



**French Language & Culture**  
at the University of Montpellier III (IEFE)  
(Institut d'Etudes Françaises pour Etrangers)

**French Language & Culture & Service Learning**  
at Institut Méditerranéen de Langues et Services

**2011-2012**



***The Institut Méditerranéen de Langues et Services (IMLS) is a training center that aims at combining education with culture and community service***

*The IMLS forms the liaison between universities in Montpellier and abroad and offers specific services for students wishing to study in France and to immerse themselves in the French culture (leisure and cultural activities).*

*We are located in the historical center of Montpellier, an ideal location on the shores of the Mediterranean, a stone's throw away from Provence and Spain. Famous for its university, one of the oldest in Europe, its cultural environment and lively student atmosphere.*

# Our programs

French Language Programs at the university (semester and summer)

French Language Programs at the IMLS  
(Intensive and semi-intensive Language & Cultural programs)

Service-Learning programs including a course on French institutions and  
community service

## FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS at the UNIVERSITY of MONTPELLIER (IEFE)



**The IEFE offers a range of French language and civilization courses specifically tailored for foreign students.**

### Periods of study

**Semester courses: Spring** (mid-January to mid-May) – **Fall** (September to December)

- 16 hours classes/week = 208 hours

**Summer** (June – July – August):

- June: 20 class hours/week (B2 level pre-requisite)
- July or August: 19 class hours /week with occasional Saturdays

The Fall & Spring semesters include 1 week devoted to the housing and welcoming of students and 1 orientation day for the summer courses at the beginning of the program.

Students are then tested in order to determine their level of proficiency in French (6 levels from A1 to C2 – see Annex 1) and placed in community service agencies (for those who wish to volunteer). This is also when final registration at university is processed.

**University vacations:**

- Two weeks for Christmas
- One week in February/March
- Two weeks around Easter

### Organization

There are six levels of French competency (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2)  
Placement tests (oral and written) are organized at the beginning of each semester or summer month.

## Semester courses

Students are assigned to groups, according to their scores.  
Below, you can see the description of each language level.

The CEFR describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing at each level, in details:

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
<b>A1</b>	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
<b>A2</b>	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
<b>B1</b>	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
<b>B2</b>	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
<b>C1</b>	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
<b>C2</b>	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

### 2 electives to be selected for Levels B1 to C2

B1: Cinema, Southern French Civilization, Culture and Heritage, French applied to the Social and Economic fields, History of Art, Literature, Theater.

B2: Cinema, Business French, French for Environmental Studies, History of Art, Literature and Oral Expression, Theater.

C1 & C2: Creative writing, Cinema, Business French, French for environmental studies, History of Art, Literature

Registration at the IEFE gives students the possibility to attend, as auditing students, selected classes at the university during the academic year (lectures only). This possibility is available during the registration period at the IEFE.

## Summer courses

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### **Morning classes**

Divided into groups of the same level determined after placement tests (3 hours from Monday to Friday or Saturday / 2 periods of 1h30 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.).

### **Afternoon workshops**

On Tuesdays and Thursdays (2 periods of 1h30 each).

A number of workshops are offered, including the following: written expression, oral expression, grammatical refresher, phonetics, French literature, French culture. These workshops supply complementary instruction in keeping with students' needs and interests and according to their levels. A workshop consists of 8 periods of 1h30 each. Thus, students can take two workshops during the session.

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### Assessment conditions

- Periodic assessments requiring regular class attendance
- Mid-term exams
- Final exams

### Transcripts delivered

Transcripts from the IMLS are sent along with original grades from the University of Montpellier  
A certificate of attendance will be issued for regular attendance in classes and workshops.

### Cultural activities

Each program includes:

- a guided tour of Montpellier of Montpellier
- one excursion per month to discover the region (see cultural activities below)



## FRENCH LANGUAGE and CULTURE PROGRAMS AT IMLS



**The IMLS offers tailor-made short intensive, semi-intensive Language & Cultural programs programs as well as personalized assistance through the support of our highly-qualified and experienced teaching staff.**

The level of competence is assessed through the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) which describes what a learner is supposed to be able to do in reading, listening, speaking and writing at each level (see annex 1).

