Faculty of Humanities
Department of French and European Studies
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Introduction

The Department of French and European Studies, sharing the general mission of the University of Cyprus and the School of Humanities to which it belongs, seeks to contribute to the scientific training and the cultural and institutional cultivation of its students, by familiarizing them with contemporary methodological practices in the field of Humanities. Through their scientific training, the aim is also to raise their awareness of the subject of interculturality, the dialogue that develops about this subject, and, above all, the development of critical thinking, so that they can take an analytical and critical stance on relevant issues. In this way, students will be prepared to play an active and fruitful role in the society, in which they will live. The Department considers that its mission cannot be limited to the boundaries of the University, but must extend throughout society, so that it can exert its influence on political, social, and cultural activity and creation.

Why French and European Studies?

Historically, in its rich historical journey, Cyprus has been a cultural crossroads of peoples and mentalities. Since 2004, the Department has been providing the modern Cypriot European member-state of the EU with the appropriate institutional teaching of the culture and civilisation of European peoples. For these reasons, the Department offers a new undergraduate curriculum leading to two Degrees: Diploma of French Language and Literature and Diploma of Modern Languages and European Studies. It is important to underline that the Department offers the only Degree in the University of Cyprus which requires the mastery of multiple foreign languages.

UNDERGRADUATE Programmes

The Department of French and European Studies offers two university degrees at the undergraduate level, through a common core of courses. Admission to the Department depends on the same entrance examinations for both diplomas.

- Diploma of French Language and Literature
- Diploma of Modern Languages and European Studies

The two Diplomas of the Department provide modern and comprehensive training, comparable to that of their European counterparts. They offer students the opportunity to work in Cyprus or abroad not only as teachers and/or ambassadors of French language and culture, but also as European citizens with a good command of 3-4 languages (Greek, English and French and/or German/Turkish). Graduates of the Department can be employed in many sectors, institutions and services of the Republic of Cyprus, the European Union, or other international organisations, such as:

- Public and private education institutions in Cyprus.
- Cultural services, language services in the Public Service (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.).
- The institutions of the European Union.
POSTGRADUATE Programmes

- **Master in Didactics of French as a Foreign Language**

  The Master’s programme in the Didactics of French as a Foreign Language (FLE) offers training, whose main objective is the acquisition of the following competences: a) academic knowledge in didactics of FLE (theoretical approaches and current methodologies); b) professional knowledge concerning the teaching of the language in question (practices, experience in the school environment) and c) principles of management in education.

  The Master’s Programme in the *Didactics of French as a Foreign Language* is aimed at practising teachers of French as a foreign language in the public and private sectors in Cyprus or elsewhere, who wish to acquire greater specialisation, but also at future teachers or specialists in the field of French as a foreign language, who wish to work in Cyprus or elsewhere. It is also intended for graduates of French studies from the University of Cyprus or holders of other French degrees, or holders of other departments of the University of Cyprus or other Cypriots or foreign universities wishing to acquire a specialisation in the teaching of French as a foreign language, combined with expertise in educational management and administration.

  From an academic point of view, the Programme aims to support graduates of French Language and Literature, or other degree holders from the French-speaking world, according to the current requirements of teaching French as a Foreign Language and the modern labour market in Cyprus and outside Cyprus. More specifically, it offers an in-depth training, lasting three semesters (4 courses from the Department of French and European Studies + 2 courses from the Department of Educational Sciences and/or the Department of Psychology + dissertation or internship), which provides both the necessary tools for analysis of learning situations and practical tools for intervention in professional fields related to the didactic process. As regards research, the aim of the Programme is to enable its graduates to pursue Ph.D. level studies in the Department of French and European Studies, or in other departments of the University of Cyprus with relevant research areas (for example, in the Department of Education, or the Department of Psychology), as well as in universities in other countries with prospects for university research in this field.

- **Master in European Studies**

  The Master’s degree in *European Studies* is offered by the Department of French and European Studies of the University of Cyprus in Greek and international languages. Its courses are usually taught in English and French, according to the students’ language profile. Some courses can occasionally be taught in Greek. The aims of the Master’s programme can be summarized as follows:

  - From an academic viewpoint, the postgraduate programme aims to investigate specific issues related to cultural Europe and to see how these issues relate to the philosophical, literary, visual, and other cultural narratives. The Programme puts forward ways of studying European cultural phenomena in a synthetic way, combining a specific European conjuncture with its diachronic depth.

  - From a research point of view, the aim of the Programme is for its graduates to be able to carry out Doctoral studies in specific fields of European cultural studies, combining them with European literature studies, comparative literature, visual and art studies, European history, sociology, anthropology, and political sciences.

