



Broadening Horizons in Europe

Diploma in European Competences

Senior Secondary Level

SENIOR DEC

Specifications

Valid from September 2024



UCAPE

Union pour la Culture et l'Avenir Professionnel en Europe
Union for Culture and Professional Advancement in Europe

Diploma in European Competences

Senior Secondary Level

Opening hearts and minds through linguistic and cultural exchange

1. INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Candidates for the Diploma at this level should spend **a minimum of one week** (7 days, including travel time) in a country where the language studied is spoken or used as a means of communication. The one-week stay may be replaced by: two shorter stays of at least four days each, including travel time; by a stay of at least five days, including travel time and 10 hours of virtual contact (videoconferencing); by a virtual exchange over a school year, involving a minimum of 20 hours of work by the UCAPE target group as well as regular exchange between the candidate and a correspondent in the partner country; through participation in a Model United Nations conference organised by UCAPE.

The Diploma should be accessible to the average learner. The arrangements are flexible and may be adapted to suit the educational system of each country.

The visit abroad may be as part of a group stay, e.g. a class trip, a school exchange, a language course, or may be an individual stay. Contact with local people is essential so that the young person can improve their language skills and experience the culture and daily life of the country. Individual or small-group stays are recommended. For this reason, immersion language exchanges or work placements are preferred.

An individual stay organised by the family is possible, provided that it is validated by the learner's school and by supporting documentation, e.g. travel tickets, language or study programme course certificates, work placement certificates of attendance, etc.

The learner will present a final outcome related to his/her stay. (Artwork, PowerPoint, article for the press, video, short story, reflective evaluation, etc.) Schools may wish to organise an oral assessment to validate the trip in the language(s) of candidate's choice, based on the learner's final outcome.

It is also possible to propose a combined oral which evaluates both the stay abroad and the learner's language aptitude. In this case, the oral will last for a minimum of fifteen minutes.

2. FOREIGN LANGUAGE(S)

Learners must be able to understand and make themselves understood at a level appropriate for their level of schooling. An oral assessment (individually or in pairs) will assess learners' language skills and will evaluate their ability to express themselves and their comprehension skills in the language(s) presented.

This module can be validated in more than one language.

In European countries, students must have reached B1-B2 level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Where possible, teachers are encouraged to integrate the speaking assessment into an academic course. Learners who obtain one of the following diplomas: First Certificate in English, TOEIC, Cervantes, Goethe or DELF are exempt from this oral.

To help students achieve B1-B2 level, schools are welcome to organise conversation classes in addition to standard academic courses for their UCAPE students.

The Diploma will state which languages the learner has offered, if presented for more than one.

3. KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EUROPE

The Knowledge about Europe module may be integrated into the normal delivery of the school curriculum, especially in Social Subjects. Schools may organise courses on European institutions and culture, European issues and challenges (history, geography, economics, art, identity, etc.).

Depending on the resources available in the presenting school, two formulas are suggested:

a specific course where validation will take the form of a written or oral assessment organised by the teacher;

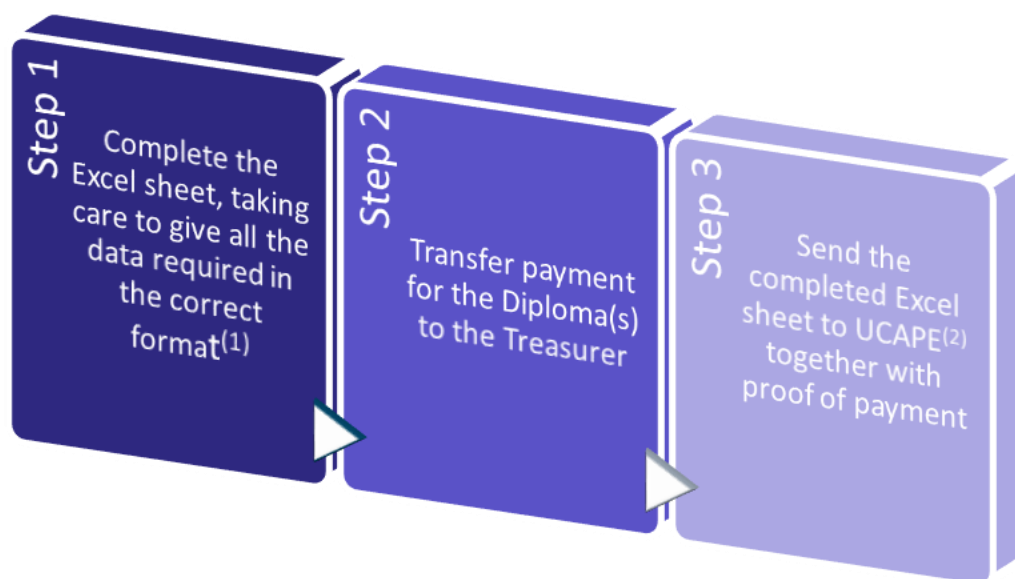
or

a research project under teacher guidance.

If the learner chooses to present a research project, it will be validated through a presentation to the class, a dossier relating to current events, a cultural production (art, PowerPoint, video, etc.) linked to Europe, or other outcome agreed by the teacher. It is important to ensure that any project is not a compilation of texts and articles, but a structured piece of research which demonstrates evaluation and that the learner is capable of presenting this orally. Learners may work in pairs.

This research project may form an integral part of an academic course.

HOW TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A DIPLOMA



(1) The Excel sheet can be downloaded from the UCAPE website www.ucape.eu.

(2) All requests for Diplomas should be sent to: ucapeinfos@gmail.com. Please allow at least two months for the Diploma(s) to be issued.

ABOUT OUR DIPLOMAS

The DEC (Diplôme Européen de Compétence/Diploma in European Competences) is an additional qualification offered Europe-wide for pupils in primary and secondary schools. Schools outside Europe may also prepare their learners for the Diploma.

The Diploma is offered at three levels: Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary.

The Diploma recognises skills and competences in the following areas: International Exchange; Foreign Language Skills; Knowledge about Europe.

Preparation for the DEC may be integrated into the school's curriculum or may be offered as an extra-curricular club or activity. Schools are free to choose the approach which best suits their local education system and local conditions. The modules described below may be adapted but the integrity of the diploma must be retained. Pupils may have more than one foreign language recognised.

The average learner should be able to meet the requirements of the Diploma and the programme should be seen as inclusive.