

## Introduction

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The IP Bulletin is the International Programs “catalog” and provides academic information about the program in Aix-en-Provence, France.

## General Information

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The program in Aix-en-Provence provides students from a wide range of preparation in French with the opportunity to maximize their knowledge of the language by participating in special instructional programs for non-native speakers. Students are required to have successfully completed a minimum of one term of university French prior to departure.

The International Programs is affiliated with the *Institut d'Études Françaises pour Étudiants Étrangers* (IEFEE), an academic division of the *Université de Droit, d'Économie, et des Sciences d'Aix-Marseille*. Students begin their studies with a four-week Preparatory Language Program (PLP) conducted by the IEFEE. During the academic year, students follow an appropriate course of study according to their competence in French language skills.

The IEFEE offers five levels of instruction: *Niveau I*, *Niveau II*, *Niveau III*, *Niveau IV*, and *Niveau V*. As a very general approximation, students with one semester of university French study will tend to be placed in *Niveau I* or II, students with two to three semesters will probably be in *Niveau II* or III, and those with three to five semesters will probably be in *Niveau III* or IV. Only superior students with six semesters or more may expect to be placed in *Niveau V*. As a general rule, only those who have achieved outstanding results in upper-division French courses in California will be placed in *Niveau V*, which corresponds in difficulty to senior/graduate level instruction. (Typically, these are students who have had some significant exposure to the French language beyond study in the US). However, it should be understood that language proficiency, as measured by placement tests, not necessarily the amount of time spent in previous study, is the determining factor.

## Academic Calendar

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Students arrive in Aix around the middle of August to participate in an orientation and the Preparatory Language Program (PLP). The PLP runs from approximately the end of August to the end of September. The fall semester runs from early October to late January. The spring semester begins in late January and runs to mid-May. These dates are subject to change.

## Academic Culture

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French students learn at a young age that the professor is there for them only during class time. Outside of that structure, the professor does not interact with students. Therefore professors in France tend to be far less accessible than US faculty members. Not only are there no set office hours, most of the time they do not even have an office on campus. Further, they occasionally cancel classes or change meeting times with no prior warning. Students are expected to take responsibility for pursuing their own learning during any breaks in regular class meetings. In general professors expect that students have learnt how to study with little direction in the high school years, so that when they ask their students to “read” Chapter X for the next meeting, they actually mean for the students to “master the content of Chapter X” for next time. This might involve doing related exercises independently and/or performing extra research if not familiar with a term or concept.

### University Libraries

Generally speaking, French university libraries are insufficiently staffed, have limited access hours, and are usually small compared to American university libraries. Borrowing a book is not always the easiest part of French student experience. Actually it is a close race with the registration process as the thing that US students seem to dislike most about the French system. This situation is also why French students often rely on public libraries.

### “système D”

French students often rely on “système D,” which stands for “Débrouillardise,” a French national concept that basically means self-reliance and ways to intelligently beat the system when it does not work well for you.

Building a network of friends that can help by sharing information with you or by looking out for you in your classes is a good idea and is a definite component of “système D”.

## **Assessment and Grading**

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Normally the professor awards the student a certain number out of 20 (i.e., 12/20). This number is not a percentage like it might be in the US where 75% is considered a C grade but rather it is more of a qualitative evaluation. So multiplying the number awarded by 5 to find the US equivalent will not work at all. In the case given above, the 12/20 would become a 60% (a very poor grade) while it is in fact more than a passing grade. Content, level, reputation of the university, and type of course can also play a factor in “translating” a French grade back to the US system.

## **Academic Reporting**

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In most cases, the OIP will use a special course designation number when reporting these courses to CSU campuses and this is especially true for year-long courses with one or two units of credit each semester. This is also true when reporting any courses for students from Channel Islands, Chico, Long Beach, Sacramento and quarter campuses due to reporting arrangements with individual campuses or unit variations between host university and campus courses.

This type of reporting will allow the student to receive CSU resident credit in the subject area in which the course was taught. The title of the course taken will also be reported to the CSU campus and posted to the student’s CSU academic record. This reporting method means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi and other course materials to their home campus advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific degree (major, minor or general education) requirements. Students should expect to complete campus-based forms (petitions or course substitution requests) with the assistance of their advisor(s). If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms at your campus.

