Responsibilities and Rules

The Risks of International Education. French Polynesia is a remote, foreign country with a non-English official language. As a result, living in French Polynesia entails some risk, including, but not limited to, potential problems with rapid access to health care, dangers associated with roads, vehicles, and traffic signs, dangers associated with beaches, shores, boat use, and water activities, dangers associated with trails and forests. While most of these risks are no greater than one would face in California, one must ALWAYS be careful and USE common sense. Refer to the US State Department website for up-to-date travel and safety information: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1119.html.

Each student must remember that she/he takes full responsibility for her/his actions.

Signing out from the Station. There will be a sign-out board at the dorm. Whenever you leave the station grounds on class or personal business you must sign out indicating where you are going and when you expect to be back. We need to know this so we know when to notify authorities, and where to look for you, if we need to locate you or you go missing.

Buddy system. Whenever you leave the station grounds on class business (including activities such as official trips to stores, terrestrial fieldwork, marine fieldwork, snorkeling, boating) you must always go with a “buddy” and not by yourself. Always have a designated buddy within shouting distance on the water or on land. We strongly suggest that you do this as well for personal activities, such as jogging and sightseeing.

Food safety. You will be cooking and eating communally so you need to be careful about food handling and kitchen cleanliness to prevent food poisoning. Perishable items spoil more quickly in the tropics than in Berkeley, so refrigeration of food is even more important in Moorea. Dishes need to be thoroughly washed in hot water with detergent to avoid illness. There will be a food safety workshop given on campus before we go to Moorea, and it will be your responsibility to prepare food safely.

Bicycle safety. Many students will want to have a bike. If you choose to use a bike for personal use be very careful; there are no bike lanes on roads, which are narrow and sometimes lack a shoulder. Drivers can be fast and careless. Because of the risks involved, we strongly recommend that you do not use bikes on class business.

Hikes on personal time. If you want to hike or climb mountains on your own time, we strongly recommend that you hire a guide to show you the way and help keep you safe. Trails can be hard to follow, the rock is crumbly, the sun is hot, and the ridges are narrow and steep. It is fun to hike, but you need to be careful and aware of your own limits.

Water safety. You must be able to swim proficiently to take this class. We will enforce this rule by giving you a swimming test in the Fall. If you feel nervous about your swimming ability, please take additional lessons over the summer. Everyone will snorkel (there will be a workshop on snorkeling in the Fall). SCUBA diving at the Gump Station is possible only for current “UC-certified Scientific Divers”, but even then, SCUBA will not be a major part of any student’s project. Others may not SCUBA dive using the Gump Station facilities, even if you have other kinds of certification. However, anyone can arrange to dive with one of the private companies on the island in their free time. Kayaks are available for class use, and you will be provided boat use and safety instruction before being allowed to use them.

Travel Insurance. The University of California offers travel insurance that provides coverage for a wide variety of accidents and incidents for students traveling on university business. Insurance coverage includes basic medical care, medical evacuation and security extraction. Students going to Moorea should register for the University of California Traveler Insurance Coverage. Upon completing the online application, travelers have the option to register for a service that provides real time intelligence and travel alerts through Worldcue. Refer to: http://intlgrouptravel.berkeley.edu/travel_insurance.

Health Information. Everyone must have health insurance, whether through UC-SHIP or family coverage. You do not need any special shots or other preventive health measures—refer to CDC website for current health information, http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/french-polynesia.htm. French Polynesia is quite civilized, with French doctors. There is a small hospital on Moorea and a large one in Papeete. Dengue fever is present in French Polynesia, and avoiding mosquitoes is the best deterrent.
For traveling in any tropical area, you might want to bring along a small personal first aid kit that includes aspirin, Sudafed, Imodium or Pepto-Bismol, band-aids, topical antibiotics (e.g., Neosporin), sunscreen, calamine lotion, and aloe cream. You might want to bring mosquito repellent (whatever works for you), though they have very good repellents in French Polynesia.

Selected Gump Station Rules (see http://moorea.berkeley.edu/aboutus/stationguide.html for full list)

LAW: The Station operates under both UC regulations and French Polynesia laws. In particular, we emphasize that the use and/or possession of illegal drugs is strictly forbidden. The Gump Station staff is obliged to report any breach of local laws on illegal drugs to local law enforcement, leading to immediate expulsion from the Station, potential criminal proceedings in local courts and/or deportation.

Other laws and regulations include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Wearing seatbelts is compulsory (please report any problems with the belts in the cars to a member of staff). 2. Smoking is prohibited within buildings. 3. Pets are not allowed at the Station, nor are Station animals allowed in any building. 4. No vehicles, including boats, may be used while under the influence of alcohol.

HOUSEKEEPING: Limited housekeeping services are provided in the community areas (e.g., sweeping of the dorm classroom/living room, cleaning the dorm bathrooms, laundering the floor mats, dish towels and, once a week, the bed linens). Visitors are responsible for cleaning their own rooms, washing their own clothes, and washing their dishes.

KITCHEN: 1. Rats, mice, ants, and roaches are a problem if cooking areas and other places with food are not kept scrupulously clean. Please clean all surfaces and put all food away (including unpeeled fruit) in a rat-proof container. Put trash out every night in a closed bag in the large trash bins next to the road. There is recycling on Moorea so please comply with the recycling instructions posted in the kitchen and on the green trash containers. Clean and empty plastic bottles without lids, cans, soda cans, cardboard, and newspapers are collected. Glass bottles, batteries and oil can be deposited in facilities at the local supermarket and gas station. 2. The flash-heaters, stoves, and barbecues use propane from small tanks. There is an extra tank near the barbeque. If the propane runs out, change the tank and make sure that the empty tank gets exchanged for a full one at ARE, the local supermarket. Charge it to the Station account. 3. At the end of your stay please clean out your food from the shelves and fridges.

SECURITY: 1. Violent and major crimes are unusual on Moorea, but petty theft is not unusual. So, when you are out-and-about on Moorea, do not leave your snorkeling gear, bicycle, etc. unattended. Make sure that you lock your bicycle and have someone stay with your gear when you go snorkeling at the public beach. 2. On the Station grounds, do not leave snorkeling gear, phones, sunglasses etc. unattended in plain view to prevent theft. It is advisable to lock the waterfront bungalows (rm. 8-11). Note that the dock and 3 meters from the water are public property in French Polynesia. Keep lockers, kayaks and the fuel shed near the dock locked (we have had gas tanks stolen from the fuel shed). 3. You are responsible for any guests at the station and you should remain with them while they are on Station property. Please exercise caution when inviting guests inside any station buildings.

ANIMALS: Do not adopt local animals or in any way encourage animals onto the Station property (e.g., feeding them). Animals are not allowed in any of the buildings. Any newly-adopted animals found at the Station will be immediately removed by Station staff.

I, ____________________________ (print name clearly), acknowledge that I have read this document. I further acknowledge that I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in my going to Moorea, and recognize that the University of California and its officers, employees, and agents cannot be held responsible for conditions beyond their control. I hereby confirm that I am knowingly assuming these risks.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________