

## How to prepare yourself for the DELF/DALF from New Zealand?

**An initiative led by Ruth BOURCHIER, French National Adviser**  
(March 2010)

“Salut Folks,

For a long time I have been investigating the possibility of on-line courses to prepare candidates for the **Delf/Dalf examinations of French language proficiency** and last year I undertook a small ‘sondage’ to see if there would be any demand for such courses. I had expressions of interest from both beginners and teachers at a more advanced level. It would be particularly convenient for those of you who don’t live within a viable range of an Alliance Française or who don’t have access to evening classes or simply those who prefer to self-pace their learning. It could also be a valuable support for those who are already enrolled in other courses. As these Delf/Dalf exams are internationally recognised they also represent a good feather in your professional cap.

In case you are interested but don’t know a lot about these exams, you may like to begin by reading the information on the CIEP website <http://www.ciep.fr/en/delfdalf/index.php> which explains the various levels.

The examination was created by the CIEP (Centre International d’Etudes Pédagogiques) and is aligned with the six levels of the European Framework for languages. The CIEP doesn’t offer preparatory courses for candidates but this service is covered by the CNED (I think this is short for Centre National d’Enseignement à Distance but it’s so well known as the CNED that the full name doesn’t feature on their site)

If you are unsure of your current level of language proficiency, a good starting point is the **Test de Charlotte** offered by the CNED which will indicate your level. You can self-examine on-line for this, free of charge and the test will take about 45 minutes. The information is available in English, Spanish or French <http://www.campus-electronique.fr/TestFle/>

Having established your level the idea is then to enrol for a distance course through the CNED to prepare for the Delf/Dalf level of your choice. These exams can be sat in New Zealand and there are three examination centres at the Alliance Française in Wellington, Auckland or Christchurch. Examinations take place twice yearly in May and in October.

Although there are courses designed for all levels, the on-line enrolment

procedure of the CNED is designed for native French speakers but HELP IS AT HAND!! The **Alliance Française** is keen to make these courses accessible to New Zealand learners of French, regardless of level, and has offered to facilitate the enrolment process and payment. This will make things much more user friendly. Once you have done the **Test de Charlotte** (not necessary if you already know your level) and established which course is suitable for you, you simply send your details to the Alliance Française in Wellington with your payment and they will enrol you.

For each course there are three possibilities offered, for which you will receive materials (CD Rom) and tutor support.

The prices are as follows:

**30 hour course: \$165**

**60 hour course: \$205**

**90 hour course: \$245**

Please note that this fee covers only the tuition and that there is an additional fee payable to the Alliance Française for sitting the examination. You can refer to the information on their website for details. <http://www.french.co.nz/docs/wellington/bonjour/delfdalf.pdf>

Now that enrolment has become a whole lot easier, I'm eager to undertake a course too. Now which level to choose? The Test de Charlotte will sort that out....

When you are ready to enrol just contact the **Alliance Française in Wellington** and they will do the rest. [alliance@paradise.net.nz](mailto:alliance@paradise.net.nz)

Cheers,  
Ruth"

For more details, contact:

## Ruth Bouchier

National Adviser: French

P O Box 5653

Frankton 3242

Hamilton

Fax 07 839 5456

Mob. 021 024 40237

[french@ilanz.ac.nz](mailto:french@ilanz.ac.nz)