## ***L’Académie d’Aix-Marseille***

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The organizational relationships of the higher education institutions in Aix-en-Provence are complex and require some explanation. *L’Académie d’Aix-Marseille* consists of three major university institutions, administratively as distinct and independent as the various campuses of the California State University. Aix-Marseille I (U-1), commonly known as the *Université de Provence*, includes the *Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines* in Aix-en-Provence. Aix-Marseille II (U-2), commonly known as the *Université de la Méditerranée*, includes the *Faculté de Sciences Economiques* as well as the schools of medicine, pharmacy, and most of the departments of natural science. Aix-Marseille III (U-3), recently renamed *Université Paul Cézanne*, includes, among other instructional and research programs, the *Faculté de Droit*, the *Institut d’Études Politiques*, a section of applied economics, and the IEFEE—where most IP students pursue their studies—also located in Aix.

### **Course Coding**

1-99 Lower Division (IEFEE *Niveau I, Niveau II*)  
100-199 Upper Division (IEFEE *Niveau II, Niveau III*)  
200-299 Advanced Upper Division (IEFEE *Niveau IV*)  
300-399 Advanced Upper division/Graduate (*Niveau V*)

CIV Civilization  
FLL French Language and Literature  
HST History  
POL Political Science

**Important note:** Elective courses listed on the following pages may not be offered each year.

## **The Preparatory Language Program**

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On arrival in Aix, students take a placement test and are assigned to a course level appropriate to their mastery of the language. In the PLP there are three *niveaux*, not four as in the academic year program. General language skills are reviewed and developed during the morning sessions, the emphasis being placed on the functional, i.e. oral, use of these skills. Additional afternoon workshops are offered on culture, history, and politics.

**FLL 10 Elementary French (4)**

For students in *Niveau I*.

**FLL 99 Intermediate French (4)**

For students in *Niveau II*.

**FLL 100 Advanced French (4)**

For students in *Niveau III*, *Niveau IV*, *Niveau V*.

## Academic Year Courses

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At the conclusion of the PLP, students are given a grade which, along with their professors' recommendation, determines the language curriculum which students will follow during the academic year: *Niveau I*, *Niveau II*, *Niveau III*, *Niveau IV*, or *Niveau V*. If in need of a second opinion, students may also request to take a second placement test.

All students are required to take ten units per semester of French language classes, except for students in *Niveau IV* and *V*, who take eight units per semester of French language classes. In placing students into their language classes, each *niveau* is further divided into a number of classes (*groupes*). Taking electives at a different *niveau* than the French language class is discouraged, except in very special circumstances. Students are required to take the same language courses throughout the academic year.

**Please note again:** A large majority, but not necessarily all the courses listed below are offered every year.

International Programs students will obtain an IEFEE certificate each semester if their French grade point average for that semester is 10/20 or above (passing grade in France). Moreover, they may also elect to earn a *Diplôme de Langue et d'Etudes Françaises* from the IEFEE at *Niveau I* through 5, which provides an opportunity to return from the year in France with an independent academic qualification. Niveau 5 offers two different *Diplômes*: *Diplôme Supérieur de Langue Française* and *Diplôme Supérieur de Société Française*. More information about the IEFEE can be found at:

<http://www.iefee.com/index.htm><http://www.iefee.com/index.htm>

## Classes for *Niveau I* Students

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Conceived for students having minimal study of French (corresponding, as a general rule, to one semester of language study in California), the IEFEE's *Niveau I* program offers an opportunity to make rapid progress toward fluency in French, along with limited possibilities for exploring certain aspects of the French cultural and literary traditions. FLL 15 A/B and FLL 25 A/B are required.

Please note that in the following pages A and B indicate first and second semester respectively. The numbers between parentheses indicate the unit value.

**Required course:**

**FLL 15 A/B French Language (10/10)**

This course is designed for beginning students or students whose French proficiency is minimal. Students will be introduced to different aspects of spoken and written French, which they will be expected to understand and produce. Course content will cover grammar, vocabulary, and spelling and be complemented by intensive laboratory work.

**Elective courses:**

A minimum of 5 units is required each semester. A minimum of three electives is required for the diploma. Students are encouraged to register for three electives and drop one later if necessary.

