

The Major in French

When comes the stage to elect a first or a second major, the Major in French is an attractive option to consider. To take this direction means to study towards a greater mastery of the language, a better understanding of France and the Francophone world, a wider opportunity to complement other academic disciplines, a deeper experience in comparing local and global cultures. To major in French also means to build for the future in acquiring an additional qualification for the job market, in a variety of areas, such as international business, commerce, sciences, the media, education and culture. In our world of global exchanges, people who know several major languages are sought after, because of their adaptability and capacity to mediate across persons and ideas.

- ***A greater mastery of the language***

Language learning is a personal qualitative development, and also a quantitative process: in other words, it takes time to achieve a rewarding level and success derives from cumulative exposure and practice. The Major in French aims to help students to become autonomous learners and active users of the language. Many of our graduates in the past have been able to pursue further studies in France; others have successfully integrated a company with a French speaking environment.

- ***A better understanding of France and the Francophone world***

With its economic and political standing, France is a prominent player in world affairs. This country has for long influenced other societies in their industrial, cultural and governmental development. The position of France today stems from a rich heritage of intellectual history and scientific progress. To have the ability to pass through the language barrier is a definite advantage. French is the third most used language on the Internet; the French language offers an alternative view of the world through communication with French speakers from all the continents and access to news from the French-language international media (TV5, France 24, Radio France Internationale).

- ***A wider opportunity to complement other academic disciplines***

Because it is all about language, communication, society, knowledge and culture, the Major in French combines nicely with other fields of academic studies you may pursue in parallel. Students in English, Translation, Fine Arts, History, Philosophy, European studies, Creative Industries, Business and Economics and many more subjects will find it easy to establish connections with French that will strengthen their ability to cross-examine, analyse and enrich their own experience. Knowing French will improve your vocabulary and grammar skills in English. About 50% of English vocabulary comes from French or is related to it. As you develop greater skills in French, you also sharpen your skills in English.

- ***A deeper experience in comparing local and global cultures***

One of the keys to comprehend our world is our ability to compare across cultures and societies. Learning the French language in depth and understanding its culture will stimulate your capacity to look at your own culture in perspective and to exercise a critical view on both the local and global environment. The French language is spoken in more than 40 countries in the world.

- ***An additional qualification for the job market***

An ability to speak French in addition to other languages is a definite asset on both the local and the international job market. A good knowledge of French allows access to companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, North and sub-Saharan Africa). As the world's fifth biggest economy and number-three destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner in many sectors.

**School Of Modern Languages and Cultures
The University of Hong Kong**

The Major in French

In addition to the **Introductory** courses, the Major comprises two levels of **Advanced** courses: the **core components** and the **electives**. The weighting of all courses is 6 credits. The total number of credits needed to major in French is 72 (including the 12-credit First Year Arts requirement). To major in French requires a combination as follows:

	<i>Level</i>	<i>Core</i> (42 credits)	<i>Electives</i> (24 credits)
Year One/Two	Introductory	FREN1001 FREN1002	-
Year Two/Three	Advanced – Level 1	FREN2001 FREN2002	FREN2xxx FREN2xxx
Year Three/Four	Advanced – Level 2	FREN3001 FREN3002 FREN3030 (<i>Capstone</i>)	FREN3xxx FREN3xxx

The core courses provide the essential structure in which you will acquire a fundamental knowledge of the language, while **elective courses** will give you an opportunity to practice and deepen your language skills through the exploration of various topics.

The Year Two/Three electives (FREN2xxx) aim at reinforcing the acquisition and understanding of grammatical structures, vocabulary and pronunciation features. You may choose among a range of courses ranging from culture, translation (English and Chinese) and phonetics.

The Year Three/Four electives (FREN3xxx) comprise courses ranging from literature, cinema, news and media, French for business, popular music and culture; there is as well the possibility of transferring 6 credits from an intensive summer course in France (FREN3119) or to validate a local or overseas internship in a French speaking company (FREN3034). Finally, all students majoring in French will undertake a final **capstone** course (FREN3030) in their final year.

Consult course list and descriptions: <http://www.french.hku.hk/major.htm>

- **Travelling abroad**

The French programme encourages the students to travel to France to gain experience and consolidate their language skills. You may do so during the summer by enrolling an intensive summer course of 3 to 4 weeks in a French university. You may also consider spending one semester as an exchange student in a French university in Lyon or Paris.

- **Prizes and Scholarships**

The Consulate General of France in Hong Kong, as well as various corporate sponsors have made generous donations to our French programme to help students majoring in French at HKU to travel abroad. Many of our past graduates have benefitted from these subsidies on the basis of their good work.

See Awards and Prizes page: <http://www.french.hku.hk/awards.htm>

See Alumni page: <http://www.french.hku.hk/Alumni.html>

Contact and Information: Dr Denis C. Meyer, Programme Director – dcmeyer@hku.hk