronomy, autumn in Paris, the Nuits Blanches festival, wine harvests, France and its regions, the Great War, Science and new technologies.

Course materials and activities

Materials vary according to course level and are composed of exercises from recent FLE textbooks, pedagogical tools created by our teachers, authentic documents, digital and online resources.

- Examples of oral materials: French songs, recorded conversations, films, documentaries, conferences, radio and tv programs, online resources, etc.
- Examples of written materials: excerpts from books, magazines, newspapers, graphic novels, etc.
- Examples of in-class activities: work in pairs and small groups, exposés, role-playing and board games

Assessment

Several assessments are in place to evaluate, continuously and over time, each student's progress and performance.

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- Weekly validation of the student's participation with the possibility of providing comments and suggestions to enrich the future program
- On a monthly basis and by appointment, each student enrolled in the intensive program for a minimum of 12 weeks receives a 45-minute tutoring session with a teacher. The purpose of these personalized sessions is to measure the student's progress, clarify language acquisition and discuss academic/professional goals.

Continuous assessment:

- Attendance at classes is required. We recommend active participation during classes.
- Homework is given daily at the end of each class, corrected individually by the teacher and handed in the next day (various grammar and conjugation exercises, writing assignments, rewriting etc.).
- Each student's speaking skills are evaluated during daily class activities.

Monthly examination:

- Monthly exams evaluate the skills acquired by the student (grammar, language structures, vocabulary, oral comprehension, written comprehension, written expression).
- Exams are graded out of 20.

Final examination (Etoile's diploma):

- Students who have studied for at least the 3rd trimester and have received a sufficient grade (10/20) in all the parts of the end-of-year exam can receive our diploma.
- Composed of a three-hour written test and a 10-minute oral test on a subject that the student will have chosen beforehand and prepared for 10 minutes, the final examination assesses students' acquired French-language skills.
- Diplomas are awarded in June at the end-of-school-year party.
- Students who do not meet the criteria to receive the diploma are awarded a certificate.

Internal certificates and external certifications:

- At the end of their stays, students receive a certificate indicating the type of course followed, dates of stay, the starting CECRL level and level reached, attendance rates and monthly exam grades.
- Students are encouraged to take an official certification (TCF, TEF, DFP...) and benefit from a reduced price in our certification center.