### French Language

#### Periods of study

The language courses are offered as hourly, weekly or monthly periods of study by qualified teachers. 3-hour classes from 9:00-10:15am; 10:30-12:15am (Monday to Friday)

#### IMLS assets

- **Conversation workshops with native speakers to reinforce academic language acquisition**
- **Language tools to develop individual linguistic competencies are at participants' disposal**
- **Requests for specific purposes will be met individually**

### Combination of French language classes

**Language classes can be combined with the following options on request**

- **Oenology, the largest wine-growing region in the world**
- **French cuisine an innovative way to discover French culture and cooking skills.** France cuisine is now part of the UNESCO world heritage
- **Cultural visits & Excursions in a region abundant with prestigious historical sites**
- **Sports**
- **Community Service which allows to immerse in French society**

→ Requests for Language for Specific Purposes will be met individually.

## SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS including a course on French institution and community service



**Service learning may be selected as a sole option or can be combined with an academic program at the university or at the IMLS.**

This program allows participants to get involved in the community as volunteers. It is carried out through volunteer work coupled with a course on French Institutions.

The Institut Meditteraneen de Langues (IMLS) organizes the placement in a number of service agencies depending on need, as well as on the participant's skills and interests (food banks, services for handicapped people, rehab center for children, schools, emergency care...)

Over the years participants have been responding enthusiastically to this alternative form of education.

The promoters of the program wish to give participants an opportunity to get a holistic view of the community. Thus, the students will not be enclosed in a strict academic setting but will rather be part of a richer relationship with the city as a whole.

### **Community Service**

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The community service activities are organized after careful study of all the applications forms. Students are placed according to the needs of our partner associations, the requests of the participating students, their abilities as well as their aspirations.

**Some among our partner associations:**

**ASSOCIATION DES PARALYSES DE FRANCE** (Association for Handicapped People) <http://www.apf.asso.fr>  
The participants accompany the handicapped people and participate in recreation activities.

**INSTITUT SAINT PIERRE** (Rehab Center for children) <http://www.institut-st-pierre.com>  
Participants join in recreation activities and assist teachers in tutoring hospitalised children.  
(Tutoring except during vacations and summer)

**PUBLIC and PRIVATE SCHOOLS** (partnership with the Rectorat) <http://www.ac-montpellier.fr>  
The students participate in a tutoring program and participate in English conversation classes (except during vacations and summer).

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL** <http://www.saintvincentdepaulherault.org>  
The center provides several services for the underprivileged such as meals, urgent medical and social care.

**SECOURS CATHOLIQUE (Caritas)** [http://www.secours-catholique.asso.fr/delegation\\_herault.htm](http://www.secours-catholique.asso.fr/delegation_herault.htm)  
Participation in activities organised by the association: collecting, sorting and distributing food.

**SECOURS POPULAIRE** <http://www.secourspopulaire.fr>

- Preparation and distribution of packed meals
- Tutoring of underprivileged schoolchildren

**IMLS** (conversation workshops) <http://www.imls.fr>

Students participate in language and cultural exchanges through conversation workshops.

**LA PROVIDENCE** (Retirement Home)

Students participate in recreation activities.

## Courses on Institutions in French society

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A course on French Institutions may be coupled with the volunteering activities. The course deals with the major issues at stake in French society and the way they are met by institutions and associations. It complements community service activities, linking traditional learning and experimentation.

Semester: 1 ½ class hours/week + Tutorials

Summer: 2 class hours / week + Tutorials

**Objectives**

- Allow participants to have a hands-on approach and give them the ability to understand the way French society operates
- Develop analytical and synthetic skills

**Methods**

- Surveys
- Press articles
- Discussions
- Presentation of personal research based on their work in the agencies they volunteer
- Weekly journals to reflect on their volunteering activities and to be used in the final paper

**Themes**

- An image of France
- Health
- The French at work
- The French educational system
- French government
- Europe
- Immigration
- Women in French society
- Justice
- Ethics
- Ecology
- The media

**Assessment**

- Class attendance
- Continuous assessment (oral presentations on service activities, quiz etc...)  
*This will take into account the relevancy of the issues raised as well as oral fluency*
- Journal based on critical incidents during the week
- Final paper
- Evaluation by on-site supervisors

**Suggested readings**

- Knowing and Doing (edited by Linda Chisholm)
- How to Serve and Learn Abroad Effectively (Howard A. Berry & Linda A. Chisholm)
- Charting a Hero's Journey (Linda A. Chisholm)
- Visions of Service (Linda A. Chisholm)
- Qu'est-ce qu'un français (Patrick Weil, ed Grasset)

## Cultural activities and leisure

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These are an important supplement to the classes, introducing students to the region's architectural heritage, landscape, touristic sites of the area and its cities.

