

Centers, schools, and university departments specializing in French as a foreign language

A large number of schools and centers (some private, some nonprofit, some university-affiliated) offer courses in French as a foreign language and often other specialized courses, along with language-related tourism and travel, language testing, and preparation for language tests and diplomas. Such centers may or may not be members of a network (Alliances Française, ADCUEFE, the FLE group, Catholic universities and institutes, Souffle, Unosel). They may or may not have earned national certification for quality in French as a foreign language (the "Qualité FLE" label). And they may or may not have partnerships with universities in France and abroad.



A ministerial mark of quality: "Qualité FLE" (quality in French as a foreign language)

The "Qualité français langue étrangère" label, often seen as "Q-FLE," recognizes quality instruction in French as a foreign language. The label emerged from a quality-assurance program undertaken by the French ministries of education, foreign affairs, and culture. It identifies language centers that stand behind the quality of their courses and services. To date, about a hundred centers have earned the label. Reflecting the diversity of field, the recipients include centers at universities and grandes écoles, private language centers, and nonprofit centers. The label program is managed by CIEP (Centre International d'Études Pédagogiques), a public institution that is described further on.

Professional groups and networks

• **ADCUEFE**, the Association of directors of university centers for the study of French as a foreign language for foreigners, brings together 38 university-based centers for French as a foreign language that offer courses for international students and faculty. Experts representing the ADCUEFE network conduct annual missions (involving audits and advice on curricula, as well as consulting on language training and education) for the French overseas network and for departments of French in foreign universities. <http://fle.asso.free.fr/adcuef>

• Alliance Française

Founded in 1883, the *Alliance Française* is a network of 1,072 associations in 136 countries that endeavor to make French language and culture accessible to all audiences. The Alliance Française de Paris, as well as branches in several regions of France, welcome students from every country in the world. www.fondation-alliancefr.org

• CELAF

The French Language Center of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris / Ile-de-France was a pioneer in certification and training in professional French. It has been a member of ALTE (Association of Language Testers in Europe) since April 2007. Its TEF has earned ISO 9001 certification (2008) and the French government's Q-FLE label. The TEF is recognized by the French ministries of education and interior, Canada's federal government, and the ministry of immigration, diversity, and inclusion of the province of Quebec. www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/

• CIEP, Centre International d'Études Pédagogiques (CIEP)

Established in 1945, France's International Center for Pedagogical Studies is a public entity operating under the authority of the Ministry of Education. Its activities fall into two broad categories: education (recognition of degrees and diplomas; educational consulting at all levels, including professional education) and languages (French; languages and mobility; and certifications in French, including the TCF, DELF, and DALF). It is a member of ALTE. www.ciep.fr

• FIPF, Fédération internationale des professeurs de français

FIPF brings together more than 70,000 teachers of French in 165 associations, including several national federations. With various partners -including government ministries in France, Canada, and Belgium- FIPF contributes to the international diffusion of French language and culture. Every 4 years, FIPF organizes a world congress for teachers of French and their institutional partners. www.fipf.info

• Groupement FLE

Founded in 1994, *Groupement FLE* brings together specialists in French as a foreign language from 33 different schools. It has created its own quality-assurance system based on the quality of the information and services offered to students, the availability of instruction consistent with the CEFR, and compliance with legal requirements related to safety, security and labor law. www.goupement-fle.com

• SOUFFLE, Groupement professionnel des organismes de français langue étrangère

SOUFFLE is made up of 19 French-language centers, all of which have earned the "Qualité FLE" label. www.souffle.asso.fr

• UNOSEL, Union nationale des organisations de séjours éducatifs, linguistiques et des écoles de langues

Founded in 1978, UNOSEL is a national federation of 70 language schools and organizations active in educational and language-related travel. Its membership includes 8 schools of French as a foreign language that offer courses in French language, culture, civilization and French economy. www.unosel.com

Useful Websites:

