Experience Requirement – Department of French

What is the Experience Requirement?

Students enrolled in the Major or Honours Programs in the Department of French are required to demonstrate experiential learning of French. There are many ways students can fulfill this requirement:

- a minimum of 1.5 transferrable units from a francophone university obtained through a UVic International Exchange program; OR
- a minimum of 1.5 transferrable units from a francophone university obtained through a Letter of Permission (this includes the Explore program); OR
- a minimum of one Co-op term in a francophone environment through the Humanities Co-operative Education Program; OR
- completion of FRAN 250

What are students expected to do in FRAN 250?

When students are unable to go on an exchange, study at a francophone university on a letter of permission, or do a Co-op term in a francophone environment, they may contact the Chair of the French Department and request a permission to enrol in FRAN 250. It is to be noted that students need to have a valid reason to be allowed to complete FRAN 250 while residing in Victoria. In all cases students will be required to experience using French outside the classroom. The Department is committed to assisting its students in finding volunteer placements in a francophone environment.

Once enrolled in FRAN 250, students will need to document their experience by presenting a portfolio at the end of the term in which they are enrolled in FRAN 250. The portfolio can take many forms depending on the student’s interests and talents. If the student is NOT living in a francophone country or province, but instead is doing volunteer hours in French while in Victoria, (s)he will be required to obtain a letter from her/his supervisor stating that at least 60 hours of volunteer work have been done. This letter will be part of the portfolio submitted to the Chair of the Department.

What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is a documentation assembled by students in which are collected various artifacts that document the experience using French outside the classroom. An easy way to create a portfolio is to start a blog in French where the student writes (in French) about her/his experience. A blog allows its owner to add pictures, links, videos or any other digital document. Other students might prefer to start a journal written by hand in which other artifact can be added (pictures, drawings, newspaper articles, etc). Making a video (or a series
of videos) is another way to document one’s experience. In this case, the students would focus on developing her/his oral competencies.

**What amount of documentation should be provided?**

A portfolio will contain the following:

- a minimum of 10 entries (or short videos) documenting the student’s experience (from both a cultural and linguistic standpoint). 200 words minimum or 3 to 5 minutes videos.
- one final entry of at least 400 or 500 words indicating: 1) what this experience has taught you linguistically and/or culturally; 2) two or three specific aspects that you found particularly fascinating/ shocking/ strange/ stimulating/ engaging etc; 3) what you would do differently should you have to redo the experience.

**Grading:** COM, N, F