**CIV 21 A/B Great Dialogs of French Cinema (2/2)**

This workshop familiarizes students with great French films, directors, and movements through the viewing of film excerpts.

**FLL 23 A/B Rhythm and Intonation (2/2)**

Oral readings in poetry, lyrics, and theater, as well as of well-known French authors. Intended to improve accent and intonation.

**FLL 25 A/B Phonetics (1/1)**

Classroom and laboratory exercises in dictation, spelling and intonation. Intended to complement the preceding class.

**FLL 29 A/B French Poetry (2/2)**

This workshop allows students to discover the art of French poetry in its different forms as illustrated throughout the centuries.

**FLL 36 A/B French Culture (2/2)**

An introduction to the history, geography, and institutions of France as well as a study of the French cultural habits.

## **Classes for *Niveau II* Students**

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FLL 40/140 and FLL 42 A/B are required. Note that first semester courses are lower division and second semester courses are upper division.

**Required course:**

**FLL 40/140 Intermediate/Advanced French (10/10)**

Acquisition and application of the structures of written and spoken French. Special emphasis on vocabulary development and oral comprehension. The fall semester course is FLL 40, which is considered lower division. The spring semester course is FLL 140, which is considered upper division.

**Elective courses:**

A minimum of 5 units is required each semester. A minimum of 5 units is required each semester to fulfill CSU 15 unit requirement. A minimum of three electives is required for the diploma. Students are encouraged to register for three electives and drop one later if necessary. First semester courses are lower division. Second semester courses are upper division.

**FLL 42/142 Corrective Phonetics (1/1)**

Exercises in corrective phonetics and an introduction to the French phonetic system.

**FLL 44/144 Translation (2/2)**

Translation of increasingly difficult texts from English into French, and vice versa. A choice of languages other than English is available, including Spanish.

**FLL 47/147 A/B Business French (2/2)**

Familiarizes students with current, daily economic context, vocabulary and procedures, including banking, real estate, stock market, French market analysis, work regulations, company culture, and issues of globalization. Texts by Frédéric Bastiat and Nicolas Baverez are studied.

**FLL 60/160 The French Press (2/2)**

A thematic study of selected newspaper articles in order to familiarize students with the French perspective on international and domestic matters while developing their ability to read and understand journalistic prose.

**FLL 65/165 Introduction to French Literature (2/2)**

This introductory course will acquaint students with literature and culture, as well as improve their reading skills. Selected readings to be chosen from different periods and genres of French literature, from the 16th century to the present.

**FLL 71/171 A/B French History Through Literature (2/2)**

In this course, students will study representations of French history in French literature with a special emphasis on how an author transforms a historical event in literary matter

**FLL 72/172 A/B French Theater: History and Practice (2/2)**

Half workshop, half lecture, this course will provide students with an opportunity to learn about theater from both practical and theoretical points of views. Students will learn about the development of the theatrical genre in France through the analysis of selected plays. They will also be invited to experience theater as performers through a weekly practice of theater games and techniques.

**FLL 75/175 French Literature of the 19th and 20th Centuries (2/2)**

Introduction to French literature from the end of the 19th century to the present. Study of the language and the style of the writers, as well as the themes and structures of the stories.

**POL 80/180 French Political Life (2/2)**

Introduction to the governmental institutions and political parties of France. Students will make oral presentations comparing specific points of political organization found in France with those of their own countries.

## **Classes for *Niveau III* Students**

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FLL 151 A/B and FLL 131 A/B are required.

**Required course:**

**FLL 151 A/B French Language (10/10)**

The goal of *Niveau III* language instruction is the mastery of an expanded vocabulary, along with varied, appropriately chosen and accurate grammatical structures. The emphasis is placed on written expression, but a great deal of time is devoted to oral expression, especially to the discussion of selected texts. Sessions in the language laboratory are an integral part of the course.

**Elective courses:**

A minimum of 6 units is required each semester (CSU unit requirement), and a minimum of three electives is required for the diploma.

**FLL 131 A/B Phonetics (1/1)**

Theoretical and applied phonetics. Emphasis in the fall semester on accuracy in prosody, rhythm and accent, vowels, the French "r" and "l". Continuing emphasis on prosody during the spring semester, with special attention given to consonant production.

