Global Scholars Program in French Polynesia & Paris
Summer 2022 COVID Protocols

The safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff is our top priority, so we are working to take all precautions as necessary and follow all local guidelines and regulations in order to ensure that the program can be carried out safely and effectively for all parties involved. Please find below information and links to resources about how COVID-19 might impact the upcoming study abroad experience so that you can remain informed as the situation evolves. Please note that these protocols as well as participation policies may need to be modified at any time prior to departure or while in-country.

Flights, Entry Requirements & Arrival
Students will be responsible for purchasing their own flights and arriving at the program location on time. The in-person component of the program is essential, and anyone that is unable to arrive in Tahiti on time, will be unable to participate in the program. Please make sure that you exercise caution in the time leading up to your departure in order to meet travel and entry requirements for both French Polynesia and France.

To board a flight to French Polynesia, all travelers 12 years of age and older must present the airline with a negative SARS-CoV-2 test (RT-PCR or PCR or antigenic) less than 24 hours prior to departure. All travelers will be tested upon arrival at the airport (https://tahititourisme.com/en-us/covid-19/).

U.S. residents entering from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Hawaii may be subject to different rules: https://en.calameo.com/read/003461503dba1138f04b5?page=1. Travelers who transit or stopover in the U.S. may be subject to different rules: https://en.calameo.com/read/0034615033aaaf5615b21?page=1

Travelers who are fully vaccinated must present a vaccination certificate showing that they completed the full vaccination before departure to Tahiti. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens for stays under 90 days. Non-U.S. citizens should confirm visa requirements with the relevant agencies.

Vaccination Requirement
All students are required to follow Columbia University’s vaccine and booster mandate in order to participate in a Columbia Led or Columbia Approved program. Exemptions are not allowed. Please read more Summer/Fall 2022 Planning Resources available on the UGE website.

For the most up to date information, please visit the US Embassy in French Polynesia’s website: https://fj.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/
Per local French Polynesia guidelines: For all fully vaccinated travelers over 18 years old, the vaccination status remains complete beyond 9 months only if the traveler has received an additional dose (booster). In other words, when a traveler has completed a full vaccination (1 dose Janssen or 2 doses Pfizer / Moderna / Astrazeneca), they will have to receive a booster shot before traveling to French Polynesia if his last dose is 9 months old or more.

**Student Accommodation**

Tahiti, Hao, Gambier:
Students will be housed in single or double rooms whenever possible in “pension housing” (small local hotels or lodges). Quarantine arrangements will be made on-site as necessary and students may need to relocate upon short notice.

**Daily Life in French Polynesia**

Travelers may be required to present a health pass in digital or printed form before checking in air and sea transportation between islands, visiting discotheques, nightclubs, cultural, artistic, and festive events, exhibitions. The health pass consists of one of the following:
- Proof of vaccination;
- Proof of a COVID-19 negative test, taken no more than 24 hours before attending an activity;
- Proof of recovery or a certificate of a positive test (issued by a competent health authority), dated at least 11 days and less than 6 months ago.

Travelers with access to the EU Digital Certificate may use it as a health pass. French nationals including Polynesian residents can use the TousAntiCovid application.

**Program Activities & Personal Travel**

Governmental regulations in all locations may change with little notice, so please make sure to check guidelines frequently, especially when planning personal activities or travel. Please note while the program is in session, students should not plan any personal travel.

**French Polynesia:**
In Tahiti, Hao and Gambier students should expect to do a lot of walking. Island tours will help students get a lay of the land. Other excursions to historical and cultural sites have been planned.

As of March 14th in French Polynesia
- The vaccination pass will be suspended for travel from the Windward Islands to the other archipelagos.
● Wearing a mask will no longer be mandatory in places open to the public, in establishments or for practicing activities. Wearing a mask will still be required in public transport (airplanes, buses, boats), in airports and ferry terminals, as well as in health care facilities.

After the French Polynesian portion of the program has concluded, students are expected to depart from French Polynesia on June 3rd. It is recommended that students return home in order to fully participate in the remainder course and complete your final projects prior to your travel to Paris.

**COVID Testing & Protocol for Positive Cases**

Students will be expected to do daily symptom self-monitoring and obligatory observing of pandemic risk mitigation policies. Students will be briefed during orientation by the Faculty Directors on COVID testing protocols and testing locations. Students who test positive will isolate in program housing and be connected with appropriate medical care if needed.

