

**FRENCH SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

**GRADE 12 CREDIT**  
***EXPÉRIENCE CULTURELLE 12 (EXC 12)***

***Administrative Information for Schools***

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The French Second Language division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development offers a Grade 12 credit called *Expérience culturelle 12*. This academic credit has been officially recognized since the 2010-2011 school year and is currently listed in the Public School Program.

The *Expérience culturelle 12* credit provides an opportunity for senior high school students to engage in real life interactions in a French community to enhance understanding and appreciation of the French culture and at the same time develop strong French second language communication skills. Such an opportunity will offer greater flexibility to those students needing to access a sufficient number of French credits for the purpose of attaining a certificate of recognition for the French immersion and the Integrated French programs and in some instances enable them to complete a high school diploma. It is also available to Core French students who desire to continue their studies in French at the high school level.

Two cultural experiences have been identified by the French second language division of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The **Nova Scotia/Québec Six-Month Student Exchange Program** and the **Explore Program** shall be recognized and accorded a grade 12 academic credit designation.

The official course name is **Expérience culturelle 12** and specific course codes have been created to represent the following FSL course offerings:

**French Immersion** students will receive:

- o **Experience Culture 12 IMM NSQ (EXC12IMNSQ)** for participation in the Exchange Program and for meeting the requirements of the credit
- o **Experience Culture 12 IMM EXP (EXC12IMEXP)** for participation in the Explore Program and meeting the requirements of the credit

**Integrated French** students will receive:

- o **Experience Culture 12 INT NSQ (EXC12ITNSQ)** for participation in the Exchange Program and for meeting the requirements of the credit
- o **Experience Culture 12 INT EXP (EXC12ITEXP)** for participation in the Explore Program and meeting the requirements of the credit

**Core French** students will receive:

- o **Experience Culture 12 FRE NSQ (EXC12FRNSQ)** for participation in the Exchange Program and for meeting the requirements of the credit
- o **Experience Culture 12 FRE EXP (EXC12FREXP)** for participation in the Explore Program and meeting the requirements of the credit

## Guidelines (EXC 12 -IM, IT, FR)

- Although students may choose to participate in both programs, only one of these cultural experiences will be credited toward the completion of the 18 required credits for a High School Diploma. EXC 12 can be credited towards one of the nine required credits for the French immersion certificate or one of the six required credits for the Integrated French program certificate. It may also serve to comply with several combinations of these requirements. Such a credit may simply be an extra that a student may want to attain.
- The EXC 12 credit may be classified under Personal Development and Career Education elective courses, but not substituted as the Physical Education credit requirement.
- **The EXC 12 credit should not be confused as an external Personal Development Credit. The Explore and the Exchange programs do not fall under the EECD recognized external programs linked to the external Personal Development credit.**
- The EXC 12 credit cannot be substituted in place of the three compulsory French Language Arts courses required to obtain the French immersion or the Integrated French certificate.
- This credit will be awarded to students who have participated in either program and have met the credit requirements.
- Students can participate in the Nova Scotia/Québec Six-Month Student Exchange Program while they are in Grade 10, 11 or 12 (*must be under the age of 18 prior to the end of the program*). For the Explore Program, students can participate during the summer period following their Grade 11 or Grade 12 year. For both programs, a Grade 12 EXC credit will be awarded to high school students upon meeting the requirements as set out by the EECD.
- Generally, high school students are only eligible to receive this credit after they complete the Explore program during the summer following their grade 11 year. In certain situations, a grade 12 student will qualify to receive the credit once completing the Explore program and its requirements during the summer of his/her grade 12 year. Students must respect protocol regarding summer courses and the terms described in the Public School Program, their Center for Education and their school's policies.
- The assessment documents shall be predicated on the activities and experiences provided within the context of both programs and the EECD French language outcomes associated with the credit.
- Students not wanting the EXC 12 credit may still participate in either or both programs.
- The Cultural Experiences are not subject to a Challenge for Credit process.

## Application Procedure

- Be registered in a public high school French immersion or Integrated French program; or demonstrate a desire to continue his/her studies in Core French in grades 10-12.
- Have registered with the EECD coordinator for the EXC 12 academic credit through a public-school guidance counselor or registrar **no later than April 15**, or earlier if possible, preceding participation in the program.
- Complete the *Application for the EXC 12 credit* online (Form D), and, with the assistance of the guidance counselor, complete and submit the online (Form E).

