Recommendations

B.A. French

To learn more about how you can make the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:

Jeff Persels, Program Director, perselsj@sc.edu
Related course FREN 350
Timing for “study abroad”
The French Program sponsors a wide variety of study abroad experiences, from its faculty-led one-month intensive summer immersion at the Institut de Touraine in Tours, France to its brand-new semester- or year-long direct exchange with the Université d’Artois in Arras, France. Working with our Study Abroad Office, students can also choose from a large number of programs, whether coordinated by vetted outside providers or USC, such as the long-standing direct exchange with the various French campuses of Sciences Po. Many French majors and minors also apply to the French Ministry of Education’s Teaching Assistantship program (TAPIF) and teach English abroad in metropolitan France or one of the DOM-TOM the year after graduation.

Opportunities
French students can live on campus in a Francophone environment at the Macy International House, sharing living space and activities with other students of French, coordinated by faculty and graduate student advisors. The French Club also meets weekly for a conversation hour at a local café, and the local chapter of the Alliance Française offers several events throughout the year—picnics, film festivals, French theatre productions, short video contests—which provide students with opportunities to mingle with Francophone and Francophile members of the Columbia community beyond the university.

Why this is important
As successful as one can be in second-language acquisition at USC, there is nothing to compare with an actual immersion experience abroad, both linguistically and culturally. We strongly encourage all of our majors and minors to build a study abroad experience into their undergraduate curriculum. And the French Program has more money than all other languages combined to support those experiences, awarding over $20,000 annually in study abroad scholarships.

Getting started
Students can visit either our own Study Abroad page: http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/dllc/studyabroad or visit the Study Abroad Office page: http://www.studyabroad.sc.edu/ where they can also make an appointment to meet with a Study Abroad adviser to go over all the options. Or students can consult French faculty directly for guidance.

Peer Leadership
Student Organization(s)
USC is home to a student-run French Club that hosts a weekly conversation hour and cosponsors and/or participates in other events. French Club officers, working with a faculty advisor, have held book sales, dined out at local French restaurants, and staged puppet shows, etc.

Why this is important
Such student initiatives expand the use of French into social relationships, allowing for a more natural integration of the language into everyday life.

Getting started
http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/dllc/FREN/Events
Research

Sample research projects or topics
Many USC French students have conducted original research and produced useful materials, often obtaining university grants (Magellan, Walker Institute, French Program) to help offset the costs of their projects. Recent examples include formal analyses of the rise of extremist political parties in Europe, the role of the financial crisis in the 2012 French Presidential elections, the production of a promotional video (which can be found on the French homepage) and even a course project on pastry that led a recent graduate to study professionally in Paris.

Lead

Initial career opportunities
USC French graduates from just the last five years have gone on to train as professional pastry chefs in Paris, pursue musical training at a conservatory in Strasbourg; intern with the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development in Paris; teach English in Auvergne, Ile-de-France and Languedoc-Roussillon; research in chemistry labs in Caen and Lausanne and in a biology lab in Angers; work for Michelin, the North American headquarters for which is in South Carolina, and L’Oreal; pursue graduate work in French at the University of Virginia and Linguistics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and graduate work in Art History and Museum Conservatorship in the Netherlands; USC graduates in French have won Fulbrights or French Ministry of Education Grants, among other awards, for almost every one of the last ten years. The majority of private and public secondary school French teachers in the Midlands are graduates of USC’s Undergraduate Foreign Language Certification program, MA or MAT programs.

Related graduate programs
MA or PhD in French, MA or PhD in Comparative Literature, MA or PhD in Linguistics; we often have students go onto advanced degrees in political science or psychology; and applications to law and medical schools are often boosted by the BA in a more unusual language—the historical language of science.

Future career opportunities
Management in multi-national firms; teachers and professors; politicians and political analysts; diplomats; travel agents; airline admin; translators; simultaneous translators; administrators in international NGOs; journalists.

Other comments on careers
Learning another language helps individuals see one idea from multiple perspectives. Among the benefits of hiring a language major: they are sensitive to nuances, trained to read and analyze difficult material quickly, and most importantly, are not afraid to swim against the tide.