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Study Abroad Office

Principia College

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Tahiti, French Polynesia

Language Ecology: French

Program Description

This is an immersive French language and culture program designed to provide all-level students of French with a unique experience in one of France's overseas territories. It provides them with an understanding of the way language and culture ecology works. Language ecology is defined as the study of how languages interact with each other and the settings in which they are spoken. While strengthening their communicative skill in the French language, students experience the relationship between French and not only the other spoken languages in the islands, but also the island's socio-cultural and natural environment.

Alongside French, other Polynesian ethnic languages are spoken in Tahiti and the other surrounding islands. Polynesia is a mixture of several ethnic groups living in a harmonious relationship. This is the best setting to explore language and culture ecology. Students will be exposed not only to another dialect of the French language, but also to a multilingual setting where linguistic negotiations and cultural dynamics happen in almost all the aspects of daily life.

This program is open to all majors.



Applications

(see Application Instructions on page 4 for more information)

Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F24

Completed applications must be submitted to the Principia Study Abroad Office no later than **5:00 pm** on **Wednesday of Week 4, September 18, 2024**.

No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Program Staff

This program will be directed by Julien Ekiaka Oblazamengo, Assistant Professor of Languages and Cultures.

Julien Ekiaka is professor of French and Spanish in the Department of Languages and Cultures. He holds a doctorate degree in Bilingual Education from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, a Masters degree from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a completed MBA coursework from the Universidad Organismo Mundial de Investigación in Mexico City, and a Bachelors degree in Philosophy from St Augustin Seminary (D. R. Congo). Julien, a travel lover, is a multicultural and multilingual educator who has lived and studied in different educational systems. He likes to travel at least to one new place per year. To him, travelling is his preferred living learning book. He is excited to introduce students to experiential learning and to help engage students in broadening their perspectives. His research focuses on social justice education, multicultural-multilingual education, and foreign language teaching. Julien led the summer 2023 Spain Study Abroad.

A program resident counselor will be named at a later date.



Academics

A total of **5** semester hours of credit will be earned with this program: 1 SH during Spring 2025, 3 SH during Summer 2025, and 1 SH during Fall 2025. Final grades for all courses will be determined by the program faculty.

SPRING SEMESTER 2023

SPST 280: Orientation Seminar: French Polynesia

SH: 1 Attribute: None

The orientation seminar is an opportunity for students to prepare academically, culturally, and logistically for the upcoming study abroad. Taught on campus spring semester, 2025.

SUMMER BREAK 2023

FREN 101: Introductory French I

FREN 136: Language & Culture Workshop Abroad I

FREN 236: Language & Culture Workshop Abroad II

FREN 336: Language & Culture Workshop Abroad III

SH: 3 Attribute: GE2L for FREN 136

Attribute: none for FREN 236 and 336

This course focuses on language study with native speakers at a language school.

FALL SEMESTER 2023

SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: French Polynesia

SH: 1 Attribute: none

Taught on campus fall semester 2025, this required reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to articulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study abroad experience. Students share their growth and experiences through reflection and writing assignments, directly linked to the Study Abroad Office learning outcomes, of intercultural competence and multicultural professional development, and create a community presentation.

Preliminary Program Itinerary

Week #1: Arrive in Papeete, Tahiti and travel to meet the language school. Meet host families. Attend language school each weekday in the mornings. Host families provide breakfast and dinner. There will be afternoon time built-in for some rest, some cultural activities as a group (at the school or off school), and for some relaxation and independent exploration. During cultural trips, lunch packages will be provided by host families. The students will end the day with dinner with their host families.

Weekend 1 Activity: Explore Papeete and surroundings.

Week #2: Attend language school instruction in the mornings. The whole group will have lunch in the early afternoon to discuss specific cultural experiences and do individual reflective journaling. Students return to their homestays for dinner.

Weekend 2 Activity: Excursion to Moorea Island

Week #3: Language instruction in the morning in Papeete plus individual reflective journaling. **Weekend 3 Activity:** 3-day Excursion to Huahine Island.

Week #4: Language instruction in the morning in Papeete plus individual reflective journaling. The final days will allow time to study and final language exams as well as have time for a debrief, and farewell ceremony (dance, presentations, food, etc.).

Note: Depending on the weather or the sea condition, some cultural activities can happen in the morning. Then courses will be taught in the afternoon.

