

Ashley, where will you be In October 2014?

A: I will be somewhere in the area of Lille, North of France, near Belgium, one hour from Paris by the fast train.

What will you do?

A: I will be an English assistant, which means that I will teach English language and American culture to French students in secondary schools.

Will you be payed?

A: yes, around 800 euros per months, for 12 hours of official work, but that does not include lesson planning or any extra-curricular activities. I might also try to work as an English tutor also to make some extra money

Where will you live?

A: I'm not sure. Some assistants have free lodging, depending on the assignment, but normally you have to find your own lodging when you arrive. Assistants are considered like French citizens and get some financial help from the government to pay for lodging as they don't make a lot of money. There is a lot of paperwork, but it's worth it.

How did you find this job?

A: There was a poster for the assistant program next to the French classroom, it's a program by the French Ministry of Education. I applied online. You need 2 references, one for French, who will vouch that you have the equivalent of a B1 level (as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and another general reference for academic achievement. There are no interviews but you need to write an essay of around 500 words explaining why you want to be an assistant. It costs 40 \$ to apply.

What do you study at WOU?

A: I study for a major in English with an emphasis in linguistics and a minor in French.

Do you need a French minor to apply to the assistantship program?

A: Most people who apply have at least a minor in French, but the only requirement is that you have the level B1, which is supposed to be the proficiency level you need to get by in France.

What were your motivations to apply for this job?

A: I want to improve my French, live like French people do, gain experience teaching English (I have a TEFL certificate) and travel in Europe.

What do you plan to do when you come back?

A: Maybe study for a Masters in TEFL and teach English to foreigners.

What do you think is important for students to know before they apply for the assistantship program?

A: The program recommends that assistants have 2000\$ to start their stay in France, as the first payment is made in November.