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## Linfield College: Study Abroad in France

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Hello Linfielders! I graduated from Linfield in 2010 in Sociology, with minors in French and Environmental Studies. I spent my spring semester, junior year in Aix-en-Provence, France, and I absolutely loved it! The experience was a blast, and has proved invaluable to my personal and professional life since graduating. Every interview I have had since that semester (and I've had quite a few!), the interviewers have been well-impressed by my international experience and my proficiency in another language. Professionally speaking, studying abroad is a terrific resume builder! My time in France was amazing because of all the experiences I had and the people I met, but also because, for me, it hugely impacted the professional decisions I have made since then. I am getting ready to move to Boston to start graduate studies in Gastronomy (focusing in Food Policy), which is a subject area that I really became passionate about while in France, soaking up their incredible cuisine and food culture. Studying abroad means something different to everyone, but I know that for me my life would be on a different course if I had not gone, and I am so thankful that I did! My "French Experience" greatly impacted my personal life as well. Living in a different country opened my eyes to other ways of living in a way that being a tourist on vacation never has. As a result my values and lifestyle have changed in subtle ways that are specific to me, rather than just to where I live which is a truly rewarding feeling. France is a great place to spend a study abroad experience because it is beautiful, has *incredible* food, and is entirely different than where we live. I highly recommend it - you will have a terrific time there!

