COMING IN FRANCE TO WORK AS A RESEARCHER / PH.D

THE SCIENTIFIC VISA

Version 1 – February 2016
VISA PROCEDURES

The host institution establishes the Hosting Agreement

The host institution legal representative (or its delegate) signs the Hosting Agreement

The competent Prefecture stamps the Hosting Agreement

The Hosting Agreement is sent to the applicant

Stay < 3 months

The applicant is automatically issued a Short-Stay Visa with « C » mention

Stay ≤ 1 year

Application for Long-Stay Visa (VLS-TS)

Stay > 1 year

Application for Multi-Year Resident Permit

At the end of the first year of stay, during the 2 months prior to the expiration of the VLS-TS

No need for Resident Permit procedures

The national applicant may also request a Visa with the mention « Scientifique » (scientific) to the relevant diplomatic post

The Scientific Visa exempts the researcher to request a work permit

context
FOR WHOM?

FOREIGN NATIONALS

WHERE?

Private / public research / higher education organisations which have been authorized by the ministry of higher education and research

WITH QUALIFICATION AT LEAST EQUIVALENT TO A MASTER’S DEGREE

Non national of an EU member state

Non national of another state being part of the European Economic Space

Non Swiss national

Researchers and teacher-researchers

Ph.D students employed for research studies (all kind of contracts)

Coming to France for the aim of leading scientific researches or delivering university education
THE HOSTING AGREEMENT (CONVENTION D’ACCUEIL)

WHAT IS IT?

A single document which justifies to consular authorities:
- Reasons for coming to France
- Resources
- Accommodation
- Health insurance
- Work accident insurance

1. Host Institution Accreditation

2. Hosting agreement

3. VISA

- Certified by Ministry of Higher Education and Research
- Delivered by host institution

Ph.D students are concerned too!!

The host institution undertakes that the national has the necessary resources but not to be its employer.

- It is not required to produce a Employment Contract when applying for VISA
- On the agreement, the host institution could be indicated as the residence adress

Thanks to Hosting Agreement
VISA LONG SÉJOUR VALANT TITRE DE SÉJOUR (VLS-TS) 
( LONG STAY VISA EQUIVALENT TO RESIDENCE PERMIT ) 
& TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMIT « SCIENTIFIQUE-CHERCHEUR »

The VLS-TS allows on its own to be on the French territory without any obligation to request a Residence Permit. It is valid for 1 year.

**HOW TO ACHIEVE THEM?**

1. **Arrival in France**
   - Passport
   - Visa

2. **Filling and transmitting the Medical Certificate to the OFII in charge of place of residence**
   - Passport
   - Medical certificate

3. **Securised sticker is affixed on the passport to validate the VLS-TS**

4. **At the end of the 1st year of stay (if the stay is extended)**
   - Lodging a Temporary Resident Permit application to place of residence Prefecture no later than 2 months before the VLS-TS expiration

5. **Temporary Resident Permit with the mention « Scientifique-Chercheur » (scientist-researcher)**

**LEGEND**
- National’s action
- French Authorities’ action
- Needed documents

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CARTE/PERMIS DE SÉJOUR TEMPORAIRE
MENTION « SCIENTIFIQUE-CHERCHEUR »
(TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT WITH « SCIENTIST-RESEARCHER » MENTION)

HOW TO OBTAIN IT?

Request for Temporary Residence Permit to the Prefecture during the 2 months before VLS-TS expiration

- Hosting Agreement
- Attestation from the Hosting Agreement issuing agency that confirmed the continuation of research/higher education activities planned by the Agreement
- Form entitled « Demande de contrôle médical en vue de la première délivrance d'un titre de séjour » (Request for medical control for the purpose of Residence Permit first issue)

Receipt for Residence Permit applications issue

- Valid for 3 months
- Certifies lodging of the application
- Valid only accompanied by the passport
- Do not allows to travel through Schengen Area

Compulsory medical control

- Carried out by the OFII regional delegations
- Notification by mail

Picking up the Residence Permit

- Mail convocation
- at the Prefecture in person

Needed documents

- Stay > 1 year
- For holder of VLS-TS
- May be multi-annual
- Labelled « Scientifique-Chercheur »
- = Work Permit required by the French Labor Code
CARTE BLEUE EUROPÉENNE (CBE)  
(EUROPEAN BLUE CARD)

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Allows to stay in France to work on a highly qualified employment with no longer grounded employment situation abroad.
- Maximal duration of 3 years
- Renewable
- Reserved to foreigners holding a contract of employment (scientists including)
  - for a period ≥ 1 year
  - with a gross annual remuneration ≥ 1.5 x average annual gross salary of a fixed reference

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

- Allows the worker's family:
  - Adult spouses
  - Children who have entered France when they were minor and have become major.

