

RESEARCH IN THE COOK ISLANDS

Kia Orana prospective researcher,

The Government through the National Research Committee is interested in knowing about researchers who intend to undertake research in the Cook Islands.

RESEARCHERS ARE PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE COOK ISLANDS WITH THE INTENTION OF COLLECTING INFORMATION OR PHYSICAL SAMPLE TO PRODUCE MATERIAL FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS OR THE MASS MEDIA.

In this sense, researchers may be scientists, medical doctors, historians, economists, news reporters, novelists, documentary makers, photo essayists, university students or enthusiastic lay people.

Researchers are **not** visitors who: photograph a few people, plants and birds; make a video for home use; or, purchase recently crafted artifacts.

CONSULTANTS

Many researchers are contracted by organizations working with Government or non-governmental groups within the Cook Islands. In such cases, despite the fact that the request for the research may have originated within the Cook Islands, the details of the research proposal still need the approval of the National Research Committee. In such cases, the application may be submitted by the requesting group within the Cook Islands or by the consultant.

ALLOW THREE MONTHS FOR PROCESSING YOUR APPLICATION:

Please submit your application to the National Research Committee **AT LEAST THREE MONTHS BEFORE** you intend to travel to the Cook Islands. If your application is approved, your Permit will be available for pick up at the Office of the Prime Minister upon arrival.

ADMINISTRATION FEE:

The applicable administration fee in processing your application is NZD\$80.00.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO RAROTONGA:

Please contact the Secretariat of the National Research Committee and any Cook Islands Associates **BEFORE** commencing your fieldwork. Please note your approved research permit only allows you to conduct your research in the Cook Islands. The person(s) appointed by the Committee as your Cook Islands Associate(s) will be noted on your Permit and it would be ideal if you made contact before you travel to the Cook Islands. In most cases the Associate will be a senior member of a Department/Ministry/Non Government Organization (NGO) who is interested in your work. Sometimes a second Associate may be appointed to actually assist you

with your fieldwork and learn more about how to do such work. The Research Committee may or may not require reports from the Cook Islands Associate(s).

WHEN YOU VISIT ANY OF THE OUTER ISLANDS:

Please contact the Island Secretary or Mayor of the Island **BEFORE** commencing your fieldwork.

LIST OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

If you intend to import into the Cook Islands any dead or live biological material please send a detailed list with your Application.

LIST OF DANGEROUS OR TOXIC CHEMICALS

If you intend to import into the Cook Islands any dangerous or toxic chemicals please send a detailed list with your application.

LIST OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT (DO NOT SEND)

If you are importing special equipment (such as survey instruments, advanced cameras, recorders) you may require a Re-export Certificate from the Customs Department to be exempt duties/levies. You can either have a detailed list available when you arrive or write to them in advance.

ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION NOTES CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FORM:

COLLECTION OF PHYSICAL SAMPLES

The Cook Islands is concerned about the preservation and protection of its natural and cultural heritage. You are therefore required to provide an outline of the types of things you wish to collect for the Committee's consideration. **Research Samples should NOT be removed from the Cook Islands without a "Export Permit for Research Samples"**. At least **SEVEN DAYS BEFORE** you intend to leave the Cook Islands please provide the **Chairperson** with a detailed list the samples you collected, either on the Form provided or on your paper. Although a list of general categories may be appropriate, please make specific mention of samples likely to be of special interest in terms of conserving the cultural and natural of the Cook Islands. On the basis of your list you will be issued with an Export Permit.

THE PUBLIC OUTPUT(S) OF YOUR RESEARCH

The Cook Islands Government is interested in the public outputs of research undertaken in the Cook Islands, regardless of whether these are scientific papers, magazine articles, books, films, documentaries, essays, dissertations, university thesis, photographic essay etc. Typically, the Foundation for national Research requires **THREE DONATED COPIES** of any publications/films produced from your research in the Cook Islands. **One for the Cook Islands Library, one for the relevant Ministry/Department and one for the Foundations files.**

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO THE COOK ISLANDS

While your research and publications will probably be of direct benefit to the Cook Islands, there may be other ways you intend to assist. For example, you may wish to make donations to, or assist staff, in a Government Department, private enterprise, college, library, museum, etc.

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

If a researcher (including a joining family member) intends to stay or undertake research in the Cook Islands beyond 30 days, they will be required to apply for an extension of their entry permit at the Immigration Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration in Avarua, Rarotonga. The researcher (including a joining family member) must submit with their application approved research permit.

FINAL CHECKLIST: YOUR APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Application Form
- Letter of Recommendation
- Curriculum Vitae (For the research leader)
- Lists of biological materials or dangerous chemicals you intend to import
- Copy of your Identification [preferably a passport]
- (Optional) Expanded explanation of your research topic
- (If you're visiting the outer island(s) – a letter of support must come from the Island Secretary or Mayor (of each) of the island(s).

CORRESPONDENCE:

Research Secretariat

Office of the Prime Minister

Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Phone: (682) 29 300

Fax: (682) 20 856

Email: tina.samson@cookislands.gov.ck

Or

Chairperson

Email: elizabeth.wright@cookislands.gov.ck