- Arrêté du 3 mai 2007 (test d'évaluation du français (TEF): www.fda.ccip.fr/documents/pdf/tef/arrete_men_2007.pdf
- ADCUEFE, the association of directors of university centers for the study of French as a foreign language for foreigners: <http://fle.asso.free.fr/adcuef>
- ALTE, The Association of Language Testers in Europe: www.alte.org
- Apprendre TV, le français avec TV5 Monde : www.apprendre.tv5monde.com
- Asdifle, Association de Didactique du Français Langue Étrangère (Association for the teaching of French as a foreign language): www.asdifle.org
- AUF, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (Francophone universities agency): www.auf.org
- CCIP, Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry: www.ccip.fr
- CEFR, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages of the Council of Europe: www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_fr.pdf
- CELAF, Centre de langue française (part of CCIP): www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr
- CIEP, Centre International d'Études Pédagogiques (International center for pedagogical research): www.ciep.fr
- CNED, Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (National center for distance learning): www.cned.fr/vie-active/formation-professionnelle/fle/
- DELF, Diplôme d'études en langue française (diploma of French language studies), and DALF Diplôme approfondi de langue française (advanced diploma in French language): www.ciep.fr/delfdalf/
- DFP, Diplôme de français professionnel (diploma in professional French): www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/diplomes
- Directory of centers for French as a foreign language in France: www.qualitefle.fr
- Europass (Niveaux européens de langues de la Commission Européenne - Grille d'autoévaluation: www.europass.cedefop.europa.eu/fr/resources/european-language-levels-cefr
- FIPF, Fédération internationale des professeurs de français (international federation of teachers of French): www.fipf.info/
- Fondation Alliance française, the network of Alliance Française branches around the world: www.fondation-alliancefr.org
- FOU, Français sur objectifs universitaires (French for academic purposes): www.cuef.fr/articles-1/26-3-francaiobjectifuniversitaires
- *Le Français dans le monde*, review published by FIPF: www.fdlm.org
- *Franc-Parler*, Web portal of the global community of teachers of French: www.franccparler-oif.org
- GERFLINT, Groupe d'études et de recherches pour le français langue internationale (research group for French as an international language): www.gerflint.fr
- HERACLES (Hautes études et recherches pour les centres de langues de l'enseignement supérieur, advanced study and research to support postsecondary language centers) world forum: www.forummondialheracles.wix.com/heracles
- Learn French in France: www.coursdete.campusfrance.org
- OIF, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (International francophone organization): www.francophonie.org
- Organization for the promotion of French as a foreign language: www.fle.fr
- RFI, Radio France internationale: http://www.rfi.fr/lfr/statiques/accueil_apprendre.asp/
- TCF, Test de connaissance du français (test of knowledge of French): www.ciep.fr/tcf/
- TCF-DAP, TCF for applications for preliminary admission (DAP procedures): www.ciep.fr/tcfdap/
- TEF, Test d'évaluation du français (French assessment test): www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/tefaq-et-e-tefaq
- TEFAQ, TEF Quebec version: www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/tefaq-et-e-tefaq
- TV5 Monde, Apprendre le français: <http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/http://parlons.français.tv5monde.com>

GOOD TO KNOW

- Tests of and diplomas in French as a foreign language enable applicants for Licence and Master's programs to demonstrate their level of French proficiency.
- Many language schools, branches of the Alliance Française, and cultural institutes in France and abroad provide rapid preparation for tests of French as a foreign language such as the TCF and TEF. Preparing for the DELF and DALF examinations requires more structure and greater planning but guarantees a good command of French. Plus the diplomas are valid for life!
- Students who prepare in France for a test of or diploma in French as a foreign language earn higher scores and have a greater likelihood of success because they have the benefit of cultural and linguistic immersion.
- Achieving a level B1 or B2 on the CEFR is desirable for postsecondary study in France.



Online catalog and mobile app

Catalog of short academic programs and programs in French language and culture

www.coursdete.campusfrance.org
Presented in French and English, the catalog provides information on programs in French as a foreign language and on summer and winter academic courses in France. Features include:

- An interactive map of France's regions
- Searches by French-proficiency requirements and field of study
- More than 300 recreational, cultural, and food-related activities.

Immersion France, is a mobile app developed by Campus France in partnership with France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development for students exploring options for tourism and language learning in France. Features include:

- Detailed program descriptions
- Presentations of France's regions
- Contact information.



Tests and Degrees in French as a foreign language



Five countries host more than half of the world's international students: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, and Germany. France hosts more than 298 900 international students, putting it in third place after the United States and the United Kingdom. International students account for 12% of enrollments in French higher education.

French, an international language

Spoken by 274 million people around the world, French is an official language of 32 states on 5 continents. With English and

German, it is one of the working languages of the European Union, the third-most-common business language, and the second-most-common language of news. With 125 million learners of French and 900,000 teachers, it is, after English, the most widely taught language on the planet.