Please note: At this time, this program is scheduled to begin on May 26, 2025 and conclude June 17, 2025.

Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2024. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) for additional student eligibility criteria.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant at the end of Week 8, fall semester 2024, regarding the decision on his/her application. Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put her or him on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the *Principia Conduct Standards* or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

Cost

The cost of this abroad program will be the same as tuition for 3 semester hours, \$300 a week for room and board (\$1,200 for this break program), airfare up to \$1,500, and a \$150 study abroad fee.

The following expenses will be **INCLUDED** in the program: all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs **NOT INCLUDED**: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the program cost.

Please see the “Financial Aid and Responsibility” section to the right to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

Study Abroad Grant

Students who receive **only Principia need-based aid** are eligible for an additional Study Abroad Grant to help with expenses not covered by financial aid and scholarships. (Merit scholarships do not count as need-based aid.) These costs may include flights, room and board, administrative fee, and opportunity costs. Preference is given to students who demonstrate financial need, are first-time study abroad participants, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Vaccination & Health Information

Uncertainties with international travel include the possibility of airlines, the U.S. government, foreign governments, and/or in-country partner program providers requiring COVID-19 or other vaccinations. Information or evidence about participants' status with regard to vaccinations may be required by these entities. Program participants may be subject to these requirements, and need to be aware of them. Failure to comply with these requirements may mean inability to travel or participate in the study abroad program.

In order to manage the uncertainties of international travel safely and effectively, the Study Abroad Office will collect required vaccination and other relevant health information from all participating program faculty, staff, and students. At this time, people entering Nepal must show proof of COVID vaccination or a negative test. (See [French Polynesia Entry Requirements](#).)

For more information regarding health and safety for Principia Study Abroad programs, visit our website: [Health & Safety Resources](#)

Eligibility and Prerequisites

This study abroad is open to all students in good academic and social standing, regardless of major. There are no prerequisites for the French Polynesia Study Abroad. If accepted, all students are required to participate in the spring semester, 2025, orientation seminar.

We expect students to show a commitment to solving problems metaphysically and to developing strength of character. Other fundamental criteria for selection include the student's responses to the essay questions on the application and responses in the interview with the program faculty and RC.

Students must meet the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) to apply for and remain on this program.

Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2024-2025 academic year will have their loans, scholarships, and grants automatically applied toward **tuition only** (3SH). Your PrinBill will also include room and board (\$1,200) and the Study Abroad fee (\$150), but **no financial aid will be applied toward these costs**.

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Student Billing Representative, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after **Wednesday, November 20, 2024**, they agree to pay to Principia a penalty fee of the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all prepaid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account, and payment will be due by **April 15, 2025**.

Study Abroad Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: bit.ly/study-abroad-app-F24
- To authenticate the Google Form application submission, you **must use your Principia email address**.
- **DUE DATE:** Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 (Week 4)**.
No late applications will be accepted!
- The application has **9 sections**, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
 1. **Personal Information:** The first section includes basic **personal information** including PO1 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
 2. **References:** The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
 3. **Academic Advisor Meeting:** The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature
 4. **Resident Counselor Meeting:** The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature
 5. **Additional Questions:** The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted.
 6. **Essay Questions:**
 - a) Why are you interested in participating in this particular program: what do you know about French Polynesian culture? What do you envision you'll learn in this program and how?
 - b) Please describe your spiritual practice, in specific regard to how you envision it being relevant to participating in this study abroad program.
 - c) Describe an experience where you needed to work to accomplish something with a group (consider your roles as leader and/or follower).
 - d) Explain your willingness to be responsible for your own learning as well as your willingness to be flexible and adventurous in your learning. Provide examples illustrating your ability to be a self-motivated, curious, fearless, and flexible learner.
 - e) Provide a brief description of yourself and your world perception (how do you see the world and yourself – How do you navigate in this world?)

The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics:

7. **Financial Responsibility** – including commitment and withdrawal deadlines. **If applying for Study Abroad Grant, additional questions will be asked in this section to explain specific funding need.*
 8. **Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#).
 9. **Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, Principia's standards, additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024 (Week 4)**. Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Allison Terry with any questions – allison.terry@principia.edu or 618-374-5215 – or stop by School of Government, Suite 160 (SOG 160).