# FRENCH LANGUAGE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Young adults benefit greatly from further academic study in their second language in that it helps to solidify the language and to develop a more enhanced linguistic base from which to continue to grow and develop.

In *The Next Act: New Momentum for Canada's Linguistic Duality – The Action Plan for Official Languages* (Privy Council Office, 2003), the federal government has proposed that the ability to communicate in both English and French be identified as one of the foundations of life-long learning for Canadians. Language learning does not stop at graduation. New challenges and opportunities continuously arise through work, travel and interpersonal connections that require upgrading of language skills. Whether it be to read a novel with unfamiliar vocabulary, to work in a new technical area or to communicate in a new local dialect, we find ourselves constantly being challenged to extend our linguistic competence throughout our lives. As a person moves into new functional domains, language learning can be further enhanced through special language classes, exchanges, and on the job training.

With the growth of French Immersion Program education in Canada, universities and colleges are expanding their programs to accommodate the ongoing learning needs of graduating students. In *The Next Act: New Momentum for Canada's Linguistic Duality – The Action Plan for Official Languages* (Privy Council Office, 2003), the federal government has also recognized this need and has increased its postsecondary contribution to \$137 million for teaching second languages, \$24 million toward summer language bursary programs (Explore) and \$11.5 million to the official language monitor programs (Odyssey and Accent).

Information about the many opportunities to continue to learn and use French beyond high school is important to parents and students both as a demonstration of the value of learning French and as motivation to continue in the French Immersion Program to the end of Grade 12.

This chapter highlights different ways in which students may continue to use French beyond Grade 12: universities and colleges, bursaries, study and exchange programs, and career related programs.



### **Universities and Colleges**

#### **Manitoba Universities and Colleges**

Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (CUSB) http://www.ustboniface.mb.ca

The CUSB is the oldest French-language postsecondary educational institution in Western Canada. It is loacted in the community of Saint-Boniface in the heart of Winnipeg. CUSB is the only university in Western Canada offering French as the language of instruction in all of its programs. In 2006, French immersion students constituted 25% and international students 15% of the approximate 1000 student population. CUSB offers academic instruction and student support in a close community atmosphere.

At the university level, undergraduate degree programs are offered in Arts, Science, Education, Business Administration, Social Work and Translation. Master's degrees in Education and Canadian Studies are also offered.

The École technique et professionnelle (ETP) offers technical/professional programs such as Business Administration, Data Processing, Nursing, Multimedia Communications, Health Care Aide, Early Childhood Education and Tourism.

The CUSB also operates a Division de l'éducation permanente (Continuing Education Division) that offers a range of professional development courses, language courses such as English, Spanish and German and also offers customized contract training.

### University of Manitoba (U of M) http://www.umanitoba.ca/

The U of M, founded in 1877, is the largest and most comprehensive postsecondary educational institution in Manitoba. With campuses in Fort Garry and downtown, in a typical year, the university has an enrolment of 25,000 undergraduate students and 3000 graduate students. The university offers 82 degrees, 51 at the undergraduate level and also has distance education and continuing education divisions. Most academic units offer graduate studies programs leading to master's or doctoral degrees.

The French Department offers undergraduate, graduate and a doctoral program in French with specialized training in French and Francophone literature. The Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba also prepares teachers to teach French.

For students who want to pursue in-depth and field-based research on linguistic structures, the University of Manitoba M.A. and Ph.D. programs are flexible. The

interests of the faculty cover a broad range of research areas and the area's ethnic diversity provides a rich linguistic environment. Graduate programs most often involve original fieldwork, either in the local indigenous languages or in such places as Papua New Guinea.

### University of Winnipeg (U of W) http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/

Located in downtown Winnipeg, the U of W is the second largest university in Manitoba. The U of W offers undergraduate and select graduate courses in language, literature and linguistics as well as a Collegiate and Continuing Education Division. Over 800 courses in 40 subject areas are offered to approximately 9200 students.