Program staff will check in with students regularly via email/phone/text and offer support as needed. During this time meals will be provided by the pension, or through delivery arranged by the student.

In French Polynesia, U.S. citizens can obtain COVID tests for a fee at several locations:

- **Papeete**: Louis Malarde Institute (rue des Poilus Tahitiens and of rue du 5 mars 1797, Papeete). Cost is 17100 XPF for RT-PCR testing.
- **Pirae**: Nahoata’s Laboratory (avenue Pomare and rue Tuterai tane, Pirae; phone 40 54 33 33). Cost is 16074 XPF for RT-PCR testing.
- **Punaauia**: Tamanu’s Laboratory (Tamanu Shopping Center, Punaauia; phone 40 42 94 00). Cost is 16074 XPF for RT-PCR testing.
- **Moorea**: Moorea Laboratory (PK 3.5 Mountainside, Tiaia, Maherepa; phone 40 55 05 85). Cost is 16074 XPF for RT-PCR testing.

List of local pharmacies doing COVID testing:
https://fr.calameo.com/read/0034615034dc8a22a371b

PCR test costs approximately$160 USD and antigen tests cost $30 USD. Students may seek reimbursement from their healthcare provider if eligible.

**Academic Policies**

Should general pandemic developments or an individual COVID infection interfere with the completion of the course, the program will make arrangements as the local environment allows so that all students or the affected individual participant can continue his/her/their coursework.
and studies in order to complete the course. To prepare for this, all students should bring their own laptops to use.

Students will be engaged in fieldwork in Tahiti and the outer islands (Hao and Gambier). Students will be divided into two groups on the outer islands with one Faculty member and one Program Coordinator overseeing each group. Classes can be taught virtually in Tahiti if needed. On the outer islands, WiFi access may be spotty so virtual classes are likely not possible. Faculty can provide alternative assignments when necessary.

**Health Insurance & Local Healthcare**
As part of the program, you will have health insurance for urgent and emergent illness and injury while abroad. This insurance is provided at no cost to you via Zurich and coordinated through International SOS. Routine and preventive care is not included so you should maintain a health insurance policy that will provide coverage outside of your home country and/or the U.S.

Medical treatment is generally good on the major islands, but is limited in more remote or less populated areas. In less populated areas where there are no hospitals, medical assistance can be found at a Dispensaire, a French government-run free clinic. Patients with emergencies or serious illnesses are often referred to facilities on Tahiti for treatment. In emergencies, evacuation by air to Papeete may be required.

**Paris**

**Travel to France**
As of March 14th the health pass is no longer required in most venues that students will visit (restaurants, cultural and leisure venues like museums and monuments). Though the pass is still required for hospitals, clinics, socio-medical establishments.

Students are expected to arrive in Paris on July 2nd and will be expected to depart from your program housing on July 9th which is the final date of the program.

**Housing:**
Students will be housed at the Résidence J. Lejeune, which provides single furnished rooms with a personal bathroom, and Wi-Fi connection. Each room will have an Individual shower, toilet, 90/200cm bed with mattress, wardrobe, desk, chair, bedside table, mirror and shelf. Résidence J. Lejeune has 216 individual furnished rooms. They are fully equipped for your comfort including a personal bathroom, phone socket and Wi-Fi connection.

Students will receive information regarding testing resources near Reid Hall upon their arrival to Paris.

In France, people who test positive for COVID-19 should
Isolate for at least 7 days if fully vaccinated. When you’re done isolating, you will need a negative test or a certificate of recovery from a licensed healthcare provider to travel again.

On day 5, perform an antigenic test or RT-PCR test. If the test is negative and there have been no symptoms for 48 hours, isolation can be terminated. If the test is positive, continue isolation until day 7.

Refund & Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw from this program at any time. If dismissed, students will not receive a refund. If withdrawing prior to the program start date, students must notify their UGE adviser in writing. After the program has started, students wishing to withdraw from the program must notify their UGE adviser and the Faculty Directors in writing. Failure to attend classes or non-responsiveness does not constitute formal withdrawal and will result in failing grades in the summer course. Please refer to the refund schedule on the UGE website and note that any adjustment of the tuition that the student has paid is calculated from the date on which the student's written notification is received by the relevant parties.

Resources