

Diploma in French, Year 1

This Diploma is designed for those who have some knowledge of the language and also for complete or false beginners. The programme aims to equip students with appropriate written and oral skills in French. The French native teachers will use the communicative method of modern language instruction. He/she will gradually introduce the relevant points of grammar to the students and show how these are applied to written and oral structures. By the end of each week/term/and year students should be able to converse and comprehend a variety of topics and situations that are normally encountered in everyday situations in a contemporary Francophone environment. Great emphasis is placed on continuous assessment and feedback to students. Students will also study major issues in the contemporary French speaking world, such as immigration, education, culture and politics.

In French classes you will be actively involved in speaking and listening and although there will also be some reading and writing this will mainly be carried out as homework. Teaching methods will include both traditional and modern techniques and students practice French through a variety of activities such as guided speaking practice, listening comprehension activities, grammar and vocabulary exercises, group and pair work, language games, etc. Materials used include recordings in French, videos and a variety of written material. You will be encouraged to participate actively in class and to try out the French you have learnt.

Although both English and French are used in class, the amount of French will gradually increase as students become more proficient. Class for the advanced learners will be conducted entirely in French – the aim of which is to bring students to a very high level of fluency.

FR120 French I: Introduction to French Language

Students develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills for interactive communication in the following areas: social interactions, ordering food, work and leisure activities, interpersonal relations in the family and community, and city life. Topics: Personal identity; jobs and professions; social relationships; leisure, sport and holidays; national and local customs; travel and transport; seeking and giving information; emotions and feelings; life experiences; making plans and ambitions.

Classes will be taught communicatively. A series of linguistic tasks, related to living and working abroad, will enable students to achieve the targets set. These tasks will promote the development of the four language skills, the acquisition of knowledge of the foreign culture and knowledge of the language associated with the students' specialism. In principle, classes will be conducted in the target language.

Assessment: End-of-semester examination and regular language assignments

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List: French Verb Book

FR121 French II: French Language and Comprehension

Students continue to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills for interactive communication in the following areas: daily life and responsibilities, past experiences, travel, regional cuisine and cultural diversity. The module will prepare students to communicate effectively and fluently in everyday situations. There will also be a thorough revision of the basics of French grammar, syntax and vocabulary. Although primarily focusing on language use, the module, through the topics chosen for language practice and, in particular, through a range of media including music and the Internet, will enable students to gain insights into contemporary French society and customs.

Outcomes will depend on entry level. On successful completion of this module the students will be able to:

- Understand and respond to the target language when it is spoken, at the appropriate level.
- Speak the target language with confidence and fluency at the appropriate level.
- Read the target language with understanding at the appropriate level.

Assessment: End-of-year examination and regular language assignments

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List: French Verb Book

FR128 Language, Culture & Society in France

Part 1: Course Summary:

Students are exposed to cultural and political aspects of life in France, French Canada, Belgium and in other French-speaking countries and are encouraged to share their own experience. The aim of this module is to provide students with a basic understanding of the workings of French society; to equip students to understand the French way of life and to improve reading skills in French.

Part 2: Oral French - Parlons français

The aim of this module is to improve students' ability to speak and understand spoken French in a variety of contexts. The course will involve listening to recordings of normal spoken French for comprehension, presenting and discussing a variety of subjects. Another aim of the course is to improve students' accents by making them aware of how to produce sounds correctly.

Assessment: Part 1 - End of year essay (50%); Part 2: End of year oral examination (50%)

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List: To be announced on course commencement