# **SUMMER 2014: STUDY FRENCH IN QUEBEC!**

**What?** a three-week French immersion experience (**6 credits**)

When? July 6 - 25, 2014

**Where?** At the Centre linguistique in Jonquière, Quebec

**Why?** In order to really learn French, you must live the language!

# The immersion program

• The immersion program is based on three components: classroom instruction, your stay with a host family, and sociocultural activities. This formula provides a learning environment which will facilitate your acquisition of French and increase your awareness of Quebecois culture. (see website <a href="http://www.langues-jonquiere.ca/">http://www.langues-jonquiere.ca/</a>)

# Staying with a host family

- During your stay at the *Centre linguistique*, you will share in the life of your host family. Your host family is part of the school's network of families specially chosen for their hospitality and sociability.
- Living with a family has a very precise objective: to provide you with everyday situations in which to practice what you have learned in class. You will be considered a full-fledged member of your host family, thus making it easier for you to progress in your learning of French.
- You will take breakfast and dinner with your host family. If you will not be home for dinner, you need to inform your family in advance.

# Courses at Centre linguistique

- The language school is part of a larger institution, the *Collège d'Enseignement Général et Professionnel de Jonquière*. You can use their facilities (e.g. Olympic indoor pool, gym, computer rooms, etc.)
- The language school's staff members are highly qualified French as Second Language instructors who are extremely knowledgeable about Quebec culture and language.
- The courses at the *Centre linguistique* are designed for non-native speakers. The courses are based on the communicative approach / conversation, language lab exercises and computer-assisted exercises for grammar. The main objective of the program is to help you improve your listening and speaking skills.
- The school offers eight different levels of language classes: three for beginners, three for intermediate, and two for advanced. There are usually no more than 10 students per class.
- Your level will be determined by a telephone interview prior to your arrival.
- Upon successful completion of the program, you will receive an official transcript from the *Centre linguistique*. The work you do in Quebec will be accepted by Shepherd as a 3-credit language course. The other 3 credits come from completion of FREN 411: Study Abroad. How these courses appear on your transcript depends on where you are in the French sequence at Shepherd.

#### Social activities and tourist attractions

- Thanks to contact with members of the host community, you will experience different aspects of the spoken language and you will have the opportunity to practice French naturally and spontaneously in a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere.
- To help you discover elements of Quebec culture, the language school offers different activities twice weekly in the evening. In addition, there are outings planned every weekend: a visit to Lake Saint-Jean, a trip to Cap-Trinité, etc. All these activities are included in your program fee.
- There are also various optional activities available at an extra charge (\$50 75 each), such as whale watching and rafting. For these activities, you will always be accompanied by specialized staff.
- Various non-accompanied recreational and sports activities are available free of charge: swimming, fitness training, hiking, and activities in the gym such as badminton, volleyball, etc.

#### Jonquière and the Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean region

- Jonquière is in the Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean region about 2½ hours north of Quebec City in the heart of the Quebec province.
- The region centers on two bodies of water: the Saguenay River, which features a fjord unique in North America, and Lake Saint-Jean, a huge fresh-water lake that is fed by numerous small rivers and lined with beaches.



- Known around the world for its wide-open spaces and its wild natural beauty, the region offers many exciting leisure and outdoor activities, such as kayaking, cycling, canoeing, hiking, and climbing.
- The region's economy centers on mining (aluminum), forest products, agriculture, and tourism.
- Summer temperatures range from 50 F to 85 F.

#### **Transportation**

- To keep costs down, we will drive to Jonquière via Quebec City (approximately 16 hours).
- You do not need a visa to go to Canada. However, you must have a valid US passport.
- Once we arrive in Jonquière, school staff will introduce you to your host family.

#### **Program costs and spending money**

- The cost of the program is currently estimated at \$2575. This amount may change (increase or decrease) depending on gas prices and exchange rates.
- The includes the following:
  - o \$225: non-refundable registration fee for the *Centre linguistique*
  - o \$2,100: three-week immersion program in Jonquière
    - classes and student ID
    - lodging with a host family
    - three meals a day
    - recreation, sports, and socio-cultural activities
  - o \$150: transportation (gas money to be given in advance to whoever has volunteered his/her car)
  - o \$100: travel insurance

# • The program costs do NOT include

- o in-state/out-of-state tuition for FREN 411, which you will register for during Summer II 2013.
- o personal expenses. You should anticipate spending an additional \$300-\$400 during your stay for things such as going out, buying snacks, buying gifts, etc.
- o optional weekend excursions
- There are no classes on weekends. Participants will be free to participate in optional excursions organized by the school. Participants can also travel around the region in small groups using public transportation or the cars we drive up.
- In Quebec, you will need to use Canadian dollars. You can exchange American dollars before going, but it is simpler to withdraw Canadian dollars from an ATM once we are there. You may also choose to purchase traveler's checks, if you prefer.

#### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

- 1. Set up an online registration account at http://www.langues-jonguiere.ca.
- 2. Fill out the preliminary registration form and send it to the Centre Linguistique. I will transfer the registration fee of \$225 CAD.
- 3. Call the Centre linguistique to make an appointment for your phone interview to determine your level in French.
- 4. Fill out the official registration form and send it to the Centre Linguistique. This completes the registration procedure.

# N.B. - YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR REGISTRATION FEE.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- January 27, 2014: organizational meeting; \$225 down payment due at this time
- February 10, 2014: students must register for the summer session at the Centre linguistique's website
- **July 6, 2014**: balance of program fees due (\$2100)

If you or your parents have any questions, please email me at: <a href="mailto:rritterb@shepherd.edu">rritterb@shepherd.edu</a>.