

Overview of the Department of French

The Department of French at St. Joseph's University commenced the academic year with a significant increase in student enrollment, nearly doubling to 400 across two second-language courses. These courses include the French language course for existing learners, aligning with A1 & A2 levels of the DELF examinations, and the Introductory French course for debutant learners, corresponding to the A1 DELF Junior level. Additionally, the department welcomed two new faculty members: Ms. Prema George, handling Shift I classes, and Ms. Mamata Moorchung, managing Shift II classes. The semester began on an engaging and interactive note with the inauguration of the French Association, followed by the department securing second place in the competitive section of Elixir. The students also attended an insightful session on teaching English in France in collaboration with the Embassy of France.

The Coordinator of the Department of French, Ms. Satyasree Balijepally, had an article titled *Le rôle des industries créatives à promouvoir la coopération culturelle entre la France et l'Inde* published in Lokogandhar, an International Peer-Reviewed Journal on Modern Research, in September 2024. Citation: **Satyasree Balijepally**, *Le rôle des industries créatives à promouvoir la coopération culturelle entre la France et l'Inde*, 2024, **Lokogandhar**, Vol.6, No.5.

As part of Elixir, the Open Day event at St. Joseph's University, the Department of French presented a captivating exhibition of French culture. The setup engaged all five senses, featuring French flags, banners, puzzle games, and jazz music from a paper gramophone at the entrance. Student-created posters on French history, architecture, literature, and cuisine were displayed, and a recreated Parisian outdoor café scene added to the immersive experience. A 12-minute theatrical performance on the French Revolution depicted key moments like the Tennis Court Oath, King Louis XVI's reign, and Marie Antoinette's downfall. The play's highlight was the delivery of "Liberté, égalité, fraternité," which deeply resonated with the audience. The Department's outstanding presentation secured them an award at Elixir 2024, recognizing their creativity and dedication to French heritage.

The Department of French also hosted an informative session on teaching English in France through the Assistant Programme. The event, held at Aloysius Hall on August 21, 2024, featured speakers from the French Institute in India, including Mr. Thomas Chaumont, Attaché, French Language; Ms. Smriti Pahwa, Project Manager; Mr. Yash Khakhar, Campus France Representative; Ms. Fanny Brun, Alliance Française, Bangalore; and Ms. Aishwarya Chandramouli, ALVE alumna. The session provided insights into the eligibility criteria, which require applicants to be over 20 years old, hold a DELF B1 certificate, and have an IELTS Academic score of 7.5+. The program offers a 7-month contract with a stipend of €810 per month, working 12 hours per week across up to three schools. Benefits include exposure to French culture, professional growth, and travel opportunities within Europe under the Schengen visa. A lively Q&A session addressed student concerns about housing, stipends, and program benefits. The event was attended by Dr. Arul Mani, Dean, School of Languages and Literatures, along with faculty members Ms. Satyasree Balijepally and Ms. Prema George.

The French Association launched its academic activities with the inaugural ceremony of "Rendez-vous 2024-25" on July 22, 2024, at Aloysius Hall. The event included an icebreaker session followed by engaging games and role plays performed by students from the Introductory French Course. The Chief Guest, Mrs. Sujata Swamy, addressed the gathering, highlighting the advantages of learning French. The event also included the official induction of office bearers, who received badges in the presence of faculty members Mrs. Satyasree Balijepally (Coordinator), Mrs. Prema George, and Mrs. Mamata Moorchung.

The Department of French remains committed to fostering linguistic and cultural engagement among students, offering them valuable learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

For the Images of **Overview of the Department**, kindly refer to the Photo Gallery:

<https://sju.edu.in/gallery/119>