

Summer Abroad French Language in *Tours, France*

Institut de Touraine Courses

General Outline

Overview:

Students participate in the regular language courses (including a mandatory cultural, historical or business component depending on student's selection and availability) offered by the Institut de Touraine. Classes are small and include students from around the world, in addition to participants in the U of T summer program. Students have access to several language labs, a multimedia library, and a multimedia studio.

Instructors:

Students will have one Institute instructor for the language course and workshop. Due to the intensive nature of the course, teaching styles will differ from what you are accustomed to in your home institution; furthermore, courses at the Institute will be taught according to French standards and pedagogical styles by following the CEFR. As with any multiple-sections course, individual instructors at the Institute will have different teaching and evaluation models that determine the pace and style of their section. Other than teaching outcomes, each section functions autonomously.

Assessment:

Marks will be based on assessment of listening, speaking, reading and writing, in addition to overall assessment. While course content and evaluation techniques are generally determined by the Institut instructors, students' performance will be evaluated by on-site U of T personnel to ensure that U of T expectations and standards are applied. For H0 classes, the speaking/listening and reading/writing components will be assigned to different course codes (speaking/listening to FSL100H0, FSL322H0 and FSL443H0; reading/writing to FSL102H0, FSL420H0 and FSL442H0). Students should raise any questions about grades or assessment to the on-site U of T personnel.

Course Descriptions:

All students in the Summer Abroad France program earn a U of T "FSL" French credit, which is a St. George campus credit (UTSG). Please refer to the Arts and Science Calendar for complete course descriptions and details.

Note: for all FSL courses:

- **Distribution Requirement Status:** These are Humanities courses
- Breadth Requirement:** Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

What Credit will I Earn?

The Institut de Touraine language program comprises nine levels of instruction. All students (with the exception of absolute beginners - see below) write the **Institut de Touraine's online placement test** in February to determine their Institut level. It is your responsibility to ensure you are eligible to take your requested course. Consult with the Department of French for further detail about your own program requirements (french.undergraduate@utoronto.ca). Details about the placement assessment will be sent to students after the application deadline.

Absolute Beginners: Students with no significant French exposure at any level (formal instruction or non-academic exposure) DO NOT have to write the placement assessment. Those students will need to sign and upload the "Beginner Declaration Form" when applying to the program. If you request the beginner level (FSL100H+FSL102H) but have had *any* previous French exposure you must write the placement assessment.

Based on the placement test results, students will be assigned to the most appropriate level. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are eligible to take the FSL course you have been assigned. It is not possible to take a course for which you already have a credit or an exclusion. Consult with the Department

of French for further details about your own program requirements. If you are not eligible to take the course(s) of your choice, you have the option of taking one of the English-language U of T courses instead.

Note: All UTSG students who are placed in FSL195Y0 or FSL295Y0 must write U of T's placement test *upon their return to Toronto* to determine the appropriate U of T course credit for their course in Tours, as well as their appropriate next level. Students are responsible for contacting the Department of French themselves and arranging to write this test (french.undergraduate@utoronto.ca). After writing the test, the equivalent FSL credits will be noted in Degree Explorer only - the 1.0 credit labelled as "FSL195Y0" or "FSL295Y0" will remain on your academic record as is. Students placed in the H0 courses who wish to take an FSL course other than the next course in the usual FSL sequence should also contact the Department of French (french.undergraduate@utoronto.ca) to inquire about whether a different course (more advanced or less advanced) is appropriate based on your Tours experience. UTM and UTSC students should consult with their home language departments to confirm equivalency.

Institut de Touraine Level	Summer Abroad, UTSG Course Code	UTM Equivalent (for reference only – the UTSG course appears on transcript)	UTSC equivalent (for reference only – the UTSG course appears on transcript)
A1.0 A1.1a	FSL100H0 + FSL102H0	FSL105H5 + FSL106H5	FREA96H3+FREA97H3
A1.1b A1.2	FSL195Y0	FSL205H5 + FSL206H5 (formerly FSL205Y5)	FREA98H3+FREA99H3
A1.3 A2.1 A2.2 A2.3	FSL295Y0	FSL305H5 + FSL306H5 (formerly FSL305Y5)	FREA01H3+FREA02H3
B1.1 B1.2 B1.3 B2.1	FSL295Y0	FSL405H5 + FSL406H5 or FRE282H5 + FRE283H5	FREB01H3+FREB02H3
B2.2 B2.3 C1.1	FSL322H0+FSL420H0	FRE382H5+FRE383H5 FSL466H5	FREC01H3+FREC02H3
C1.2 C1.3 C2.1 C2.2 C2.3	FSL442H0+FSL443H0	Contact UTM Language Studies	FRED01H3+FRED06H3

Class Structure and Schedule:

The actual timetable is not set until after you arrive in France. Daily classes are held at the Institute Monday-Friday for the duration of the program. Students should expect to begin at 9am and **be in class for 20 hours per week** (language classes +workshops). Class tests are generally on Mondays and Fridays. Your schedule will vary depending on your language level and instructor.

