

TOURS SUMMER STUDY 2026

INFORMATION SESSION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In the summer of 2026, the Department of Romance and Classical Studies is offering its 39th consecutive French study program in Tours.

This program will give students a unique opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of French language and culture.

TOURS AND THE LOIRE VALLEY

- Tours is located in the beautiful Loire Valley, often called the garden of France
- A region of great cultural importance, famous for its historic and architectural heritage and majestic châteaux (among them Chambord, Chenonceau and Villandry).
- The city of Tours is 140 miles southwest of Paris, only 55 minutes from Paris by TGV (high speed train).
- It offers students an ideal place to study French in the relaxed atmosphere of a provincial city.



PLACE PLUMEREAU



LE TRAMWAY DE TOURS



CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU



CHÂTEAU D'AMBOISE



FOR MORE PHOTOS AND INFO:

<https://www.experienceloire.com/tours.htm>



You could spend weeks here and still not sample all the culinary delights the city has to offer. One of our favourites restaurants is 'Le Chien Jaune' which is conveniently situated near the tourist office and railway station - great interior!



PROGRAM DATES

4 Week– Intensive French Language Program

- **May 23 – June 20**

8 Week– French Language, Literature, and Culture Program (with IAH option)

- **May 23 – July 18**

ACADEMICS IN TOURS

- All classes taken at the *Institut de Touraine*
- Courses will be taught by faculty at the *Institut*
- The Institut de Touraine is a private language school in Tours
 - Founded in 1912
 - They welcome over 2000 language learners per year
 - Small classes based on proficiency level
 - French only instruction in mixed classrooms
 - MSU has worked with them for almost 40 years



ACADEMICS IN TOURS

8 Week program: May 23 – July 18

- Two sessions: (4 weeks + 3 weeks) with one week break in between for personal travel
- Students will take six credits of French during Session I
 - Intensive French language classes taught by *Institut* faculty
 - Credits to be distributed over whichever classes students need to complete a language requirement, a minor, or a major (students are not taking the specific MSU course)
 - Students will take a language placement test in April to determine level
 - These classes will be in mixed groups (not all MSU students)

ACADEMICS IN TOURS

8 Week program: May 23 – July 18

- Session 2:
 - Students will take either:
 - FRN 491 (3 credits)- “*Topics in French Culture: History of French civilization and Contemporary Issues*”
 - Taught in French; MSU only class (no other students at the *Institut*)
 - or
 - IAH 231C (4 credits)- “Language & National Identity: What makes France French?”
 - Taught in English by M. Kanefsky
 - Will satisfy a Tier II IAH requirement

IAH OPTION (TENTATIVE, BUT LIKELY)

IAH 23 I C: Language and National Identity: What makes France French?

- Only available on the 8-week program
- 4 Credits; Tier II
- In this course, students will explore the question: what makes a country a country? That is, from where does a national identity come? We will attempt to answer this question along linguistic lines by learning about the history of the French language and how it fits into the identity of France as a nation. Further, we will extrapolate these ideas to look at the United States and how language and culture work to form a national identity here.

ACADEMICS IN TOURS

4 Week program: May 23 – June 20

- Session I: (4 weeks)
- Students will take six credits
 - Intensive French language classes taught by *Institut* faculty
 - Credits to be distributed over whichever classes students need to complete a language requirement, a minor, or a major (students are not taking the specific MSU course)
 - Students will take a language placement test in April to determine level
 - These classes will be in mixed groups (not all MSU students)

ACADEMICS IN TOURS



- Classes run from 9am – 12:30
First Session: Some afternoon required workshops
- Students will be graded by the French scale (out of 20 points) and this will be translated to the MSU scale (4.0 scale)
- All credits will transfer to MSU credits— students will make progress towards their major/minor/language requirement
- Students will also have an opportunity to take the DELF or DALF (official French proficiency tests recognized worldwide)

ACADEMICS IN TOURS

Equivalent Credits:

- Courses are *Institut* courses, not MSU courses
- Students will get equivalent credits
 - In other words, students will get credit for the courses they still need to take for the major/minor.
- Course equivalents: 101, 102, 201, 202, 310, 320, 350, 430, 491

OBLIGATIONS

- Students must attend all classes and organized excursions
 - At other times students are on their own
- Classes will have homework and language lab work
- Students may attend regular office hours at the *Institut* or with the MSU Program Director
- Students should maximize their “language time” with their host families.

Important: This isn't a vacation. Maximize your language learning time.

HOUSING WHILE IN TOURS

- Students will be placed with host families during their stay
 - There is a housing preference sheet (allergies, dietary restrictions, etc.)
 - Usually one MSU student per family, but there may be other students there
 - Many of these host families have been doing this for a long time
 - All housing is within commutable distance (walking/public transport) of the *Institut*
- Includes:
 - 2 meals/day (breakfast & dinner) during the week; 3 meals/day on the weekends
 - laundry once/week
 - wifi
 - a complete and total immersion of language and culture (which is why you're there in the first place!)
- In case of serious problems, students will be able to switch their housing arrangements

EXCURSIONS

Throughout the summer, there will be various organized excursions and workshops

- Visiting different places in Tours
- Optional excursion to Paris
- Le Mont St. Michel
- Les châteaux de Chenonceau, Amboise,
- American Cemetery and D-Day Beach (Omaha)
- Daily walking tours with local students
- Optional local activities (bike ride to Villandry, canoeing on the Loire River, etc.)



