

EXPÉRIENCE CULTURELLE 12 (EXC 12) **Explore Program Option**

Course Evaluation

Students wishing to receive the Expérience culturelle 12 credit must:

- complete the *Application for the EXC 12 credit* online (Form E), and, with the assistance of the guidance counselor or registrar **no later than April 15**, or earlier if possible, **preceding participation in the program**
- have their application reviewed by the selection committee
- successfully complete the Explore Program in its entirety
- meet all program requirements and all credit evaluation criteria

Receiving the EXC 12 credit requires students to clearly demonstrate their linguistic and cultural learning throughout their Explore program experience. This may be easier to achieve when participating in an Explore program that is located in a French speaking region. While it is not required to attend Explore in a French speaking region, the academic requirements remain the same no matter where students participate in Explore. Students should review the academic requirements closely before beginning the Explore program and completing the EXC 12 requirements.

Students seeking the EXC 12 credit will be evaluated on the following elements:

25% - A written daily journal that clearly demonstrates their language development and cultural experience over the course of the program.

25% - An oral presentation of a portfolio that uses texts, images and photos to highlight their language development and cultural experience

50% - An official document from the institution demonstrating that all components of the Explore program were successfully completed. (e.g. a certificate or transcript that clearly states the student achieved the expectations of the program)

All three components of the above evaluation criteria are required in order for students to receive their course credit. A copy of the official document from the institution the student attended for the Explore Program must be submitted along with the journal and portfolio prior to **the first Friday of October** following the completion of the program. Documents received after this date will not be evaluated and an EXC 12 credit will not be awarded.

Evaluation Criteria

Below are overviews of the academic course requirements that students must complete and participate in throughout the Explore program. There are also rubrics that accompany the main course assignments which contain more detailed expectations. Please be sure to review the rubrics as well as these descriptions before participating in the Explore program and while completing each assignment.

25% - Daily Journal

Students must keep a **daily journal, in French**, describing activities and learning that took place that day. 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. The journal may also contain the student's personal thoughts about the successes and challenges of learning and living in French and adapting to a new culture, as well as their own personal growth.

25% - Portfolio and oral presentation

The portfolio expresses your learning experience through the use of design elements. Therefore, the items in your portfolio must present a visual record of what you learned in terms of language, culture and about yourself.

The oral language component of this credit comes from the presentation of your portfolio. You can pre-record and submit the presentation or organize a virtual meeting with EECD staff via Google Classroom. You will present, in French, an overview of your portfolio, highlighting aspects that you think demonstrate your cultural and linguistic development. **If you choose to present your portfolio via a virtual meeting, please arrange this meeting before September 15th.**

The content of the portfolio should be presented either chronologically or by theme. The content may include, but is not limited to, the examples provided below. The items presented are to be accompanied by brief descriptions in French which clearly describe the context of the activity they represent, as well as the impact that activity had on you and your learning.

Here are some content examples that may be included in your portfolio:

- Samples of school work
- Souvenirs from cultural activities, such as
 - Ticket stubs to a show, play, film, sporting event, etc.
 - Menus, recipes
 - Newspaper or magazine articles
 - Description or review of a film, a play, a sporting event, a museum or a park you visited, or some other adventure you had during the program
- A variety of images representing your learning (photos, drawings, etc.)
- Poems, lyrics to favourite songs, song recordings or videos

50% - Proof of successful completion of all requirements of the Explore Program

- **Official document from the institution demonstrating that all components of the**

Explore program were successfully completed. (e.g. a certificate or transcript that clearly states the student achieved the expectations of the program)

The following suggestions may be used as a guide for developing your thoughts and ideas for any of the assignments. It is not necessary to answer all of the questions or to answer them in order. Be creative and think of ways to share your thoughts and reflections; these categories and questions are meant only to inspire you.

Be sure to also review the rubrics for specific evaluation criteria.

- **Your expectations of the program**
 - Why did I decide to participate in this program?
 - What motivated me to do so?
 - What were my expectations?
- **Your arrival and the first week of the program**
 - How was my arrival in my new surroundings?
 - How well did I adapt at first to my new surroundings?
 - How was I welcomed at school? At the university residence?
 - At that point, what were the biggest surprises for me?
 - How did I feel about the other students around me?
- **Daily life and activities**
 - What was a typical day like for me?
 - What were some of my activities? Which ones did I like best? Least? Why?
- **Familiar situations and new experiences**
 - How did my regular school compare to the Explore institution?
 - How did my social life there compare to that at home?
 - How did my courses there compare to those in my regular school?
 - How did the food there compare to the food at home?
- **New friends**
 - How did I go about making new friends?
 - How would I describe my relationship with these new friends?
- **Back home**
 - How did I prepare to return home?
 - How did I feel about returning to my home life and surroundings?
 - What may have had the greatest impact on my life following this experience?
- **Summing it up**
 - Were the goals I had at the beginning of the program realistic?
 - What goals did I reach and how did I reach them? Was that easy to do? What are some examples of this?
 - Following my experience in the program, what new challenges do I now face in terms of learning French, learning about a new culture or about my own personal growth?
 - What were my successes in the program?
 - What were my frustrations?

- What were the most important moments of the program for me?
- What lessons about French language, French culture and about life in general have I learned?