

Grenoble, France

Julianne Liu



Program: Intensive French Language & Culture, Summer 2019

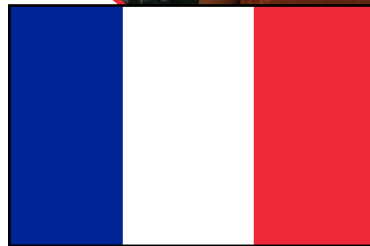
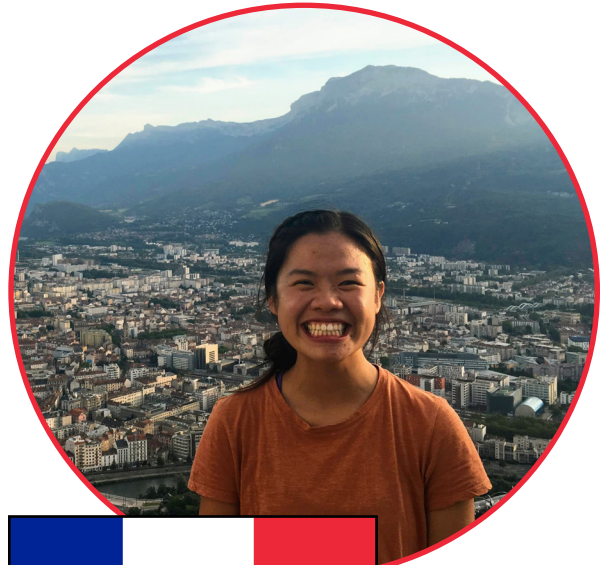
Majors: Environmental & Sustainability Studies & French

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



Situated in the heart of La Résistance during World War II, Grenoble provides the perfect atmosphere to dive headfirst into French language and culture. At the Centre Universitaire d'Études Françaises at the Université Grenoble Alpes, my courses formally refined my language skills. Moreover, my host

family helped me improve my conversational and cross-cultural fluency over dinner discussions, subjects ranging from describing ourselves and our days to uncovering similarities and differences between our cultures, governments, education systems, and eco-friendly practices. Each day presented fresh opportunities to practice my French with encouraging locals. Whether it was navigating the pharmacy, resolving public transportation mishaps, or befriending shop-owners, museum security guards, and fellow bus riders, my diverse experiences fostered confidence in my ability to communicate and express myself in an array of situations.



Earning the Research Experience Badge:



After visiting the Château de Vizille and its world-renowned museum dedicated to la Révolution, I researched the women of the period, who, in addition to fighting for either the continuation or destruction of the monarchy, simultaneously fought for their rights. Despite limited representation, many female figures still rose to prominence, thanks to their ingenuity. My project focuses especially on Madame Roland, the Enlightened salonnière who ultimately split the Girondin and Jacobin parties by manipulating her husband's political career. It was fascinating to explore French history through the French perspective while in the country where it all unfolded. This curiosity remained as I

continued to enhance my understanding of history and society with new cultural lenses, reminding me to account for the many narratives not always highlighted in the classroom.

Transferable Skills:



Immersing myself in an unfamiliar environment, I closely observed customs in order to act within an appropriate, respectful framework, unafraid to ask for clarification when necessary. Through embracing new mannerisms and switching between languages, I sharpened my adaptability and quick thinking. I am now more comfortable with spontaneity and taking risks in the face of uncertainty. Additionally, I had the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world and from all walks of life, united by French as our lingua franca. These conversations were some of my most meaningful learning experiences and greatly broadened my perspectives of both the world and myself.

“Living in the thriving and dynamic French language and culture was an absolutely incredible, rewarding experience. My time in Grenoble surrounded me with a warm, supportive community, introduced new career possibilities, and fulfilled my pâtisserie dreams. I am beyond excited for forthcoming endeavors and adventures as I continue pursuing this ever-growing passion. Vive les langues! Vive le français!”