Since 2001, the Council of Europe's CEFR has set reference levels for foreign-language proficiency. The CEFR has become Europe's standard for language learning, with 6 levels of proficiency for purposes of admission to French postsecondary institutions.

Tests and diplomas in French language required for admission to postsecondary programs

The levels of academic achievement required to obtain an extended-stay visa for study in France were set forth in an interministerial circular (from the ministries of the Interior, Foreign affairs, and Higher education and research) dated January 27, 2006. The criteria included the candidate's educational level, the quality of the candidate's prior academic program, and the institutional framework of the proposed program of study in France. Criterion 4 deals with the importance of "language proficiency, with assessment of applicants' proficiency in French, including applicants who show exceptional academic potential."

Several tests of French proficiency and diplomas in French language are accepted for purposes of admission into a French institution of higher education

- To enroll in the first year of a program in a university (*Licence* 1) or school of architecture, international students (from outside the European Union) must follow the so-called preliminary admission procedure, known as DAP. Applicants must demonstrate their language proficiency, normally by taking the TCF-DAP or earning a DELF B2 diploma (or higher). The TEF may be accepted in lieu of the TCF-DAP if the applicant scored at least 14/20 on the written portion of the TEF.
- For enrollments in the third year of university study (*Licence* 2 or 3), in a Master's program, (Master 1 and 2), in a Doctoral program, or in one of France's Grandes Écoles, no uniform requirement applies. **Each institution is free to set its own criteria for French proficiency. Prospective students should inquire about the language requirements of the institutions of interest to them.**

TCF (Test de connaissance du français - Test of knowledge of French)



The TCF, administered by the French Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher education and research, is a standardized test of general French designed by CIEP (Centre international d'études pédagogiques, International center for pedagogical studies), a certifying organization that is a member of ALTE (the Association of Language Testers in Europe). The TCF satisfies the quality requirements of ISO 9001, version 2008, in all of its processes.

The TCF test of comprehension may be taken on computer in some countries; the computer-based test of written expression will be available soon. .

Test results are valid for 2 years. Candidates wishing to repeat the TCF or TCF-DAP must wait 50 days from the date of their prior sitting. www.ciep.fr/tcf/

→ Study in France: levels required for applications for preliminary admission (the DAP procedure)

A specific version of the TCF (TCF-DAP) is required for applications for preliminary admission (DAP). The TCF-DAP includes a mandatory test of written French. www.ciep.fr/tcfdap/

The TCF is the only test recognized by the CPU (Conférence des présidents d'université, Conference of university presidents) for admission to *Licence* 2, Masters 1, and Masters 2 programs.

Note: The required score on the test varies from institution to institution and from program to program.

→ Description of the TCF and TCF-DAP: www.ciep.fr/tcf/

→ **Registration fees and locations:** Candidates can take the TCF in 626 centers approved by CIEP. Centers are located in 141 countries, including France. To register, candidates should contact an approved center for information on testing dates and for the costs of the required and elective components of the test. In cooperation with the courses in French language and culture offered at the Sorbonne, CIEP offers monthly TCF sessions. To register, visit: www.cifs-sorbonne.fr-Centre-d-examen-TCF,156-.html

→ **Approved TCF centers:** www.ciep.fr/tcf-tout-public/coordonnees-centres-passation



Le TEF (Test d'évaluation de français - French assessment test)

TEF (Test d'évaluation de français, Test of French Proficiency). Designed and distributed by CELAF, the French Language Center of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Paris / Ile-de-France Region (CCIP), the TEF is an internationally recognized instrument for the assessment of knowledge and skill in the French language. It offers candidates a "linguistic snapshot" of their proficiency in French on a 7-level scale keyed to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Multiple-choice modules test written comprehension, oral comprehension, vocabulary, and structure. Two open-ended modules test written and oral expression. The multiple-choice modules are available in an electronic format known as e-tef, which provides immediate results.

Candidates may take the TEF as often as they wish.

→ Study in France: Application for preliminary admission, or DAP (demande d'admission préalable), required students enrolling in the first year of a Licence program

For purposes of the DAP, the TEF is accepted in lieu of the TCF-DAP (ministerial decree of 25 April 2014), provided the applicant passes all required parts of the test and earns a score of 325 / 450 on the test of written expression, corresponding to level B2 of the CEFR and to a grade of 14/20. The required score may vary by institution or program. Exemption from the TCF-DAP is valid for a period of 5 years. www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/tef-pour-les-etudes-en-france/

→ About the TEF modules: www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/tests/

→ Registration and fees:

The TEF is administered at more than 400 approved centers in a hundred countries. Each center sets its own testing schedule and fees.

