

● ● ALPHA.B
 FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL
 FRENCH COURSE IN FRANCE



NICE
 CÔTE D'AZUR



● ● ALPHA.B
 FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL
 Etablissement d'enseignement supérieur privé
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A LANGUAGE COURSE CONCEPT...

Knowing a language means being able to speak it, of course, but it also involves knowing its origin, participating in its culture, and living amongst its people.

A language course is a personal investment, a new experience and a different way of life, so you would expect to find:

- High quality courses
- Varied activities
- A warm welcome
- A friendly atmosphere and approachable staff.

If you want to learn or improve your French on the French Riviera, if you like our concept of a language course, then your investment and our competence will guarantee our mutual success.

*Alpha.b
Nice, côte d'azur*



bienvenue **welcome**
Willkommen bienvenido
benvenuto !



01. THE CENTRE

Situated in the heart of Nice, the capital of the French Riviera, alpha.b has chosen a lovely mansion from the early beginning of the century.

Surrounded by its own garden, where you will be able to relax at break times, the modern, well-equipped Centre (Internet access, e-mail, fax, WI-FI connection, amenities for handicapped...) is right next to local shops, the beaches and the old town.

During high season, July and August, our second summer centre is situated in proximity to the Roman Arenas and the Matisse and Chagall museums. A charming place with similar facilities.

02. WHY TO CHOOSE ALPHA.B ?

- Small class size of 5 to 8 students with same language level per class (10 maximum).
- Good nationality mix of 15 to 25 different nationalities per session.
- Independent, family-run school with human dimension (16 class rooms, library, Internet room).
- WIFI connection in the whole school, Computer room with free Internet access for students.
- Premises with air-condition and private garden in the very heart of the city.
- Quality control of all offered services (premises, tuition, accommodation) every 2 years by independent organisations.
- Same administration and teaching staff for many years. Teachers are native speakers with a University degree.
- Own accommodation service.
- Marked by our students as for courses, accommodation and activity programme.

03. THE TEACHING

There is no miracle method for learning a language, just different teaching methods where quality student/teacher working relation-ships lead to successful learning.

For us, mastering a language requires a combination of :

“CONFIDENCE - OPEN MINDEDNESS - COMMUNICATION.”



Our method, called the direct method, allows you to apply your knowledge quickly and efficiently.

It is based upon:

- Team oral exercises. Role-playing, discussions, simulations, round tables, tape recordings, practical exercises in real life situations, video, games...
- A «digestible» approach to learning grammar, developed from the student's book (that is given to you upon your arrival) and permanently updated authentic documents ... newspapers, narration, song lyrics, TV or radio broadcasts, exercises...

Our teachers, or rather pedagogues (all of whom are French and fully qualified) that are :

- Responsible for the harmony and dynamics of the group
- Experienced in pedagogical objectives
- Able to motivate and encourage you.

Classes are constituted with regard to the results of the written and oral placement test that takes place on the first morning of your course. This placement test as well as our teaching programs are made up according to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:

- A0 (Beginner)
- A1 (Breakthrough),
- A2 (Waystage),
- B1 (Threshold),
- B2 (Vantage)
- C1 (Effective Operational Proficiency)
- C2 (Mastery)

04. THE COURSES

Written and oral placement test on the first day
Courses are given from Monday to Friday
5 to 8 students per class (10 max.)
1 lesson = 45 minutes

1/ Continuous French

20 lessons per week
(9.00 - 10.40 / 11.00 - 12.20)
2 to 24 weeks - All levels

This morning course offers you : Development of grammatical skills, improvement of vocabulary, oral expression, comprehension, reading and practise of written language.

