

2023 ALLIANCE FRANCAISE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER – Brooke Adelman

The 2023 recipient of the Alliance Française scholarship in the amount of \$2000 was Brooke Adelman, who will be a fifth-year French major at Calvin next year. She is also majoring in Secondary Education with a minor in English. In addition to her top-notch performance in her classes, Brooke has also been involved in many related activities which have enhanced her French studies.

She writes:

“This past fall semester, I studied at the Université Grenoble Alpes through Calvin’s study abroad program. During this semester, I enrolled in courses in the following subjects: survey of contemporary French literature, art history, lexicon, French economics, and grammar. Also through Calvin I have had the opportunity to tutor for the 202-level French courses. This is my second consecutive year working as a tutor. I have also seized opportunities to grow my French outside of Calvin’s opportunities. During the summer of 2021, I worked for six weeks as an intern in Saint-Albain, France, through a partnership with Encompass World Partners. I worked at a château that functioned as a hotel and event center for the community, and I spent my days cooking meals for château guests, cleaning rooms, co-organizing events, and traveling around the eastern part of the country to experience the culture as well as meet several of Encompass’s staff members.”

As for her aspirations for applying her majors and minor to a future career, Brooke shared the following:

“While I began learning French as a high school freshman only because it was required of me, that led to me discovering one of my greatest passions. It opened up possibilities for me to travel, work, and study in France. That led to me discovering my post-graduate career, which is to pursue a masters and PhD in French with the goal of becoming a professor. It’s devastating to watch schools and universities, like Calvin University, cut funding to their world language programs. We live in a world that is becoming more and more anglophone, so I can understand why certain English-speaking Americans feel it is unnecessary to learn another world language. However, I do not agree with their disinterest. Learning multiple languages enlightens us to the richness of humanity that can be lost in a monolingual society. When we learn other languages, we are obligated to learn about the people who speak that language because language and people cannot be separated. I didn’t feel passionately about this subject until I started learning French, so my aspiration of becoming a professor is really one of hoping I’ll be able to share and impart this passion on even one other person.

I don’t expect to have a profound impact on the entire American education system and reignite a widespread interest in learning world languages. But I will be content if I can help even one of my students see beauty and great importance in learning other languages. And for all of my future students my hope will be, for however long they’re in my class, to help them learn how to express themselves and to better understand their cross-cultural neighbors.”