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Respondent

32 Anonymous

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### Application Information

1. Name: \*

Mécheneau Sarah

2. GCC Title/Position: \*

French Associate Professeur

3. Department: \*

Language Arts

4. Campus: \*

Verdugo

Garfield

5. E-mail: \*

smcheneau@glendale.edu

6. Phone: \*

734 780 6225

7. Dean or Department Head's Name: \*

Samantha Garagliano

### Project Proposal

8. Name of Project/Program: \*

French Summer Schools

9. Please select which category best describes your project: \*

- Arts & Culture
- Athletics & Fitness
- Career & Work Training
- College Operations & Facilities
- Humanities/Social Sciences
- Science & Technology

10. Amount requested: \*

25 000

11. What do you propose to do? \*

The goal of this project is to send GCC students to France to participate in the Summer Schools in France program for Summer 2027. This will be the third consecutive year that we offer our students this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and the program has grown to become an essential pillar of our French language and study abroad offerings at GCC.

Summer Schools in France, organized by Villa Albertine (the French Institute for Culture and Education) and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, consists of two weeks of immersion at a French university where students complete intensive innovation summer schools on topics such as artificial intelligence, sustainability, ocean and energy, and democracy. Each year, a selection of leading French institutions across France and its territories host these summer schools, with themes that evolve to reflect the most pressing global challenges. Students explore the local area, meet with local experts, and collaborate with French students and faculty. All classes are taught in English, and no prior knowledge of French is required, making this opportunity accessible to students across all disciplines at GCC.

12. Who will be involved in the project/program? \*

This project involves GCC students from a wide variety of majors, GCC faculty interested in promoting study abroad or integrating the summer school themes into their curriculum, and our key partners at Villa Albertine and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. I serve as the campus coordinator and primary liaison with our French partners, and my collaboration with them has continued to strengthen year after year. This year, I was invited to participate in the orientation for the host universities, which gave me the opportunity to advocate directly for community college students and help shape how our students are welcomed into the program. Villa Albertine has also been more involved in the selection process this year, allowing for stronger alignment between our students and the host institutions.

13. What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community? \*

This program provides community college students with the opportunity to study abroad at a French university, which is a rare and transformative experience at this academic level. Although over one-third of U.S. undergraduate students attend community colleges, fewer than 2% of study abroad participants are community college students. Summer Schools in France was designed specifically to address this gap, with a focus on Minority Serving Institutions, community colleges, HBCUs, and HSIs, which makes GCC a natural and valued partner in this initiative. The program significantly increases our students' intercultural awareness, strengthens their transfer applications, and gives them university credits recognized in the European Union.

Beyond the impact on individual students, the renewal of this project continues to strengthen our institutional relationship with Villa Albertine and the French Embassy. After three years of successful collaboration, we are now in early conversations about the possibility of having a summer school dedicated specifically to GCC students in the future, which would be an achievement for our college and a true testament to the partnership we have built. For many of our students, this is also the only way they can afford a study abroad experience. As one of our 2026 participants shared, she would not have been able to participate without the support of the GCC Foundation and the French Embassy.

## 14. How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan? \*

View ISP at <https://www.glendale.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/68172>

This program directly supports several pillars of the ISP, particularly those focused on student success, equity, and global engagement. By making study abroad accessible to community college students, this program advances equity in international education, an area where our population has historically been underserved. The program also promotes innovative cross-cultural learning aligned with the Chancellor's Strategic Plan for 2030, with a focus on emerging fields such as AI, sustainability, climate, and democracy. Finally, by deepening our partnership with Villa Albertine and the French Embassy, this project elevates GCC's profile as a leader in community college international education.

## 15. Timeline for the project/program. \*

If funds are approved, I will continue my year-round promotion of the program through my French courses and across campus, with a renewed informational session at the beginning of the fall 2026 semester. Applications will be due in January 2027, students will receive acceptance letters in February 2027, and they will attend their chosen summer school in June or July 2027 for two weeks. As in previous years, I will be in close contact with Villa Albertine throughout the selection process and will support students with logistics, visa applications, and pre-departure preparation.

## 16. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information. \*

The funds will be used to cover program fees and a portion of the airfare for participating students. The program cost per student is \$2,400, and the Foundation grant would also contribute up to \$1,142 per student toward the cost of their flight, which has proven to be a workable cap based on actual flight costs from this past year.

Cost breakdown per student:

Program cost: \$2,400

Foundation contribution toward flight: up to \$1,142 (capped)

Total per student from Foundation: up to \$3,542

Total proposed funds from Foundation for approximately 10 students: \$25,000

I would like to note that Villa Albertine has, in the past, been able to offer partial scholarships to some of our students, which allowed us to stretch the Foundation's contribution further. However, scholarship availability varies from year to year and is never guaranteed. In 2026, scholarship funding was more limited than expected, which meant we were only able to send 7 students despite strong demand and a competitive applicant pool. Reliable Foundation support is therefore essential to ensuring that we can continue to offer this opportunity regardless of fluctuations in scholarship funding.

## 17. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. \*

Villa Albertine, with the support of the Albertine Foundation and the Borchard Foundation, has historically provided partial scholarships to some participating students. However, the availability of these scholarships varies year to year and cannot be confirmed in advance. I will continue to advocate for our students to receive scholarships, and any scholarship funding received will reduce the per-student cost to the Foundation accordingly.

## 18. How will the Foundation's support be recognized? \*

The Foundation's support will be acknowledged by Villa Albertine and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, as well as through our own communications at GCC. Students share their experiences upon return through testimonials, presentations, and social media content, where Foundation support is consistently recognized. If the proposed GCC-hosted summer school becomes a reality in the coming years, the Foundation will be publicly recognized as a key partner in establishing this international collaboration.

## 19. How do you plan to evaluate this project's success? \*

All students will be surveyed about their experience before, during, and after the program, and results will be shared with the Foundation. I also evaluate success through the strength of our applicant pool, the number of students we are able to send, the deepening of our partnership with Villa Albertine, and the long-term impact on participating students' academic trajectories (transfer outcomes, language studies, future study abroad experiences). The progression of conversations around a potential GCC-hosted summer school will also be a meaningful indicator of success.

## 20. If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward? \*

This program has already transformed how I approach my role as a French instructor and study abroad advocate at GCC. Promoting this opportunity year-round in my courses has allowed me to identify and mentor highly motivated students, and the experience itself has become a powerful tool for recruiting students into French language studies. Moving forward, I will continue to refine the application and selection process in collaboration with Villa Albertine, deepen our institutional partnerships, and work toward the long-term goal of hosting a summer school at GCC. Each year's experience also informs how I prepare future participants, from logistical guidance to cultural preparation.

21. Please provide a 2 – 3 sentence summary of your project proposal. \*

This project would allow GCC to send students to France for the third consecutive year to participate in the Summer Schools in France program offered by Villa Albertine and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. The program provides community college students with a rare opportunity to study abroad at a French university and earn EU-recognized credits, while strengthening GCC's growing partnership with our French partners. With continued Foundation support, we hope to expand this program and move closer to the goal of hosting a dedicated summer school at GCC.

## Signature and Acknowledgments

22. I hereby acknowledge/certify: \*

- My Dean or department head is aware of this application and has authorized its submission.
- If my proposal involves the hiring of temporary/contracted professionals, I will obtain approval from Human Resources before proceeding and will provide documentation to the Foundation that the hiring/contracting has been reviewed and approved.
- If my proposal involves conference and/or other travel, I will complete the GCC travel approval process and adhere to GCC travel guidelines.