



La Belle Époque

Like many a Parisienne, *Kate Sommers-Dawes* faces the dilemma of choosing between the romance of the city and the captivating south of France

In addition to its status as an official working language of the UN, the International Red Cross, and the European Union, French is spoken in a collection of countries scattered across the globe; from Monaco to Madagascar, Grenada to Gabon. Such diversity of use makes the language a valuable one for bureaucrats and globe trotters alike.

The 11th century exploits of Guillaume le Conquérant and his Norman Conquest resulted in French's robust influence on English, which is full of French words spanning from amorous to bivouac to parliament.

From Paris' urban chic to the towering Alps and azure beaches of the South, France has much to offer students in pursuit of acquiring the language of Rimbaud and Rousseau. Paris teems with a multitude of museums, cathedrals, and galleries. The illustrious Louvre houses a deluge of historical artifacts and artistic triumphs; enough to keep its visitors busy for weeks. The city's circuitous streets lend themselves to informal walking tours through jardins and monuments in which getting lost is recommended.

By contrast, Provence, the region along France's Southeastern Mediterranean coast, and its myriad of châteaux amongst rolling lavender fields, offers a contrast from the bustle of the country's capital. Whichever region is ultimately chosen will undoubtedly provide students with a lively, dynamic environment in which to enrich their studies and the acquisition of the French language.

Schools in Paris

Located in the heart of Paris, the Alliance Française (the headquarters of the 125-year old organization for the promotion of French whose founders included Louis Pasteur and Jules Verne) is a genuine international meeting point where more than 10,000 students from 160 different countries come every year to learn French. Impassioned by French language and culture, the 100 faculty members are all certified in teaching French as a foreign language.

Students learn French under exceptional conditions. The school offers courses at all levels, from A1 to C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

General, professional, and customized French courses are on offer in addition to thematic workshops. Students benefit from accommodation help, a multimedia resource center, the Café de l'Alliance (a restaurant with free wifi connection), and many cultural activities.

Education en France specializes in academic programs in Paris and the south of France. Teens are given the unique opportunity to experience the French school system immersed in a French high school class and staying with a host family for a period of four weeks up to a full year.

They also organize junior summer programs in Paris, Cannes, and Biarritz. The summer camps for teenagers (12 to 17) include French lan-



guage tuition, residential accommodation, activities, and excursions. The self-contained Paris campus is located downtown, easily accessible to all major sites so students will discover the lively, fashionable, historic, and vibrant French capital city.

In Cannes and in Biarritz the schools and residences (with pools) are located close to the beach for students to enjoy their summer vacation.

The **Paris Summer School, Education en France** also welcomes students 18+ for general or intensive French language courses with residential or host family accommodation.

EFI Langue, situated in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, a suburb of Paris, focuses on communication in groups of no more than six students. Students can also take courses at the school and in the privacy of their own homes or offices to personalize their course of study. Moreover, EFI Langue offers courses for children and teenagers as well as a special program for ten to 18-year-olds during school holidays. The school will arrange accommodation with a French family, apartment or hotel if needed.

LSI Paris offers intensive 20- and 30-lesson programs in the heart of Paris and exam preparation for the DELF and TEF exams as well as business French, medical French, French for tourism, and French for hotel management professionals. Each class consists of eight to 10 students on average.

The **OISE Institut in the Latin Quarter** has a course for each student no matter their goal: French for general, academic, or career purposes, French for business or specific objectives, and French examination (DELF, DALF, TEF, TCF) preparation courses. A choice of lesson formats is available: tutorial (individual lesson), small group, or a combination. Most of the programs include news reviews, fluency practice workshops, and master classes. A varied cultural program is organized every week to allow students to discover the city in guided visits of historical quarters and museums, among other activities.

Paris Langues was founded in 1991 to provide agencies, students, local companies, and teachers from abroad with effective French training. Full and part time courses are available year round including an au pair program and evening courses. Groups are limited to 10 students and the focus is on communicating, and learning oral and written language skills. Students discover French culture by participating in weekly activities

including trips to art museums, walking tours, and cooking lessons.

In the heart of Paris, next to Notre-Dame, the Latin Quarter and the banks of the river Seine in a rich historical and cultural environment, students from all over the world have the opportunity to practice and improve their spoken French at the **Institute of General and Applied Linguistics and Phonetics of Sorbonne Nouvelle University**. Students preparing national diplomas in Linguistics, Phonetics, and French as a Foreign Language act as tutors to the visiting students. The 12-week course consists of 15 hours of classes per week and 10 hours of personal study each semester. An intensive course is also offered in September. The course is aimed at intermediate or advanced level students who wish to improve their oral skills, pronunciation and fluency. Successful students will receive a Certificate of Phonetics applied to the French language after a final examination.

École France Langue was founded in 1976 and has two locations: one a short walk from the Champs Elysées and Trocadero in Paris and a second in the heart of Nice on the French Riviera. France Langue offers a wide range of student activities — free guided tours, concerts, theater, evening parties, wine tasting, excursions, and free internet access. The school helps students to find accommodation and several options are available, including homestays and international student residences.

