

Programmes with French at the University of Surrey

As you know, studying French at Surrey is all about improving your language competencies in order to use the language in a professional way, and increasing your knowledge and understanding of French and francophone culture around the world. Here are a few suggestions about how best to prepare for your studies in French with us.

Post A-level French

In your first year you will take a **French language** module in both semesters, and a **French culture and society** module in the second semester. You may also take a **French translation** module in semester 1.

For the **French language** modules, we use a course book, which will be used regularly throughout the first year, so is the one book you probably will want to purchase. However, we do have copies in the University library.

- Boularès, Michèle, Frérot, Jean-Louis. (1997). *Grammaire Progressive Du Français: Grammaire Progressive - Niveau Avancé*. Paris : Clé International.

For the module **Introduction to France and the French-speaking World**, there is no course book, but you might find the following books useful:

- Labrune, G., Toutain, Ph., Zwang, A. 2015. *L'Histoire de France*, Nathan. (There are older versions in the library)
- Labrune, G., Juguet, I. 2014. *La Géographie de la France*, Nathan.

We also recommend that you make use of online resources to read, watch and listen to French regularly. Just watching or listening to the news every day would be a good start. Here are some of the options we recommend.

JOURNAUX

- www.lemonde.fr
- www.figaro.fr
- www.liberation.fr
- <http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/> (hebdomadaire de société)
- www.lexpress.fr (hebdomadaire de société)
- <http://www.lesechos.fr/> (presse économique)
- <http://www.la-croix.com/> (quotidien catholique d'information générale)
- <http://www.lesinrocks.com/> (musique, culture)

TELEVISION

- <https://www.francetvinfo.fr/replay-jt/france-2/20-heures/>
- <https://www.france24.com/fr/>
- www.canalplus.fr (pour les émissions de divertissement)

RADIO

- www.radiofrance.fr

Allez sur **France Info** (pour des infos assez brutes et factuelles); **France Inter** (pour des émissions culturelles, politiques, économiques) ou **France Culture** (très haut de gamme). Les autres radios, musicales notamment, sont aussi de bonne qualité.

- <http://www.frenchradiolondon.com/french/home/>
- <http://www.europe1.fr/>
- <http://www.rtl.fr/>

RESSOURCES EN LIGNE

- <http://www.rfi.fr/lfen/statiques/accueil.asp>
- **Netflix** (excellente section internationale!).

If you want to find out more about **French history**, or other aspects of **French culture and society**, there are plenty of online resources. Here are some useful and reliable sources:

- **Hérodote. net – le média de l’histoire** - <https://www.herodote.net/>
An excellent resource with short accessible articles on many areas of French and world history. Particularly relevant is the section **L’Histoire de France racontée à tous** : https://www.herodote.net/L_Histoire_de_France_racontee_a_tous-synthese-292-5.php
- **Musée de l’histoire de l’immigration** - <https://www.histoire-immigration.fr/>
Lots of interesting information, including interviews with immigrants, short film on the history of immigration
- **Vie publique** - <https://www.vie-publique.fr/>
Under the heading ‘société’ you can find short articles on areas such as education, family, culture, health and environment.

***Ab initio* French**

In your first year you will have intensive language classes which aim to bring you up to a similar level to students who already have an A level. You will have six contact hours per week rather than three, in order to give you plenty of opportunities to practise the language and gain confidence. We will not be using a course book but we will use a grammar book, which you may wish to purchase in advance:

Crocker, Mary (2018). *Schaum's Outline of French Grammar, Seventh Edition*, McGraw-Hill Education.

We will also be using texts from other books and many online materials in French. In the second semester the *ab initio* language classes will ensure that you have covered the same professional language as the post A level class and will also give language support for the Introduction to France module.

If you would like to prepare for this module before you have learnt much French, there are many resources, both books and online, that cover French history, culture and society in English.

You could start with Encyclopaedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/place/France>
or Geoff Hare’s French Links: <http://www.frenchlinks.co.uk/pubs2003-14.html>