**FLL 141 A/B Translation (2/2)**

Training in the translation of simple texts. Comparative study of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and grammatical structures. Emphasis on the syntactic modifications necessary when passing from one language to another. A choice of languages other than English is available, including Spanish.

**FLL 147 A/B Business French (2/2)**

Familiarizes students with current, daily economic context, vocabulary and procedures, including banking, real estate, stock market, French market analysis, work regulations, company culture, and issues of globalization. Texts by Frédéric Bastiat and Nicolas Baverez are studied.

**FLL 155 A/B The French Theatre (2/2)**

Two important periods in the French theatre are presented with a view to developing an appreciation of this form of art. Fall semester: Beaumarchais and Marivaux. Spring semester: Camus, Anouilh and Beckett.

**FLL 169 A/B Photography and Literature (2/2)**

The contributions of photography to the field of literary expression. The role of both writing and photography in art criticism since the invention of photography.

**FLL 170 A/B Popular Stories and Tradition (2/2)**

This course will cover chosen aspects of French and Francophone folklore in the form of short narratives. Texts from the Middle Ages to the present will be covered, as well as from different regions of France and the Francophone world. The first semester will cover various traditions, the second the contemporary short story.

**FLL 171 A/B French History Through Literature (2/2)**

In this course, students will study representations of French history in French literature with a special emphasis on how an author transforms a historical event in literary matter

**FLL 172 A/B French Theater: History and Practice (2/2)**

Half workshop, half lecture, this course will provide students with an opportunity to learn about theater from both practical and theoretical points of views. Students will learn about the development of the theatrical genre in France through the analysis of selected plays. They will also be invited to experience theater as performers through a weekly practice of theater games and techniques.

**HST 187 A/B France and the European Union (2/2)**

European Union and its institutions with an emphasis on the role of France as one of its leaders.

**POL 181 A/B French Institutions (2/2)**

Political institution in the Fifth Republic; administrative organization of France.

**CIV 194 A/B French Art (2/2)**

After a review of the roots of modern art, the course places the work of French artists in the context of the great movements in European art from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. Examples in Aix provide direct contact with various architectural and pictorial works.

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## **Classes for *Niveau IV* Students**

FLL 211 and FLL 232 are required.

**Required course:**

**FLL 211 A/B Advanced French Grammar, Written and Oral Expression (8/8)**

Lectures and *travaux pratiques* devoted to the mastering of fine points of French grammar. Improves the students' reading and writing abilities by developing their comprehension and expression (grammar exercises, vocabulary, style, etc.) and through writing various types of texts (resumes, essays, synopses, letters, etc.). Also practices oral expression.

**Elective courses:**

A minimum of 7 units is required each semester (CSU unit requirement), and a minimum of four electives is required for the diploma.

**CIV 290 A/B The French Media (2/2)**

Studies the various modern media: print journalism, radio, television, internet.

**CIV 294 A/B French Art (2/2)**

After a review of the roots of modern art, the course places the work of French artists in the context of the great movements in European art from the Renaissance to the French Revolution. Examples in Aix provide direct contact with various architectural and pictorial works.

**FLL 269 A/B Photography and Literature (2/2)**

The contributions of photography to the field of literary expression. The role of both writing and photography in art criticism since the invention of photography.

**FLL 232 A/B Advanced Phonetics (2/2)**

Theoretical, descriptive and applied phonetics. The course is divided evenly between lectures and supervised laboratory activities.

**FLL 242 A/B Advanced Translation (2/2)**

Translation from English into French of sophisticated literary and nonliterary texts. Structural comparisons between English and French. Particular emphasis on levels of style and French syntax. A choice of languages other than English is available, including Spanish.

**FLL 247 A/B Business French (2/2)**

Familiarizes students with current, daily economic context, vocabulary and procedures, including banking, real estate, stock market, French market analysis, work regulations, company culture, and issues of globalization. Texts by Frédéric Bastiat and Nicolas Baverez are studied.

**FLL 270 A/B Popular Stories and Tradition (2/2)**

This course will cover chosen aspects of French and Francophone folklore in the form of short narratives. Texts from the Middle Ages to the present will be covered, as well as from different regions of France and the Francophone world. The first semester will cover various traditions, the second the contemporary short story.

