





# LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATION FORM

• Please rate the candidate's overall abilities by using the following scale:

- 5 Native proficiency
- 4+ Strong fluency/Strong idiomatic vocabulary
- 4 Fluency: syntax has been fully assimilated
- 3+ Strong proficiency
- 3 Basic proficiency/ At ease in general conversation
- 2 Good base, still needs significant work

• Please also rate numerically (using the above scale):

- The candidate's ability to express himself orally in French.
- The candidate's written French.
- The candidate's ability to comprehend colloquial French spoken rapidly in a group situation.

• Please list four adjectives that describe the candidate to you:

• In what percentile of your class group was the candidate?

• Would you recommend the candidate?:

- Enthusiastically
- Without reserve
- With some hesitation

• We value all additional comments:

**Your Name:** .....

**Your Title/Department:** .....

**Your Institution:** .....

**You taught/supervised the candidate from** ..... **to** .....

**Your Signature:**



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## **RECORDED CONVERSATION IN FRENCH**

For diagnostic purposes, all applicants to IFE's Paris Field Study and Internship Program are asked to make an audio recording of a French language conversation with a French-speaking university professor. The purpose of this informal exercise is to provide IFE with a first-hand impression of your spoken French. Such an impression can play a useful role in the placement process as IFE works to match successful applicants with internships, as well as in preparation for the academic portion of the program.

Note that admission decisions are NOT made on the basis of ranked French skills.

Please show this sheet to the person who has agreed to help you record this conversation.

This should be a spontaneous conversation, with only general preparation ahead of time, and recorded without editing. A good sense of communication is more important than perfect grammar.

**Total time:** approximately 15 minutes

**The conversation should cover two general subjects even though, as a conversation, there is no imposed form or structure.**

### **I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Some indications:

Talk about yourself, where you are from, your family, your family life, what regions of the US or the world you like, travel experiences you have had, what you like to do with free time, what you do when you are down in the dumps in order to feel better, etc.

Or talk about experiences you have had adjusting to a different environment, different people, different ways, etc.

Talk about why you want to come to France, your academic interests, your career goals, and so forth.

Or talk about anything else you would like to talk about.

### **II. CURRENT EVENTS IN FRANCE, EUROPE AND THE WORLD**

Talk about whatever you would like on the subject of France or Europe today, or transatlantic relations, problems facing US society or French society or the world, any topic of current events, what kind of press coverage you see about what goes on in France and Europe, what sources of information you rely upon, or any other topics in this broad subject area.

### **To the person who has agreed to carry on this conversation with the applicant:**

Thank you for your cooperation with this important exercise, the results of which are useful to IFE in a number of ways. Your role is simply to help construct an interesting conversation, through questions, responses, and other ways to encourage the applicant to open up and talk freely in French. IFE's objective in breaking the conversation roughly into two parts is to be able to hear the applicant speak about themselves as well as about substantive, less personal matters. Of course, it does not serve a candidate's interest if the recorded conversation conveys an inaccurate impression of his or her level of linguistic competence.