

HUMANITIES PROPOSAL SAMPLE

Summer Research Proposal: Humanities Division

This past academic year, I began my studies of the French language. The beauty of studying a foreign language at Swarthmore lies in its rigorous curriculum. While I have struggled with grammatical inconsistencies, strained over countless verb conjugations, and fallen victim to faux amis, the daily exposure required of foreign language learners has enforced my thorough understanding of the material. With the course split equally into lecture and drill days, I have been able to practice the materials in small group settings. Throughout the course, I have also been introduced to the history and culture of various French-speaking countries. Swarthmore's intensive language curriculum cultivates a dynamic learning environment that encourages application, and throughout the course, I have developed a great interest in French cultural and literary studies.

Although I will have a solid fundamental understanding of the French language upon completion of French II at Swarthmore, I hope to advance and accelerate my language skills, and a Swarthmore Summer Grant in the Humanities will greatly assist me in the process. I plan to spend my summer studying through The Certificate of Proficiency in French Language and Culture Program at McGill University's School of Continuing Studies. Under the guidance of two principal instructors, I will be attending class from 9 am to 3 pm Mondays through Fridays, for a total of 25 teaching hours per week. Although the program is divided into five levels (Basic French, Elementary French, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, and Advanced), I will begin the program at the Intermediate sequence. In the span of six weeks, this full-time intensive program will progress me into an advanced level of fluency. Additionally, a cultural discovery component integrated into the curriculum embraces collaboration amongst students in exploring different societal aspects. McGill's location in downtown Montréal, Canada and its proximity to Québec City ensure direct contact with native speakers and the francophone community on a daily basis. Living in a French-speaking community provides an unparalleled environment for language learning and supplements comprehension of the Canadian French culture, and I am excited for the exposure to French cinema, festivities, and food.

As an Economics and French major in the Honors program, the completion of this language immersion program will enhance my subsequent studies of advanced French. As this program comes highly recommended by faculty of the French Department at Swarthmore, it will help me master the language component of the major and place me in good standing for honors preparations. Furthermore, studying in Montréal will heighten my understanding of international economic relations. I would have the opportunity of attending lectures of renowned McGill economists and learning about the effects of globalization on the Canadian economy. I look forward to the challenges of this upcoming summer, and engaging with a global perspective in both of my prospective disciplines.