**Ph.D. in French Studies and in European Studies**

The Department of French and European Studies offers two Ph.D. programmes: a *Ph.D. in French Studies* and a *Ph.D. in European Studies*, both leading to acquiring a high-level scientific expertise and offering a contemporary and specialized training in research and in research methodology, in compliance with the current requirements of academic knowledge, being aware of the new European realities.

Graduating students can find professional opportunities in the field of university education, in various sectors of public and private education in Cyprus and in the European Union, in the Public Sector in Cyprus or other European countries, such as in cultural and linguistic services, in the media, in the public or private third sector, in multinational companies and international organisations.
The first component of the Department’s name ("French Studies") reflects both the French specificity and the multidisciplinary nature of the French Studies programme offered to students. The training has a dual orientation: Literary/cultural studies and language studies. In addition to the quality teaching on site, students are strongly encouraged to spend one or two semesters in a French-speaking university abroad. At the end of this training, the Diploma in French Language and Literature (Bac+4) allows its holders to embark on a variety of careers or to continue their studies in Cyprus or abroad.

Under its second component ("European Studies"), the Department has created a multilingual and multidisciplinary programme in European Studies, leading to a Diploma in Modern Languages and European Studies (Bac+4). The courses in this Programme are taught in French, English or German, and cover the Humanities as well as Social and Political Sciences and Law. Students with this Diploma can start a career in different sectors in Cyprus or in the countries and institutions of the European Union; They can also continue their studies.

Graduates of the Department may pursue a variety of careers, as follows:

- Teachers of French as a foreign language.
- Directors of French and foreign language private schools.
- Managers of language centres and language schools.
- Inspectors of French as a foreign language.
- Specialist trainers of pedagogical institutes.
- Authors of French-language textbooks.
- Consultants and officials in the language services sector.
- Consultants specialising in Francophone matters who are active in the French-speaking world.
- Designers of French-language curricula.
- Trainers of French as a foreign language.
- Trainers for the Internet.
- Trainers for training programmes.
- Officials in EU institutions and agencies.
- Officials in the public sector (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Commerce, of Education, Department of Immigration), cultural institutions, diplomatic services, educational services, teaching (Diploma in French Language and Literature), research centres, etc.
- Translators/Interpreters.
- Officials in the tourism sector, hotel companies, airlines, international/European banking, offshore companies, multinational companies, and international organisations (Red Cross), the field of trade and business within or outside Europe.

Research is a fundamental aspect of the Department's activity. Research activities are carried out individually or in collaboration with other professors at the University of Cyprus, as well as with colleagues in Greece, France, Germany, Switzerland, and other European and non-European countries. They are also carried out in the framework of bilateral teaching and research collaboration agreements.

The Department of French and European Studies offers its students:

- Incoming and outgoing student mobility through the ERASMUS+ Student Exchange Programme.
- Internships and scholarship opportunities.
- Participation in various conferences, events, and lectures.
- Job search.
Testimonials of Students/Graduates

KONSTANTINOS YAGOU
Graduate of Modern Languages and European Studies

I graduated from the University of Cyprus before June 2018, in the Department of French and European Studies (English-German combination). It was all along the field I wanted to pursue, so I knew I had made the right choice. I followed something I was passionate about. Often, when people would ask me what I was studying, I would see a look of wonder in their eyes, "but what are you going to do with your choice, what will it help you with?", etc. I never let it affect me and take me away from my goals. I always remember me holding the EU flag; in 2004 I felt like my country finally belonged to a family. When I finished my studies, I decided to apply for the Schuman traineeship, which gives young people the opportunity to work in the European Parliament, and then to be able to apply for a job in Brussels. This is where I am now working, in a MEP's office. My dream has come true. I remember when I visited the European Parliament as a high school student for the first time, with the Euroscola programme, and I said to myself, "I will come back here one day!". I am grateful for my accomplishments, and I owe a debt of gratitude to the higher educational institution that provided me with free education for four years, which is not a given in many countries. However, I owe the greatest thanks mainly to the professors who make up the team of the Department of French and European Studies. The courses I have taken have provided me with the knowledge and the critical thinking, enabling me to remain in an institution of this calibre. The philosophy, the critical thinking, the high level of teaching of French and German, and the demands of the discipline provided me with the skills and the confidence. My advice to the students of the department is, along with their courses, to participate and be active in various NGOs and voluntary projects. As students of the discipline, they can organize debates in French and German, related to international relations. France and Germany have a leading role in the EU, and the students must learn the history of these member states since 1957, after the signing of the Treaty of Rome. They should express their interests and make their voices heard. They are generously given the necessary tools in the Department of French and European Studies.

