French Studies

Studying French opens a wide range of opportunities, especially in Canada. The Department of French Studies offers undergraduate students interested in pursuing the subject in-depth the chance to study French as either a minor, a medial, or a major. We also offer courses for the complete beginner, a French for Professionals Certificate, and a Certificate of Competency for students not registered in a French Plan. Courses offered focus on oral and written French as well on literature and culture. For interested students, it is also possible to study French in either Quebec or France on exchange.

Alumni Story

My French Studies degree opened many doors to engaging employment opportunities. In particular, it has given me the confidence and skills needed to use the language in my career as a French Immersion teacher. I am entering my Masters of Education this coming Fall to further develop my French pedagogy and to return to the wonderful campus environment of my Undergraduate degree.

- Sophia Klymchuk, BAH’19

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

5% of alumni work in LAW & INSURANCE
5% of alumni work in BANKING & INVESTMENT
10% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT
55% of alumni work in EDUCATION

TOP 5 REASONS to study FRENCH

1. Mastery of French gives access to a multicultural perspective on the world.
2. Find careers in translation, journalism, public relations, and health.
3. Study abroad and learn more about the French language and culture.
4. Interact closely with professors in class and during our many events held throughout the year.
5. Learn not only the language but the history, culture, and literatures of French, in Canada and abroad.

Add a Certificate

Data Analytics
Disability and Physical Activity
Employment Relations
Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
Geographic Information Science
Global Action and Engagement
Indigenous Languages and Cultures
International Studies
Media Studies
Sexual and Gender Diversity
Urban Planning Studies
Quartsci.com/certs

2022-23 Plan Thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection


That is a degree from Queen’s.
French Studies MAJOR MAP

2022-2023

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

1ST YEAR

- In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of French Studies along with some electives.

2ND YEAR

- Start going deeper into the discipline of French Studies, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Media Studies. Attend Degree 1 in the Fall term to learn more about Certification and Internship options.
- Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

3RD YEAR

- A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of French Studies. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

1ST YEAR

- Volunteer on or off campus with different community organization such as the Le Centre Cultural Francais and the Queen's International Affairs Association.
- Join teams or clubs on campus such as Club Francophone and Queen's Model Parliament. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

2ND YEAR

- Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through FMPE or Work-Study.
- Apply to the Department at the end of August to become a Teaching Assistant for online courses offered through Arts & Science Online (ASO).

3RD YEAR

- If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QISP internship after your third year. Look into employment with the federal government such as a Parliamentary Guide or a guide at a war memorial in France. Think about taking FREN 495 (6.00) as a TA for FREN 100 if you are a COMP-ED student, apply in January with the Department.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest. Assess what experience you're lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help. Consider international teaching opportunities such as teaching English in France for a year or tutoring in French.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

1ST YEAR

- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUICK’s Intercultural Competency Certificate and research possible immigration regulations.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

2ND YEAR

- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as Queen’s Interfaith and Intercultural Council (DSC).

3RD YEAR

- Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen’s Get Involved. Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC. Develop contacts with the Kingston Francophone community. Consider becoming a camp counsellor for the French Summer Camp.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in French.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

1ST YEAR

- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Night and get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Advising and Resource Area, such as Careers for Culture Lovers. For more information check out Career Counselling or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

2ND YEAR

- Want to speak French abroad? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange program.
- Combining academic inquiry with a Master’s. Students choose to continue their studies abroad in Canada can speak with an Academic Advisor.

3RD YEAR

- Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Consider taking FSL through the Faculty of Education to become a teacher.
- Attend French Summer Camp.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Studies Advisor.
- Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions. ACFDG and Le Centre Cultural Francais can help with future plans.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

1ST YEAR

- Taking time to explore career options, build experience and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Night and get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

2ND YEAR

- Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Advising and Resource Area, such as Careers for Culture Lovers. For more information check out Career Counselling or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

3RD YEAR

- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services. Get sneak peeks of jobs posted at ACFDG to prepare for the future.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

- Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions. ACFDG and Le Centre Cultural Francais can help with future plans.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Studies Advisor.
- Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures.

What will I learn?

A degree in French Studies can equip you with:

- Fluency or near fluency in French
- Knowledge of the syntax, grammar and vocabulary of the French language
- Translation skills to translate documents from French into English
- Oral and written communication to write papers and give presentations in French
- Ability to work in groups in French
- Research skills to conduct research in the French language
- Understanding of the links between language and culture
- Time management working on multiple projects
- Civic engagement to use theatre to make a positive difference in local communities
- Integrative learning to combine practical and theoretical knowledge and experiences

Where can I go?

A degree in French Studies can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Banking and commerce
- Curriculum development
- Foreign service
- Government and politics
- Immigration services
- Interpreter
- Speech and language therapy
- Technical writing and translation
Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need
Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen's, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen's wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

For guidance regarding French courses, certificates, plans, or the French Placement Test, please email francais@queensu.ca. We are happy to help!

Why study in Kingston?
For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen's has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen's has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen's – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.