

Programme Tandem – Paris 13

Tandem – Paris 13 is a cultural and linguistic exchange programme. It is similar to the numerous other Tandem programmes set up by the Council of Europe at universities and primary and secondary schools in other European member states over the past thirty years. The shared, core principle of these programmes is the pairing-up of **two individuals of a different mother tongue and cultural background**, who form a reciprocal partnership. Each partner must ensure that his or her contribution is equal to that of the other.

An activity accredited within the degree framework

Created at the time of the reform aimed at streamlining university degree courses throughout Europe, the objective of Tandem – Paris 13 is to better integrate foreign students who come to study at our university. These students are introduced to a French-speaking student as soon as possible upon their arrival. In many cases, the resident student has either spent time at a foreign academic institution or has plans to do so. The Tandem programme helps this student to either consolidate the knowledge acquired on his or her own exchange or prepare for time to be spent abroad. In order to encourage cultural and linguistic exchanges, Paris 13 has included the Tandem programme among those elements of study which lead to a recognized academic qualification. In this way, any participant who satisfied the requirements of the Tandem – Paris 13 programme **will obtain 2 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits per semester**.

Required tasks

- Participants are encouraged to communicate with one another by all means possible (video calls, email, telephone...) but they must show that a minimum of **24 hours per semester of worthwhile, shared activity** has taken place. The location, frequency and times of these meetings are left entirely at the participants' discretion, as are the activities undertaken. Some examples of this are visits to Paris and other places of interest, dinner parties or sporting activities.
- In order to validate their Tandem partnership, participants must carry out a review of their activities and exchange, and reflect on language learning. This involves the completion of an **online journal** after each meeting.
- Tandem partners will also have to choose a common (preferably intercultural) theme for research and discussion, and write a **10-page report** about it, in the language they are learning.
- Participants will make an **oral presentation** to talk about their linguistic and cultural exchange, based on the journal and the report.

Availability and case-by-case assessment

The Espace langues at Paris 13 (the department which organizes the Tandem programme) cannot guarantee every student an exchange programme corresponding exactly to their wishes – availability will of course depend on the supply of and demand for participants. However, in most cases it is possible to find a solution which proves beneficial to all concerned.

Tandem – Paris 13 does not exclude any language or nationality; if your mother tongue is not generally taught in educational institutions in France, and is not requested for an exchange by a French-speaking student, we suggest that you carry out an exchange with your partner through French and English, as in other international exchanges, while at the same time giving him or her an insight into your culture and an introduction to your language.

If you intend to complete a period of study at Paris 13 and are interested in the Tandem programme, please contact us at this address: tandem@univ-paris13.fr