

Quality Certification Updates

News & Info

Les nuits de Fourvière

It's that time of the year again, when Fourvière Hill in Lyon vibrates to the rhythms of music, dance, theatre, opera, circus, and cinema. From now to the end of July, some of the world's greatest artists will be performing, including Loreena McKennit, Midnight Oil, and Sting. You can find more information about the festival (in English) [here](#).

Soccer!

The 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup, currently underway, will finish on 7 July, with the final to be played at the Parc Olympique Lyonnais near Lyon.

France is hosting the World Cup for the first time ever, and matches are being played in nine cities throughout the country, from Le Havre in the north to Nice in the southeast. You can find all the info and stats about the world cup [here](#).



If the performing arts or sports aren't your thing, you can always go shopping! Summer sales begin on Wednesday 26 June and run to Tuesday 6 August. Happy hunting!

In June 2017, VO were awarded the AFNOR Quality Certification in recognition of our compliance with the criteria established by the CNEFOP (*Conseil National de l'Emploi, de la Formation, et de l'Orientation Professionnelles*). As part of this certification, we have recently made some additions to our operating procedures that will enhance the services we provide our clients.

New training appreciation form

Until very recently, our clients were handed a paper form at the end of their training course and were asked to give us, in writing, their global appreciation. We have since replaced this paper version with an online form, the goal of which is to make it easier for us to store and handle our students' opinions and potential recommendations.



How does it work?

When the trainee reaches the end of their course, we email them a link that allows them to access the appreciation form online. Once they've completed the form and saved their answers, we receive a notification email and then process the data. If necessary, we then contact the person to have more information, provide further explanations, or solve any outstanding problems.



Additional resource for trainers

Another way we are improving the quality of our training offer is by connecting with our students through a global education network.

For several months we have been using Edmodo, an online platform that lets trainers share material with students, create quizzes and activities, and evaluate their level. We will give more details about Edmodo in a future edition of the VO Newsletter, but if you have been using the platform recently and would like to share your experiences with us and other VO trainees, please contact us at the address below. Thanks!

VOCABULARY

earnest - if something begins in earnest, it does so to a greater extent or more intensely than before

dawn - the beginning of a phenomenon or period of time, usually considered favourable. Also: the first appearance of light in the sky before sunrise

strained - showing signs (of an atmosphere, situation, or relationship) of tiredness or nervous tension

trade punches - to fight; typically said of two people (or countries) who are evenly matched and are therefore able to exchange offensive attacks (also: "trade blows")

setback - a reversal of one's progress

NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Project Mercury - the first human spaceflight programme of the United States (1958-1963)

Project Gemini - NASA's second human spaceflight programme (1961-1966)

Apollo Programme - the third human spaceflight programme that successfully landed a man on the moon (1969-1972)

bated breath - to wait with bated breath means to do so in a state of great suspense, anxiety, or excitement

nerve-wracking - causing stress or anxiety

"The *Eagle* has landed."

Fifty years ago, on 20 July, 1969, the lunar module *Eagle* landed on the Sea of Tranquility on the moon's surface. The next day, 21 July, Neil Armstrong, an American astronaut, became the first man ever to set foot on the moon.

The race to the moon

The space race began in earnest in the mid-1950s when the Soviet Union and the United States, cold war rivals, both expressed their intent to send artificial satellites into orbit. The Soviets won the first two rounds, launching Sputnik I into Earth's orbit in October 1957, then sending the first human, Yuri Gagarin, into orbit in April 1962. At the dawn of the atomic age, the potentials this new technology represented were cataclysmic. The race was on!



How they got there

In 1961, US President John F. Kennedy issued a goal for the American people — land a man on the moon and return him safely back to Earth before the end of the decade. For several strained years, the Soviet Union and the United States traded punches, each scoring victories, and suffering setbacks, with their own spaceflight programmes. NASA, established in 1958, was the American

agency responsible for getting a man to the moon, beginning with Projects Mercury and Gemini, and culminating with the Apollo Programme.

A step that changed the world

When the *Eagle* lunar module landed on the moon's surface on that historic day in 1969, the world waited with bated breath. Millions watched on their television sets as Commander Neil Armstrong, followed 19 minutes later by Lunar Module Pilot Buzz Aldrin Jr., took those famous first steps. Several years and a series of nerve-wracking geopolitical manoeuvrings later, the American and Russian space programmes eventually began working together in the spirit of collaboration, rather than competition. And it all started with Neil Armstrong's first step, which effectively put an end to the space race. His words set the tone that would guide and inspire space exploration for decades to come: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

