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## Resident card: how do you justify your knowledge of french?

Verified 19 février 2021 - Legal and Administrative Information Directorate (Prime Minister)

### General case

If you do a 1<sup>re</sup> application for a residence card, you must prove that your proficiency in French is equal to or higher than the A2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CECRL ()) of the Council of Europe.

To do this, you must:

- ▶ have passed a language test, or
- ▶ have obtained a diploma attesting to a level of knowledge of French at least equivalent to level A2 of CECRL () or sanctioning a course in French.

### Language test or attestation

- ▶ **French Knowledge Test (TCF)** [↗ \(http://www.ciep.fr/tcf-carte-resident-france/faq#faq-expand-all-link\)](http://www.ciep.fr/tcf-carte-resident-france/faq#faq-expand-all-link) issued by the International Centre for Educational Studies (CIEP)
- ▶ **French Evaluation Test (TEF)** [↗ \(https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/test-evaluation-francais-tef/tef-carte-de-resident/\)](https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/test-evaluation-francais-tef/tef-carte-de-resident/) issued by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ▶ Any test or certificate issued by a certifying body, recognised at national or international level and attesting to the overall mastery of all the written and oral skills of A2 level of the CECRL ().  
The test must have been passed in an approved examination centre and the oral expression validated during an face-to-face interview.

### Diploma

- ▶ University Diploma (DU) issued by the Association of Directors of French Academic Centres for Foreigners: **university degree in French studies (DUEF)** [↗ \(https://www.campus-fle.fr/fr/formations-diplomes-fle/les-diplomes-fle/duef-a2/\)](https://www.campus-fle.fr/fr/formations-diplomes-fle/les-diplomes-fle/duef-a2/), in-depth French Studies Diploma (DAEF), French Studies Diploma (DSEFP)
- ▶ **Professional French Diploma (DFP)** [↗ \(https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/diplomes-francais-professionnel-dfp/\)](https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/diplomes-francais-professionnel-dfp/) issued by chambers of commerce and industry
- ▶ Diploma awarded by the International Centre for Educational Studies: **diploma in French (DELF)** [↗ \(https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-tout-public/\)](https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-tout-public/), DALF, **diploma in professional French (DELF Pro)** [↗ \(https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-pro/\)](https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-pro/)
- ▶ **Language Proficiency Diploma (DCL)** [↗ \(http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html\)](http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html) issued by the Ministry of National Education
- ▶ Title or diploma registered in the National Register of Professional Qualifications (NCCPR)
- ▶ Diploma issued by the State (or on behalf of the State) attesting to a course at least equal to the national patent diploma
- ▶ University Diploma (DU) awarded by universities

### You're over 65

You are not subject to the condition of knowing French.

### You have a disability

If you do a 1<sup>re</sup> application for a residence card, you must prove that your proficiency in French is equal to or higher than the A2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CECRL ()) of the Council of Europe.

To do this, you must:

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The test must have been passed in an approved examination centre and the oral expression validated during an face-to-face interview.

If you have a disability, you can benefit from test arrangements for a language test.

If you are unable to take such a test, you may also be exempted from the requirement to know the French language.

You must ask the prefecture for a medical certificate template and have it completed by your attending physician. You then have to send it back to the prefecture.

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- ▶ [Language Proficiency Diploma \(DCL\)](http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html) (http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html) issued by the Ministry of National Education
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You have a chronically deficient state of health

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The test must have been passed in an approved examination centre and the oral expression validated during an face-to-face interview.

If you have a chronic medical condition, you can benefit from test arrangements for the passage of a language test.

If you are unable to take such a test, you may also be exempted from the requirement to know the French language.

You must ask the prefecture for a medical certificate template and have it completed by your attending physician. You then have to send it back to the prefecture.

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- ▶ [Language Proficiency Diploma \(DCL\)](http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html) (http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html) issued by the Ministry of National Education
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#### Statute and miscellaneous references

- Code on the entry and residence of aliens and the right of asylum: items R314-1 to R314-1-5 (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000006180233/) *Knowledge of the French language*
- Order of 21 February 2018 establishing the list of diplomas and certifications attesting to the level of proficiency in French required to obtain a resident card. (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000036639354/)
- Order of 10 February 2021 fixing the model medical certificate relating to the fitting out or exemption from French language evaluation (https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043130040)
- Information of 26 February 2018 on the level of knowledge of the French language required for the issue of a residence card or a "long-term resident - EU" card (http://circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2018/02/cir\_43103.pdf)

#### For more information, please contact

- **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) - Council of Europe** [↗](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805d2f99) ([https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805d2f99](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805d2f99))  
*Council of Europe*
- **French Knowledge Test (TCF) - CIEP** [↗](http://www.ciep.fr/tcf-carte-resident-france/faq#faq-expand-all-link) (<http://www.ciep.fr/tcf-carte-resident-france/faq#faq-expand-all-link>)  
*France International Education*
- **French Evaluation Test (TEF) - CCIP** [↗](https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/test-evaluation-francais-tef/tef-carte-de-resident/) (<https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/test-evaluation-francais-tef/tef-carte-de-resident/>)  
*Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris - Ile-de-France*
- **University Diploma of French Studies (DUFE) - ADCUEFE** [↗](https://www.campus-fle.fr/fr/formations-diplomes-fle/les-diplomes-fle/dufe-a2/) (<https://www.campus-fle.fr/fr/formations-diplomes-fle/les-diplomes-fle/dufe-a2/>)  
*FLE Campus - ADCUEFE*
- **Professional French Diploma (DFP)** [↗](https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/diplomes-francais-professionnel-dfp/) (<https://www.lefrancaisdesaffaires.fr/tests-diplomes/diplomes-francais-professionnel-dfp/>)  
*Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris - Ile-de-France*
- **Diploma of studies in French (DELF)** [↗](https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-tout-public) (<https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-tout-public>)  
*France International Education*
- **Diploma in French Professional Option (DELF pro)** [↗](https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-pro) (<https://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf/delf-pro>)  
*France International Education*
- **Language Proficiency Diploma (DCL)** [↗](http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html) (<http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid94137/le-diplome-de-competence-en-langue-dcl-candidats-a-l-examen.html>)  
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