



Deaf Culture, History, and Sign Language in France

May 14-June 3, 2023

ASLA 113: French Sign Language and Deaf Culture in France (4 Credits)

The ASL Program at the University of Rochester, located in Rochester New York, is offering a unique study abroad experience in France in summer 2023. It is open to Deaf and hearing college-level ASL students and professionals. This three-week program gives ASL users an opportunity to learn French Sign Language and French Deaf Culture in both formal and informal settings to further their understanding of the international Deaf World. **It is available to anyone who meets the prerequisites below; it is not limited to University of Rochester students.**

A native Deaf French faculty member from the University of Rochester partners with several members of the French Deaf community to jointly plan the program, schedule, and curriculum.

This four-credit program will focus on basic and advanced learning of conversational LSF (French Sign Language) and on field trips fostering a broad understanding of French Deaf Culture and general French Culture in Paris (weeks 1 and 2) and in regions beyond the capital (week 3). Students will attend classes on LSF and French Deaf History and Culture in the two weeks. They will also attend guided tours of culturally significant sights such as renowned museums, a Deaf theater, Lyon and other villages and Deaf schools. **All classes and tours will be conducted in LSF and International Sign.** Study will begin before going to France, as students will receive the course syllabus and materials for review and familiarization. **This will be built upon during the LSF and Deaf Culture classes in Paris, France.**

Program Prerequisites

UR students must have successfully completed ASLA 105: Intermediate American Sign Language. For non-UR students, a Sign Communication Proficiency Interview is not required, but if applicants have one, it must be rated at the intermediate- level or above. Applicants' sign language proficiency will also be evaluated by a conversation with the Program Director, Professor Chastel. Learning written French is optional for this program.

Program Requirements

This program is **open to anyone who has at least 15 credit hours of university instruction** and at least intermediate-level ASL skills. You must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA to participate or be accepted upon special permission of the instructor. All participants require final approval by the faculty member. The University of Rochester also reserves the right to review conduct records as part of our application process and student conduct records are considered when making the determination on an applicant.

How to Apply

Apply online through the Education Abroad Portal:

https://studyabroad.rochester.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10063. **The deadline for applying is February 15, 2023.**

Faculty

Guillaume Chastel, MA in Deaf Education/Math, Gallaudet University, Washington DC, 1997. Lecturer for ASL 3, 5, Deaf Culture courses, and LSF. Workshops include math and science interpreting, ASL numbers and fingerspelling, and other topics since April '03. He was born in Paris and grew up in Aix-en-Provence in the South of France.

Program Contacts

Professor Guillaume Chastel: (585) 286-2714 (VP) guillaume.chastel@rochester.edu
UR ASL Program: (585) 273-5165 ASL@rochester.edu
UR Center for Education Abroad: (585) 275-7532 abroad@admin.rochester.edu

Program Dates

All participants must arrive in Paris by **Sunday, May 14**. Please be in touch with our office as well as the instructor, Guillaume Chastel, to organize your arrival in Paris. All participants must meet on **Sunday, May 14** at the hotel. The course program will conclude on **Saturday, June 3**. Please make sure that your return flight leaves **Saturday, June 3**.

Program Costs

The program cost is \$4,000. The cost will include accommodations in France, program-sponsored in-country travel, site visits, field trips, and some meals. Not included in this price are items such as the cost of roundtrip airfare between the US and Paris, academic supplies, passports, visa (if needed), food, and other personal expenses. Estimated costs for lunch and dinner over the 20 days are a minimum of \$300. Program costs are subject to change due to currency fluctuations, unexpected increases in transportation costs, program changes or University of Rochester policy changes.

UR offers a variety of scholarships for Rochester students who participate in programs organized or led by UR faculty. UR undergraduates in AS&E who participate in faculty programs abroad for credit are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students with little or no previous participation in a program abroad. Selection is based on financial need, merit, and the student's ability to articulate their interest in going abroad. Recipients will be expected to share their experiences with the University community and/or with the scholarship donor, depending upon the scholarship awarded.

Continuing Education Credit for Professionals

If you would like to earn RID CEU's for registered interpreters for the Deaf, contact Guillaume Chastel at guillaume.chastel@rochester.edu for information.