



French Educational Cooperation in Scotland

L'Institut Français d'Écosse is the official French Government centre of language and culture founded in 1946. One of its mission is to provide a cultural and educational link between France and Scotland.

As part of a worldwide network of 150 similar institutions, it provides a well-balanced programme of courses for French as a foreign language, of cultural activities and of educational links.

The aim of the Educational Cooperation Department of the *Institut Français* is to act as a link between Scotland and France, furthering cooperation, research and information exchanges between the education decision makers and trainers – from the primary sector to higher education.

In particular, the *Institut* acts as a liaison between Scottish and French authorities and projects that promote bilateral links and exchanges at all levels, through direct collaboration with the bodies concerned, or in cooperation with organisations such as SEED, the British Council, Scottish CILT, SALT, and COALA.

For primary and secondary teachers in particular, the Educational Cooperation Department is involved in developing networks, participating in conferences and in-service training, in cooperation with the education authorities.

The department is involved in the training and welcoming of the 170 French language assistants in Scotland in collaboration with the British Council Scotland. For example, it organises an annual drama competition, ***la "Faites du théâtre: les Rencontres théâtrales"*** throughout Scotland. In 2005, these 'rencontres' took place in four venues and 36 schools (550 children) were directly involved

The Institut Français d'Écosse also offers French courses and training for primary and secondary school teachers. Please contact Chantal Juge courses@ifecosse.org.uk for further information.

The multimedia library of the *Institut* contains an extensive selection of French books, magazines, newspapers, videos, cassettes, CDs and DVDs, CDRoms and resources for teachers. Currently, 210 schools are members (144 primaries) and four councils (East Lothian, Fife, Perth & Kinross, and West Lothian) have taken out a membership covering every school in the relevant authority. The head librarian is Anne-Marie Usher library@ifecosse.org.uk

Finally, the Institut Français d'Ecosse lends support to academics of various disciplines who actively engage in the promotion of the French language, studies, culture and visual arts and French research in various fields in Scotland. This help can be financial or strategic, contacts can be made, seminars organised, exchange programmes and joint degrees set up.

The contact person for schools (visits, materials, exchanges...) and university cooperation is Valerie Drake education@ifecosse.org.uk
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In addition to the above, *l'Alliance Française de Glasgow*, as part of the network of French cultural centres in the UK, offers French courses and training for primary and secondary school teachers. There is also a library and resource centre offering a wide selection of videos, DVDs, CDs and CDRoms, daily newspapers and periodicals and teaching materials.

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