To benefit in its own right of the Residence Permit with the mention « Vie Privée et Familiale » (private and family life) renewed until the CBE holder fulfills the conditions.

5 years of residence in European Union  
WITHOUT INTERRUPTION

+  
2 years of residence in France prior to submitting the application

+  
Justifying of his/her intent to settle in France

CBE Residence Permit

Resident Permit with mention « Résident de longue durée-CE »  
(long-term resident – European card)

VLS-TS issuance

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CARTE/PERMIS DE SEJOUR TEMPORAIRE MENTION « SCIENTIFIQUE-CHERCHEUR »
(TEMPOARY RESIDENCE PERMIT WITH « SCIENTIST-RESEARCHER » MENTION)

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Validity
2 / 3 / 4 years as a maximum following the research work time remaining specified by the Hosting Agreement

End of Validity
The renewing may be granted upon presentation of
• the Hosting Agreement
• an attestation from the Hosting Agreement issuing authority that confirms the further research/higher education activities indicated in the agreement

Ph.D with Hosting Agreement + VLS-TS with « scientifique-chercheur » mention
• may receive a multiannual Residence Permit for 2 years when the VLS-TS will expire.
• If thesis supervisor certifies of research works/thesis defence date > initial 3 years duration : may obtain a multiannual Residence Permit for 3 years

Resident permit withdrawal
When its holder no longer fulfils the conditions required for its issuing

If a national holding a resident permit with the mention « scientifique-chercheur » or « carte bleue européenne » is unintentionally deprived of employment.

Applicant’s presence is only needed
• during the medical control
• for picking up the Residence Permit

Additional information
• The request for Residence Permit may be done by a representative of the host institution
• The attestation may be transmitted to the representative who will deliver it to the applicant
SPECIFIC SITUATION: RESEARCHERS’ SPOUSES AND MINOR CHILDREN

**SPOUSE**

- **Resident Permit**
  - Temporary with the mention «Vie privée et familiale» (Private and family life)
  - **Automatic**

- **VISA**
  - Entitles to carrying out a professional activity
  - May be automatically renewed during the remaining period of the «scientist-researcher card»

- **Reception and Integration Contract (CAI)**
  - May be requested

- **Scientist’s stay**
  - < 12 months
  - No need
  - > 12 months
  - Need

**MINOR CHILDREN**

- **Resident Permit**
  - NO
  - Given to his/her majority

- **Visa**
  - NO
  - Given to his/her majority

- **CAI**
  - No need in every cases

**As the same time as the scientist’s**

- The Hosting Agreement allows the 2 Visas insurance

**Subsequently to the scientist’s**

**REQUESTED:**

- 1 copy of the Hosting Agreement
- receipt copy of scientist’s Resident Permit

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The VLS-TS cannot be delivered to the spouse BUT she/he profits from the Temporary Resident Permit with the mention «Vie Privée et Familiale» automatically renewed for the length of the scientist residence permit.
CIRCULATION IN THE SCHENGEN AREA

Transiting through Schengen Area rules depend on the Visa format

**Visa de court séjour (Type C)**
(Short stay visa)
- maximum staying of 90 days by 6 months in the member countries of Schengen Area
- 1, 2 or several entries
- In case of several entries, total of staying can't be > 90 days by 6 months

**Visa de long séjour (Type D)**
(Long stay visa)
- Stay > 3 months
- National visa issued by member countries of Schengen Area according to their own legislation
- Allows to transit through Schengen Area following the same rules as a Residence Permit holder.

**Residence Permit**
- Allows (+passport) to travel under 3 months long
- Includes: authorization of transit through Schengen Area during travel back to home country with departure from visa delivering country.
OFII'S TAXE PAYABLE BY THE NATIONAL FOREIGNER

- First Residence Permit issuance = 340 € (~5 MILLIONS IDR)
- First renewal = 340 €
- Renewal = 110 € (~1,6 MILLIONS IDR)

The host institution may take care of the taxe.
EURAXESS SERVICES (CENTRES DE MOBILITÉ)
(HELP FROM MOBILITY CENTERS)

- Mobility centers network
- 200 centers through 35 European countries
- 23 centers in France
- Facilitation of information and welcoming for foreigner scientists
- Personalized services: help to prepare and stay

MOBILITY CENTERS LISTING
http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/np/france/services_centres_fr.html

Other Information About Scientific Visa Available On:

French Ministry of Interior

French office for immigration and integration (OFII)

Alfred Kastler Fundation (FnAK)

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