



# Welcome to researchers and PhD students Science Accueil's letter February 2014

Dear Friends,

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

## Facilitated procedures at the sous-préfecture of Palaiseau for students, scientists, and spouses of scientists

Since September 2013, *Palaiseau sous-préfecture* has significantly improved the **procedure of request of residence permits** for students, scientists and spouses of scientists.

Between September and the end of November, 2013, they opened a welcome desk at Ecole polytechnique for foreign students, researchers and spouses of scientists to submit their files. A partnership had been established with most of the academic and research organizations of the *Plateau de Saclay* (AgroParis Tech, Ecole polytechnique, ENSTA, Institut d'Optique, Université Paris-Sud, Supélec, CEA Saclay, CNRS, IHES, INRIA, ONERA) to facilitate the administrative procedure for their foreign students and scientists.

They were indeed able to submit their file for the request of their residence permit by appointment, after the file has been checked by an official correspondent in the host institution. They could obtain straight away their *récépissé* on the day of the appointment.

Researchers of other academic or research host institutions could address themselves to Science Accueil for the check of their file and the appointment setting. Indeed, in the same way as the organizations mentioned above, Science Accueil was authorized to follow this simplified procedure.

After the closing of this welcome desk at the end of November, and with regard to the success of this procedure which allowed a strong reduction of the number of rejected files and of the number of wasted appointments, the *sous-préfecture* of Palaiseau decided to pursue the procedure with the appointment via Internet and a new welcome desk dedicated to students and scientists was created at the *sous-préfecture* itself. Foreign students and scientists living in the district of Palaiseau and avid to renew their residence permits can thus contact the referent of their host institution if they work in one of the aforementioned organizations or Science Accueil if they work in another research or academic center in Ile-de-France Region. The appointments are made on time slots reserved for these organizations and for Science Accueil, and can be obtained in quite a short time.

Besides the comfort and besides the efficiency of the new deposit process, we can also notice that the time needed to obtain of the residence permits has considerably shortened, to one and a half month maximum.

Residence permits are delivered at the *Accueil général* of the *sous-préfecture* of Palaiseau and only the people provided with a notification can remove their residence card, from the date on mentioned on the notification, after having bought stamps corresponding to the amount of the tax mentioned on the notification. Beware: fiscal stamps are no longer sold at the *sous-préfecture*; it is necessary to buy them at a tobacco store or at a center of the public finances or at the "*Trésorerie des Impôts*". Please note that it is better to go and pick up the residence card the first day mentioned on the notification.

## Reorganization of Science Accueil Evry

While having maintained the same services, the office of Science Accueil in Evry has been reorganized in October, 2013. **Katrin Salhab, the new person in charge of the office, welcomes from now on researchers, professors, PhD students and trainees of Evry district on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays**, from 9:30 am till 12 am, and from 2 pm till 5 pm, in our premises at the University of Evry Val d'Essonne. Scientists can be helped in their search for accommodation and with their administrative procedures. We also organize French lessons.

During the days when the office of Evry is closed, Science Accueil Orsay head office may answer urgent matters by email.

Furthermore, there are no more office hours of Science Accueil Evry at Telecom and at Genopole anymore, and the *Service des partenariats et des relations internationales* of the University is now in charge of the establishment of the *Conventions d'accueil* at the University of Evry.

Please do not hesitate to contact Katrin Salhab at [evry@science-accueil.org](mailto:evry@science-accueil.org).

## Legal news

**Welcome of Romanian and Bulgarian scientists:** Since January 1st, 2014, Romanian and Bulgarian nationals can freely work in France without requesting a residence permit. Consequently, it is not necessary any more to deliver them a *Convention d'Accueil* and to have them apply for a residence card as scientists.

**Welcome of Croatians:** A new country of the European Union does not benefit from the free circulation of workers yet. It concerns Croatia, which entered the European Community in July, 2013. Croatian nationals remain subjected to working authorization during the period of transition of 2 years as from July 1st, 2013. To invite a Croatian researcher, it will thus be necessary to deliver him/her a *Convention d'accueil*, and he/she will have to apply for a residence permit with the scientific mention. However, as it used to be the case for Romanians and Bulgarians, Croatian nationals who would have successfully finished, in an institution of higher education recognized on the national level, a training course leading to a diploma equivalent to the Master's degree in the least, are exempted from the necessity of obtaining a residence permit and a work authorization.