2/ Intensive French

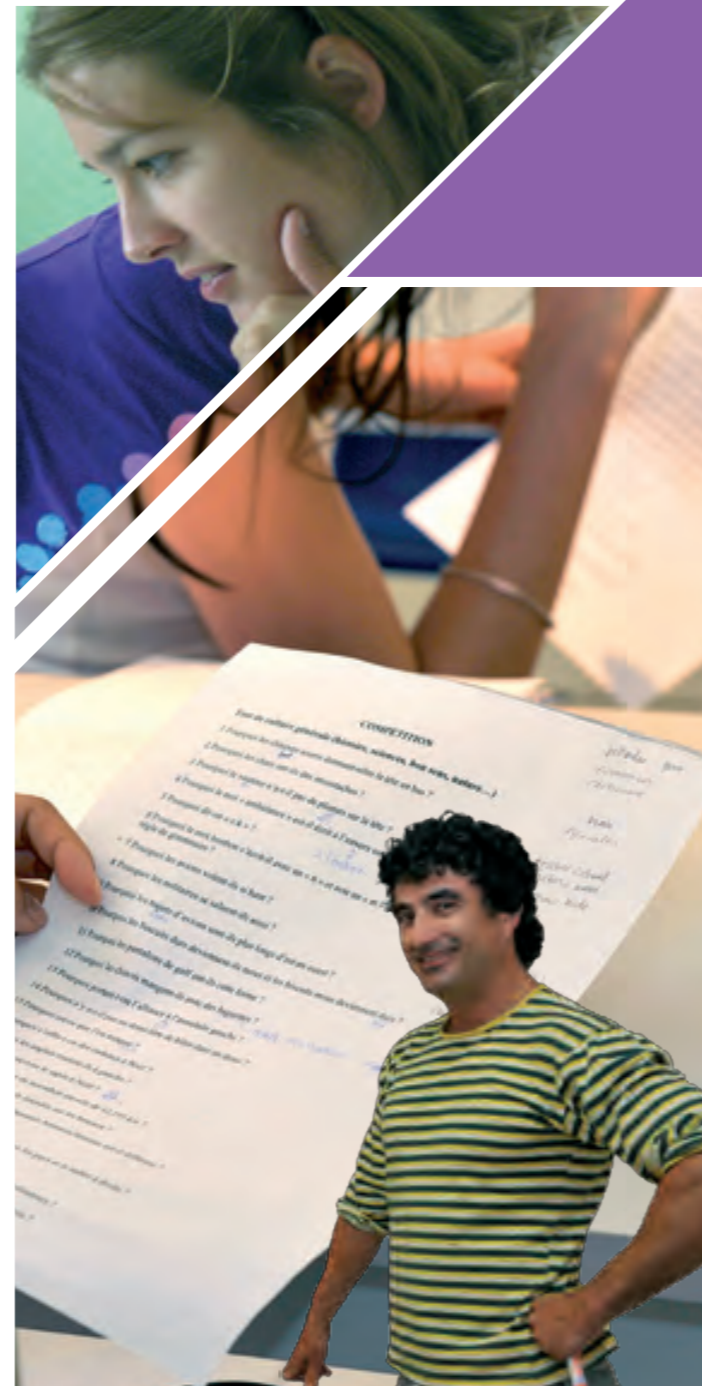
30 lessons per week
(9.00 - 10.40 / 11.00 - 12.20)
+ 3 afternoons 13.15 - 15.45)
2 to 24 weeks - All levels

Very thorough programme: morning lessons similar to the Continuous French course + 10 lessons during three afternoons devoted to the practical application of your knowledge, an approach to cultural, social political and economic life in France.
According to your level: opinion polls, debates, literature, history, theatre, music...

3/ Combination Course

20+5, 20+10, 20+15 or 20+20 lessons per week
1 to 24 weeks - All levels

This course combines the subjects of the « Continuous French Course » with those of an « Individual Course ». 20 lessons/week of group tuition (in the morning,) and 5, 10, 15 or 20 lessons/week of individual tuition (in the afternoon), tailored to suit your needs and wishes : General French, Commercial French, Law, Tourism, Hotel Trade, Translation and Interpreter ship (from English, Italian, Spanish or German into French), Exam Preparation...



4/ Individual Courses

2 to 5 lessons per day
In the afternoon

The programme of the course depends on your professional, academic or personal requirements. Different programmes « à la carte » on request.