**Among our excursions:**

### NIMES AND ARLES

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The nearby Roman cities of **Nîmes and Arles**, both of which compete for the title of the “French Rome”



<http://www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr> - <http://www.nimes.fr>

### AVIGNON

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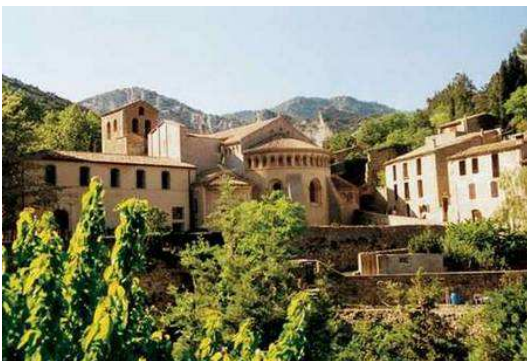


The medieval walled cities of **Avignon** (once the home of the Popes). The Pope's palace is classified as part of the world cultural heritage.

<http://www.avignon.fr>

### SAINT GUILHEM LE DESERT

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**St Guilhem-Le- Désert** and the 'Ermitage, a legendary village at the heart of a preserved valley. An unforgettable encounter...

<http://www.st-guilhem-le-desert.com>



## CARCASSONNE

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**Carcassonne**, one of the most extravagant fortresses in all of Europe

[www.carcassonne.culture.fr](http://www.carcassonne.culture.fr)

## SOMMIERES AND LE PONT DU GARD

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**Sommières** (market), le **Pont du Gard**, a magnificent aqueduct, built towards the end of the first century B.C

<http://www.ot-sommieres.fr/histoire.aspx>

<http://www.gard-provencal.com/sites/pontgard.htm>

## LES BAUX DE PROVENCE

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**Cathédrale d'images- Les Baux de Provence**, a village with a great historical past, once a stronghold of Protestantism

<http://www.cathedrale-images.com>

<http://www.lesbauxdeprovence.com>

## AIGUES - MORTES

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**Aigues-mortes**, the port from which Louis IX (St Louis) set out on his first crusade in 1248

<http://aiguesmortes.free.fr/la%20carte.htm>

<http://www.casteland.com/pfr/chateau/languedoc/gard/aiguesmor/am.htm>

<http://www.ot-aiguesmortes.fr/>

## Diplomas issued by University Montpellier III (equivalence and exemption for Fall & Spring programs at IEFE UM3)

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Students have the possibility of taking the following exams:

- **Practical Certificate in French Language** (1st level) after attending a level B1 course for 1 semester
- **Diploma of French Studies** (2nd level) after attending a level B2 course for 1 semester
- **Advanced French Studies Diploma** (3rd level) after attending a level C1 course for 1 semester
- **Higher Diploma of French Studies** (3rd level) after attending a level C1 and a level C2 course during 1 year (this diploma is available at the 2nd semester only)

The Higher Diploma of French Studies is particularly aimed at students who plan to subsequently attend a degree **program** in Modern French Literature or in Language Sciences.

Depending on their level in French and under the condition they have a secondary school diploma issued in their own country; foreign students may be allowed to register directly for a course at the Institute of French Studies, or the Special Diploma of French Studies.

With the approval of the admissions committee, students whose secondary school diploma has been accepted as a French Baccalaureat equivalent can use their Higher Diploma of French Studies in Modern French Literature at the University Paul Valéry.

However, this possibility is only open to students who have applied for registration in accordance with university regulations. They should obtain a pre-registration from the Office for International Relations at University Montpellier III before the fifteenth of January preceding the academic year for which they wish to register for undergraduate studies.

## Practical information

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### Registration conditions

**Students must be 18 years of age (for courses at university)**

The application form must be returned:

- **before May 2<sup>nd</sup>** (June session) – **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** (July session) – **June 20<sup>th</sup>** (August Session)
- **before June 20<sup>th</sup>** for the Fall session
- **before November 14<sup>th</sup>** for the Spring session

**Students must be covered by an insurance covering accidents, hospitalization and/or repatriation. Students have a liability insurance included with the Student Medical Coverage (Spring & Fall university programs).**

→ Registration will be finalized during orientation

### Accommodations

Participants are accommodated with host families (half-board) or in residence-hotels

### Meals

Students can have lunch in university cafeterias (the university refectories are closed on Sundays). Students can buy meals tickets from CROUS of Montpellier

### Reception

- **If you arrive by train:** Please confirm your arrival plans. The meeting point is in the SNCF railway station upstairs. Your host family will be waiting for you
- **If you arrive by road:** Please contact IMLS and your host family

- **If you arrive by air:** Please confirm your arrival plans. Your family will be waiting for you at the gate.

