



Welcome to English at Ecole de Guerre

Why English? Interoperability!

The Chief of Defence Staff requested Ecole de Guerre to prepare officers to promote and defend French views in an international context. The level of interoperability requires language and leadership skills. The English programme was introduced in 2011 to fulfil this mandate.

What do we do?

We are here to help you: improve your language skills, and use leadership skills in English (public-speaking, effective writing, cultural competence...), prepare for TOEIC if needed, reflect on and enjoy your learning. Our trainers are all native English speakers from various countries with a wide range of experience. Use this document to help you choose the best option for you.

What options exist?

We offer you one of 3 options:

1. General English programme
2. General English programme for TOEIC takers
3. Project groups for advanced levels

What is General English?

This is our core programme followed by most officers. It caters for all levels from basic, intermediate to advanced. It is held from September to March over 51 hours in groups of 10-11 officers. We mix approaches with traditional *grammar-translation* led by the teacher; a student-centred *communicative* approach emphasising speaking; and a *fully student-led* approach where officers collaborate to create their programme in terms of skills, activities, and content. As a taster, you can develop your debating, presenting and negotiating skills to help you convince others and defend your views. See page 2 for how this links to the wider Ecole de Guerre syllabus.

What is TOEIC?

Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) is a global language certificate. The French military recognises it as providing an equivalent SLP rating (PLS in French). The test requires consistent practice and commitment to do well. The General English programme can include some preparation for TOEIC but not exclusively. We advise further study and offer 80 extra hours of classes from October until the test in May to help you develop your skills and strategies. See page 2 for more TOEIC details.

What are project groups?

For advanced levels, we offer one of 3 options:

1. Debating – Research & Public Speaking
2. Academic Writing & Public Speaking
3. Networking – Public Speaking & Events

If selected, you join one project group instead of the General English programme. All are challenging and require a lot of extra hours outside class, excluding TOEIC preparation. But you will be rewarded by unique learning experiences, opportunities for travel, and skills directly useful for your future career. See page 2 for descriptions of each project group.

What is my level? What are my goals?

We assess your level in September with a Listening and Reading evaluation plus a 25-minute oral interview with a trainer to define your goals. These allow us to form groups with similar levels and goals to help you advance at the right pace. An additional audition is held for each project group.

How am I evaluated?

All officers are invited to take two TOEIC-style Listening and Reading practice sessions in December and March. Trainers also provide regular feedback in class and written evaluations on your progress in October and February.

What extra training exists?

The 80 extra hours of TOEIC training offer you the opportunity to boost your grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. You can also enrol in a range of modules on security and international issues at the American University of Paris.

How can I practise my

All officers attend the Joint Services Command and Staff College in the UK for 5 days of immersion (this year likely replaced by another activity). Some officers may take part in a military planning exercise in the US. You may be selected to apply for the bilateral Young Leaders programme with the US or UK. You can attend debates, networking events, and choose books and DVDs from our in-house library. Your trainer can advise you on all these opportunities and how to make the most of your English learning.

What do I need to do now?

Think about your language goals before your interview in September. Which of the 4 skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) do you particularly want to develop? Decide if you want to take TOEIC. Consider a project if you have a high level. The 51 hours on offer will help you to maintain your level but not to become fluent. The more you invest, the better the results. Be realistic. We hope that your language experience with us will be rewarding. We look forward to meeting you in September and working with you.





Additional information

How does English link to the wider Ecole de Guerre syllabus?

In your future career, you may need English language and leadership skills to present and defend French views, to convince others of your position in international meetings, to coordinate with partners, to participate in joint operations, or for NATO planning. We aim to prepare you for this type of communication using both military and non-military content. We aim to reinforce and supplement skills you will develop during the French syllabus:

ENGLISH	FRENCH
Public speaking	<i>L'Art de Convaincre ; L'Art Oratoire</i>
Debating	Concours de débats
Writing	<i>Mémoire</i> ; Written reports for Coalition
Presenting	Oral COPD briefings
Negotiating	Module <i>Négociation</i>
Cultural insight	<i>Connaissance de soi</i>
Interviewing	Media training

What is the Debating Group?

This group is for 10 officers with advanced speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. You will spend an average of 100 hours plus 35 days travel in the US and UK. Your coaches will teach you formal debate formats and you will hone a new set of leadership skills – delivery, pronunciation, constructing a line of argument, building a case, rebuttal, cross-examination. This is about team-working. Your research into debate topics offers a unique learning opportunity, and you will build cultural insight by meeting senior officers and civil servants within the judiciary, legislative and executive branches. Past debate teams have won against prestigious competitors. Instead of writing a *mémoire* in French, you will write a paper in English based on one or several of your speeches.

What is the Academic Writing Project?

These groups are open to 35 officers with advanced writing, speaking, listening and reading skills. You will spend an average of 100 hours plus 5 days travel in the US or UK. You will work in pairs on military/security-related questions from our partners in the US and UK. Your coaches will guide you through the process of producing a paper from brainstorming and researching a topic, making a roadmap, conducting live and video interviews, to drafting and refining your text. You will present and defend your findings at a formal event in spring/early summer. Your paper may be published. Thus, you are writing your Ecole de Guerre *mémoire* in English.

What is the Networking Group?

This group is for 10-12 officers with advanced speaking and listening skills. You will spend an average of 80 hours at networking events and organising an international symposium. Networking aims to build links and foster better understanding across the military, public and private sectors. As the school's ambassadors, your objective will be to showcase French Military Leadership with external contacts. You will also organise, promote and speak at in-house and joint events during the year with defence and business partners. You will write the proceedings of your major event instead of writing a "mémoire" in French. You will build your public speaking skills in practical ways, develop contacts, and master effective networking.

What scores do I need in TOEIC?

Many officers require English proficiency for their future career. TOEIC is a tool to achieve that but should not be your only language goal. Preparation with our extra classes will help increase your readiness for the test. Language policy in the military is not centralised so each service has set its own scoring system. Your TOEIC scores will provide you with a Standardised Language Profile or SLP (PLS in French). Skills are listed in the following order: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing.

How do I achieve SLP 3333?

LISTENING	SPEAKING	READING	WRITING
400/495	125/200	385/495	125/200

How do I achieve SLP 4444?

LISTENING	SPEAKING	READING	WRITING
480/495	175/200	455/495	175/200

ALL officers also need an average of 14/20 for the Listening & Reading evaluations held in December and March to validate SLP 4444.

You can achieve a blended SLP e.g. 4334. You decide if we inform your Human Resources Department of your TOEIC results.

Emilie Cléret, Head of the English Department, can provide more information as required.



If you would like to find out more about TOEIC before deciding to take the test, the official website provides sample questions:
<https://www.ets.org/toeic>

If you would like to find out more about your language level, we use the Council of Europe's criteria:
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions>