Guide for students of French applying for exchange
Semester 2, 2016

A. Procedure
Please read this information carefully
Your first port of call is the Study Abroad and Exchange office (http://sydney.edu.au/study/overseas-exchange.html). The Study Abroad Office holds very useful briefing sessions that are an obligatory part of your application for Exchange. Once you have attended these (compulsory) briefing sessions and chosen the overseas university you wish to attend, you will have to submit an application to the Study Abroad unit (http://sydney.edu.au/study/overseas-exchange/how-to-apply.html). The five study plans you will need to submit will enable you to get familiar with the overseas Universities’ websites.

When you find out the University you have been nominated to, the Study Abroad Office will ask you to fill in another application. Even though this application indicates that your French Academic Coordinator should sign it, it will need to be signed by a staff from the Study Abroad office not by your French Academic Exchange Advisor.

The only time you will need to contact your French Academic Coordinator from the French Studies Department is usually few weeks after the end of the semester, after you have received the acceptance from your host University in order to discuss and get the subjects you have selected approved.

B. French Academic Exchange Advisors
This semester your Academic Exchange Advisors in French are:
- Dr Sonia Wilson (sonia.wilson@sydney.edu.au) for students with surname beginning A-I
- A/Prof Marie-Thérèse Barbaux (marie-therese.barbaux@sydney.edu.au) for those students with surname beginning K-Mi
- Dr Alice Caffarel-Cayron (alice.caffarel-cayron@sydney.edu.au) for those students with surname beginning Mo-Z]

Please note: as demand for French Exchange is high, and as students need to have prepared their documents in advance, it is necessary to make an appointment.

C. Your appointment
In preparation for this meeting, you will need to assemble the following information, set out clearly, and you will need to bring it to your meeting with Carolyn or Françoise:

1. printed copies of the descriptions of each course that you wish to study overseas, including course codes. If these are not yet available, please bring descriptions from the previous year and we will make the changes when the new descriptions appear.
2. assessment details for each of the courses
3. number of contact hours for each of the courses
4. the number of ECTS or equivalent credit points allocated to each course
5. The form from Study Abroad Office / Arts Faculty Office that the Academic Coordinator will need to sign in order to approve your subjects.
6. The Academic approvals table attached with this guide, which will facilitate greatly the approval process.

D. Planning your subjects
i) Credit equivalencies
Please note that a full-time USyd credit load (24 USyd points) is the equivalent of 30 ECTs (European Credit Transfer).
This means that one University of Sydney subject is not the equivalent of one subject in France. Indeed, for the equivalent of two University of Sydney subjects, you may well end up doing 5 or 6 subjects at your French university. It is strongly recommended to take the courses with the highest ECTS so that you do not end up taking too many courses.
If you are choosing subjects from two disciplines (i.e., French and History/French and Politics/French and Spanish etc.) you need to choose the equivalent of 15 ECTS in French (including your language subject), and 15 in the other discipline (these will need to be approved by the Exchange Coordinator for that discipline). It doesn’t matter if you choose 14 credits in French and 16 credits in Politics, or vice versa as long as the total number of credits adds up to 30.

**ii) What can I get credit for?**

In order for subjects to be approved for credit toward French Studies, they must be
a) **taught in French**
b) **in a discipline area that is relevant to French Studies at Senior level (one 1st year subject will be allowed as long as this subject is offered to native French students).**

Such discipline areas include French or Francophone Studies, Film Studies, literary theory, linguistics, language pedagogy, Philosophy, French history, Cultural Studies and politics. Comparative course content is also generally permissible, as long as there is sufficient reference to France.

Courses in other disciplines such as Geography or classics are not accepted for French credits.

Please note that you are allowed one subject taught in English per French major on a French relevant discipline. You are also allowed only one course in translation.

**iii) French language subjects**

Usually, exchange students are required to do some kind of French language course at their host university, which is credit-bearing. The course may focus on language but can also deal with how to go about specific assessment tasks. The credit for this course, and its title, varies from institution to institution, and may need to be combined with a content type subject (e.g. at Lyon III). Typical examples are as follows:

- **Lyon II:** *Suivi linguistique et méthodologique* (5 ECTS)  
- **Lyon III / Bordeaux III:** *Français langue étrangère* (4 ECTS) + *Tutorat géographique* (1.5)
- **Sciences-Po:** each semester, students take a French language subject (worth 4 ECTS in each semester)

**iv) Typical subjects (other than French language)**

There are subjects in each university that students typically take (please note: subject offerings can change from year to year). Examples of subjects that have proved popular in the past are:

- **Lyon II:***  
  Littérature française  
  Histoire de la langue française  
  Littérature comparée  
  Linguistique française  
  Médiation culturelle en Rhône-Alpes  
- **Lyon III:**  
  Littérature comparée  
  Littérature et culture du XXe siècle  
  Littérature du XIXe siècle  
  Langue française  
  Langue et littérature francophones  
- **Paris VII:**  
  Littérature française 1  
  Littérature française 3  
  Littérature comparée  
  Linguistique française  
  Texte et image  
  Analyse filmique  
- **Sciences-Po:**  
  Vichy entre histoire et mémoire  
  Roman français, roman anglais  
  Initiation à la littérature française  
  Histoire des idées politiques
La vie politique française aujourd'hui
Comportements attitudes et forces politiques en France et en Europe
La notion de liberté en amour
La France: histoire d'une nation politique
La France et « ses » étrangers
Europe en questions au XXe siècle
L'héritage des années 1970

v) Extra 'back-up' subjects
We strongly recommend that you choose extra subjects for approval, in case your preferred options are unavailable once you arrive at your host university. This will save you going through the approval process again by email once you are already overseas.

vi) What to do if the new subjects list is not available?
If your subjects are not available on the French University website by end of May/June (semester 1) or end of October /November (semester 2), then you should make some provisional choices based on subjects available in the same semester the previous year and they will be approved provisionally. You can make changes once you have arrived in France, but any changes need to be approved by your French Academic Advisor.

E. Once overseas
Should you for any reason need to substitute new subjects for subjects that you had approved prior to departure, it is imperative that you send an email to your Academic Coordinator requesting approval. In this email, you will need to provide all the details listed above (course description, assessment requirements, etc.). These will need to be tabulated in an easy-to-read format. Should you not gain approval from your French Academic Coordinator at University of Sydney for any courses undertaken, you risk not being granted credit for these courses, as retrospective credit is generally not awarded.

Once your French Exchange Coordinator has approved your new subjects, you will need to forward a copy of this approval email to the Arts Faculty so that they can update your records.

So once again before you can come and see your Academic Exchange Coordinator you need to prepare before hand and choose carefully your subjects according to your level and interest as well as the availability of the courses (which differ from one semester to the other and/or one year to the other).