5/ French Course option DELF, DALF or TCF

Preparation and entry for the chosen examination

● **D.E.L.F** - Diplôme d'Etudes de Langue Française

Combination Course with DELF option

Duration: 4 weeks - 20 + 6 lessons per week
(see course n°3 - Combination Course)
Required level: depending on the diploma you are aiming to take

At the moment the D.E.L.F. is the only diploma of French as a foreign language which is officially recognised by the French Ministry of Education. It has been accepted by more than 150 countries and is widely recognised by administrations and firms. The D.E.L.F. offers 4 diplomas which can be taken independently from each other and it squares with the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

D.E.L.F A1 certifies your first knowledge, Level A1 « Breakthrough » of the European Framework

D.E.L.F A2 certifies an elementary knowledge, Level A2 « Waystage » of the European Framework

D.E.L.F B1 certifies an intermediate knowledge, Level B1 « Threshold » of the European Framework

D.E.L.F B2 certifies an advanced knowledge, Level B2 « Vantage » of the European Framework.

Tuition is organised according to the exam requirements.

This means an approach to the main aspects of French language: grammar, vocabulary, standard of written and oral expression, knowledge of French culture and civilisation.

If your current language level is already the one you of your requested diploma, you can enrol directly for the 4 week preparation course. If your current level is just under the one of the requested diploma, you will have to do a 4 week Continuous Course before your DELF Preparation Course (see course n° 1). Our Quick Test will help you to determine your level.

NOTES :

Mr Richez Pascal, Director of Alpha.b, and Ms Brenda Malalel, Director of Studies, are members of the D.E.L.F. jury.

● **D.A.L.F** - Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française

Combination Course with DALF option

Duration: 3 weeks - 20 + 15 lessons per week
(see course n°3 - Combination Course)
Required level: C1 (see attached Quick Test)



The DALF C1 corresponds to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and certifies an independent language user.

This diploma allows entrance into a French University and exempts you from taking another language test.

(DALF Examination takes place at the University in Nice.)

The DALF Preparation course lasts 3 weeks and you are following a Combination Course 20 + 15. During the 15 private lessons per week you will be taught by a specialised teacher. This course covers the 4 tested language competences : listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Description of examinations on request or on the CIEP Website: www.ciep.fr

● **T.C.F** – Test de Connaissance du Français

Combination Course with TCF option

Duration: 2 weeks - 20+5 lessons per week
(see course n°3 - Combination Course)
Required level: All language levels

Combination Course with TCF option

The TCF is a standard graded test designed by the CIEP (Centre International d'Etude Pédagogique) and awarded by the French Ministry of Education.

It is intended for anybody who wishes to have their competency in French assessed and certified simply, reliably and quickly for professional, personal or academic reasons.

Testing takes place in Nice and your Certificate of Achievement is valid for two years.

The TCF is a multiple-choice test that consists of 80 items divided into 3 sections:

- listening
- grammatical structures
- reading

The TCF also offers 2 optional tests assessing speaking and writing.

04. THE COURSES *next...*



6/ Executive French

30 lessons in a mini group

2 to maximum 5 students per class.

1 week course from Monday to Friday

Lessons in a mini group : 9.00 - 10.40/11.00 - 12.20/13.45 - 15.15

Required level : B1 or higher

Equipment used during the course: came scope / video / phone / multimedia projector / computers / Internet

This course, purposely reduced in number of students, is designed to businessmen, engineers, skilled workers... wishing an intensive but short termed course to update or improve their language skills

7/ French for Teachers

36 lessons per week

Comenius/Grundtvig Grant

(9.00 - 10.40 / 11.00 - 12.20/13.15 - 15.30

+ workshop of 2 lessons the second week)

Duration : 2 weeks

Required level : C1/C2

This course is designed to French teachers from all over the world. It will allow to improve and/or update your linguistic skills and your knowledge of present cultural, social and economic aspects. Moreover several workshops are offered: Modern techniques and methods of teaching and their evolution / Pedagogic and group dynamic / Tools and games to use in class / Improvement, evaluation and control of skills / Nationalities and their specific problems in learning French language.

Programme details can be sent on request or downloaded on our website



8/ A Level Revision Course

30 lessons per week

(9.00 - 10.40 / 11.00 - 12.20 + 3 afternoons 13.15 - 15.45)

Duration: 1 or 2 weeks

Required level : 4 to 6 years of school French.

This course is designed for high school students who want to improve their knowledge of French with a view to the examination, which marks the end of their school education.