CHRISTINA STYLIANIDOU
Ph.D. Student in the French Studies

My journey at the Department of French and European Studies started in 2014, when I joined the undergraduate programme in French Language and Literature. During my studies, I discovered and fell in love with didactics, linguistics, literature, French culture, translation, and teaching through new technologies. My passion for French language and culture led me to the Master's programme "Teaching French as a Foreign Language", where I had the opportunity to learn new, contemporary methods and practices of teaching French, combined with sociolinguistics.

With diligence and hard work, I am now in my second year of the PhD Programme in French Studies, where I have the opportunity to study linguistics and teaching in depth. In addition to a wealth of lectures and conferences, both locally and internationally, the Department also offers me the opportunity to collaborate and exchange views with the Paul Valéry III University of Montpellier, France. My aim, apart from imparting knowledge and teaching French, is to create new teaching methods and practices, as well as countless linguistic research, now pursuing an academic career. A big thank you to the professors of the Department for their support to follow my dreams.

MELINA FELLA, Ph.D. Student in French Studies

After ten years of working as a teacher of French as a Foreign Language in public and private institutions, I continued my studies because I felt that I needed an education that would allow me to break away from traditional teaching and move on to a more stimulating, enjoyable, and fun education that would above all stimulate my students' interest in French language and culture.

The MA in Teaching French as a Foreign Language in the Department of French and European Studies of the University of Cyprus met my expectations, as it provided me with an education rich in knowledge and tools, which allowed me to enrich my knowledge of the various teaching methods and, consequently, to significantly improve my teaching skills. Also, using the knowledge I gained about new educational technologies, I had the opportunity to broaden my horizons by using various online tools.

At this point, I would like to thank the dynamic team of faculty members for their support and inspiration, as well as the many guest speakers who further enriched our knowledge.
GEORGIA KONSTANTINOU
Graduate of the Postgraduate Programme "Teaching French as a Foreign Language"

After obtaining a Master’s and a Ph.D. in Sociolinguistics at the University of Sorbonne, I wanted to reorient myself in the teaching of French as a Foreign Language. I returned to Cyprus and started teaching in the private sector; I also started working in a school. During the first steps of my career, I discovered an exciting field and the need to apply new teaching methods. As a result, I felt the need to enrich my knowledge and specialise in teaching French as a Foreign Language, as well as in the use of new technologies, an essential dimension of language teaching today.

In the Master’s Degree in Teaching French as a Foreign Language, I learned how to listen to students, how to make my lessons more enjoyable, how to organize myself and which methodology to follow, how to create pedagogical materials, and how to improve students’ motivation. During this Master’s course, I learned new teaching methods and ways to improve my lessons. Now, after completing this Program, I am more independent and creative, and I learned how to use authentic material in my classroom, and how to organize my courses. The way we can teach grammar and vocabulary was indeed very encouraging and enjoyable. This Programme was really motivating and allowed me to change my pedagogical approach.

These two years of training at the University of Cyprus have been rich and intense, both professionally and personally. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank all the professors of the Department for their guidance.

ERIKA THEOFANIDI
Ph.D. Student in European Studies

I have been studying at the Department of French and European Studies, where I started my Bachelor’s degree in European Studies, in the combination of English and French, since 2014. During my studies, the Department offered me the opportunity to participate in the ERASMUS+ Programme, where I continued my studies for one semester at the University of Strasbourg, an experience that helped me a lot in my later professional and personal journey. Throughout my studies I took courses in English and French, so I completed my studies with a very good level in both languages.

After completing my B.A. in European Studies and with the right guidance from the professors of the Department, whom I thank very much, I decided to continue my studies in the Postgraduate Programme in European Studies. In the last semester of the Programme, I had the opportunity to do my internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus and, later, at the European Parliament Office in Cyprus, an opportunity that helped me to understand in practice the role played by diplomacy and how important the Diplomatic Corps is for the Republic of Cyprus. The M.A. in European Studies helped me to discover in depth the culture of Europe, to love it and to want to explore it further and to contribute in some way to this field. So, now I am in the first semester of the Ph.D. programme in European Studies, where I hope to work in depth on European culture and contribute to further understanding of this culture by writing my dissertation.

A big thank you to the Department of French and European Studies, for giving me the opportunity to belong to it and to pursue the career I wanted, as well as to all the professors of the Department, whose knowledge and unfailing support inspired me to discover aspects of Europe that I can confidently say no other degree programme could have achieved.