**Message of the embassy of France in India:** the Indian graduates who obtained a Master's degree or a Doctorate in France can benefit from now on, at their return to India, from a *visa de circulation* valid up to 5 years, for a motive for tourism, studies or business. The visa application file will include the same documents as the ordinary file, but the former student will have to add a copy of his French diploma. To avoid possible frauds, the services of the embassy of France or Campus France in India can contact organizations to make sure that the student has indeed accomplished his program there. More information here: <http://www.ambafrance-in.org/Facilitating-visas-for-Indian,11432>

## Euraxess France

Together with the 30 other certified French Euraxess services centers, Science Accueil participated in the **Euraxess France Day** at Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris. This biannual meeting allows the French network to exchange around the question of the assistance for foreign researchers in international mobility, and to share tools and best practices. It is also an opportunity to speak directly with the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and with the Ministry of the Interior which are represented at this meeting, in order to review the evolution of legislation and practices and to let them know about difficulties encountered by researchers and research institutions on a local and practical level.

A number of points were discussed in the presence of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and of the Professional Immigration Office of the Ministry of the Interior, in particular:

- Lack of harmonization of the scientific procedure among the different *prefectures* (disparity of the lists of documents to be supplied, mainly),
- The case of the Algerian PhD students to whom some prefectures refuse the scientific status
- Or the difficulties still met by researchers at the end of their scientific stay when they would like to extend their stay in France (with a registration as a job-seeker and unemployment benefits for scientists at the end of their fixed-term contract, for those who would not have found yet a new position before the expiration of their resident's permit, or simply when they would just need a period of transition before the departure, while work contract and resident's permit generally come to an end on the exact same day).

On many points, Euraxess France has been heard, and answers should be brought in the government bill for the attractiveness of higher education. From April, 2014, a new web site should post the lists of documents to be supplied for the requests of resident's permits of the various mentions, with a harmonization of these lists at the national level.

Two priority themes of improvement of the welcome of international scientists were developed at this meeting: employment after the stay and Social Security. To treat with the difficulties encountered by foreign researchers in particular for their registration with CPAM, a dialogue was introduced, and the Ministry of Social Affairs should be present during the next Euraxess France Day in June, 2014.

*For information, Euraxess France association was created in January, 2013. It is the formalization of the informal network of the French mobility centers which have existed for more than 10 years. It gathers the Euraxess centers of services implanted on all the national territory to work in closeness with the research and academic institutions. It gives these centers the assistance of a legal expert specialist of the welcome of foreign researchers, it allows them the access to a national database facilitating the management of the support of these researchers in mobility, and it develops trainings on the welcome of international researchers for the persons in charge of this welcome within the network and for the services and persons in charge in higher education and research institutions (scientific procedure, welcome of PhD students, Social Security, taxation...). Science Accueil seats on the board of directors of Euraxess France and leads 2 workgroups: "housing" and "communication".*

## **French classes**

In partnership with ALFAP, Science Accueil offers a semi-intensive French as a Second Language course of 40 hours over 8 weeks for beginners. Courses will take place from 6:45 pm till 8:45 pm at Paris-Sud Orsay University. They will begin in March, as soon as there are enough participants to fill the course (10 people minimum).

Total price for the course: 234 euros per person

Registrations have already begun. For any further information: <http://www.science-accueil.org/data/document/cbear-file-orsay-2-2014.pdf> or: [contact@alfap.net](mailto:contact@alfap.net)

## **Local agreement between Science Accueil and Société Générale**

Science Accueil has developed a special local partnership with three agencies of Société Générale situated in Orsay, Gif-sur-Yvette and Palaiseau. The guests can contact these agencies directly on behalf of Science Accueil and are authorized to open a bank account even before their arrival in France if necessary. It is a unique service in France reserved for researchers who are registered with Science Accueil.

In order to benefit from this agreement, guests have to provide the Société Générale branch with a certificate that Science Accueil can deliver them upon request. The bank can send the first mails to the address of Science Accueil if needed, during the time needed by the guest to arrive in France and find accommodation.

A similar local agreement should be set up very soon with the Société Générale agency of Evry situated near the *Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne*.

## We also offer you:

### A personalized assistance to get through formalities

In order to help 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](mailto:contact@science-accueil.org)) in Orsay or Katrin Salhab ([evry@science-accueil.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@alfap.net)

Science Accueil Evry organizes French courses in Evry too.

Information: [evry@science-accueil.org](mailto:evry@science-accueil.org) – Phone: 01 69 47 70 83

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

Sincerely,

acc&ss Science Accueil staff:

Corinne Ollé, director

Angélique Rousseau, accommodation department manager

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