Morning lessons are devoted to grammatical and functional aims and to «exposés» during which each student presents a work of a French author he has chosen. Afternoon lessons are reserved for résumé techniques and text analysis.

1 to 2 hours per day after lessons for preparation or exercises.

All text material used in lessons deals with French literature and civilisation.



9/ French Language & Culture

35 lessons per week

(9.00 - 10.40 / 11.00 + 12.20)

& 4 afternoons per week - timetable depending on the different workshops

Duration: 2 weeks

Required level: A2 or higher (see Quick Test)

Does one can pretend knowing French language without knowing today's French life ? This course is designed to students interested in combining a French language course with workshops on French cooking, fashion, cinema, humour, chanson, arts, etc. Morning lessons are following the Continuous French programme, afternoons are devoted to discover the French way of life.

Afternoon programme...

Cooking lessons (2 hours) :

You are guided by a real "Chef" welcoming you in his professional cuisine.

French Cinema of today (3 hours) :

Analysis of contemporary French films.

Panorama of French chanson from the 60s until today (2.30).

Guided visit of the Matisse museum followed by an introduction to aquarelles. Painting lesson takes place in the splendid garden of the Cimiez monastery.

Excursion to the historical village of EZE (3 hours)

Guided visit of the famous Fragonard perfume factory.

(This activity is open to other students but limited to the number of 20).



French humour (2 hours)

You will have fun during these workshop ! Sketches, comics, texts... in short : all that makes French people laughing.

Fashion (2.30)

Main designers in France. Their influence on ready-to-wear and trends.

This afternoon is ending with window shopping. Hermes, Dior, Chanel and Lacroix boutiques are just next door to the school.

Good manners in France (2 hours)

All you need to know about. Eating manners, how to act the right and proper way towards women/men... and also strange behaviour going along with it.

Evening programme...

Apéritif / Quiz evening in a pub. Test your knowledge on French culture.

Don't stress - it's fun !

Wine and cheese tasting.

You will learn all about a good wine and different cheese categories. How to choose it, how to store it, etc.

(This activity is open to other students but limited to the number of 20).

04. THE COURSES *end...*

10/ Club 50

15 lessons per week

Lessons take place from Monday to Friday

9.30 - 10.30 / 11.00 - 12.15

Activity programme

7 afternoons - 2 evenings - 1 full day

Course duration : 2 weeks

Required level : A2 or higher (see Quick Test)

Programme details

This course is designed to senior students and combines practice of French language and different aspects of French culture.

Lessons...

Morning lessons are devoted to topics of cultural activities offered in the afternoon. Development with the help of plays, debates, documents by using different supports like newspapers, video, etc...

Highly practical approach to the language while developing communication and comprehension. This course leads every participant to a highest possible independence when using and understanding French language.

Activities...

1st week

- **Monday 13.30 - 16.30 :**

visit of Nice old town, history and colourful places

- **Tuesday 13.30 - 18.00 :**

excursion to Beaulieu and Saint Jean Cap Ferrat, visit of the Kerylos and Rothschild villa

- **Wednesday 17.00 - 20.00 :**

Cuisine provençale, wine tasting...

- **Thursday 13.30 - 18.00 :**

excursion to Cagnes sur Mer, visit of the Renoir museum

- **Friday afternoon :**

free time

- **Saturday 09.00 - 18.00 :**

excursion to Entrevaux, visit of medieval village

- **Sunday afternoon :**

Classic music, concert of the Nice opera



2nd week

- **Monday afternoon :**

guided visit of the Chagall museum

- **Tuesday 13.30 - 18.00 :**

excursion to Villefranche sur Mer

- **Wednesday 18.00 - 20.00 :**

Salsa evening

- **Thursday 19.30 - 23.00 :**

Dinner in a restaurant with alpha.b staff

- **Friday :**

Shopping

Practical information

- Excursions take place by bus or train and the group is accompanied by a teacher or our social director (this isn't valid for the 1st Sunday and the 2nd Friday)

- For the visits of towns and villages we only chose short walking distances with several breaks...

- Besides the excursion to Entrevaux, tuition and activities are reserved to seniors only and no other student will be mixed to the group.

- Accommodation is carefully chosen near the school (less than 1 kilometre by walking)

All activities are guided and commented in French language...