The U of W provides language and computer labs, discussion groups and French social and cultural events to foster language development and improve conversational French. Qualified French Major students can participate in a Third Year Abroad Program held in Perpignan, in the south of France and administered by the U of W.

### Brandon University (BU) http://www.brandonu.ca/

Situated in Brandon, Manitoba, Brandon University received its Charter in 1967. With approximately 3000 students, it is the third largest University in Manitoba. A BA in French is offered through the Department of Modern and Classical languages at the undergraduate level.

### **University and College Directory**

The following Web sites provide information and resources regarding postsecondary institutions where it is possible to study in French in Canada and elsewhere.

### Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne (AUFC) <a href="http://www.aufc.ca/">http://www.aufc.ca/</a> (Web site in French only)

The AUFC has as its mission the promotion of university education in a francophone minority milieu. Its intention is to develop cultural, social and economic support for the francophone community through the cooperation of its members and the communities they serve. Consisting of a consortium of Francophone universities across Canada including CUSB, this network is attempting to develop national programming policies and standards in a variety of domains, including recruitment, translation, interpretation, French as a second language, school administration, ethics, research and international research on minority language education.

### Where to go and What to do:

A Guide for Bilingual Youth – University Bound http://www.cpf.ca/ English/Resources/ BilingualYouthGuide.pdf

Do you need a challenge? Would you enjoy studying in French? This excellent document produced by Canadian Parents for French (CPF) provides information for students who wish to continue to perfect their French language skills after graduation. The document provides a listing and description of officially bilingual university programs across Canada. What a great way to focus on French after secondary school!

## Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada/Association des collèges et universités du Canada (AUCC)

http://www.aucc.ca/

The AUCC is a 92 member consortium of publicly funded Canadian universities and university colleges. The AUCC manages a large number of international programs and projects and has been involved with over 2000 international projects in the last 30 years. The AUCC oversees the quality and integrity of university programming and coordinates recruitment, research and university partnerships both nationally and internationally. The AUCC manages 150 bursary programs and gives out 3500 bursaries annually.

### Réseau des cégeps et collèges francophones du Canada (RCCFC) http://rccfc.ca (Web site in French only)

The RCCFC is a partnership consisting of a support network fostering the promotion of technology, communication and the exchange of information among the francophone collegiates and colleges across Canada and in support of development in francophone Africa.

The RCCFC coordinates many projects regarding postsecondary instruction in Canada and in francophone Africa. The RCCFC promotes national visibility and represents the collegiates and colleges in dealings with the federal government.

RCCFC programs offer connections to technology and career training for those students who are bilingual and who desire to work in French. The RCCFC is becoming more aware of the need to provide technical and career training for students in immersion programs and individual programs are putting an increasing number of supports in place to welcome these students and to accommodate their needs.

### Canadian Virtual University (CVU) http://www.cvu-uvc.ca/english.html

CVU is a consortium of Canada's leading universities in distance education and learning. The universities offer 300 complete degrees, diplomas or certificates, and 2500 individual courses available completely online or through distance education. The University of Manitoba is a member of the consortium. Courses are available in French in a great variety of areas including anthropology, business, conflict resolution, finance, fine arts, geography, gemology, computer programming, media studies, military training, music, politics, women's studies, and many others. These courses can be applied toward degrees **with appropriate department permission** at all Manitoba universities.

### **Canadian Parents for French – Inventory of Post-Secondary Opportunities for Anglophone Students Studying in French**

http://www.cpf.ca/english/postsec/post\_secondary\_survey.html

This inventory presents options and support for non-francophone students interested in studying in French at the postsecondary level. It provides information about faculties, departments and degree programs in which courses are offered in French. It also includes details of academic support for students in these courses as well as financial support, facilitation of social interaction with francophones, exchange programs and employment opportunities in French environments, and on-going support for national French-language initiatives through continuing education.

#### **Universities and Colleges Offering Programs in French**

The following universities and colleges offer programming in French whereby students may study in French toward a degree in another domain. The French opportunities at each institution are quite varied, so students should research each location carefully to determine what would be their best option. The list below serves to identify opportunities for study in French. The list is by no means comprehensive.

