



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS**

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CALL FOR PROJECTS 2023

« Support for the organization of a French Language Job Fair »

Communiqué

In recent years, there has been a greater demand from employers for foreign language skills and French skills in particular: a March 2017 report by *The New American Economy*, “Not so lost in translation”, notes that the number of job postings online asking for advanced French skills increased by 134% between 2010 and 2015 in the US, while the number of students enrolled in French in Higher Education has been dropping.

There is therefore a case to be made to highlight this coming skill gap on the labor market and underscore the advantages a mastery of French will offer students when they enter the workforce.

Indeed, this is what the *French Language Job Fair's* first edition, organized by the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in partnership with several partner universities in New Orleans and San Diego in 2019, and online last year, has done. On March 20, 2020, on the International Francophonie Day, we hosted an online event which brought together more than 1,200 American students from 31 universities across the country with 30 employers in industries as diverse as insurance, banking, tourism or engineering.

The organization of a French Language Job Fair allows us to give substance to this new paradigm by offering students of French internships and jobs in the United States, giving them the opportunity to put their language skills to good use in a domestic context.

Following the great enthusiasm generated by French Language Job Fairs, the AATF, in partnership with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, would like to support and accompany you this year in the organization of your own event. For this purpose, a total of up to \$10,000 could be made available for projects of all sizes and formats.

All chosen projects could also receive support from the Québec Government Office in Los Angeles. If you wish to organize a French Language Job Fair in the year 2023, submit your project before December 31st !

This grant program is open to all departments of French at U.S. institutions of higher education, both public and private.

Goals

In providing financial support to French departments, the purpose of this grant program is to:

- Promote and enhance university departments of French
- Support the business community in the U.S. in need of French-speaking profiles
- Participate in the promotion of the teaching of French at the university level by insisting on the advantages that learners will experience on the job market
- Enriching the offer of professional French in universities by facilitating the search for placement in experience-learning opportunities
- Support the organization of Job Fairs in the year 2023

Eligibility criteria

All U.S. higher education institutions, public and private, are eligible to apply.

Eligible expenses for your French Language Job Fair project are as follows:

- Provision of a room for the event
- Transportation and hosting of speakers
- Communication costs
- Equipment rental

Projects of all formats and sizes are accepted. The following aspects included in a project will be highly competitive:

- **In-person**: in-person projects are welcome. (However, given the evolution of the health context, virtual projects will also be considered.)
- **Relying on a "French Team"**: We encourage the organizers to work in a regional logic in order to enhance the employment basin in which the French Language Job Fair is held, by approaching all French experts (e.g., French alliances, teachers from other French departments) but also all the stakeholders of the French-speaking economy (e.g. chambers of commerce).
- **Proposing a program of conferences** that highlights the advantages of learning French in the American job market, in parallel with interviews and conferences with employers
- **Proposing an opening on the French-speaking world** and on cultural diversity in the French-speaking world: Integrate actors from several French-speaking countries into the event.

Applications

An application requires the submission of the completed application form on time.

Application form : <https://form.jotform.com/220136603420137>

Upon acceptance, the beneficiaries of the French Embassy's grant commit to:

- Submit a complete and compliant grant application including a bank certificate, the list of organizers, a global budget and a provisional plan for the use of the grant;
- Mention the support of the French Embassy and the Quebec Government Office in the United States on all publicity and communication materials related to the Employment Forum;
- Include **the logo of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the Quebec Government Office in the United States on all publicity and communications materials related to the grant**;
- Produce a post-event report on the French Language Job Fair.

Schedule

Launch of the call for projects	October 2022
Closing of the call for projects	December 31, 2022
Meeting of the selection committee	January 23, 2022
Announcement of the winners	January 27, 2022
Projects implementation	January to December 2023

The call for projects is launched in October 2022 and is open until December 31st 2022.

Application form: <https://form.jotform.com/220136603420137>

During the entire period of the call for projects, the Cultural Services will support and monitor the projects being prepared.

Project selection

In the days following the meeting of the committee in charge of project selection.

- Funding of up to 50% of the overall project budget will be offered
- Depending on the size of the project, the host campus will receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000
- Several projects will be selected

Contacts

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