



# Study Abroad for French

French Department contact:

Donald Dziekowicz, Ph.D.  
[djdziekowicz@stthomas.edu](mailto:djdziekowicz@stthomas.edu)

OEK 325  
 Ph. 651.962.5167

*I would say about my study abroad that it is honestly the best experience someone can have. If you are learning a language, you will obtain a confidence in speaking that you are unable to get in an American classroom. You are able to learn not only another culture, but also more about yourself than you could ever imagine.*

-Hannah Lohmer,  
 Grenoble, France

International Education Center  
 Mail #44C

Ph: 651-962-6450

Email:

[International@stthomas.edu](mailto:International@stthomas.edu)

Web:

[www.stthomas.edu/studyabroad](http://www.stthomas.edu/studyabroad)

1/07

## Why study French abroad?

- To improve your fluency. (French is the first or second language of more than 40 countries.)
- To increase your understanding and appreciation of diverse peoples and their cultures
- To develop your critical and creative thinking skills as you interact with faculty and students from around the world
- To compete effectively in the global economy of the future. (More than 1200 French companies have subsidiaries in the US!)
- To develop intellectually, emotionally, culturally and socially

## Yeah, but...

### • **When is the best time to go abroad?**

It is best to go abroad after you complete FREN300. At that level, you are ready to take all of your courses in French and you'll have the opportunity to choose from language, literature, film, political science, history, art history and other topics courses.

### • **If I'm not a French major, can I fulfill my language requirements abroad?**

Yes. Some study abroad programs have equivalent courses that will satisfy UST's core language requirement.

### • **Can I afford it?**

YES! The cost of studying abroad is within the reach of most UST students. Financial aid applies to semester study abroad, and students not currently receiving financial aid may be eligible for loans. In addition, there are special scholarships for studying abroad.

## So...what do I do next?

- Begin planning right away. It is never too early to start planning. Stop by the IEC, sign up for a "First Step" session (visit the IEC website for details), and use the resource library to begin researching destinations.
- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for all French majors. You need to determine which one best fits you. Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic, professional, and career goals.
- Think about what you want to learn from (and what you can contribute to) the program and country where you want to be.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take prerequisites or plan for classes upon your return.
- Prepare a budget.
- To help with the above, talk to:
  - ✓ your academic advisor
  - ✓ Study Abroad Advisor at International Education Center (IEC)

## Academic Planning:

- In consultation with your academic advisor, create a tentative “4-year” academic schedule ASAP (see sample below). By doing this, you will determine when, during your academic career, studying abroad best fits you. Although most French majors and minors go abroad during their junior year, you should go abroad when it fits into your schedule. After you have completed FREN 300 is the optimal time for a semester abroad in French. For some students, this may be as early as your sophomore year.
- Some programs offer the option of taking one course in French language and other courses in English. This option is only suited to non-French majors and minors
- The French major and minor provide ample opportunity to take electives and special topics courses abroad. Study the list of courses available and discuss with your advisor/department chair about possible approval of these courses for French requirements.
- As part of your application process, you will identify particular courses of interest and get them approved *before* you depart. Finally, in addition to studying abroad, you should also consider research, service-learning, internships, volunteer, and extracurricular experiences off-campus, just as you do when you are on campus.

*Sample Schedule* for a French major wishing to study abroad:

	<i>First Year</i>	<i>Second year</i>	<i>Third Year</i>	<i>Fourth Year</i>
<i>F</i>			FRENCH	FRENCH
			Language	Language
			Literature	Literature
			Culture & Civ	Culture & Civ
<i>J</i>				
<i>S</i>		FREN CH	FRENCH	
		Language	Language	
		Literature	Literature	
		Culture & Civ	Culture & Civ	

\*Only French courses are listed here, but don't forget about your core courses and/or electives abroad!

= time periods when *most* French students consider going abroad.

## Study Abroad Programs for French Majors/Minors

AIFS: Paris

IAU: Avignon

IES: Nantes

IES: Paris

IAU: Aix-en-Provence  
(for non majors and minors)

\*Please consider both long term (semester and year-long) and short term (summer and J-Term) and programs.