#### **British Columbia:**

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia <a href="http://www.sfu.ca/french">http://www.sfu.ca/french</a>

#### Alberta:

Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta <a href="http://www.fsj.ualberta.ca/">http://www.fsj.ualberta.ca/</a>

#### Saskatchewan:

Institut français, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan http://institutfrançais.uregina.ca

#### Ontario:

Royal Military College of Canada (RMC), Kingston, Ontario

http://www.rmc.ca/home\_e.html

University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

http://www.uottawa.ca

Glendon College, York University, Toronto, Ontario

http://www.glendon.yorku.ca

Collège universitaire dominicain, Ottawa, Ontario

http://www.collegedominicain.ca/

Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario

http://www.laurentian.ca/

Saint-Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario

http://www.ustpaul.ca/

University of Sudbury, Sudbury, Ontario

http://www.usudbury.ca

Campus d'Alfred, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario

http://www.alfredc.uoguelph.ca/

La Cité collégiale, Ottawa, Ontario

http://www3.lacitec.on.ca/

#### Québec:

McGill University, Montreal, Québec

http://www.mcgill.ca/

#### French Language Universities and Colleges

The following francophone universities, although primarily geared toward francophones, offer some academic support to non-francophone students. These universities have recognized the need to accommodate immersion students by meeting their needs through orientation programs, second language classes, social and cultural opportunities for language development and the provision of other more specific supports such as language tutoring.

Université Laval, Québec City, Québec

http://www.ulaval.ca/

Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec

http://www.umontreal.ca/

Affiliates:

École des hautes études commerciales (HEC), Montréal, Québec

http://www.hec.ca/

École Polytechnique, Montréal, Québec

http://www.polymtl.ca/

Université du Québec, various locations in Québec, e.g., Trois-Rivières, Québec <a href="http://www.uquebec.ca/">http://www.uquebec.ca/</a>

Affiliate:

École de technologie supérieure (ETS), Montréal, Québec

http://www.etsmtl.ca

Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec

http://www.usherbrooke.ca

Université de Moncton, Moncton, New Brunswick

http://www.umoncton.ca/

Université Sainte-Anne, Pointe-de l'Église, Nova Scotia

http://www.usainteanne.ca/

Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick, Bathurst, Campbellton, Dieppe and Edmundston, New Brunswick

http://www.ccnb.nb.ca/

Collège universitaire de Hearst, Hearst, Ontario

http://www.univhearst.edu

### French Language Postsecondary Opportunities

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#### **Bursaries and Programs**

The following are suggestions of available bursaries and programs. This is not a comprehensive list.

### Official Languages Programs

http://www.cmec.ca/olp/indexe.stm

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) coordinates official-language activities related to agreements between the federal and provincial/territorial governments. The Department of Canadian Heritage provides funding for the programs, while the provinces and territories assume the costs of the programs' decentralized administration.

To promote the study of Canada's official languages, CMEC, in cooperation with the provinces and territories, administers a variety of bursaries and language assistant programs such as Explore, Accent and Odyssey.

#### **Explore**

http://www.myexplore.ca

Explore is a five week intensive French language learning course. Participants receive a bursary covering tuition fees, materials, meals and accommodation.

### Languages at Work http://www.fjcf.ca/let/index\_e.asp

Languages at Work is a component of Young Canada Works (YCW), which offers a number of summer job placements for graduating **Explore** participants. Such a placement will give students the opportunity to gain work experience using their second official language after having completed **Explore**. For more information, contact YCW at 1-800-267-5173 or the Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française at fjcf@fjcf.ca

#### **Accent (part-time)**

#### http://www.myaccent.ca

Accent is a part time language assistant program which provides part time work to postsecondary students studying in another province and working with students in their second official language.