French instruction will be conducted in a variety of different formats:

- General French language course
 - 3 hours every morning (15 hours per week total)
- 5 hours per week workshop blocks to practice French in a particular area interest (e.g. French culture, French for specific purposes etc.)
 - 2.5 hours every Tuesday afternoon
 - 2.5 hours every Thursday afternoon
- Two tutorials (2hr per week) to reinforce competencies or to overcome difficulties:
 - Schedule confirmed on-site in France

A *sample* class schedule is as follows. Please note that individual schedules can vary and are not available until after arrival in France.

COURS DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE
NIVEAU

ENSEIGNANTE :
SALLE R ...

Cours intensif 20 heures- matin et après-midi

	lundi	mardi	mercredi	jeudi	vendredi
9H00	COURS DE FRANÇAIS GÉNÉRAL STANDARD ET INTENSIF				
10H30					
10H50					
12H20					
ATELIERS DU COURS INTENSIF					
13H30		Pratique de l'oral	Tutorat (optionnel)	Pratique de l'écrit	Tutorat (optionnel)
15H00					
15H15		Culture		Activités ludiques	
16H15					

Course Outlines:

More detailed course information for the French language classes will be provided after your arrival in Tours. Although students in North America are accustomed to receiving detailed course outlines, this practice is extremely uncommon in France. Instructors typically do not provide information such as grading schemes, class schedules, etc., ahead of time. If you are not clear with your course requirements please contact your instructor directly about such course details. If you have any problems obtaining this information or the information you are receiving is still unclear, please advise the on-site U of T Academic Coordinator immediately (their contact information will be provided in the pre-departure guide). However, on the first day of class, your teacher will share with you the exam timetable, the topics covered and the course syllabuses.

Required Textbooks:

Students taking a French language course (FSL) do not have to purchase texts ahead of time. Course texts will be distributed to students in their first class. This cost is included in your Summer Abroad course fee. There will be no additional charge on-site. You will have to use your own dictionaries or grammar/reference books; previous students have stressed that it is important to bring such texts to France with you.

Post-program reflection

Within two weeks of completion of the program, all participants must submit a self-reflection and self-assessment about their **personal** experience in Tours, including the cultural value of the experience, their engagement and progress with the French language, both inside and outside the classroom. The reflection must make reference to specifics of the participant's course and may include experiences such as communication strategies that were developed during the program, linguistic or cultural frustrations and break-throughs inside or outside of class, connections made with locals or classmates from other universities, etc. The reflection should also discuss intended next steps to facilitate maintaining, building upon, and applying the linguistic skills and cultural competencies gained during the time in Tours. **Please note** that this is not a teaching evaluation.

This reflection is assessed by U of T personnel and forms part of the overall assessment component, which also takes into account feedback and observations from Institut instructors and U of T personnel. **The use of Generative AI tools is strictly prohibited for this assignment; if their use is suspected then the "overall assessment" component will be assigned a grade of 0% for all FSL courses.**

This component should be normally completed in French, except at the lowest levels. Regardless of language, the self-reflections will be assessed based on content (*i.e.*, demonstration of engagement) rather than on linguistic accuracy. **More information about length and language expectations, which may vary by level, will be provided by the U of T academic coordinators during the first week of students' time in Tours.**

French Language Course Assessment Components (normally assessed based on two components per category):

Writing	20%
Reading	20%
Listening	20%
Speaking	20%
Overall assessment and post-program self-reflection	20%

Getting The Most Out Of Your Language Learning Experience

You spend most of your time OUTSIDE of class so consider how you can more fully immerse yourself in the language! Taking full advantage of the opportunities to experience the culture and language immersion outside of class solidifies skill development, enhances retention and ensures a more memorable and engaging experience.

- ✓ Commit to speaking only in French outside of the classroom
- ✓ Listen, watch, read local publications in French
- ✓ Use the Institute's media centre
- ✓ Bring a paper dictionary and do your own translating (it gets much easier the more you practice)
- ✓ Unplug from your devices for a while and use all of your senses to explore, communicate and connect
- ✓ Participate in Institute activities (optional workshops etc.)
- ✓ Plan to attend some of the activities organized by the Institute several times a week.
(Please note that these activities may not be free)
- ✓ Tours' tourist information centre offers lots of interesting activities at reasonable rates
(Note that the Institute will give you a student card which makes you eligible for student rates)