

NATALIE POLK



FRENCH, BIOLOGY

Bonjour ! My name is Natalie and I am a junior double-major in Biology & French. After graduating in the spring of 2018, I have aspirations to attend Optometry School and continuing to utilize my French language skills by becoming a private tutor.

I have just returned from studying abroad for a semester in the beautiful city of Poitiers, France, and it was by far the greatest adventure I've ever had the fortune of going on. While in Poitiers, I had the fantastic opportunity to work as an English tutor through a company called Polyglotta. I met and spoke with high-school aged French students about anything and everything in order to encourage them to practice their English. The students never failed to brighten my day and I was totally humbled by the whole experience. Learning a second language has taught me a lot about having respect for all people, not just those of different cultures. When you become fully immersed in a culture that's completely different from your own, as I did in France, you develop a deep appreciation for your own culture, the new culture you're now a part of, and for all the other cultures out there that you don't even know about. If I had the opportunity to do it all again—learn a new language, study abroad in the language's country of origin—I wouldn't hesitate to do so.

AMIR ZAKHARY



FRENCH MAJOR

My name is Amir Zakhary, I am a Biology & French double major, and I expect to graduate spring 2017. I began taking French to simply fulfill a core requirement, but after an enlightening class experience, I soon became a minor. I love French because it opens me up to all the subjects that I am passionate about, including business, science, and international relations. French touches four continents, and I love being able to connect with people in their first language, especially at the jokes of a particular culture. After discovering the French world, I became a major and eventually the President of Pi Delta Phi, French Honor Society, where the group watches movies, has tea parties, and everybody's favorite, makes Nutella-filled crepes. In my classes, I have lobbied for why Nutella is better than Hershey's chocolate, acted as an Algerian UN representative, and even described a revolutionary medical procedure...all in French! French students and faculty are dedicated to learning more about the world, and they have challenged me to think critically about issues in my second language. French has been one of my best decisions, and I recommend it to anyone ready for an exciting and challenging experience!