#### **Odyssey** (full-time)

http://www.myodyssey.ca

Odyssey is a full time language assistant program. This program provides an opportunity to work in and experience the culture of another province or territory for 9 months (September to May).

### French Immersion Studies Bursary http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/students/index.html

This program offers a \$2500 bursary to Anglophone students wishing to pursue an out-of-province French Immersion Program.

### Bourses aux étudiants du Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/students/index.html

Students wishing to pursue their studies at Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface are eligible to receive a \$500 bursary toward their studies in French. CUSB also offers special summer work programs to CUSB students:

http://dep.cusb.ca/fr/programme.htm

### French Language Studies Bursary http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/students/index.html

A French language studies bursary of \$2500 is also available to students who choose to leave the province to study in French in an area of study that is not offered in French in Manitoba.

Note: For additional information contact:

Official Languages Programs

Bureau de l'éducation française Division Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

Telephone: 204-945-6932

Toll free (in Manitoba only): 1-800-282-8069 extension 6932

e-mail: languesofficielles@gov.mb.ca

#### Study and Exchange Programs for Postsecondary Students

L'École de langues de l'Université Laval (L'ÉLUL) http://www.sit.ulaval.ca/sgc/site/elul/pid/6414

This is an intensive French language immersion program designed for non-francophone students wishing to purse their studies at a French language university. It is a program suitable for university students at all levels.

#### France Canada Exchange

http://www.consulfrance-toronto.org/article.php3?id\_article=383

This program is part of an agreement among France, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Students in these three provinces can study in France and obtain credit at universities in these provinces with prior agreement from their universities.

### French Immersion at l'Université Saint-Anne, Pointe-de-l'Église, Nova Scotia http://www.usainteanne.ca/default.php

Nova Scotia's only French university, Université Sainte-Anne has many years of expertise in teaching French as a second language. Noted for its philosophy of learning and the personable approach of the professors, teaching staff is recruited from all over the French speaking world. Intensive five week immersion courses are offered in various locations in Nova Scotia for students desiring to improve their French prior to entering a French institution.

### Queen Elizabeth ll Silver Jubilee Endowment Fund http://www.aucc.ca/scholarships/open/queene\_e.html

This is an exchange program aimed at youth who wish to pursue full time studies in a francophone milieu.

### Trois-Pistoles French Immersion School http://www.uwo.ca/cstudies/tp/

The University of Western Ontario offers a variety of university courses in an immersion environment in Trois-Pistoles, Québec. Students live in québecois homes and fully experience a francophone environment.

#### **EduFrance**

http://www.edufrance.fr/

This agency assists students wishing to study in French universities in a variety of postsecondary domains, including education, foreign affairs, business and sciences.

### International Agriculture Exchange Association (IAEA) http://www.agriventurecanada.com

For youth ages 18-30 with at least two years experience in agriculture, this non-profit organization has been in operation since 1963. IAEA offers agricultural exchanges in 18 countries. The main objectives of IAEA are:

- to provide rural youth with an opportunity to learn about agricultural methods in other parts of the world;
- to develop an understanding of the culture of other countries; and
- to strengthen and improve mutual understanding between the countries involved through personal contacts established between the participants and the host family.

IAEA has a great variety of exchanges including:

- Working Holiday Programs in France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden and the U.K.; and
- Student Work Abroad Programs in Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and the U.K.

By specifying the desire to work with a French family, immersion students with a background in agriculture can improve their knowledge of agriculture while acquiring improved language skills and a greater understanding of French culture.

### Association Périgord Linguistique et Culturel (APLC) http://www.perigord.tm.fr/~fle/acanglais.htm

Located in the charming university town of Périgueux, the APLC offers an opportunity to improve French language skills in one the most beautiful and safe regions of France. The Périgord, located in southwestern France, is renowned for its appealing life style, its cuisine, wine and magnificent chateaux, all a part of its rich cultural history.