## Transport

You have 2 options to move in and around the city: **Either TAM or ZEN cards.**

**TAM card** (*bus and tramways*)

**ZEN card** (*for students under 26 years old*)

**A ZEN card** from HERAULT TRANSPORT allows you to use the whole TAM and Herault network. We recommend the use the Zen card which will take you to the beaches and the airport.

## Annex 1

### Common European Framework of Reference for Languages



The **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment**, or CEFR, is a guideline used to describe achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe. It was put together by the Council of Europe as the main part of the project “Language Learning for European Citizenship” between 1989 and 1996. In November 2001 a European Union Council Resolution recommended using the CEFR to set up systems of validation of language ability. The six reference levels (see below) are becoming widely accepted as the standard for grading an individual's language proficiency.

The Common European Framework divides learners into three broad divisions which can be divided into six levels:

<b>A</b>	<b>Basic User</b>
<b>A1</b>	<b>Breakthrough</b>
<b>A2</b>	<b>Waystage</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Independent User</b>
<b>B1</b>	<b>Threshold</b>
<b>B2</b>	<b>Vantage</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Proficient User</b>
<b>C1</b>	<b>Effective Operational Proficiency</b>
<b>C2</b>	<b>Mastery</b>

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
<b>A1</b>	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.
<b>A2</b>	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
<b>B1</b>	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
<b>B2</b>	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
<b>C1</b>	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
<b>C2</b>	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

## Annex 2

### Calendar of sessions

SUMMER 2011	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
LAST REGISTRATION DAY	Monday 2 May 2011	Friday 3 June 2011	Monday 20 June 2011
ARRIVAL DATE	Saturday 4 June 2011	Saturday 25 June 2011	Saturday 23 July 2011
FINAL REGISTRATION	Monday 6 June 2011	Monday 27 June 2011	Monday 25 July 2011
PLACEMENT TESTS	Monday 6 June 2011	Tuesday 28 June 2011	Tuesday 26 July 2011
BEGINNING OF CLASSES	Tuesday 7 June 2011	Wednesday 29 June 2011	Wednesday 27 July 2011
END OF CLASSES	Friday 24 June 2011	Friday 22 July 2011	Friday 19 August 2011
DEPARTURE	Saturday 25 June 2011	Saturday 23 July 2011	Saturday 20 August 2011

There will be courses on Saturdays 11 & 18 June – 2 & 16 July – 30 July & 13 August 2011

FALL 2011	SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER
LAST REGISTRATION DAY	Monday 20 June 2011
ARRIVAL DATE	Saturday 3 September 2011
FINAL REGISTRATION	Monday 5 September 2011
PLACEMENT TESTS	Tuesday 6 September 2011
BEGINNING OF CLASSES	Tuesday 13 September 2011
END OF CLASSES	Tuesday 13 December 2011
FINAL EXAMS	Wednesday 14 to 16 December 2011
DEPARTURE	Saturday 17 December 2011

#### FALL 2011 Holidays

- From Friday 28 October to Tuesday 1st November 2011 included
- Friday 11 November 2011
- From Monday 19 December 2011 to Monday 2 January 2012 included

SPRING 2012	JANUARY - MAY
LAST REGISTRATION DAY	Monday 14 November 2012
ARRIVAL DATE	Saturday 14 January 2012
FINAL REGISTRATION	Monday 16 January 2012
PLACEMENT TESTS	Tuesday 17 January 2012
BEGINNING OF CLASSES	Tuesday 24 January 2012
END OF CLASSES	Friday 4 May 2012
FINAL EXAMS	Monday 7 to Thursday 10 May 2012
DEPARTURE	Saturday 12 May 2012

#### SPRING 2012 Holidays

- 1 week at the beginning of March (dates to be confirmed)
- From Monday 9 April to Sunday 22 April 2012
- Tuesdays 1 & 8 May 2012