**FLL 271 A/B French History Through Literature (2/2)**

In this course, students will study representations of French history in French literature with a special emphasis on how an author transforms a historical event in literary matter

**FLL 265 A/B A Century of French Novels:  
1870-1970 (2/2)**

Taking a historical approach to literature, students will familiarize themselves with different types of romantic French novels over the selected periods.

**FLL 267 A/B Greek Mythology in 20th Century French Literature (2/2)**

A study of selected Greek myths and their transformation by 20th century authors into works of various genres that reflect contemporary concerns.

**POL 281 A/B Political Institutions of the Fifth Republic (2/2)**

Fall semester: Political life in France from 1958 to the present. Spring semester: Political institution in the Fifth Republic; administrative organization of France.

## **Classes for *Niveau V***

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*Niveau V* offers two different tracks: CSU students are allowed to pick from both tracks unless they want to follow one of the two available IEFEE *Diplômes* at that level: *Diplôme Supérieur de Langue Française* or *Diplôme Supérieur de Société Française*.

Both tracks require FLL 311 A/B.

**FLL 311 A/B French Language: Superior (8/8)**

Fine points of French grammar are reviewed. An emphasis is placed on writing various types of texts (resumes, essays, synopses, letters, etc.). Also practices superior oral expression.

**Elective courses:**

A minimum of 7 units is required each semester (CSU unit requirement), and a minimum of five electives is required for the diploma..

**CIV 342 A/B History of French Art (2/2)**

Seminars about the history of French art (painting, sculpture and architecture) since the Renaissance until the end of the 18th century.

**FLL 321 A Business French (2/2)**

Familiarizes students with current, daily economic context, vocabulary and procedures, including banking, real estate, stock market, French market analysis, work regulations, company culture, and issues of globalization. Texts by Frédéric Bastiat and Nicolas Baverez are studied.

**FLL 322 A Writers of the South (3/0)**

Seminars about French writers of the South, such as Giono, Camus, Artaud.

**FLL 325 A/B Advanced Textual Analysis (2/2)**

Successful analysis of texts requires a profound study of the language, the style, the form and the themes of each text. This course imparts the tools needed to read and analyze various types of texts (argumentative, poetic, narrative, theatrical, etc.)

**FLL 329 A/B Modern and Contemporary Novels (16th to 18th Centuries) (2/0)**

Study of the French novel from the 17th to the 21st centuries, as a mirror of society.

**FLL 330 A Seminars in French Literature (0/5)**

Seminars with contemporary French writers.

**FLL 342 A/B Advanced Translation (2/2)**

Translation from English into French of sophisticated literary and nonliterary texts. Structural comparisons between English and French. Particular emphasis on levels of style and French syntax. A choice of languages other than English is available, including Spanish.

**FLL 344 A/B Advanced Summary Writing (2/2)**

Analysis and comprehension of the composition, structure and content of a variety of literary texts, from short passages to entire works, using the techniques of the *compte-rendu de lecture*. Both written and oral reports are required.

**FLL 346 A/B History of the French Language (2/2)**

Historical study of the progressive formation of French grammar and vocabulary, with emphasis on the major debates opposing grammarians and rhetoricians of the past. Stylistic analysis of numerous texts, from the 16th century to the present, reveals how theories of grammar and rhetoric shaped the French language.

**FLL 354 A/B The Second Sex (2/2)**

A survey of literature by, for and about women. Fall semester: Feminine myths, prehistoric, religious expressions and stories. Spring semester: From the Middle Ages to the present. Readings chosen from poetry, the novel, the theatre as well as from fairy tales, letters and journals.

**FLL 355 A/B The Foreigner in French Literature (2/2)**

Studies the image of the foreigner in 18<sup>th</sup> century through modern literature. Readings chosen from travel logs, fiction, and other literary genres. Themes include the myth of the noble savage, exoticism, and colonialism.

**FLL 356 A/B Philosophical Literature (2/2)**

The history of ideas in France through the study of major texts. Fall semester: from the 16th to the 19th century (Montaigne, Pascal, Descartes, the Enlightenment). Spring semester: contemporary philosophical writings (Sarte, Lévi-Strauss, Foucault).

**POL 360 A/B French Contemporary Institutions (2/2)**

A study of French contemporary institutions.

**POL 362 A/B French Political Life (2/2)**  
A study of French contemporary political life.