#### **Career Related Programs for Postsecondary Students**

### Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) http://www.studentjobs.gov.mb.ca

STEP Services offers hundreds of career related job opportunities, jobs including Career Options for students with disabilities, both summer and part time employment opportunities and cooperative education work terms. For students who are bilingual, there are increased training and employment opportunities such as the Québec and New Brunswick exchange programs and a variety of other positions which require a student to be bilingual. Taking advantage of a French language work experience opens doors to future cultural, academic and employment opportunities while enhancing their linguistic experience.

The Québec and New Brunswick exchange programs are designed for postsecondary students who wish to be exposed to the social and cultural life of another province while gaining experience matched to studies or career goals.

#### **The Senate Page Program**

http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/programs/senpages/senpages-E.htm

Fifteen university students from across Canada are selected yearly to participate in the Senate Page Program in Ottawa. Responsible for a wide variety of activities associated with the legislative process, pages are hired for a one year contract with the possibility of renewal for a second year. Senate pages must be enrolled as full time undergraduate students in one of the four universities in the National Capital Region. The selection process includes a written examination and interview process. In addition to strong communication skills, linguistic duality, community service, diversity and financial need are taken into consideration in hiring.

#### **House of Commons Page Program**

http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/programs/pages/pp\_welcome-e.htm

In the Parliamentary Page Program /House of Commons Page Program, 40 students are selected from high schools across Canada to work as pages on a part-time basis during their first year of study at one of the four universities in the National Capital Region. Applicants must be bilingual.

### Federal Student Work Experience Programs (FSWEP) http://jobs-emplois.gc.ca/srp-fswep-ptete/about\_e.htm

The Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP) is the primary vehicle through which federal departments and agencies recruit students for temporary students jobs. FSWEP gives full-time postsecondary students fair and equal access to students jobs offered by the Public Service of Canada and opportunities to learn about the federal government and gain valuable experience while developing and improving their employability skills. The Department of Justice participates in this program by hiring many summer students in various fields of studies, including a large number of law students. Part-time students who are recognized by their academic institution as having a disability are also eligible to apply.

These programs are intended to enrich academic programs, develop employability skills, and help students to evaluate career options with the federal government. Students choosing to work in French should make this request when applying. There are many designated bilingual job opportunities available. While bilingualism is not a requirement for all job opportunities, it is definitely an asset. It plays a significant role in portability and promotion within the federal government.

#### **Audit Trainee Program**

#### http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/domino/career.nsf/html/page4b\_e.html

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada is an approved audit training office recognized by all three accounting institutes, whatever the chosen designation – Chartered Accountant (CA), Certified General Accountant (CGA), or Certified Management Accountant (CMA).

This is the only federal government organization authorized to article CA students. Students are supported through time off to study, reimbursement of tuition for mandatory courses, and work experience that meets the requirements of all three accounting programs.

As part of the financial audit trainee program, students are members of an audit team responsible for a broad spectrum of audits, from the largest financial audit in Canada (the Government of Canada financial statements) to audits of Crown corporations, federal departments and agencies, territorial governments, and international organizations.

The Audit program offers the opportunity to learn or improve second language skills, French or English, during the workday. The program offers in-house sessions in which small groups with the same level of language skills work with an instructor on a regular weekly basis.

### Program for Students in Law http://www.jobs.gc.ca

The Justice Canada Program for students in law includes responsibilities for carrying out a variety of law-related duties including working in collaboration with lawyers in the department in research, preparation of legal memoranda and support for carrying out the department's broad range of responsibilities and activities. While bilingualism is generally an advantage, it is required in some cases.

### Rideau Hall's Visitor Services and Interpretation Program http://www.jobs.gc.ca

Through the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, Rideau Hall has been the official Ottawa residence and workplace of every Governor General of Canada since Confederation. As a Guide-Interpreter, a student is one of Rideau Hall's front-line ambassadors, who together greet up to 200,000 visitors each year, from royalty and heads of state, to school children and tourists. Students interpret various themes related to Canadian history, visual arts and horticulture following a dynamic and in-depth training program. Students must be fully bilingual with excellent communication skills in both English and French.

