

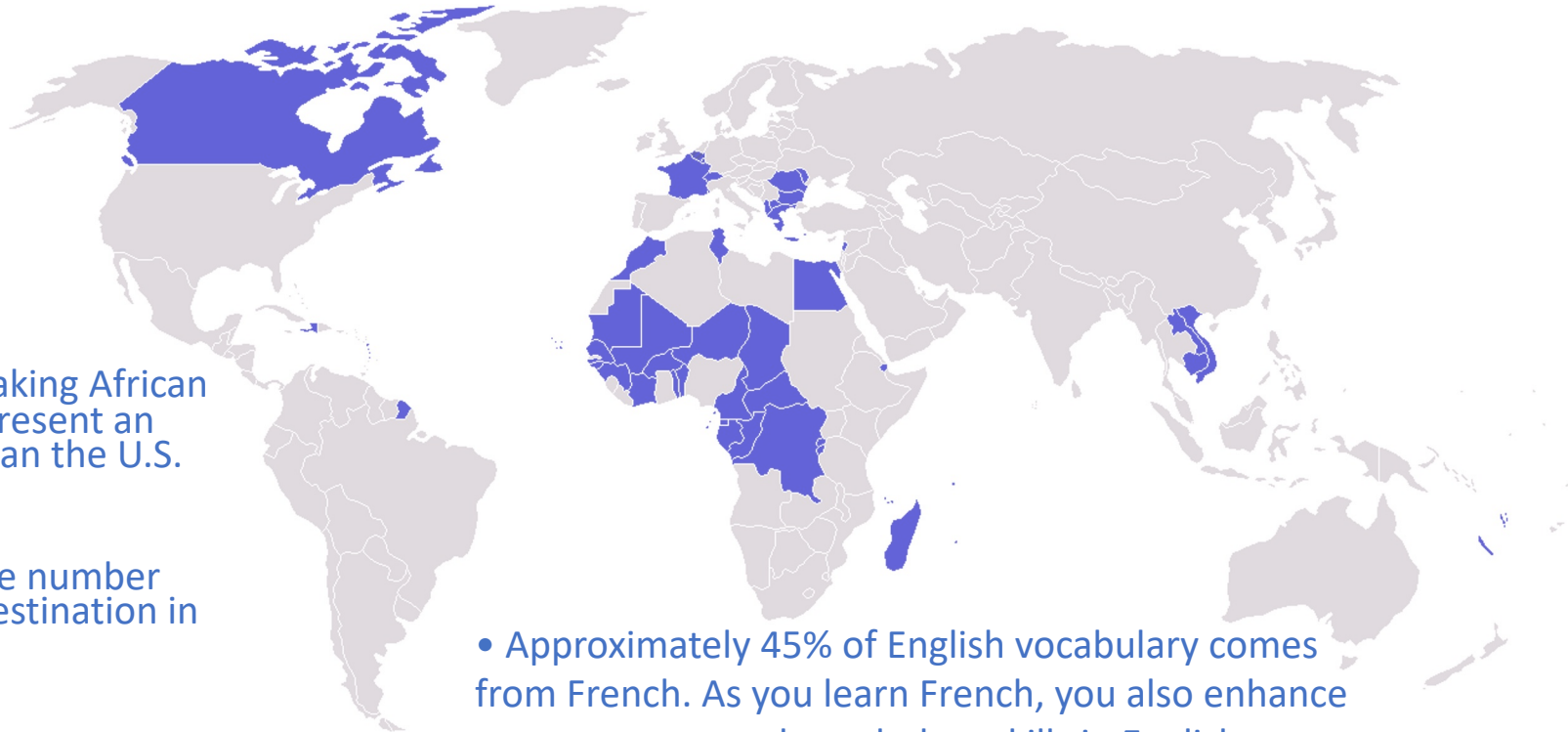
WHY LEARN FRENCH?

- French has approximately 200 million speakers on all continents and has the status of official language in 33 countries.
- French is spoken on FIVE continents.

- French-speaking African countries represent an area larger than the U.S.

- France is the number one tourist destination in the world!

- Approximately 45% of English vocabulary comes from French. As you learn French, you also enhance your grammar and vocabulary skills in English.



