

THE RESEARCH VISA PROCESS FOR FRENCH POLYNESIA

Since the 1st of July 2003, the legislation regarding the entry of foreigners in French Polynesia has changed. The following research permit/visa process is necessary for everyone except French and other European citizens, who wants to carry out researches or lectures in French Polynesia.

Foreign scientists or professors have to be “invited” by an approved research center or organism. The “délégation à la recherche” and the “Institut Louis Malardé” are the French polynesian governmental approved structures in addition of the French establishments : IFREMER, IRD, LDG, LESE, CIRAD...

The scientific visa process, irrespective of the field of research, is the one described hereafter :

- 1 - The scientist sends via email (PDF attachment preferred) a CV and a description of their research program (form attached) to the approved research center or organism.
- 2 - On receipt, the organism reviews the project and after validation signs the “invitation/protocole d’accueil”. The “protocole d’accueil” is send to the high commissioner department : DRRT for a second “review” and signature.
- 3 – The French department DRRT extends (by fax or email with the original by mail) the “invitation / protocole d’accueil” to the scientist, to the french customs and border protection department in French Polynesia .

In the case of a long stay – more than 90 days per semester :

- i - The scientist submits the “protocole d’accueil” to the French consulate in their home country and applies for a provisional scientific visa.
- ii - The consulate transmits the request to the DRCL in Tahiti which returns its advice
- iii - The scientist collects their scientific visa from the consulate.
- iv - The scientist travels to French Polynesia.
- v - The scientist goes to the DRCL office in Papeete to get a residency card.

Nota Bene : The French government services in Tahiti (DRCL and DRRT) stress the importance of letting them know of any difficulties experienced at the French consulates.

THE FRENCH POLYNESIAN PERMITS

Local laws exist in French Polynesia regarding biodiversity, environmental and cultural aspects, fields which are under the competences of the country.

The programs conducted in these fields in French Polynesia have to be known by the official administrations which will indicated you the permit process (if needed) :

Biodiversity, environmental aspects : Direction de l'environnement, BP 4562 – 98713 Papeete – Tél. : (689) 47.66.66 ; Fax : (689) 41 92 52 ; Email : directionenv@environnement.gov.pf; engel.raygadas@environnement.gov.pf

Fisheries, marine resources : Direction des ressources marines, BP 20 –98713 Papeete TAHITI _ Tél. : (689) 50 25 50 – fax : (689) 43 49 79 ; Email : spe@peche.gov.pf ; stephen.yen-kai-sun@peche.gov.pf

Agronomy, entomology, agricultural aspects : Service du Développement Rural, BP 100, 98713 Papeete, Polynésie française – Tél . : (689) 42.81.44 ; Fax : (689) 42.08.31 ; Email : leopold.stein@rural.gov.pf; chief of the biosecurity department : djeen.tcheou@rural.gov.pf

Archeology, ethnology, anthropoly, heritage, cultural aspects : Service de la Culture et du Patrimoine, BP 380 586 Tamanu – 98718 Tahiti, Polynesie française – Tél. : (689) 50.71.77 ; Fax : (689) 42.01.28 ; Email : sce@culture.gov.pf; teddy.tehei@culture.gov.pf

THE EXCAVATION AND SOUNDING PERMIT PROCESS

The archeologist sends to the service de la culture et du patrimoine a description of their program with the composition of the field team and their CV (form to be asked to the department) preferably at the beginning of the year (january and february)

On receipt, the department of culture and heritadge reviews the project and presents the program to its scientific board.

The minister of culture extends the original permit by mail to the scientist. The permit is given for the field work period and is renewable on receipt of an “annual” report along with the request for extension.

The scientist has to supply to the department of culture and heritage, two kinds of papers :

- a preliminary report at the end of the field work with the list of the footprint, traces “discovered” during the campaign;
- an “annual” report due at least before the end of the current year. For multi-year projects, indicate the number of years anticipated in the initial proposal - a final report would then be due in December following completion of the project.