**To receive the academic credit EXC 12 via the Nova Scotia/Québec Exchange Program, a student must complete the following tasks:**

- Prior to their departure to Québec, students must do an Oral Proficiency Interview (Pre OPI) and upon their return they must do a second Oral Proficiency Interview (Post OPI).
- Students must keep and submit a daily journal in French about his/her experience during his/her stay. This document is not simply a diary of the day to day activities. Although such activities may be mentioned, the journal **must clearly demonstrate** one's personal thoughts and reflection as it relates to what it has

meant being a second language learner within a new cultural environment. (See evaluation rubric for more detailed information.)

- Students must submit a French portfolio, in accordance with the instructions described in the *Portfolio Guidelines*. The French portfolio should contain documentation regarding the student's academic achievements and cultural activities. The portfolio may include samples of school assignments which demonstrate student growth; pictures or images with explanations; poetry, lyrics of French songs or French newspaper articles or magazine items with short written responses to these; pamphlets of cultural events and French artifacts with written commentaries by students; personal short critiques of cultural activities relating to: restaurants, museums, parks, shows, sporting events, nature hikes, etc. The portfolio **must clearly demonstrate** one's personal thoughts and reflection as it relates to what it has meant being a second language learner. (See evaluation rubric for more detailed information.) All documents included in the portfolio must be accompanied by a short written reflection.
- Students who participate in the Nova Scotia/Québec Student exchange program must submit the "Formulaire de témoignage académique" (Academic Accountability form) filled out by the school based Exchange liaison teacher and his/her colleagues in Québec who are directly implicated in the Nova Scotia/Québec Student Exchange indicating that the student fully participated and was fully engaged in the program while in Québec.
- Students must also submit a "Formulaire de témoignage familial" (Host Family Accountability Form) completed by the host family describing the student's involvement with family and community activity.

**To receive the academic credit EXC 12 via the Explore program, a student must complete the following tasks:**

- Submit the official certificate of participation issued by the attending institution, if the institution issues such a certificate, to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development stating that the program was completed with success (this certificate will be returned to the student once his/her evaluation is complete).
- Submit an official transcript from the attending university, for the Explore program, showing that all the requirements have been completed successfully.
- A student in the Explore Program must submit **one** of the two following assignments.
  1. Keep and submit a daily journal in French about his/her experience during his/her stay. This document is not simply a diary of the day to day activities. Although such activities may be mentioned, the journal **must clearly demonstrate** one's personal thoughts and reflection as it relates to what it has meant being a second language learner. (See evaluation rubric for more detailed information.)
  2. Submit a 2500 word Reflection Paper in French, in accordance with the instructions described in the *Explore Program Reflection Paper Guidelines*. This paper will describe the activities and learning that took place, along with personal reflections about their language development and cultural experiences following the exchange period.
- In addition, the student must submit a French portfolio, in accordance with the instructions described in the *Portfolio Guidelines*. The French portfolio should contain documentation regarding the student's academic achievements and cultural activities. The portfolio may include samples of school assignments which demonstrate student growth; pictures or images with explanations; poetry, lyrics of French songs or French newspaper articles or magazine items with short written responses to these; pamphlets of cultural events and French artifacts with written commentaries by students; personal short critiques of cultural activities relating to: restaurants, museums, parks, shows, sporting events, nature hikes, etc. The portfolio **must clearly demonstrate** one's personal thoughts and reflection as it relates to what it has meant being a second language learner. (See evaluation rubric for more detailed information.) All documents included in the portfolio must be accompanied by a short written reflection.

**Submission of assignments:**

- Students must submit all required documents and complete all required tasks. All such information must be received by the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by **the last Friday of September**, or earlier, following their participation in either program.
- Within 60 days from this date of the last Friday in September, the French Second Language Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will inform the student's school if he/she has been awarded the EXC 12 credit, as well as the student's grade. All documents will also be returned to the participating students.

**The following eleven institutions are recognized for the EXC 12 credit for the Explore program, based on student age admittance policy:**

- Université Sainte-Anne
- Collège Boréal au Nipissing
- Institut français, Université de Régina
- Faculté Saint-Jean de l'Université de l'Alberta
- Université de Moncton
- Cégep de Trois-Rivières
- Collège Saint Charles-Garnier
- Collège de Rivière-du-Loup
- Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface
- Centre linguistique du Collège de Jonquière
- Trois-Pistoles French Immersion School (UWO)

**For further information, contact:**

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