

*Live the Language
Learn the Culture*

Foreign Language and Cultural Immersion Since 1968

NATIONAL REGISTRATION CENTER FOR STUDY ABROAD



France 2008-2009

For more information please visit: www.nrcca.com

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SCHOOL AND CITY INFORMATION – AMBOISE, FRANCE

ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY

Amboise Language School is part of the 25-center system in eight countries of the world, established as meeting places for people of all ages and backgrounds who are united in a common aim: to learn a new language and to develop their understanding of other people. The school is small and intimate with 8 classrooms, a lecture room, Multi-Media Center, piano, ping-pong table, and a courtyard. The building is located right in the centre of town, on a tree-lined square just 5 minutes walk from the main shopping area.

We are members of EAQUALS and ARELS, official quality control organizations. All teachers are trained, qualified staff who specialize in language teaching and are teaching in their native language to adults. Classes are taught by a team of 2 or 3 teachers, one of whom has overall responsibility of course planning. The teachers will use student feedback in weekly and daily work plans taking account of the needs of the individuals in the class.

Amboise has 12,000 inhabitants and is in the heart of Touraine, in the land of chateaux. It is a town both traditional and modern, lively and quiet. In Amboise, there is a royal castle set above the Loire Valley and is a strong point extensively embellished during the 15th and 16th centuries. The Tour des Minimes, with its spiral staircase enabling riders to enter without dismounting, is the only one that has survived the ravages of time. The St. Hubert chapel is delightful and quite close to the country house of Clos-Luce where Leonardo da Vinci died and was buried.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Basic Course

20 lessons per week. Available for students at any level beginning to advanced. Each lesson has a duration of 50 minutes. The courses take place in the morning, Monday-Friday. Systematic training in speaking and writing, with phases of intensive study alternating with active exercises aimed at teaching the basic skills necessary for understanding, speaking and writing French.

Self Study, Lecture & Social Programs

Self study in the Multi-Media Learning Center is available for all students and there are learning resources of all kinds: audio, video, computer assisted language learning. These elements are all available for students to work independently. The lecture program is complimentary and includes * The Castles of the Loire * Education System in France * French Traditions * The Symbols of France * Tours

Some of the social program is complimentary as well and includes * Bicycle Ride * Walk in the Forest of Amboise * Badminton (July & August)

Elective Program

The students who enroll in a 2 week session or longer can choose afternoon elective lessons from such areas as:

* French Wine and/or Cheeses (All Levels; Minimum of 6 students per class)

* DELF Exam Preparation (Elementary - Upper Intermediate Level; Minimum of 6 students per class)

These lessons are at additional cost and students may enroll directly at the school.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Homestays

The majority of families in Amboise are within walking distance of the school. There are all kinds of families and the school tries to meet all special requests. The families are carefully chosen and living the everyday life of a French family helps students to improve language skills and to understand the culture. Some families lend bicycles in return for a small deposit. In July and August, 2 meals daily includes breakfast in the family home and dinner taken at a restaurant using vouchers.

Some especially nice families live further away from the school and these are allocated to students who let the school know that they are coming by car.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Excursions and social events, which the school provides at additional cost, give students even more opportunities to make friends and to practice speaking the language.

Social activities cost approximately FRF 50 to FRF 70 and include * Afternoon and Evening Tours * "Son et Lumiere" at the Chateau of Amboise * Local Concert * Canoeing on the Loire * Disco at the School

Excursions cost approximately FRF 140 to FRF 450 and include * Chateau de Chenonceau + distillerie Fraisor * Chateau d'Azay-le-Rideau + jardins de Villandry * Futuroscope Theme Park

TO REGISTER:

Complete the NRCSA Preregistration Form or contact the National Registration Center for Study Abroad at 823 North 2nd Street, P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA, or by calling (414) 278-0631; by Fax (414) 271-8884.

Check out our website at <http://www.nrcea.com>
or e-mail us at study@nrcea.com

Program & Admission Information - Amboise, France

Programs

The teaching of functional language skills in an action-oriented approach is at the heart of our methodology. Students are taught the skills students need to communicate in real life situations. Exercises to improve fluency and accuracy are combined with communicative small-group activities. Very close attention is paid to the degrees of control in the practice leading from initial presentation of the new language towards realistic communicative use of that language.

