

NORWICH UNIVERSITY: MINOR IN FRENCH, INVEST IN THE FUTURE!

- ✗ French is ranked the second most important communication language in the world after English. It is spoken in more than 56 countries in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- ✗ "French is spoken by more people than ever — 220 million worldwide, according to the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF). With 96.2 million Africans speaking French at the moment, the OIF believes that rising rates of literacy and birth rates mean there could be 700 million French-speakers in the world by 2050."



"French as a foreign language is the second most frequently taught language in the world (116 million people are learning and programs are available in every single country worldwide)."

See: "Bloomberg Rankings," 2014 and "From Paris to Dakar," *Language Magazine: The Journal of Communication and Education*, Sept. 2012, Web.

French and English are the two official or working languages of:

- ✗ African Union
- ✗ United Nations
- ✗ NATO
- ✗ Council of Europe
- ✗ UNESCO
- ✗ Doctors without Borders
- ✗ Interpol/Francopol/Milipol
- ✗ International Olympic Committee
- ✗ Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- ✗ World Health Organization
- ✗ Universal Postal Union

French for business, technology, sciences:

- ✗ Reuters has identified France as the innovation leader in Europe
- ✗ France is the second largest investor in the US and the US is the leading investor in France.
- ✗ French-speaking countries are on the cutting edge of scientific discoveries, nuclear, and technological innovations
- ✗ French-speaking countries have been at the forefront of medical research
- ✗ The US will be investing economically and militarily in French-speaking Africa

See: 2012 Thomson Reuters Top 100 Global Innovators; American Association of Teachers of French, "Why Study French," *The French Language Initiative: The World Speaks French*, 10 Dec. 2012, Web.; Whitney Schneidman, Transforming the U.S.-Africa Commercial Relationship," Brookings Institution, 2013. Web.

French as a category A, immediate investment, strategic language

Based on assignment, for the US Army (and Air Force), French is listed as a category A language that may qualify for top Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus Pay, in the same list as:

- ✗ Dialects of Arabic
- ✗ Chinese
- ✗ French*
- ✗ Languages of India
- ✗ Languages of Indonesian
- ✗ Japanese
- ✗ Korean
- ✗ Dialects of Persian
- ✗ Afghan (Dari)/Iranian (Farsi)
- ✗ Dialects of Portuguese
- ✗ Dialects of Pashtu
- ✗ Russian

*Source: (Current) Army Foreign Language Program. AR 11-6 2009 .The demand for French is currently classified.

For the Marine Corps, French appears on the DoD Strategic Languages List and is in strong demand, on the same list as Chinese and Arabic. See "MCFLP Focus for 2008," pp. 3 and 5; <http://www.nps.edu/services/usmc/Docs/FLPPSchedule_SLL2.pdf. Similarly for NAVY, see document: OPNAV Instruction 7220.7G/N13F/13 MAY 2011: FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY BONUS PROGRAM; and for Coast Guard: ALCOAST 275/06; FLPP Linguist Authorizations

Areas of military and humanitarian interest where French is spoken

- ✗ Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Republic of Macedonia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritius, Mauritania, Moldova, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia
- ✗ Caribbean: Haiti
- ✗ French is spoken, but not officially acknowledged: Algeria, Syria, Libya



France: A strong ally in the fight against terrorism

- ✘ French and American inter-agency work notably in East Africa; in North Africa; in the Mideast; and in the Caucasus, where **several terrorist organizations with links to al Qaeda** are based, as uncovered by the French anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguière).
- ✘ **French marines, foreign legionaries, and special forces “have vast experience in expeditionary forces in West Africa....** They really know the territory, the boundaries, the topography and the ethnic problems.” --Paul Ames, “Europe’s Army? Despite defense cuts, few European countries come close to France for military power,” *Global Post*. Web. 27 Jan 2013.
- ✘ **“France is the world’s most sophisticated practitioner of counterterrorism.** The U.S. can learn from her experience.” -- Marc Gerecht Reuel and Gary J. Schmitt, “What France Does Best,” *The American*. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (Mar/Apr 2008).
- ✘ **The nature of the French-US activities against Daech/ISIS** is currently considered classified information.

French is important for AFRICOM (U.S. African Command operations) and Foreign Area Officers

- ✘ Brig. Gen. Capasso, AFRICOM’s director of C-4 Systems expressed the need for French linguists: “We have requirements for some of our contractors to be bilingual. Many of our African nation counterparts speak French.” **“French and English will be key languages for sharing information across a broader spectrum.”**
- ✘ **French, French-speaking African troops and American military train together.** See article: “U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Crisafulli was awarded the French National Defense Medal (Silver Level) for his “exceptional service” in close, operational coordination with French Forces during his tour as U.S. Army Africa Liaison Officer (LNO) to U.S. Africa Command,” AFRICOM.

See also: David Walsh, “Africom builds cooperation with collaboration: Language and tech barriers pose a challenge to the new command’s C4 efforts,” *Defense Systems*, July 7, 2008; see also: Report to Congressional Committees, GAO-12-556, 10 May 2012. Web, 1 Jul2013; many articles on the AFRICOM website featuring training between US, French, African troops.



The Norwich French Program

- ★ **Communicative and interactive at all levels:**
- ✘ For beginning and intermediate: a strong audio-video program facilitates learning language from native speakers through visuals and oral patterning for the professions
- ✘ Includes cultural focus in every course
- ✘ Literature, civilization courses and international French-language news also help students develop a more global perspective
- ★ **Offers service-learning courses and community service with leadership opportunities:**

Examples:

- + French-language interpreter /cultural role-play with 40 members of the National Guard
- + Preparing French biographies of NU cadets who served in WWI France
- + French-Heritage activities at the Festival of Nations, Crown Pt, NY
- + Translation of brochure for Washington County Battered Women Services and Shelter

Norwich’s Study Abroad Program with L’École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr

- ★ Semester abroad student exchange program at the French military academy (ESM) in Coëtquidan, France
Visit: <http://libarts.norwich.edu/modern-languages/french-minor/st-cyr/>
- ✘ Other programs in Canada, France, Africa: see your professor for details!
- ★ **Join Norwich’s weekly French Club/Cercle Francophone lunch sessions!**

Want to know more? Come see us !

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We look forward to seeing you.

À bientôt!