



Arts and Social Sciences

Université François Rabelais

September 2017

\$1400 CAD

French Major (with Concentration for
Prospective Teachers)

France

December 2017

€60

Canadian

Acceptance letters from both the home and host institutions, Canadian passport, proof of financial resources, two recent identity photos, student card

Vancouver, Canada

A couple of weeks

I took a TGV (high-speed) train from the Charles de Gaulle (CDG) Airport in Paris to the Gare de Tours in Tours, France, and it was a relatively simple process.

Charles de Gaulle (CDG) in Paris, France

The orientation session at the Université François Rabelais is mandatory for all exchange students. At the session, they explain important information such as how to get your student card and what paperwork you are required to complete, how to set up an account on the UFR student system, how to search and register for courses, university resources available to students (such as the library, printing services, sports, the Tandem-language program), advisors that students can contact, etc. The information presented was very helpful and pertinent for my exchange in Tours.

During the whole term

Depends; usually around €50

To take CUEFEE courses (French-as-a-second-language courses), there is a fee that students need to pay at the beginning of the semester, but I believe that the fee varies with how many CUEFEE courses you are taking. Another language program available at the UFR is the Tandem-language program, in which two students are paired up and do a one-hour conversation session together, half of which is in one student's language and the other half of which is in the other student's language. The Tandem program is free of charge.

The Tanneurs Residence, as it is in a very central and convenient location.

€264

1-2 minute walk to the Tanneurs academic building (the Lettres et Langues building). Other academic buildings are spread out around Tours.

Wire transfer

I lived on on-campus housing, however I knew of several exchange students who lived with host families, so this would be another option in terms of housing in Tours.

About €350 - €450

I would recommend that students bring some local currency for when they first arrive, just in case their debit/credit cards don't work right away or if some restaurants, businesses, or other services they access only accept cash.

Some establishments or restaurants only accepted cash, but most establishments also accepted debit cards issued by local banks or international credit cards.

All students are given the first month of the term to try out different courses, and can browse available courses on the UFR student system once they arrive in Tours, register as an exchange student, and create an account on the system. Once we were certain of the courses that we wanted to take, we were required to fill out a "Learning Agreement" form, on which we had to get the signatures of all our professors confirming that they approved our enrollment into their course and that they were aware of the presence of exchange students in their class. After we gathered all of these signatures, we then needed to get the form approved by our assigned pedagogical coordinator at the UFR. Finally, we had to hand in the form to one of the advisors for international/exchange students so that he/she could officially enroll us into our selected courses.

French/ Foreign Languages/ Education (Teaching French as a Second Language)

Yes

The main academic benefit from my exchange at the UFR in Tours, France was that I was able to greatly improve my skills in all aspects of the French language. I was able to improve my oral speaking and comprehension skills, because I was immersed in a francophone environment and because I was interacting with native French speakers daily in everyday situations. As well, taking courses at a French university helped me significantly improve my comprehension skills because I had to keep up with course content that was being delivered for native French speakers. My classes also developed my writing and grammatical French skills, as I was pushed to think in French as I wrote (instead of translating from English to French), and to produce written work that was well-structured, coherent, and at an acceptable level for the standards of a French university.

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