

How do I become a French Immersion or French as a Second Language teacher with the Greater Victoria School District?

French teacher candidates in Victoria demonstrate language proficiency as a qualification requirement before being considered for French Immersion or Core French teaching assignments. The Test de Français International (TFI), is used in making this determination. This is a written and oral comprehension test that will take approximately two hours. Candidates, who meet the language proficiency threshold on the TFI, will also be invited to take part in an Oral Assessment to demonstrate spoken fluency and oral expression.

What is the *TFI*? Test de Français International

The test de Français International is produced by Educational Testing Services (ETS). This agency also produces such widely recognized tests as the TOEFL for English, and is a standardized test widely used in Canada and abroad to demonstrate one's level of proficiency in French.

ETS website: <http://www.etscanada.ca>

It is used by a number of French-language universities in Quebec to measure prospective participants' entrance level (much like TOEFL is for English-language universities). It is also one of the tests recognized by the French government for naturalization purposes.

What is the minimum TFI threshold and Oral Assessment score to obtain French teaching qualifications?

French Immersion (Elementary, Middle, and Secondary)

TFI	Oral: 395	Written: 420
Oral Assessment	7.8	

Secondary FSL (Grades 9 - 12)

TFI	Oral: 305	Written: 305
Oral Assessment	7	

Middle School (6 - 8)

Oral Assessment	5
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Please consult the following website describing the various score descriptors for the TFI, from ETS. Use it to self-evaluate your proficiency based on the descriptors for the minimum admission level, to decide if it is worth your while to take the test now or if you prefer to take a course first to improve your fluency, and test in the future.

http://www.etscanada.ca/images/pdf/tfi_score_descriptors.pdf

For the Oral Assessment, please refer to the Informal Speaking Rubric that will be used to score oral proficiency.

Oral Assessment: [Informal Speaking Rubric](#)

Is the TFI calibrated to other standardized tests?

Yes, an official correlation with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) has been established. You can **download a Correlation** Grid from the ETS website. http://www.etscanada.ca/images/pdf/tfi_score_descriptors.pdf

What if I have been assessed using a different tool?

Please connect with Simon Burgers, District Coordinator Languages and Multiculturalism, by e-mail sburgers@sd61.bc.ca or by phone 250 475 4120.

Please note that **self-evaluation is not sufficient** to demonstrate your level.

What if I cannot come to Victoria for the test?

The TFI can be taken in a number of official testing centres throughout Canada and abroad. ETS organizes one public test per month in all its official centres (including Victoria).

Applicants register for these public tests directly with ETS, and the cost is the same (\$95 + tax where applicable).

Applicants from the Lower Mainland can be tested in Vancouver.

There are a number of official TFI centres in all other provinces as well. [More details about the dates, official centres, and registration process](http://www.etscanada.ca/tfi/dates), can be found on the ETS website. <http://www.etscanada.ca/tfi/dates>

If an official testing centre is not accessible, please contact Simon Burgers at sburgers@sd61.bc.ca

Where can I find more information on the TFI?

You can find very helpful information on the ETS website, including:

- TFI Test Description http://www.etscanada.ca/tfi/test_description.php
- TFI Sample Questions http://www.etscanada.ca/tfi/sample_questions.php
- TFI Public Test 2014 <http://www.etscanada.ca/tfi/dates>
- TFI Examinee Handbook
http://www.etscanada.ca/pdf/fr/TFI_ExamineeHandbook.pdf

How do I prepare for the test?

Make sure you read the TFI Examinee Handbook

How do I register for the test?

You can register online on the ETS web site. Please note that there are registration deadlines for each monthly public testing session.

The Continuing Studies Department at the University of Victoria is an official testing centre for ETS Canada. Candidates will write the assessment at the University of Victoria.

More information can be found at <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/languages/> or contact Lona McRae - lmcrae@uvic.ca or phone 1-250-721-6192 for more details if required.

Who Pays for the Assessment?

To take the test candidates must register and pay for the assessment. Current SD 61 teachers wishing to obtain a French language qualification with SD 61 will be reimbursed for their first write. Additional writes will be the responsibility of the examinee. Out of district teachers applying to French positions will be reimbursed upon a successful offer to hire. To be reimbursed, submit your receipt for the TFI to Simon Burgers.

Please direct all additional questions to Simon Burgers, District Coordinator, via e-mail sburgers@sd61.bc.ca or by phone 250 475 4120.