

Intercultural Understanding Guide: French Culture

Geographic context:

- France, officially called the French Republic, is primarily located in Western Europe. France also has overseas territories, such as Martinique and French Polynesia. France is well-known for its fashion, cuisine, literature and film.

Languages:

- French is the official language of the state and it is one of the most widely learned foreign languages in the world.
- Algerian Arabic and Kabyle Algerian Berber are also spoken within the country.

Religion:

- Secularism is a core part of the constitution.
- The majority of French people are Catholic.

Values:

- French society is quite individualistic, meaning that the interests of oneself and one's immediate family take priority.
- Greetings are important in French society. Greetings are considered important to make a favorable impression.
- French people tend to keep their private self away from public self.

Communication style:

- The way a French person communicates is determined by social status, education level, age and which part of the country they were raised in.
- The French tend to be very direct in terms of communication due to the precision of the French language.
- In daily interactions, French people tend to feel a responsibility to act as the 'entertainer' in conversations, in order to engage the other person.

Demographics in Australia:

- According to the 2021 Australian Census, there are 36,091 French people currently living in Australia. There are also 148,927 Australians who have French ancestry.



References:

- [Diplomatie; John Benjamins e-Platform](#)