

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Junior Professor Chair (tenure-track) “Indo-Pasifika”

POSITION STATUS: Open	INSTITUTION: University of French Polynesia (UPF)
ORIGIN OF VACANCY: Newly created	POSITION LOCATION: Punaauia, Tahiti
VACANCY DATE: As 1er december 2026	UAR 2503 Fare Pasifika
CATEGORY: A	RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE: Competitive selection
MONTHLY SALARY: 573 829 xpf (4809 euros) net	QUALIFICATIONS: Doctoral degree (PhD)
Contract term : 5 years	CNU : 1. Section 23 (Géopolitique) 2. Section 4 (Sciences Po / RI) 3. Section 20 (Anthropologie)

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION

The University of French Polynesia (UPF) is a higher education and research institution operating under the authority of the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. UPF occupies a unique position in the development of French Polynesia, an overseas territory at the heart of the South Pacific, and carries out its teaching, research and outreach missions within this territory and beyond, as the coordinating institution for higher education and research in French Polynesia (politique de site). Together with the University of New Caledonia (UNC), UPF is one of only two French universities in the Pacific. It has made regional rootedness and international appeal the two pillars of its scientific strategy, formalised in its 2022-2026 institutional contract. This strategy rests on three levers: (1) a transdisciplinary and multilingual programme portfolio anchored in regional issues (environmental transitions, island governance, Oceanic societies); (2) the consolidation of scientific cooperation with universities of the wider Pacific basin; and (3) the structural strengthening of research units in the humanities and social sciences.

CONTEXT

The Fare Pasifika Support and Research Unit

UAR 2503 Fare Pasifika (Unité d'Appui et de Recherche, Support and Research Unit) was established by order of the President of the CNRS on 1 January 2017, under the joint supervision of the CNRS and UPF. The recent inclusion of UNC as a third joint supervisor positions the unit as the leading French research infrastructure for the humanities and social sciences in the Pacific Islands. Its research operations are designed to reach across the region by providing support to UPF and UNC research teams; by facilitating the involvement of researchers from metropolitan French institutions in the area; and by fostering collaboration between francophone institutions (Pacific and mainland France) and foreign institutions from the Pacific and Europe. Its research strands concern Pacific societies, their history and their contemporary issues - social, political, economic, cultural, linguistic and public-health - as well as Oceanic languages and literatures.

The “CPJ Indo-Pasifika” project

The reorientation of geopolitical agendas toward Southeast Asia and China has generated renewed interest in the Indo-Pacific region, while obscuring Indigenous perspectives and their Austronesian and pre-Austronesian rootedness, from Taiwan to Oceania via Southeast Asia. The Indo-Pacific - a geostrategic and geoeconomic concept, a space overdetermined by Sino-American rivalry - also attracts the interest of other states, including geographically distant ones. It offers a vantage point from which to observe the reconfiguration of economic circuits, diplomacy and defence policy at the global scale. The creation of a Junior Professor Chair “Indo-Pasifika”, led by Fare Pasifika in partnership with the GDI and EASTCO research units of UPF, aims to study this geopolitical reconfiguration as framed through the concept of the Indo-Pacific - a reconfiguration in which France is deploying a resident power diplomacy and in which Oceanic societies occupy a position still little analysed by francophone research. The recruitment of a CPJ contributes to the research center's institutional strategy by (1) creating a centre of excellence in international relations and Indigenous studies; (2) generating co-publications and joint funding with regional partners; and (3) strengthening the institution's capacity to attract international Master's and doctoral students. The first CPJ requested by UPF, this project aims to lay the groundwork for a structuring initiative at the regional scale.

RESEARCH DUTIES

The person recruited under this Junior Professor Chair will be responsible for renewing the study of international relations through the concept of Indo-Pasifika - a reframing through which we seek to foreground not a view on the region but a view from the region, while interrogating the epistemological foundations of the Indo-Pacific, this contested concept situated at the crossroads of scientific and (geo)political fields. The research will link political and strategic questions to an understanding of Oceanic societies and of the ways in which they position themselves within these great-power rivalries; it will pay particular attention to Indigenous political expressions in the Pacific Islands, in (post)colonial contexts, at local, national and regional scales.

The chair holder will organise at least two scientific events, including at least one of international scope, at UPF over the five-year duration of the CPJ.

They will commit to producing three publications per year in peer-reviewed outlets (book chapters, journal articles), including at least two publications in top-tier journals in their discipline over the course of the CPJ. It is understood that the publications of the first two years will draw primarily on work completed prior to recruitment.

They will present their work at leading national and international scientific meetings, at a rate of two international research trips per year. In addition to scientific publications, they will produce open-access research reports available on the Fare Pasifika website.

The chair holder will be required to submit a project under European calls (ERC, Horizon Europe Consortium, etc.) during the five years of their contract. Their project will necessarily include scientific cooperation activities and comparative research visits in Asia hosted by IRASEC (French Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia, Bangkok) and/or CEFC (French Centre for Research on Contemporary China).

The recruitment will strengthen cooperation with UPF's institutional partners in the Pacific region. It will also consolidate the partnership with the “Overseas Territories and Global Change” Chair hosted at CEVIPOF (Sciences Po Centre for Political Research, UMR 7048), as part of the joint development, with Fare Pasifika, of a research strand on political life in French Polynesia and the Pacific.

Finally, the person recruited commits to obtaining a Habilitation to Supervise Research (Habilitation à diriger des recherches, HDR) during the term of their CPJ contract, in view of tenure as full professor.

TEACHING DUTIES

A teaching load of 64 hours per year is attached to the CPJ. The chair holder will teach the geopolitics of the Pacific and Asia, together with the international governance of ecological and societal transitions, at undergraduate and Master's level.

They will teach students enrolled in law, history and geography, as well as in programmes on island and archipelagic studies or on Oceanic languages and cultures. Given the international scope of this CPJ, teaching will partly be delivered in English. Reciprocally, in order to facilitate interactions with students, acquisition of French is required in the case of an international recruitment.

POSITIONING WITHIN THE ORGANISATION

The chair holder will be based on the premises of Fare Pasifika and will work under the supervision of the directors of Fare Pasifika, GDI and EASTCO.

The application file must be addressed to the President of the University and must include:

- A photographic identity document;
- A copy of the doctoral degree or an officially recognized equivalent qualification;
- A copy of the doctoral thesis defense report (translated into French);
- An analytical overview of the candidate's research, publications, articles, achievements, and activities relevant to the position profile;
- A cover letter outlining the candidate's knowledge and skills in the field covered by the CPJ;
- An outline of a proposed activity/project for the position (maximum 4 pages);
- A detailed curriculum vitae setting out the candidate's academic background and professional experience.

Application procedure

Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification (equivalence will be assessed by the restricted Academic Council).

How to apply:

Applications must be registered and the complete application file submitted in PDF format (application form and supporting documents) via **ODYSSEE**.

The application file must be submitted through the Odyssee platform at [Odyssee application platform](#) **no later than September 27, 2026**.

Electronic registration of applications for the CPJ, including submission of the application file, is available through the Odyssee platform **from 10:00 a.m. Paris time on the opening date until 4:00 p.m. Paris time on the stated application deadline**.

CONTACTS

For administrative matters: drh.recrutements@upf.pf

For information regarding the duties and responsibilities of the position:

Loïs BASTIDE, Deputy Director of Fare Pasifika
lois.bastide@upf.pf