

# Grenoble, France

## Amy Parkin

**Program:** Intensive French Language & Culture, Summer 2019

**Major:** Elementary Education

### Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



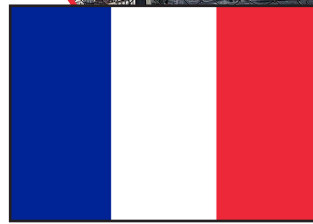
I earned this badge by attending class every day, Monday through Friday. In addition to that, I was also given the chance to live with a host family, which helped me stay fully immersed in the French language for my full program.

The experience of living with native

French speakers was unlike anything I could have imagined. It was

challenging, and unnerving at times, especially when six pairs of

French eyes are staring at you as you try to remember how to conjugate what you did that day. But, being able to sit down at dinner, and chat about their culture, and ask questions about their country, as well as listen to their conversations really pushed me to speak, and understand the language and culture in a way that couldn't have been achieved with classes alone. Studying in a city like Grenoble also helped me earn this badge. Grenoble wasn't a large tourist destination, therefore there was little to no English, and populated by, for the most part, locals. There were countless museums, restaurants and festivals to attend. Therefore, I was able to really live and breathe the culture every day. I came to appreciate the differences, history, and really fall in love with the country, and the French people.



### Transferable Skills:



It was intimidating to be in a country where I spoke very little of the language, there were plenty of times I didn't feel comfortable enough to speak at all, it took a lot of courage to even order food, or ask directions when I first arrived. That feeling of not knowing the language is something I'll never forget, and will help me understand what so many of my students, when I start teaching, will be going through not knowing the language while they are trying to learn. I had the chance to meet and work with students and people from many different backgrounds. Now that I'm home, I want to share my love and respect for different cultures everyday.

**“This experience has helped me grow in so many ways, it expanded my world and challenged me to step out of my comfort zone. I immersed myself in a beautiful culture and people that I miss everyday. I was only in Grenoble for five weeks, but I left with a lifetime of lessons and memories that I will never forget.”**