

## **STUDENT LIFE**

### **Supervision of the students**

Students are assigned a special speaker whom they see every day; it is their professor of the General French course. The latter may provide personal assistance throughout the student's journey when it comes to studies or orientation.... In case of any difficulties, the students are encouraged to quickly get in touch with this resourceful person.

On the other hand, the head of the department is available for the students upon appointments. His role is to ensure a favorable learning environment for the students.

Results of the evaluations are officially given at the end of each session. Report cards include the grades of the students, with the comments and advice of the teachers, the number of absences and the final decision regarding the transition of the students to the next level.

### **University Calendar**

The academic year comprises two semesters of 2 sessions each; hence in total there are 4 sessions (each consisting of a 7-week course) corresponding to 4 levels. Each session consists of 9 Teaching Units and ends with an examination.

### **Initial Placement Test**

It is possible to directly integrate one of the advanced levels according to the results of the placement test that was taken on location at the beginning of the academic year. In this case, the first levels are automatically declared valid.

Evaluation: continuous test and final test

Continuous and final tests are used to test the knowledge.

The **continuous tests** force the student to attend regularly. They are prepared by the professor responsible of the Teaching Unit, with the final grade being the average of a series of written or verbal examinations.

The examination consists of 5 tests for each level (reading, writing, listening, speaking and grammar).

In order to pass from one level to another, an average of 10/20 is required. The final grade results from the average of the examination and the continuous tests grades, for all four levels.

### **University Diploma**

The grade of the University Diploma is the result of the average of the continuous test grade and the one of the examination (50%). The student is required to have a final grade of or superior to 10/20 in order to be accepted.

Following the June session, Level 3 students may sit for the University Diploma (examination without continuous tests for these students)

The September session does not take any continuous test into consideration. It is open for students who failed the University Diploma during the year (catching up) and to outside students wishing to enroll in the University.

### **Repeating**

No student is allowed to repeat the same level twice. Hence, students who fail the final examination of the same level twice are expelled.

### **ADMISSION INTO THE BACHELOR PROGRAMME**

*Students who wish to subscribe in the bachelor programme must receive the approval of the director of the department he chose. Receiving the University Diploma does not automatically guarantee the admission to the bachelor's programme.*

1<sup>st</sup> case:

The University Diploma granted by Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (with an average of 10/20) or the French Baccalaureate provide the possibility to register in the bachelor's programme

2<sup>nd</sup> case:

In case the student is not francophone, no Diploma lower than the B2 level is accepted.

At the same level of B2, the following Diplomas are accepted: DELF, TEF, TCF, SELFEE.

**3<sup>rd</sup> case:**

There are other diplomas which prove a good knowledge of the French language and sometimes they indicate a French curriculum, such as the baccalaureate of francophone countries.

Insofar as these degrees were not aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for languages, the students might be accepted in the bachelor's programme provided that a prior interview and a written test confirm their oral and written language skills.

These students are encouraged to take the DELF B2 test in their country of origin and include it in their application form.

## **RESULTS**

The current success rate in the University Diploma is 80% (academic year 2008-2009 and 2009-2010), yet our goals remain even more ambitious in terms of success within an academic year.

Experience confirms that an engaged and motivated student is able to master a foreign language in one year.

However, statistics show a tight relation between failure and truancy.

## **TESTIMONIALS**

*Razan Al Naeemy (3<sup>rd</sup> year of L.E.A.) :*

There are moments that pass in our lives and affect us deeply. That is why we find it hard to accept their end. However, the treasures that we have and that relieve us, are the memories which give us the opportunity to live the same experience over and over again.

All these feelings and thoughts take over me every time I think of my first year at the Sorbonne in FLE, which I consider one of the most beautiful years of my life. I had wonderful professors who made us taste the pleasure of learning a foreign language using extraordinary and interesting methods. Each one of these professors had their own style and teaching method while maintaining a friendly atmosphere. They were able to discover our talents and develop them. As for me, I am passionate about writing and reading and my professors helped me a lot by emphasis on these exercises in particular.

Furthermore, we used to work together on conversations, dialogues and projects. My colleagues were friendly and the will to cooperate helped us considerably.

At first, I thought that only the fact of speaking French is interesting. Yet I discovered that the path of learning is extremely entertaining by itself.

*Atif Al Baloushi (3<sup>rd</sup> year economy) :*

It is a wonderful source of pride to belong to Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, twin sister of the Parisian Sorbonne. For me, it is a unique experience: at the end of the academic curriculum in economy, I was able to discover through the French language, another culture not only rich, but diversified as well. Today, this culture is a part of me, and will accompany me in my future professional path, as a living testimonial of the influence of this “bridge between civilizations”

*Majeed al Khameeri (3<sup>rd</sup> year History) :*

Many ask me: isn't it hard to learn French in one year? I tell them: I don't know whether it's hard or easy, all I know is that we have to do it.