10 good reasons to learn French

- 1. A world language** *More than 300 million people speak French on the five continents. The OIF, an international organisation of French-speaking countries, comprises 88 member States and governments. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the fifth most widely spoken language in the world. French is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world. France operates the biggest international network of cultural institutes, which run French-language courses for close on a million learners.*
- 2. A language for the international job market** *The ability to speak French and English is an advantage on the international job market. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world. As one of the world's largest economies and a leading destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner.*
- 3. The language of culture** *French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. A knowledge of French offers access to great works of literature in the original French, as well as films and songs. French is the language of Victor Hugo, Molière, Léopold Senghor, Edith Piaf, Jean-Paul Sartre, Alain Delon and Zinedine Zidane!*
- 4. A language for travel** *France is the world's top tourist destination and attracts more than 87 million visitors a year. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Paris and all the regions of France, and offers insights into France's culture and way of life. French also comes in handy when travelling to French-speaking parts of the world.*
- 5. A language for higher education** *Speaking French opens up opportunities to study at renowned French universities and business schools, ranked among the top higher education institutions in Europe and the world.*
- 6. The other language of international relations** *French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. French is the language of the three cities where the EU institutions are headquartered: Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg.*
- 7. A language that opens up the world** *An ability to understand French provides access to an alternative view of the world. You can follow French thinkers and leaders from all over the world and news from the leading French-language international media (e.g., TV5Monde, France 24 and Radio France Internationale).*
- 8. A language that is fun to learn** *French is an easy language to learn. (And its vocabulary is very close to that of Spanish!)*
- 9. A language for learning other languages** *French is a good base for learning other languages, especially Romance languages (Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian) as well as English, since a significant percentage of English vocabulary is derived from French.*
- 10. The language of love and reason** *First and foremost, learning French is the pleasure of learning a beautiful, rich, melodious language that is often called the language of love. French is also an analytical language that structures thought and develops critical thinking, which is a valuable skill for discussions and negotiations.*

[Courtesy of <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/studying-in-france/learning-french/article/10-good-reasons-for-learning>]

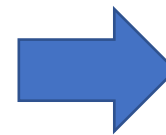


THE FRENCH MAJOR & MINOR

The major in French requires **33 credits** with a grade-point average of at least 2.0. The French Department offers two options. Students may pursue either the **language-intensive option** designed to foster advanced proficiency in French or the **interdisciplinary option** which allows the exploration of French and Francophone cultures through advanced and upper-level courses taught in French or in English.
Over 85% of French Majors have another major.

The Minor in French requires **18 credits of courses taught either in French or in English** beyond second semester French (420:102 or 121).

**Should you Major or Minor in French?
See what our graduates have to say....**



THE FRENCH MAJOR

You want to speak French fluently

You see yourself teaching French as a Second Language

You are passionate about languages

You see yourself living in a French-speaking country

You want to understand your family heritage...



OPTION 1 LANGUAGE INTENSIVE

- 33 credits above second semester French (420:102)
- At least 3 credits in Advanced French language
- 6 credits of literature requirements
- 12 of 18 upper-level elective credits must be taken in French
- 3 credits can be taken outside of the French Dept

You want to learn about French and Francophone cultures (but want to have another major)

You see yourself in a career requiring cultural awareness, and intercultural skills

You are interested in postcolonial studies

You want to be a health professional in the tri-state area

You want to understand your family heritage...



OPTION 2 INTERDISCIPLINARY

- 33 credits above first semester French (420:101)
- Intermediate French language requirement
- 3 credits of literature requirements
- All upper-level elective credits can be taken in English
- 6 credits can be taken outside of the French Dept



WHY MAJOR OR MINOR IN FRENCH?

1

France is the most visited country in the world.

5

French is spoken on all **five** continents.
In terms of L1 and L2 speakers, it is the **5th** spoken language in the world. (Francophonie.org)

31

Countries that have French as an official language.

68

Countries where French is spoken.

2050

According to a 2014 study by Natixis, French could become the first spoken language in the world by this year because of predicted population growth in Francophone Africa and demographic slowdown in China as well as Spanish and English-speaking countries.

3rd

In 2018, France was the 3rd trade partner for the U.S.

68%

Percentage of Rutgers undergraduate students who consider themselves heritage speakers.

(Research Advisory Council, Multilingualism Survey Report, July 2020)

8

Number of French faculty who come from or have ties to French-speaking countries or regions other than mainland France. (Belgium, Haïti, Martinique, Morocco, Switzerland, Tahiti)

Over 85%

of French Majors have another major

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

Department of French

Academic Building, 4th floor
15 Seminary Place
College Avenue Campus
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
info@french.rutgers.edu