### Student Guide Program in France http://www.jobs.gc.ca

Managed by Veteran's Affairs Canada, the Student Guide Program in France is an opportunity to travel, meet long-lasting friends, and teach people from around the world about Canadian history in both official languages. Students from across Canada live and work in France for four-month periods as interpretive guides at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial.

### Youth on the Move/Les jeunes ça bouge: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-europa/youth

This department provides a listing of work and travel opportunities. These programs allow young adults, including full-time students, to work abroad while traveling. Targeting youth between ages 18-35, there are opportunities requiring varying degrees of bilingualism for youth in the areas of volunteering, working, studying and exchanges. These possibilities are a great way to enrich language and develop new friendships while building increased cultural understanding and employment skills.

### Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) http://www.swap.ca

Work in Britain. Work in Ireland. Work in France. Work in Australia. Work in New Zealand. Work in the USA. SWAP Working Holidays offers these and other countries to Canadian students and youth aged 18 to 35 who want to work abroad. Each year, young Canadians can choose from more than 30,000 opportunities to travel and work abroad in more than 12 different countries. By choosing a French-speaking country, students can greatly enhance this experience by improving their language skills while experiencing the art, music and culture of another country. These opportunities are made possible through reciprocal arrangements that Foreign Affairs Canada has negotiated with host countries.

#### Young Workers' Exchange Program - Canada-France http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-europa/youth/ywcf\_ca-en.asp

This exchange program is an up to 12 month work/vacation program in France for youth from 18-35. Through this program students can gain work experience and enhance personal development through music, art and culture in a completely French environment. This is an opportunity to gain valuable global experience and skills that are sought after by employers both in Canada and around the world.

### Young Canada Works (YCW) http://www.pch.gc.ca/ycw-jct

Young Canada Works (YCW) offers students and young graduates the chance to put their skills to the test, build career equity, earn money for their education or get started on the right career path. Summer jobs and internships give young people access to unique opportunities to learn and work, whether it be to practice their second language in a museum, work in an Aboriginal friendship centre or even travel abroad. If interested in working in one of Canada's national parks, visit Parks Canada's Web site at <a href="http://www.pc.gc.ca">http://www.pc.gc.ca</a>

YCW subsidizes up to 2285 job opportunities. These wage subsidies are dedicated to offering summer jobs and internships to Canadian students and graduates, allowing them to gain valuable experience while putting their skills to the test. From an employer's perspective, fresh ideas and competitive skills are made available.

YCW sponsors three summer job programs:

- YCW for Aboriginal Urban Youth
- YCW in Heritage Organizations
- YCW in Both Official Languages

#### http://www.pch.gc.ca/ycw-jct/html/prog\_summary\_e.htm

YCW also sponsors two internship programs for unemployed or underemployed college or university graduates:

- YCW at Building Careers in Heritage
- YCW at Building Careers in English and French

#### http://www.pch.gc.ca/ycw-jct/html/prog\_summary\_e.htm

Note: It is of great importance that students be assisted in following their own personal career goals. It is important that students be connected to French speaking mentors in areas that reflect their own interests. By contacting professional, business, multicultural and community groups, it is often possible to find French speaking mentors who are willing to come out and speak or to assist students in the pursuit of their goals. Many of these groups also offer scholarship opportunities in related fields or areas of study.

#### References

Canadian Parents For French. (2006). *Inventory of post-secondary opportunities* for anglophone students studying in French. IpsosReid. Access: http://www.cpf.ca/english/postsec/post\_secondary\_survery.html

Government of Canada (Privy Council Office). (2003). *The next act: New momentum for Canada's linguistic duality – The action plan for official languages*. Ottawa: Government of Canada.

Réseau des cégeps et des collèges francophones du Canada. (2003). Survol des facteurs qui influencent les diplômés des programmes d'immersion à poursuivre des études postsecondaires en français, Rapport Final. Access: http://rccfc.ca/pdf/etudes/survol\_des\_facteurs.pdf

All Web sites integrated in Chapter 11.