Activity programme during the February session is partly focused on Carnival events.

05. SPORTS OPTIONS

Sailing (July and August)

Every afternoon, from 2pm onwards, from Monday to Friday and for two weeks, you will be taught how to sail. (10 sessions of around 3 hours each).

You will learn on a catamaran, with monitors that are certified by the French Sailing Federation.

After a few theory sessions, you will soon be out on one of the most stunning seas in the world : the Mediterranean.

The team supervising the students is made up of monitors who have experience in teaching people from all different horizons. As much as possible, the sessions will be carried out in French.

Underwater diving (May – October)

The same timetable as for the sailing lessons.

Every session is preceded by a briefing to the dive that will follow. You will be taken by boat to the dive, supervised by certified monitors (PADI Gold Palm).

9 lessons are devoted to teaching and practice and exploration. 2 lessons of 45 minutes each are devoted exclusively to theory.

At the end of this course, you will be awarded the PADI 1st level. A blend of sport, relaxation, and solidarity whilst learning a language, this course is certainly a wonderful experience

Remark :

- Parents of minors must provide a certificate permitting their child to do the sport that is chosen.

- The following documents should be provided:

- A medical aptitude certificate
- A certificate issued by the competent authority in your country showing you can swim at least 50 metres.

- You are asked to present to the a.m. documents at the ALPHA.B office at the beginning of your course.



06. ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation *Nice Côte d'Azur - France*

Host family, home stay, student residence, dormitory, apartment hotel, hotels in Nice Côte d'Azur, your accommodation while studying French



With families

Our main selection criteria are the families' presence and aptitude to receive foreign guests in the best conditions. All of the placements are personalised and monitored as much as possible. Please note that to satisfy our requirements, some families we work with may be about 20 minutes from the school.

Half board - Single room or double room

With a French host

Independent but nevertheless convivial type of accommodation. You share a flat with a French person according to the elementary roles of « *savoir-vivre* ». Self-catering. Shared facilities incl. right to use the kitchen. You have to bring towels. Located within a 30 minutes' bus ride of the school maximum

Single room or double room

In bed-sits

For 1 or 2 persons, Alpha.b offers fully equipped studio-apartments of private owners. Located at different places in the city centre and sized 25 to 30 m², you can expect TV, kitchen, separate WC, bath or shower and bed linen. (You have to bring towels)

Student Hotel Residence CITEA

Citéa Nice Acropolis is a 2 star residence located in front of the Acropolis Exhibition Centre near the famous Garibaldi's place. You are right next to the old town, within a 15 minutes walk from the beach and within a 20 minutes walk from the school. Studio-apartments of 15 - 18 m² for 1 or 2 persons.

All rooms are fully furnished with private WC and bath and are equipped with a kitchenette, Satellite TV, direct phone line, high speed Internet and air conditioning. Bed linen and towels are provided.

If you are travelling by car, you can book a place at the car park before arrival. You also have access to the outdoor swimming pool which is open from June 1st to September 30th.

Self catering accommodation with the possibility of breakfast service (to be booked directly with the residence).

●● ! ATTENTION !

Minimum age: 18 years

University residence

Only during July and August

« Montebello » is the dormitory of the Faculty of Sciences supervised by a guardian 24h/24h. It is located in the Cimiez district and surrounded by a magnificent park. You can reach the city centre and the Alpha.b main school within a 10 minutes bus ride or a 30 minutes walk. Our 2nd summer centre is within short walking distance.

We offer single rooms of 13 m² furnished with a small fridge and equipped with a private shower and WC (no cooking facilities in the residence). Accommodation includes breakfast at the Campus restaurant but no meals are provided for lunch and dinner. Bed linen is provided, cleaning kit available on spot.

●● ! ATTENTION !

No under age students are accepted.

No stay minor to 2 weeks.

In hotels

Single or double room including breakfast

- Hôtel Mercure**** within a 6 minutes walk from the school
- Hôtel Villa Victoria*** within a 7 minutes walk from the school
- Nouvel Hôtel** within a 3 minutes walk from the school

Apartment Hotel LAMARTINE

If you are looking for a high standard accommodation, Lamartine is certainly the right choice. Within a 10 minutes walk from the school, the 4 star apartment hotel offers studio-apartments or 2 roomed flats. All of them are with air conditioning and fully furnished. (Direct phone, Satellite TV, safe, parking, bed linen and towels).

