



SORBONNE
UNIVERSITY
ABU DHABI

Foundation Year in Intensive French



The Foundation Year in Intensive French is designed to assist students acquire French proficiency and develop academic skills. The programme is delivered over one to four semesters (Fall and Spring) depending on students' level in French, academic profile and performance.

Intake	Programme Duration	
Late January	One semester (Spring)	Intermediate students of B1- level may undertake one semester and sit the DU exams at the end of the academic year (June).
September	Two semesters (Fall and Spring)	Beginners may undertake one year of Intensive French and sit the DU exams at the end of the academic year (June).
Late January	Three semesters (Spring Y1, Fall Y2, Spring Y2)	Beginners may undertake one year and half of Intensive French and sit the DU exams at the end of the second academic year (June).
September	Four semesters (Fall Y1, Spring Y1, Fall Y2, Spring Y2)	Beginners may undertake two years of Intensive French and sit the DU exams at the end of the second academic year (June).

The French as a Foreign Language (FLE) department provides non-French speaking students with the French language education that they need to succeed academically and professionally. Dedicated to preparing students for an undergraduate degree in French, this programme ensures that the students have the required language level whilst providing vital insight into French Higher Education.

The courses focus on each of the four skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking with an emphasis on vocabulary and grammar development. They promote intercultural awareness through the discovery of the French and Francophone cultures and civilisations. Students also attend methodology courses and get familiarized with academic methods and techniques, such as note-taking and research writing. The ICTE (Information and Communication Technology for Education) course provides a stimulating learning experience and aims to develop students' digital literacy skills through language learning. The programme offers also a big variety of elective courses such as cinema, film analysis, theater, creative writing, singing, mobile learning, debate club, etc.

The curricula are developed in line with the objectives and the levels as described in the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR). The courses are delivered by a team of qualified professors specialized in teaching French as a Foreign Language (FLE). Upon successful completion of the Foundation Year students sit the University Diploma in Intensive French (DU), which demonstrates that they have the appropriate level of French Proficiency for admission to an undergraduate program taught in French.

Intensive day courses 21-23 hours per week

At the beginning of every academic year, two levels will be offered:

- A beginner's level for those who haven't studied French before. Students will start as beginners at the commencement of the year and will sit the DU (University Diploma in Intensive French) exam at the end of the first or second year depending on their academic progress.
- An intermediate level for students who did not obtain the Diploma in Intensive French (DU) the previous year and new students who have learned French before-these students will be assigned to the intermediate level after an initial placement test in September. The intermediate level aims to improve the command of the French language and prepare students properly for their bachelor degree. It offers the possibility to follow 2 or 4 weeks of courses (as audit students) in undergrade departments of their choice. Students at the intermediate level will sit the University Diploma exams (DU) in June and are also encouraged to take the DELF B2 exam.

New beginners group are also launched at the beginning of the spring semester.

Intensive evening courses 9 hours per week

At the beginning of every academic year, two levels will be offered:

- A beginner's level for those who haven't studied French before. At the end of the first year, beginner students will sit the internationally-recognised and valid-for-life DELF A2 exams and are expected to achieve their University Diploma in Intensive French after two years.
- An intermediate level for those continuing from the beginner's level and new students who have learned French before and can provide evidence of this by presenting a DELF A2 certificate. Students who consider themselves at A2 level but do not have a formal certificate may be accepted based on the results of a placement test. At the end of the year, students are expected to sit the Diploma in Intensive French (DU) at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

All evening students will have 9 hours of class per week over 3 evenings, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., covering general French, writing, speaking, listening and additional cultural activities, 1 evening per month.

Summer courses

- All students are encouraged to study one month in France during the summer break. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi can help students organise their stay.
- Intensive courses will be organized to prepare students who fail their exam in June, as well as external candidates who wish to pass the DU in September and enter an undergraduate programme taught in French.



Admission requirements

To join the Foundation Year in Intensive French, students must meet the required minimum criteria of the program applying to.

They also need to pass an entry test in English organized by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. Students with A2 or B1 French Aptitude Certificate are exempted from the entry test. Applicants who are applying to join the intermediate level should also sit a French placement test to confirm their French language ability.

Career prospects

This diploma provides graduates with the opportunity to pursue further academic studies in French at Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi and Paris.

Furthermore, a sound command of French will place students in good stead for a range of rewarding careers in private institutions, consultancies, government, diplomatic institutions, education and tourism organizations around the world.

Tuition Fees

(Including administration fees AED 2,700)

Intensive day classes

(starting in spring semester, over one semester) AED 25,700

Intensive day classes (over 1 year):

AED 48,700 (approximately US\$ 13,271)

Intensive day classes

(starting in spring semester, over one year and a half):

AED 25,700 (for the spring semester) and

AED 48,700 (for the following academic year)

Intensive evening classes

AED 36,700 (for the first year)

AED 36,700 (for the second year)

Scholarship options*:

Emirati citizens receive the H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan scholarship grant covering administrative and tuition fees for the Foundation Year in Intensive French and for the undergraduate programme. This scholarship applies only to Intensive day classes and only for students who will continue with a Bachelor degree at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

For non-Emirati students and for the evening course, academic excellence scholarships are offered covering up to 75% of the tuition fee. The 10% family discount is also applicable. Students receive an administrative fee waiver of AED 2,700 when they register during the Open Day.

*Conditions apply
Visit our website for more information.

Why Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi?

In today's fast-paced and globalised economies, knowledge and languages both serve an important role in creating progressive and vibrant societies. The French education system is known for its high level of rigorous critical thinking and debating skills, which play a significant role in developing future pioneers and leaders. Sorbonne Abu Dhabi is a globally recognised education institution that serves as a bridge between civilisations by offering a multicultural environment, which promotes and develops a strong culture of tolerance, curiosity, harmony and cultural awareness for today's modern economy. Students have access to internationally acclaimed faculty, world-class facilities and internationally certified degrees, which places them firmly on the right path in preparation for a successful career.

For more information, please contact:

Tel: +971 (0) 2 656 9330/555

Email: admissions@sorbonne.ae

PO Box 38044, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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