Approved TEF centers: www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/trouver-un-des-centres-agrees-tef/

The DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française - Diploma of French-language studies) and DALF (Diplôme approfondi de langue française - Advanced diploma in French language)

The DELF and DALF diplomas, conferred by the French Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Higher education and research attest to the holder's level of proficiency in the French language. Six different diplomas are offered, corresponding to the six levels of the CEFR: DELF A1, A2, B1, and B2, and DALF C1 and C2. To earn any of the diplomas, candidates must pass tests in four competency areas: oral comprehension, oral expression, written comprehension, and written expression.

Unlike the results of language tests, which expire after a certain period, the DELF and DALF diplomas are valid for life.

→ Study in France: levels required for applications for preliminary admission (the DAP procedure)

To meet DAP requirements required for admission to years 1 and 2 at a university or school of architecture, applicants must obtain a DELF B2 diploma (including DELF General, DELF Student, DELF Junior, and DELF Professional) or a DALF diploma (C1 or C2). Holders of these diplomas are exempted from any language test that might otherwise be required for admission to a French university.

www.ciep.fr/delfdalf/

Note: The level of the diploma required may vary from institution to institution and from program to program.

→ Description of DELF tests: www.ciep.fr/delfdalf/presentation-epreuves-delf.php

→ Description of DALF tests: www.ciep.fr/delfdalf/presentation-dalf.php

• Candidates must score at least 5/25 on each of the four tests. • The total score required to obtain a DELF or DALF diploma is 50/100.

→ Registration fees and location

Nearly 1,200 DELF examination centers (secondary schools, language schools, universities, and cultural institutes, including the Alliance Française) operate in 175 countries. Candidates enroll for the diploma directly with a center. Course costs are set by regional educational authorities ("academies") in France and, outside France, by the cultural service of the French embassy. Costs therefore vary by country. Prospective students in France or abroad should contact a DELF center for more information.

France's National Center for Distance Learning (CNED, Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance) offers online courses leading to the DELF B1 through the DALF C2 (four 30-hour modules) or to DELF B1 through DALF C1 with enhanced skills (three 70-hour modules). www.cned.fr/inscription/8FLESDIX

Approved DELF/DALF centers:

• Outside France, directory of Centers: www.ciep.fr/delfdalf/annuaire_centres.php

• In France, list of Centers: www.ciep.fr/sites/default/files/liste_centres_fr.pdf

Other evidence of language proficiency

Various other credentials (such as the certificate of the Alliance Française and diplomas offered by CCIP and various universities) are recognized and accepted by institutions. International students must verify that a particular credential is recognized by the institutions to which they intend to apply.

The credentials conferred by the **Alliance Française**, which operates in France and abroad, are recognized in Europe by ALTE (Association of Language Testers in Europe). The DHEF (Diplôme de hautes études françaises, diploma of advanced study in French) corresponds to level C2 of the CEFR. www.alliancefr.org

CELAF's diploma courses in professional French are practical certifications that test skills in written and oral French in broad professional areas—among them business, law, administration, diplomacy, tourism and hotel management, science and technology, health, and fashion. Currently 17 different diplomas are available, keyed to levels A2 to C2 of the CEFR.