## **THE 6 LEVELS OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE FOR LANGUAGES:**

The C.E.C.R. sets the different linguistic levels of competency for all European languages in a general and homogenous manner.

### **Level A1 :**

Students can understand and use familiar everyday expressions in addition to basic phrases aimed at satisfying specific needs: they can present themselves or introduce someone else, ask questions (about their place of residence, relations, their belongings,..); they are also able to answer the same type of questions. They can communicate in a simple language if the person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help when needed.

### **Level A2 :**

Students can understand basic phrases and frequently used expressions related to specific important subjects (such as simple personal and family information, shopping, close environment, work). They can communicate while performing simple routine tasks which require an exchange of information. They can describe in simple terms their background, immediate environment and matters they meet specific needs.

### **Level B1:**

Students can understand the main points within a clear and standard conversation, namely when it's about familiar matters encountered regularly at work, school, leisure... they can deal with most situations during their travels to areas where the language is spoken. They can produce a simple and coherent text on topics which are familiar and of interest to them. They can recount an event, and experience or a dream, express a wish or a goal and briefly defend a project or an idea.

**Level B2 :** required level to apply for the bachelor's, it's the level of the University Diploma.

Students can understand the main gist of concrete or abstract subjects in a complex text, including a technical discussion in their own specialization. They can spontaneously and easily communicate with a native speaker. They can express themselves in a clear and detailed manner on different subjects, articulate an opinion on current issues and expose the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

### **Level C1 :**

Students can understand a wide series of long and demanding texts, and recognize implicit meanings as well. They can speak fluently and spontaneously without searching their words in an obvious manner. They can voice their opinion on various complex subjects in a clear and structured manner, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive speech.

### **Level C2 : complete mastery of the language**

Students can effortlessly understand what they read and hear; they may recall facts and arguments from various written and verbal sources and summarize them coherently. They can also speak very fluently spontaneously and accurately while differentiating between finer nuances in the meaning within more complex situations.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE TEACHINGS AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FLE (French as a Foreign Language)**

*Until level B2, the teachings target the written and oral comprehension, along with writing and reading. It is a teaching of the language.*

Students of all levels follow a course of “General French” (2 hours per day, coefficient 5), using a the “Connections” methods, while having the same teacher throughout an entire session. Students must buy the book at the beginning of the year.

### **Objectives of level 1**

This level recognizes basic knowledge, it is an elementary level for language use ("discovery"). Students at the end of level 1 must be able to understand and produce a simple sentence in spoken and written French. They should know the alphabet and master the simple sentence structure. They should also be able to punctuate a written text and show the intonation in a given speech.

### **Objectives of level 2**

With limited mastery of the language, students can understand and follow a discussion, give their point of view and voice their opinion.

At the end of Level 2, students should be able to understand and accurately produce expressions related to daily life activities and communicate clearly in most of these situations.

### **Objectives of level 3**

Students can understand and maintain a discussion, and participate with their point of view and opinion.

At the end of level 3, students should be able to tell, comment on and understand written and verbal subjective statements.

At level 3, and within the framework of the introduction to the bachelor's degree, students attend non specialized bachelor's courses, once a week (interdisciplinary courses). They are supervised by a FLE professor who attends the course with them and resume every session from notes taken in class.

#### **Objectives of level 4**

At the end of level 4, students should be capable of developing their own opinion, while defending them with valid arguments, both orally and in writing. They can efficiently use the language in a social, professional or academic (formal language) context.

In addition to the interdisciplinary courses, students attend a different specialized course every week, with their professor; this provides them with the possibility to attend all the majors taught at Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and decide upon their orientation knowingly.

#### **Objectives of level 5**

There is a fifth level specifically designed for students who receive they University Diploma during the academic year.

Students beyond the level of the Diploma continue their training in French. They are introduced to French literature and civilization. The programme helps acquire the working techniques and methodologies required of a French student in university (summary, commentary, essay, text analysis, translation). They can receive a C1 certification after sitting for a final exam.

#### **Computer: learning French with TICE (Information Technologies and Communication for Education)**

It is inevitable nowadays to use the Information Technologies and Communication for Education in language teaching. These educational techniques, supported by the Common European Framework of Reference for languages, aim and developing several computer-aided teaching scenarios in a collaborative and interactive environment.

The courses of the University Diploma for the FLE at PSUAD ensure a proper training at the TICE, in parallel to all other courses of the curriculum, which allows the new students to experiment with various tool designed to analyze and share the available teaching resources.

Hence and according to the level, the following subjects will be treated: basic knowledge in computers, rules of ethics and the integration of ethics in the use of computers, creating a collaborative learning environment on the Internet, use of available online language resources for

listening and writing, the use of educational tool aimed at improving grammar skills, the use of online dictionaries, the use of online databases for papers and references, the introduction to certain technologies from an educational perspective to exchange and spread data, the use of free software to draft and present research papers, etc.

In conclusion, this Teaching Unit allows the students to develop their capabilities in French and enhance their careers by posting a reference set of skills in terms of TICE.