ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Our courses, all taught in French, represent a variety of approaches to understanding French and Francophone language and cultures in a broad liberal arts context. Students start their language study at various levels; some of them are beginners when they arrive at Brandeis, others have grown up speaking French. We provide courses at various levels as well as individualized language instruction within each course to meet each student’s needs and goals. Classes are small — as students progress in the major, they get to know one another and their professors well in seminar-style classes averaging 10–14 students.

What makes the program distinctive?

Our curriculum extends beyond the classroom. In recent years, we have hosted a series of lectures and films on Jewish life in France as well as a residency by Senegalese musician and historian Lamine Touré. We encourage and facilitate study abroad. Our students have enrolled in programs in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Senegal, Mali, Madagascar, Cameroon and Morocco. Brandeis’ proximity to Montreal offers more informal opportunities for weekend French immersion experiences.
ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Interdisciplinary study
Many of our students are double majors, with second concentrations in fields as different as international and global studies, biology or history. Professors from other disciplines also are affiliated with our department. Faculty members work with individual students and small groups on research, internship and service projects. We help each major tailor a program to fit his or her special talents and aspirations, and faculty members involve students in their own work whenever possible.

Course offerings

Senior theses
Seniors may write an essay or honors thesis on a subject of particular interest to them. Their work is presented and celebrated by faculty and students at our French and Francophone Studies Research Forum every spring. Sample titles of recent student works include “Rabelais and Montaigne: Perceptions of Maladies During the Renaissance,” “Le Corbusier, Ruskin and Sublime Reason,” “Surrealism and French Fashion,” “Institutional Remnants of French Colonialism in Modern India” and “The Death Penalty in France and the U.S.”

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Boston: a living classroom
The Greater Boston area is an important center of French culture. Boston’s Consulate General of France and French Library and Cultural Center work with our program to offer students internships and cultural opportunities that include French concerts, films, plays, exhibitions, lectures, courses and social networking events.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Diverse career fields
Recent graduates who majored in French and Francophone Studies are working as Peace Corps volunteers in Francophone countries, teaching assistants for English classes at French government schools, and members of the Teach For America Corps. Others have taken jobs in finance, museum administration, and international business. Many French and Francophone Studies majors pursue graduate studies, working toward M.D., M.B.A., M.F.A., M.A.T., J.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

Real jobs
Recent graduates have gone on to positions that include assistant professor of French at the University of Virginia; actress, teacher and founder of Into This City International Foreign Language School in New York City; Iran analyst at the Brookings Institution’s Saban Center for Middle East Policy; program coordinator for the Global Libraries Project in Romania and Ukraine; advocacy and education associate for the Landmine Survivors Network in Washington, D.C.; director of marketing and PR for the Cambridge, Mass., Arts Council; production designer for film, TV and theater in Hollywood; attorney at Bryan Cave LLP in Chicago; and physician and co-owner of the Lincoln Street Cafe in Newton Highlands, Mass.