



LANGUAGE EVALUATION GUIDE: FRENCH

What is a Language Evaluation?

A Language Evaluation is used to determine proficiency in French. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills are evaluated using the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), which measures language proficiency from A1 (beginner) to C2 (native speaker).

Do I need a Language Evaluation?

It depends. If you plan to take courses in French, a Language Evaluation is required. If you plan to take courses only in English or at the beginner level of a Language and Culture program, some still universities require a Language Evaluation to ensure you have enough French to navigate daily life while others do not. Language requirements can be found under “Academics” on the ISEP program pages. If your application has Language Evaluation listed under the “Documents” section, you are required to submit it.

How do I get a Language Evaluation?

You can request a Language Evaluation under the “Documents” section of your application. Click “Request a Language Evaluation – French” and enter the name and email address of a current or recent French professor. Your professor will get an email inviting them to complete a short online form evaluating your French language skills. You may also be asked to upload a French writing sample.

I’m a heritage speaker of French—do I need to submit a Language Evaluation?

Yes, heritage speakers need to submit Language Evaluations. The only exceptions are students who can provide proof they completed significant schooling (high school level or above) in French.

What if I don’t have a French professor to complete the Evaluation for me?

Language Evaluations completed by a French professor who knows you are highly preferred, however ISEP understands that not all students have taken formal French courses. In these cases, students should check with their university’s French department about an appropriate placement test.

I don’t speak French—are programs in France open to me?

There are several programs that do not require a French Language Evaluation and are a good fit for students with little to no French experience. It is *strongly recommended* that students take at least one French language course prior to departure and enroll in a French as a Second Language course during their time abroad. Contact Student Services Officer Jolene Bechtel (jbechtel@isep.org) for more information and program recommendations.