www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/formations/

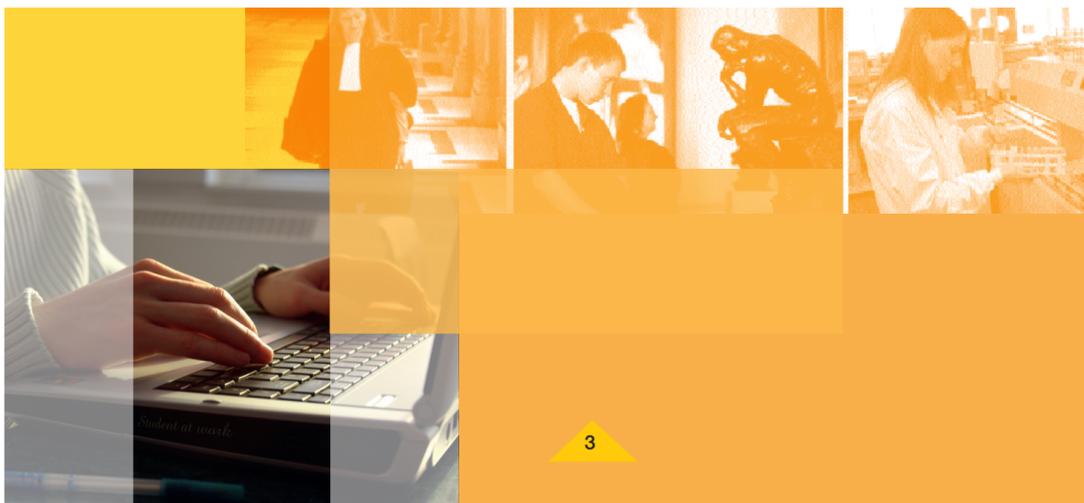
University programs

Postsecondary diploma programs (*DU, diplôme d'université*) offered by individual universities recognize various levels of French proficiency consistent with the CEFR. The Association of Directors of University Centers for the Study of French as a Foreign Language (ADCUEFE, *association des directeurs des centres universitaires d'études françaises pour étrangers*, known as "Campus FLE"), develops DU programs on behalf of university language centers. Common diplomas are the DUEF A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. The DUEF B2, DUEF C1, and DUEF C2 are accepted by universities for entry into the second and third years of licence programs and the first and second years of master's programs. The precise level required is determined by each university.

→ A DU in French for specific academic purposes prepares students for university study

Many DU programs focus on French for diplomacy and international relations; business and management; French literature, history, and culture; and the humanities.

Note: *DUs are institution-specific credentials. They are not national diplomas, which are regulated by the French government and recognized throughout France. International students should inquire about the cost of DU programs of interest and ensure that the institution in which they wish to enroll upon completion of their DU program will recognize the credential.*



Assessment of french proficiency for non-french-speakers reference levels for required tests

CECRL Council of Europe	DELFL-DALF Valid for life	TCF Results valid for 2 years	TEF Recommended validity of results: 1 year		Required hours of study (approximate)
			Level 6	Level 6	
Proficient user	C2	DALF C2	Advanced proficient 600 à 699	Complete command 834 - 900	Varies
	C1	DALF C1	Proficient 500 - 599	Good command 699 - 833	
Independent user	B2	DELFL B2	Advanced Intermediate 400 - 499	Fair command 541 - 698	500 h - 690 h
	B1	DELFL B1	Intermediate 300 - 399	Limited command 361 - 540	330 h - 550 h
Basic user	A2	DELFL A2	Advanced beginner 200 - 299	Command of basic structures 204 - 360	180 h - 300 h
	A1	DELFL A1	Beginner 100 - 199	Basic knowledge 69 - 203 0+ 0 - 68	80 h - 150 h

Source: MAEDI/DGMDP/Office of Linguistic Diversity and the French Language; CIEP, CCIP

Exemptions from requirements to demonstrate proficiency in french

Applicants who meet one of the following criteria may be exempted from the requirement that they demonstrate their proficiency in French:

- Holders of the French baccalauréat (conferred by the Ministry of Education); the European baccalaureate; and three binational baccalaureates (*Abibac-Abitur*, France-Germany; *Bachibac*, France-Spain; and *Esabac*, France-Italy) may be exempted from the TCF-DAP requirement ;
- Nationals of states where French is the official language: Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Monaco, Niger, Republic of CongoSenegal, and Togo;
- Nationals of multilingual states where French is one of the official languages: Belgique, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Guinée équatoriale, Haiti, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Seychelles, Switzerland, and Vanuatu. In order to be excused from taking the TCF-DAP, applicants must have completed their secondary education in a French-language institution;
- Students graduating from bilingual programs in which French was one of the languages;
- Nationals of states in which final examinations for graduation from secondary school are conducted primarily in French;
- Applicants participating in a program governed by an intergovernmental accord or interuniversity agreement;
- International recipients of scholarships from the French government, international organizations, or foreign governments whose grants are administered by an approved French entity;
- Stateless, refugees, children of diplomats serving in France;
- In some cases, students enrolling in programs taught entirely in English:
<http://www.campusfrance.org/fria/taughtie>

Note

The grounds for exemption must appear in the applicant's admission file, accompanied by the notation "à dispenser" (exempt). Applicants who do not claim and substantiate the exemption when filing their application must register for and pass the TCF-DAP. All French universities and embassy-based cultural services are required to administer the TCF-DAP. The DAP regulations do not permit local substitution of other means of certifying language proficiency.