Since 1984, **ELFE (Ecole de Langue Française pour Etrangers)** has specialized in teaching French to adults in mini-groups of six people or in a one-on-one setting. The school is located in the center of Paris, in a charming 19th century mansion, only a 15-minute walk from Montmartre and the Opera Garnier. Programs are offered year round for professionals using French at work, students preparing for French exams (TCF, DELF), and expatriates wishing to integrate in France. The small size of the school creates a true family atmosphere ideal for communication between students and members of staff. Many opportunities to speak French either in class or after class arise thanks to the varied cultural program including theater and cinema workshops, cooking and wine-tasting lessons, or excursions with a teacher in Paris. The teaching team can easily adapt to the students' specific needs, and personal and professional obligations. They can also design, if necessary, a tailor-made program.

Study Abroad

ELFE has established a reputation as a place of serious study with a friendly atmosphere, ensuring that students rapidly improve their command of French. The school obtained "the quality award for French as a foreign language" by the French government. This accreditation recognizes excellence in management, administration, and teaching practice. ELFE teaches French, only French, and is proud to do so with passion and professionalism.

The **Institut de Langue Française (ILF)** is a learning center for visitors and foreign residents in France. It is near the famed Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées in a handsome empire-style building.

ILF caters to learners who wish to learn or perfect their skills in French language and culture, for either personal fulfillment or business reasons. The school offers top quality instruction by a team of qualified, experienced instructors holding degrees from French Universities.

French, Business, au pair, TOEIC, TCF, DELF-DALF, and children's courses are all available.

Nacel International offers an International Summer Camp in Lisses, a small town 20 miles outside Paris where students have the opportunity to visit the capitol on a daily basis, while remaining safely accommodated in a quiet area. There are individualized French courses in the mornings with a teacher-student ratio of one to four or five. Teachers organize activities and visits on afternoons as well as full-day excursions. A unique feature of the camps is that students studying French interact with French teenagers who attend the same camp and study English, Spanish, or German. The summer camp offers a wide range of sports: football (soccer), tennis, basketball, or even rugby.

Schools in the South of France

Since 1991, Langue Onze Toulouse / TANDEM Toulouse

offers intensive group and individual courses year-round that correspond to the official levels of the CEFR in the southwest of France. The school is centrally located in the historic center of Toulouse, surrounded by winding streets, small shops and restaurants, and charming public squares with cafés made for lazy afternoons in the sun. Named one of the world's "10 Most Dynamic Cities" by Newsweek, Toulouse has a long history of independence and innovation. Strategically situated at the crossroads to the Pyrénées, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean coast, Toulouse is a springboard from which to discover southern France. Special programs include French & Dance, French & Creative Writing, and French & Hiking, among many others.

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Escapade Cannes is a boutique language school in the renowned resort on the French Riviera which attracts an exclusive clientele to a variety of specially designed French language programs including general or intensive courses as well as courses for executives, teacher training, one-to-one, and internships (internship placements can be either in the Cannes or Paris area). The school can also arrange for host family accommodation, residences, shared apartments, hotels or more exclusive guest boats. Their teaching staff of native speakers is experienced and trained, and the school staff will cater to each individual, making their stay as pleasant and unique as possible.

Located in the picturesque fishing village of Villefranche-sur-mer, near Nice and Monaco, the **Institut de Français** was established 39 years ago. Courses are intensive, full-time, and cater to beginners or advanced speakers. The day starts with students gathered in the Provençal dining room for a French breakfast including croissants and home made marmalade. From that point on, only French is permitted. There is a €1 fine for anyone speaking (or even listening to) another language. The program includes audio-visual classes, language labs, discussion-lunch, practice sessions, linguistic games, and role playing in everyday situations.

The **Céran Provence** center offers a cultural and linguistic immersion in the heart of Provence near Avignon, a city with a world-renowned historical and cultural heritage. Students are tutored by native French tutors — a team of qualified and motivated professionals. Teachers take students through various activities, meals, breaks, and socio-cultural events. As a result, students are constantly exposed to the language in an opportunity to efficiently improve their knowledge and facility.

In the foothills of the Pyrénées, Foix is an authentic medieval town, rich in culture with its castle, old narrow streets, small shops, and weekly market in which students can enjoy the flavors of southwest France. The small school of **Valorme** offers a unique linguistic and cultural program: a single group of six students maximum with courses based on oral communication and excursions with Corine, the teacher. The dramatic mountain landscapes invite weekend getaways and unforgettable hikes. Students can stay on site, in one of the four studio apartments with a spectacular view of Foix castle.

With college-accredited language immersion summer programs for teenagers, **Academic Treks** takes pride in taking the path less traveled, bringing language to life as students embark on unforgettable adventures. Programs are not sightseeing trips nor teen tours, but rather authentic language and cultural immersion experiences where students learn by becoming part of the remarkable places they visit. Their goal is to make education interesting, inspiring, challenging and fun. On the French language immersion program in France, students cover a lot of ground. They begin in Paris, exploring the incomparable architecture, historical monuments, art and quaint neighborhoods that make the "City of Lights" so spectacular. They then embark on a hiking expedition through some of the most beautiful parts of the Alps to Mont Blanc, Western Europe's highest peak. They venture to the heart of Châteaux country for two weeks of formal language instruction in the renaissance town of Amboise, where they live with local families and do community service alongside French teenagers. Finally, they travel to France's beautiful Atlantic coast. Students return home with amazing memories and great friends, more confident in their ability to communicate in French the way it is actually spoken. ☺

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