



Welcome foreign and French researchers

Science Accueil's letter

May 2010

Dear Friends,

Science Accueil is glad to inform you with its latest news to help you to facilitate your stay.

Short-stay scientific visas are now free!

The Community Code of Visas came into effect on April 4th, 2010. This Code was created to gather in a unique text all the regulations, directives and other European legal texts laying down rules on short-stay visas towards the Schengen area. As regards foreign "scientists", the information of interest is in the article 16 of the Code, 4th paragraph, c):

« 4- Les demandeurs suivants sont exemptés du paiement des droits de visa: (...) c) les chercheurs ressortissants de pays tiers se déplaçant à des fins de recherche scientifique, au sens de la recommandation 2005/761/CE du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 28 septembre 2005 visant à faciliter la délivrance par les États membres de visas uniformes de court séjour pour les chercheurs ressortissants de pays tiers se déplaçant aux fins de recherche scientifique dans la Communauté; »

Henceforth, short-stay visas with the mention "scientist" are thus free for any foreigner requesting for it to the consular service on which (s)he depends. Up to now, a short-stay visa cost 60 Euros.

Freedom of circulation for third countries nationals holding a long-stay visa!

The European Commission thought about the problem of the freedom of circulation of nationals of third countries holding a long-stay visa: These nationals had to wait for the delivery of their residence permit or for the apposition of the stamp from OFII on their VLS TS before being able to move freely within the Schengen area. Because the apposition of the OFII stamp or the delivery of the resident's permit can take several months, there was a talk for legislating at the European level to give these nationals the possibility of travelling freely on the only base of their long-stay visa of current validity.

It is henceforth made since a Regulation dated March 25th, in force since April 5th, allows long-stay visa holders to circulate freely within the Schengen area.

Beware: France again has to modify the mentions affixed on the long-stay visas, because it may be still indicated "valid for: France + 1 transit Schengen ", while it should henceforth be " valid for: F + Schengen states.

If a purely material modification of a mention on a visa would not contradict a European law, and if it is thus certain that any foreigner holding a long stay visa can freely circulate with his(her) valid long stay visa while waiting for his(her) resident's permit, it is advisable to be extremely watchful as for the application of this novelty, because you never can tell if the information was passed on well and truly to the Police on the borders and on the police authorities of each country of the Schengen area.

May, Saturday 29th: Visit of Chartres organized for all guests

Science Accueil offers guest researchers and their families a special visit of Chartres on the 29th of May, between 1:00 pm and 11:30 pm. Round-trip by bus from Orsay, guided tour at the cathedral, visit of the International Stained-Glass Center, dinner at the restaurant, "Lights of Chartres" evening walk.

Price, all included: 60 euros / person

More information: <http://www.science-accueil.org/fr/infos-direct/tourisme-loisirs.html>

In order to register, please send to contact@science-accueil.org the answering coupon which you can download on our website: <http://www.science-accueil.org/uk/direct-infos/tourism-and-spare-time-a.html>

The 2009 track record of Science Accueil is published

The 2009 track record of "Science Accueil" confirms the trend observed since the creation of Science Welcome in 1997: an activity in continuous growth which represents +18 % between 2008 and 2009. In 12 years, Science Welcome accompanied 12.820 researchers, PhD students and trainees in their steps for moving to Ile-de-France, among which 1.940 in 2009.

If the requests for administrative assistance almost doubled in one year, the help for accommodation stays the main activity of our association. We treat about 12 housing requests a day. To answer housing requests, we have a 2.900 furnished rooms, apartments and houses database, which allows us to send each guest accommodation offers corresponding to their expressed needs.

Towards the increase of the requests and not to risk shortage, we have to regularly populate our database with new offers. If you know owners who look for tenants, do not hesitate to give them our contact information (contact@science-accueil.org).

You can download Science Accueil 2009 track record on our web page: http://www.science-accueil.org/fr/actualites.html?actu_id=31 (in French only).

We also offer you:

A personalized assistance to get through formalities

In order to help your guest researchers to get through their formalities (visa, residency permit, work permit, taxes, health insurance, bank account, schooling or nursing, etc), please do not hesitate to contact Sandra Richard (contact@science-accueil.org) in Orsay or Virginie Chabbert (evry@science-accueil.org) in Evry.

Help for housing

With our database of 3.000 furnished accommodation (rooms in the owner's house, one-bedroom apartment, apartments or houses), mainly located along the B, C, and D train lines (RER) or in Paris downtown, we can help you to find the most appropriate accommodation. Please fill in the form: <http://www.science-accueil.org/uk/prepare-your-stay/online-questionnaire.html>

Cultural visits and activities

We organize social activities for you with our local partners. For more details, please click here: <http://www.science-accueil.org/uk/direct-infos/tourism-and-spare-time-a.html>
For registration, please contact us (contact@science-accueil.org).

French courses for Researchers

In partnership with ALFAP we offer guest researchers and their spouses French classes of all levels in Orsay and Bures-sur-Yvette.

Information: ALFAP - contact@alfap.net - Phone: 09 54 97 18 59

Science Accueil Evry organizes French courses too in Evry.

Information: evry@science-accueil.org – Phone: 01 69 47 70 83

In partnership with ILEI (ex-CEREL), the language centre of Versailles Saint-Quentin University, Science Accueil offers distance language training.

This distance language training combines self-training based on online language software with a customized training program followed up by a teaching adviser.

For more details please click here: <http://www.science-accueil.org/uk/direct-infos/french-courses.html>.

We are here to help you and to make you feel like home

Sincerely.

Science Accueil staff

Corinne Ollé, manager

Jocelyne Dumont, accommodation service

Sandra Richard, administrative procedures service

Virginie Chabbert, in charge of Science Accueil Evry

Angélique Rousseau, assistant