● Studio-Apartments

18 or 30 m² for 1 or 2 persons

● Flats

45 or 60 m² for 1 to 4 persons

Transfer: The geographical situation makes transportation in Nice very easy. In case of host family accommodation, your family is offering free of charge pick-up on arrival (but no pick-up between. 22.00 and 8.00). For other accommodation types you have the following possibilities: When arriving at the airport a taxi will take you in 20 minutes to your accommodation for the cost of 25 to 30 €. The Airport bus is less expensive (4 €) and you will reach the town centre in less than 40 minutes. When arriving at the train station you are already in the town centre and you can go to your accommodation by taxi (15 €) or by bus and tramway (1 €) in less than 10 minutes. You will receive detailed information about local transport with your confirmation package. Regardless the accommodation type we will need your arrival details (arrival time and place, flight or train no.) at least 3 days before your arrival date in Nice in order to arrange a transfer or your reception in the accommodation.

Your accommodation is booked for the Sunday preceding the start of your course, until the Saturday of your departure.

07. AND WHAT TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME...

Leisure activities in Nice.

*The beach, the sea, **the mountains**, skiing, underwater diving, sailing, night life with pubs and bars...*

As soon as you arrive, we will give you a free guide book that tells you all about Nice and its surroundings...

Moreover, our social counsellors are there for you during break times and after classes to help you with your « French way of life ».

They will offer you a varied programme of cultural and leisure activities on evenings, afternoons and weekends.

The activity programme includes: French films and theme evenings at school, beach parties, pubs, bowling and disco. But also hiking, rafting, first diving, conferences, wine and cheese tasting, guided museum visits, excursions accompanied by a teacher and participation in the multitude of events taking place on the Riviera...

These programmes are optional and participation is free of charge. Except for entrance and transport fees which have to be paid on spot.

Nice offers also a wide range of individual sport activities.



08. ENROLMENT CONDITIONS



Enrolment

Please fill out the application form and send it to your agent or directly to Alpha.b (minimum age for our students is 16 years).

For any accommodation booked through our services, you are requested to join an instalment of 25% of the total accommodation price. For this you can send a Traveller Cheque along with your application form, a copy of your bank transfer order (for the latter please make sure that you have paid all bank charges involved) or you can do an online payment on our website.

Upon receipt of your application, your enrolment will be confirmed by letter. You will also receive a leaflet containing information for your stay (town map, outgoing permission for under age students, address of your accommodation and the address* of the centre you have to come in the first day).

* Remember that during July and August we have two centres both with its own administration and teaching staff.

Payment

- Together with your booking confirmation, we will send you an invoice. Your instalment will be deducted from the total cost of your stay.
- The invoice or balance should be paid by the start of the course at the latest; by bank transfer or directly on arrival via traveller cheque or credit carte (except American Express).
- All bank charges must be paid by you ! (The cost of the accommodation will be sent by us to your type of accommodation).

Cancellation – changing

- If you are forced to cancel your course or if you wish to change your booking, you have to inform your agent or the administration of ALPHA.B in writing, by fax or e-mail. Attention, if you have booked accommodation, you have to inform us of your cancellation at least 32 days before accommodation start. For any later cancellation or in case of non-presentation, your instalment of 25% won't be refunded.
- A programme already started has to be paid in full.
- If for any reason the programmes cannot take place, you will be refunded. No further compensation will be owed by Alpha.b

Insurance

Once arrived in Nice, you are covered by the school's civil liability with an excess of 350 € except for incidents or accidents in your accommodation. Moreover, our insurance does not cover your journey, illness, hospitalization, repatriation and theft. However, for any accident during the Alpha.b programme (course or activities) you have the right of basic individual guaranties

Schengen Requirements : « *If you come from a country which has not signed the Schengen Treaty, you have to have a minimum health coverage of 30 000 € as well as a medical repatriation assistance and repatriation of the body to your country of origin in order to get a Visa. Any student coming to France for less than three months has to subscribe a health insurance contract.* »

- Please contact your insurance company or Alpha.b for more information.

