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### General information about visas

#### **Please note:**

As the application process includes taking a photo and the ten fingerprints of each applicant, it is not possible to send in a visa application via the post.

This also applies to residents of Samoa and the Cook Islands. Each applicant aged 12 years and over must travel to Wellington to apply for their visa in person.

The only exception applies to applicants of visas for [African countries](#). Applicants for these visas are not required to apply in person at the Consulate of France.

#### **Make an appointment**

One appointment must be made for each passport holder. Applicants will need to make an appointment during the hours that the Consulate of France is open to the public: 9.15 am to 1.15 pm, Monday to Friday. Applicants will not be admitted to the Consulate if they do not have an appointment.

**Appointments can be made by calling the Embassy: (04) 384 2555.**

When making an appointment, please provide your full name, your nationality, the dates of your trip, the places that will be visited on your trip, the purpose of your trip and your phone number. If applicants are unable to attend an appointment they should amend or cancel it.

#### **Do you need a visa?**

French immigration regulations are **nationality-based**, meaning that they are based on the country of the applicant's passport, not their country of birth or their country of residency.

To find out if you require a visa, you must consult the website of the Consulate of France of the country that issued your passport. For example, if you have a Fijian passport and you are a resident in New Zealand, you must make an enquiry at the Embassy of France in Suva.

If you are a New Zealander, you require a visa if:

- You wish to spend more than three months in France or in another French Territory (not listed below);
- You wish to stay in French Polynesia for more than a month but less than three months;
- You wish to stay in New Caledonia for more than three months.

You do **not** require a visa if:

- You wish to stay in France or in another French Territory (not listed below) for less than three months;
- You wish to spend less than a month in French Polynesia;
- You wish to spend less than three months in New Caledonia.

Please contact the Consulate of France if you wish to visit another French Territory (Wallis and Futuna, French Southern and Antarctic Lands).

### **Things to know before making an application**

- Your passport must be valid for three months after the expiration date of the visa;
- In order to print the visa, your passport must have a minimum of two blank pages;
- Passport photographs pasted on to the forms must conform to the [basic specifications](#);
- Payment of visa fees can only be made by cash or bank cheque (different from personal cheque). There is no fee that can be paid to speed up the processing of visa applications;
- The length of time it will take to process your visa will be indicated to you at your appointment if a complete application (with no missing documentation) is provided;
- The pre-paid envelope for return of documents must be correctly filled out by the applicant (the applicant should keep the tracking number);
- The Police Record Check (if required) is issued by the New Zealand police once you have filled in and sent in the consent disclosure form that the Consulate provides you with. The address the form has to be sent to, is indicated on the form. The New Zealand police will then send the record

directly to the Consulate. It has to be less than three months old at the time the application is made;

- Visa Officers are unable to provide any advice on a specific application without formally assessing it;
- The Visa Section does not respond to all general enquiries. What's more, it does not give information on the progress of visa applications by phone, fax or email. All necessary information is available on our website. Please give your contact details on your visa application form so that if necessary, you can be contacted directly by phone or email;
- Visa applicants should not attempt to use the emergency telephone numbers for the Embassy of France or for the Consulate of France. Nor should they attempt to use other Embassy departments' email addresses;
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the Consulate with a complete application;
- All the documents provided for the application are kept by the Visa Section. No documents are returned. Please plan copies of originals.

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