The Framework of our approach is defined by the Scale of Levels, which is based on over 15 years' research and development. The Scale of Levels were further developed to produce the Common European Framework, and the related official European Language Passport.

A placement test is given on arrival to place students in classes appropriate to their current language levels. The results of the placement test are given to the teachers who then create an adapted teaching plan for each class and student.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE SCALE OF LEVELS](#)

Students need two components to achieve success in language learning:

1. Language Resources: Knowledge of the grammatical structures, the vocabulary, the turns of phrase and pronunciation necessary in order to be able to communicate.
2. Communicative Interaction: Experiential learning to get used to formulating what he/she wants to say, reacting spontaneously, finding ways around difficulties of expression.

Student progress is monitored through regular homework, a feedback session every Friday, which is used to discuss the previous week and the plans for the following week, and a weekly quiz on the language learned that week. At regular intervals, local coordinators talk to groups of students about their satisfaction with progress in language learning. In addition, regular and end of course tests are given to each student to evaluate the language level reached. There are two tests:

1. Language Resources
2. Communicative Abilities

The Language Resources test is taken from a bank of questions testing knowledge of the grammatical structures, the vocabulary, and the turns of phrase necessary in order to be able to communicate at the student's level. This test may be taken on paper, or on computer in the multimedia learning center.

The Communicative Abilities test may not appear to be a test. Every week, the student has a longer communicative activity, which the teacher uses to spot strengths and weaknesses. In addition, the teacher uses a detailed set of criteria to evaluate the language level demonstrated by those students who are leaving that week. Teachers already have a good impression of what the student can do, but they follow a standardized assessment procedure, in order to ensure that their impression is fair. It is all part of the guarantee of quality teaching, based on proven methods and objective evaluation standards.

Basic Course 20 lessons per week. Available for students at any level, beginning to advanced. Each lesson has a duration of 50 minutes. The courses take place in the morning, Monday-Friday. Self study in the multimedia learning center is available for all students, as are learning resources of all kinds: audio, video, and computer assisted language learning. These elements are all available for students to work independently.



Programs

Basic Course
Intensive Course

Admissions &
Academic Credit
Certificates & Exams

Activities

Excursions, Cultural
and Social Activities

Comments

"I enjoyed most the personal relationships with the French teachers and the homestay family. This personal closeness offered cultural insights that normally aren't accessible to the short-term visitor."

College Instructor,
Honolulu, HI.

"I enjoyed learning the language. I found the process of absorbing the culture and language, and the ability to view my progress, excellent. The people I met, both students and citizens of Amboise, were also a major highlight."

University Professor, Oklahoma
City, OK

"I especially like the cultural immersion. I went to learn a language and found myself in a situation where no one spoke English (my native tongue) with me. I liked that. Amboise was a great little French town to do it in and the Eurocentre school was excellent!"

Software Development Manager,
Wallingfor, PA

"My fluency improved. I learned a lot about present day France. The teachers and administration went out of their way to be helpful. I hope to have some students participating in this program in the future. I learned new ways to incorporate computers and video in my own teaching. I had no negative experiences in Amboise."

University Professor,
Gray, TN

Intensive Course 25 lesson per week. Available for students at any level, beginning to advanced. Each lesson has a duration of 50 minutes. The courses take place in the morning, Monday-Friday. Self study in the multimedia learning center is available for all students, as are learning resources of all kinds: audio, video, and computer assisted language learning. These elements are all available for students to work independently.

Admissions & Academic Credit

Students age 16 years and older are welcomed regardless of educational background, occupation or nationality. No previous knowledge of French is required except where otherwise indicated.

Students seeking credit for study should check with their home school before registering. Generally, U.S. schools consider 15 hours of study to be equal to 1 semester credit.

For more information about academic credit in French speaking countries, [please click here](#).
For general information on academic credit, [please click here](#).

Certificates & Exams

A school certificate will be issued to students provided he/she has attended the course regularly. The certificate describes quite precisely level of language competence the student has reached in language training in the following areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Preparation for the following exams is offered as an optional extra, at additional cost, and/or as guided self study in the multimedia learning center:

1. Alliance Française: Certificat d'Etudes de Français Pratique 1 (CEFP 1) for unit A2, level 3.
2. Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française I (DELF) for unit B1+, level 5.
3. Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française II (DELF) / Accès au DALF / Alliance Française: Diplôme de Langue Française (DL) for unit B2+, level 7.
4. Diplôme Approfondi en Langue Française (DALF) / Alliance Française: Diplôme Supérieur d'Etudes Françaises Modernes (DS) for unit C1+, level 9.

ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Foreign language immersion classes
- ✓ Small interactive group and/or one-on-one instruction
- ✓ Culture program integrated into conversation classes, activities
- ✓ Meet-the-People interaction at school, homestays, & community events
- ✓ Orientation covering attractions, how to, health, safety, entertainment
- ✓ Academic assessments, placement-exit tests, Achievement Certificate
- ✓ Lodging (reduced fee if no lodging needed)
- ✓ Meals and/or cooking facilities at most centres
- ✓ Insurance: medical and accident - see below
- ✓ Emergency Hotline staffed 24 hours/day - see below
- ✓ Housing Coordinator familiar with area homestays, apartments, hotels
- ✓ Activity Coordinator facilitates transfers, cultural/social activities, tours
- ✓ Program Director experienced working with foreign participants
- ✓ Qualified, experienced, and certified educators
- ✓ Weekly proficiency goals and progress assessments
- ✓ Planning and Orientation materials
- ✓ International Ambiance, participants from around-the-world welcome
- ✓ Telecom assistance, web/e-mail access, usually on-site
- ✓ Local taxes for included services
- ✓ 24:7 Culture Immersion w/ native speakers: class, homestay, community
- ✓ **ALL NRCSA PROGRAMS INCLUDE the following INSURANCE***

ACCIDENT INSURANCE up to \$10,000 SICKNESS INSURANCE up to \$10,000

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION up to \$25,000

EMERGENCY REUNION up to \$5,000

REPATRIATION up to \$7,500

LIFE INSURANCE \$5,000

plus

24 HOUR EMERGENCY WORLDWIDE MULTI-LINGUAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

MANY ALSO OFFER

- ✓ **Tours:** cultural visits, day and weekend fieldtrips
- ✓ **Art:** classes/workshops, craft, dance, theater, fashion, music, photo
- ✓ **Humanities:** culture, area studies, hist, lit, gov't, educ, comm, plus...
- ✓ **Health:** golf, swimming, tennis, diving, skiing, riding, plus...
- ✓ **Special:** vocabulary classes tailored to your professional needs
- ✓ **Lodging:** homestay, apartment, dorm, hotel, special diet
- ✓ **Food:** home cooking, cooking classes, dine-around, wine tasting
- ✓ **Family:** services, daycare, child classes, community services
- ✓ **Teacher:** training, workshops, practicums, practice teaching, ECH
- ✓ **Teen:** camps and youth programs (including experiential)
- ✓ **University:** credit, undergraduate and graduate
- ✓ **Professional:** development credit in many fields, licensure, CEU
- ✓ **Volunteer:** medical, social service, ecology, teach plus...
- ✓ **Internships:** business, media, arts, eco, tourism, computer, plus...
- ✓ **Business:** classes, visits, networking, executive support services
- ✓ **Peer-to-Peer:** share interests, network by profession or hobby
- ✓ **Current Events & Professional Workshops, Holiday Courses**
- ✓ **Distance** educ liaison service, independent studies, research assist
- ✓ **Free** books and course materials. Return at end of studies
- ✓ **Free** airport transfers and internet access
- ✓ **Assessment** reports for attendance, progress, acculturation if needed
- ✓ **Medical:** professional training, law, social work, sciences etc.

** If you have a problem while studying abroad, call the 24 hour hotline! Call Any Time from Anywhere! Medical or travel emergencies, legal or medical or embassy referrals, lost passport or luggage, emergency message relay, coordinating emergency prescription replacement or cash transfer, emergency translations, 24-hour medical monitoring. Problems seldom occur, but when they do, it is nice to know insurance and worldwide assistance are included in your cost for study dates prepaid through NRCSA as reflected on your NRCSA confirmation. Additional optional insurance available upon request. Refer to the certificate for specific terms, conditions and other details regarding benefits, limitations, eligibility and exclusions of this plan. Questions? Contact NRCSA: Tel: 414-278-0631 ... E-Mail: info@nrcca.com ... Web: <http://www.nrcca.com>*

For Questions, Concerns, or Registration, Contact NRCSA
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