Quebec Student Exchange Program

How does it work?
This unique program is facilitated by Alberta Education’s Student Exchange Programs. Students from Alberta are paired with students in Quebec. Taking place over one school year, paired students will attend school together in the same location at the same time for 12 weeks each.

- September to November (first semester) – Students from Quebec will attend school in Alberta.
- Late January – late April (second semester) – Alberta students will attend school in Quebec.

What is the cost?
Families are responsible for the costs associated with hosting the exchange partner. Flight costs for Alberta students are covered by the program, however a deposit of $400 is required at the time of purchasing flights, which is refunded upon completion of the program. Families are also expected to cover their son’s or daughter’s travel expenses and provide enough spending money for his/her time away. As this is a reciprocal exchange, school tuition fees are waived on both sides. Please note that all Alberta students’ return flights and emergency medical travel insurance must be booked through the travel agency and insurance provider identified by Alberta Education.

Who is eligible?
- All high school students studying French or who are in a French immersion program. Students normally apply during their Grade 10 year to participate in the exchange during their Grade 11 year.
- Students should have completed or will complete French 20 during the program year.
- Students are recommended by their French language teachers based on criteria, such as language proficiency, academic standing, personal qualities (such as maturity, openness to other cultures, ability to adapt and determination to complete the program) and family motivation.

Where do students live while on exchange?
Visiting students from Quebec will live in their Alberta host families’ homes and attend school with their Alberta exchange partners.

Visiting Alberta students will be hosted by their Quebec exchange partners and attend the Quebec school with their partners.

“Three months seems like forever in the beginning, but once you’re on the plane home you realize it wasn’t long enough. Take everything in, take pictures and have fun. Smile-you are doing something extraordinary!”
Why should you do an exchange with Quebec?

By taking part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity you will get a chance to:

- Improve your French language skills in an immersion environment
- Become immersed in the culture and lifestyle of Quebec by participating in daily school and family life
- Discover more about yourself as you face new challenges
- Develop new skills in living and working closely with people from a different culture.

How do I apply?

Talk to your French language teacher or visit www.studyabroad.alberta.ca for more information. Interested students must ensure that their completed application is mailed to Alberta Education no later than March 15. Application instructions and forms (both student and school portions) will be available on the Alberta Education website.

“I learned that wherever you go, lovely people are waiting to change your life for the better. I would have never realized how important this was if Quebec didn’t give me a second family and so many genuine friends. In addition to this, I found myself making these relationships based off a beautiful language. I made me feel part of something bigger, and a proud (almost) bilingual Canadian.”