

In the plastic arts, Canada on a regular basis sets up various exhibitions of paintings, engravings, sculptures, crafts and tapestries, chiefly at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris. Currently the french public can see a presentation of the works of Michael Snow at the Centre d'art et de culture Georges Pompidou in Paris. Canada has also made a significant donation of audio-visual documentation and books on Canadian culture to the media library of the Centre Pompidou.

Since it opened in 1969, the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris, the nerve centre of Canada's cultural presence in France, has organized a broad range of presentations reflecting the cultural vigour of the Canadian provinces. It carries out its mission on a national scale in collaboration with the Canadian consulates in Marseille, Bordeaux and Strasbourg for local cultural events.

Academic sector:

In the academic sphere there has been a program of Canadian studies in French since 1975 aimed at assisting French professors and universities to organize teaching and research programs on Canada. As the result of interest in Canadian studies at fifteen French universities, there are two Canadian studies centres: the first at the University of Bordeaux and, since this year, a second at the University of Grenoble.

The Association française des études canadiennes (AFFC) ensures the consolidation of universities in France which are interested in Canadian matters. As well the Association publishes a learned journal entitled Etudes canadiennes.

A reciprocal scholarship program (64 in total) and periods of free study (140 months per year) allow Canadians to pursue their studies or research in France, and French students to come to Canada.

Other teacher or student exchanges operate directly between several provinces (namely Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and New Brunswick) and France. A program of summer sessions for English students was created by the province of Ontario with the assistance of the Department of External Affairs. A language assistants program provides sessions of nine or ten months in France or Canada for students whose second language is English or French.

The Department also encourages direct exchange programs and the twinning of French and Canadian universities even though it does not provide financial assistance to their programs.