COST: 3 COMPONENTS

- **Program fee:** \$4,245 (8 week) and \$2,205 (4 week)
 - Courses at the *Institut*
 - Housing with host family
 - Health Insurance
 - Excursions (bus and entrance fees)
 - Transfer to/from CDG via coach
- **MSU tuition:** 6, 9, or 10 credits at your normal rate depending on residency
 - 9 credits for in state undergrad: approx \$5,700
- **Out-of-Pocket:** (flight, spending money, etc.) approx \$3,000

HOLY VACHE ! THAT'S EXPENSIVE

- Scholarships

- For students who have a major in CAL:

- <http://excelnetwork.cal.msu.edu/scholarships/study-abroad-scholarships>

- For students with majors in colleges **other than** CAL:

- <http://educationabroad.isp.msu.edu/students/getting-started/financing/scholarships/#msu-colleges>

TRAVEL BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER

- You have the ability to arrive on site on your own.
- Some students choose to travel before/after the program on their own.
- For students on the 8 week program, you will have a week inter-session break where you are encouraged to travel (but are not required to).



HOW TO KEEP IN CONTACT

Before the trip

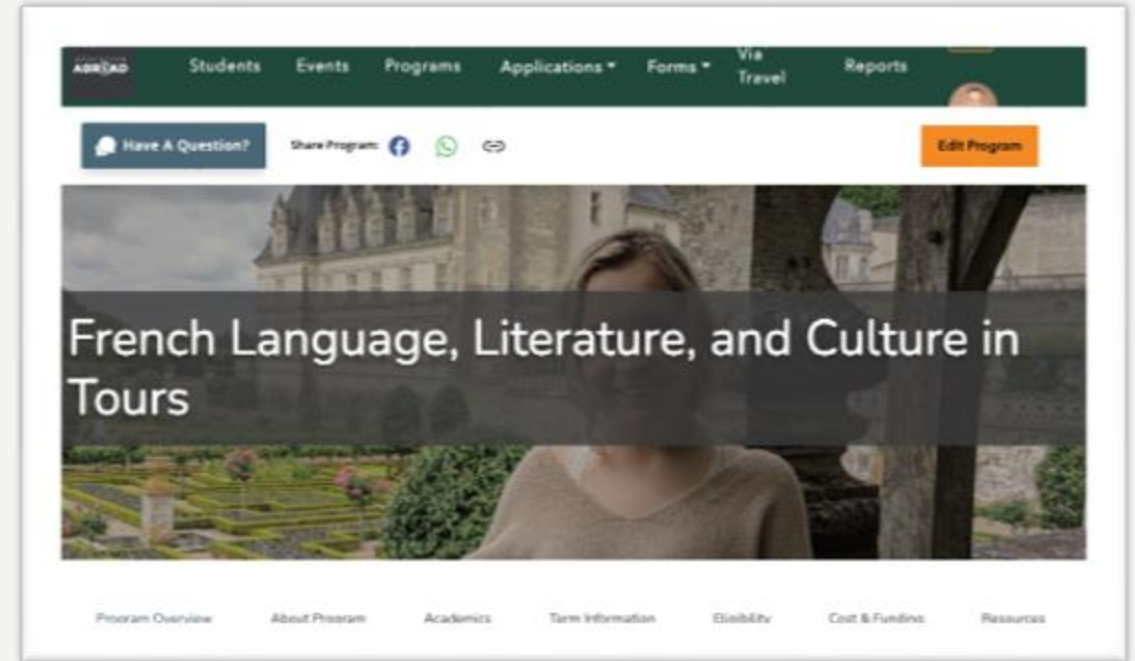
- <http://studyabroadtours.web.cal.msu.edu/>
- <https://msueducationabroad.via-trm.com/>
- Look out for emails from us
- You can also email us to ask questions

In France

- The Program Director will be accessible via cell phone (local French phone number) and we will also have a GroupMe set up.

Matt Kanefsky
kanefsky@msu.edu

HOW TO APPLY



<https://msueducationabroad.via-trm.com/>

8 Week Program:

https://msueducationabroad.via-trm.com/program_brochure/11742

4 Week Program:

https://msueducationabroad.via-trm.com/program_brochure/12343

ONCE ACCEPTED...

- We will have a few pre-trip orientations where we will go over...
 - Pre-departure paperwork (e.g. health insurance, STEP, passports, housing forms, etc.)
 - How various things function in France (e.g. cell phones, electricity, how to get around town, where to buy different products, etc.)
 - What to bring and what not to
 - Culture shock
 - Etiquette and attire (i.e. how not to stand out like a sore thumb!)
 - Behavior rules and expectations (including alcohol consumption)
- There is also a D2L pre-departure orientation developed by OEA

QUESTIONS???

