

Deaf Culture, History and Sign Language in France

May 18-June 7, 2025

ASLA 113: French Sign Language and Deaf Culture in France (4 Cr.)

The ASL Program at the University of Rochester, located in Rochester New York, is offering a unique study abroad experience in France in Summer 2025. It is open to Deaf and hearing college-level ASL students and professionals. This three-week program gives ASL users an opportunity to learn French Sign Language and French Deaf Culture in both formal and informal settings to further their understanding of the international Deaf World. **It is available to anyone who meets the prerequisites (see below); it is not limited to University of Rochester students.**

A native Deaf French faculty member from UR partners with several members of the French Deaf community to jointly plan the program, schedule, and curriculum.

This 4-credit program will focus on basic and advanced learning of conversational LSF (French Sign Language) and on field trips fostering a broad understanding of French Deaf Culture and general French Culture in Paris (weeks 1 & 2) and in regions beyond the capital (week 3). Students will attend

- Classes on LSF and French Deaf History and Culture
- Guided tours - museums, a Deaf theater, Deaf schools, Lyon and other villages

All classes and tours will be conducted in LSF. Study will begin before going to France. **This will be built upon during the LSF and Deaf Culture classes in Paris, France.**

Program Prerequisites

UR students must have successfully completed ASL 105 Intermediate American Sign Language. For **non-UR students**, applicants' sign language proficiency will also be evaluated by a conversation with the Program Director, Professor Chastel. Learning written French is optional for this program.

Application to this program is open to anyone who has at least 15 credit hours of university instruction and at least intermediate-level ASL skills. Students must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA to participate or be accepted upon special permission of the instructor. All participants require final approval by the faculty member. The University reserves the right to review conduct records as part of our application process and

Faculty

Guillaume Chastel, MA in Deaf Education/Math