Visa

Nationals of the European Union don't need a visa. For other nationalities, a tourist visa is delivered by the French Embassy in your country (except for special conventions) for any stay up to 3 months. For a longer stay you need a long-term student visa.

- In any case, don't hesitate to contact us for further information.

Practical information

- The first morning is devoted to the written and oral placement test, explaining the various documents you will be given (Alpha.b Grammar Book and students' card) and the presentation of the centre and the team. After having answered any question you may have, you will be invited to a guided tour of Nice' old town. Later that first day you are welcome to participate in a quiz evening in French language.

Attention: No group course on the first morning, lessons are starting on the next day.

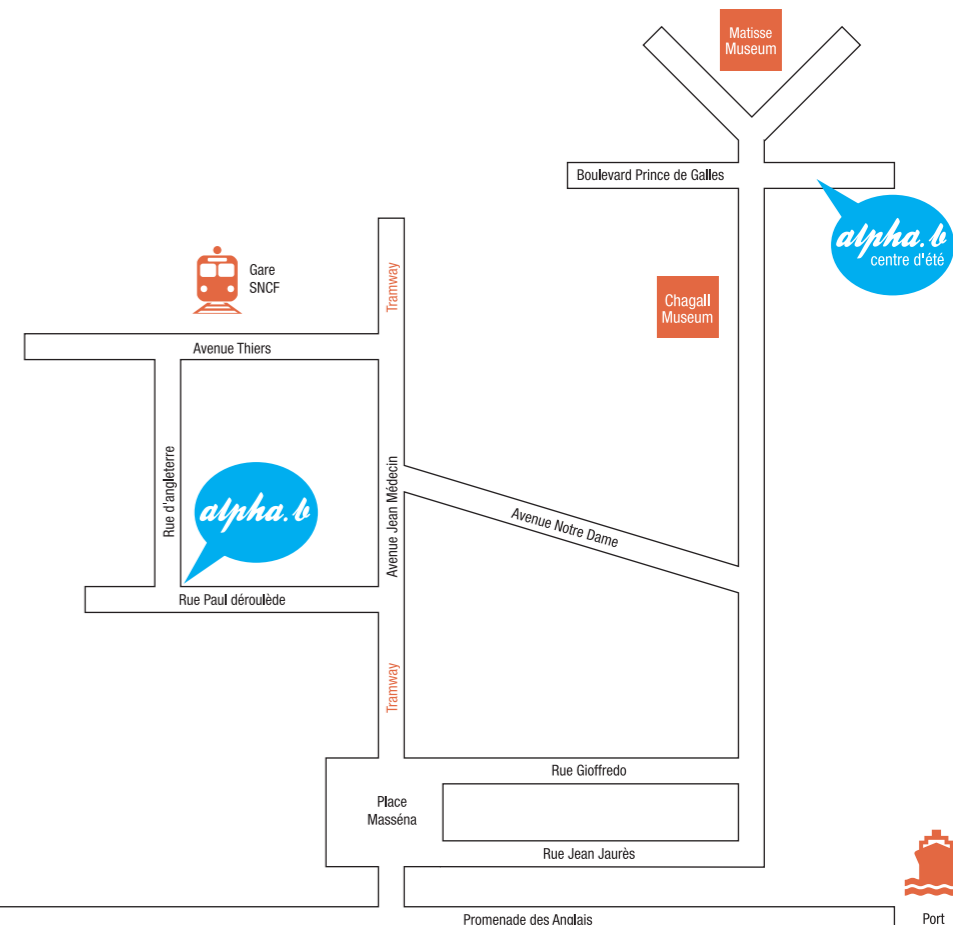
- With the Alpha.b students' card you have price reductions on cinema, local transport, museums, etc. To use the card you should bring a passport photo.
- Free Internet access and WI-FI connection at school.
- Possibility to do some self study. Exercises, tapes and other material can be prepared for you by your morning teacher free of charge. Just ask him !
- Hot and cold drinks available at school. Possibility of having lunch in one of the snack bars or small restaurants near the school for less than 10 Euros.
- At the end of your course you will receive a certificate and an evaluation sheet showing the level of French you have achieved.
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SITUATION

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Airport



Our references

