

## INFORMATION FOR FRENCH OFF-CAMPUS SEMESTER PROGRAMS

### What French-language off-campus programs are available to me?

[Rennes: CIEE Liberal Arts Program](#)

[Paris: IES french Studies Program](#)

[Dakar: CIEE Language & Culture Program](#) (Spring only)

### If I'm majoring in French, when should I go abroad?

Many students choose to go abroad during their junior year, but this is flexible, and depends on where you stand with major requirements, if you have another major, and what your other commitments on campus are. If you would like to go abroad, speak to the program advisor as early as possible: you can start planning your semester off-campus as early as your first year.

### If I'm not a French major, can I participate in the French-language semesters abroad?

Yes! However, the programs we participate in all teach classes in French, so there is a language requirement. If you have completed the language requirement in French (232 or 235), plus one 250-level class, you can start to think about a semester off-campus in a French-speaking country.

### What language level do I need to have to participate? (aka I am worried about my level of spoken and/or written French!)

In all three off-campus programs, your language level will be tested before you register for classes. There is a range of levels available at each institution, and you will find that once you are in class, there is a range of levels among students. If you have completed the language requirement in French (232 or 235), plus one 250-level class, you will have the required level for these programs.

### How should I choose between the 3 semester abroad programs offered?

Talk to the program advisor! Your choice will be based on your field of study, geography, professional opportunities, and many other factors. For example, Rennes has a teaching practicum opportunity, in Paris you can participate in an internship, in Dakar you will learn Wolof and can participate in environmental projects. These are just a few examples of some differences between the programs.

### What subjects can I study at these three programs?

All three programs require French language (grammar, expression) courses. Apart from that, you will have a choice of courses. Almost all courses will be in humanities fields. In the Rennes and Paris programs, the focus is on French history, culture, and current events. In Dakar, the focus is on West African history, culture, and current events. Courses are typically taught by university-level professors/lecturers, who are specialists in the field. In Rennes and Paris, if your language level is high enough, you can audit or take for credit courses at local universities: students have taken classes in political science, Arabic, Russian, history, and translation studies, to name a few.

### What about extracurricular and internship opportunities?

In **Rennes**, there is a teaching practicum available that places you in a K-12 English classroom once a week. The semester program is situated on the Rennes II campus, so a wide range of extracurricular cultural and sporting opportunities are available.

In **Paris**, you can apply for an internship in a field of your choosing. You can also participate in fine art, dance, and music courses with affiliated institutions.

In **Dakar**, internships are available, and cultural and travel opportunities (including language exchange) are organized by CIEE.

### **What credit will I bring back?**

- *For a French major?*

You will bring back one 250-level and one 270-level course towards the major, regardless of what level you test into or what courses you take off-campus.

- *For GEs?*

If you hope to obtain general education credits while off-campus, it is really helpful to speak to the program advisor before you leave. Most commonly, students bring back HWC and ALS-L GEs. In Rennes, 2 classes complete the GE requirement, in Paris and Dakar, one class usually completes the requirement. For example, in Rennes if you took a class on 19th century literature, and another class on contemporary French science fiction, that could count as a ALS-L. In Paris or Dakar, you could take a class on immigration issues in modern Europe that could count for the HWC.

While the program advisor can help you choose classes that will fulfill a GE requirement, GE credits aren't confirmed until you return to campus, and you need to make clear that you are hoping to attach GEs to a class you have taken. It is helpful if you can provide a class syllabus. If you **must** obtain certain GEs while you are abroad, make sure you check in with the program advisor before you finalize your registration in France or Senegal.

- *For other majors/concentrations?*

Speak to your advisor and/or someone in the department in which you hope to get credit **before** you leave campus. Each department has its own guidelines about which off-campus courses can count towards major requirements.

- *Anything else I need to know about credit?*

Credits transferred to St. Olaf appear on your transcript, but the grades you receive will not be calculated into your GPA. However, after graduation, some graduate and professional schools may wish to calculate your GPA with those grades added in.

### **Anything else to consider before I apply?**

It's important that you speak to the program advisor before you complete your application, and it's vital that you attend all orientation events before you leave campus. If you have any doubts about fitting in a semester abroad because of academic, scheduling, or financial concerns, please come and talk to someone in the French department. It's our goal that as many French majors as possible spend a semester in a French-speaking country!