



THE AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT ATHENS

ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΝΟ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

Permits and Publications for Fieldwork from 2025

This document outlines the legal requirements of the Greek Ministry of Culture that pertain to fieldwork permits, both new and continuing, as well as the AAIA's own requirements that ensure research undertaken under AAIA auspices is of the highest quality and will be published in a timely manner. The guidance provided here combines the legislation in translation and interpretation of the legislation by the Greek Ministry of Culture in practice to allow you to take the appropriate steps in developing your project and permit application.

Individual researchers based outside of Greece cannot apply for a fieldwork permit directly to the Greek Ministry of Culture. One of the foreign archaeological schools must apply on your behalf. The AAIA is the foreign school that facilitates research permits for Australian researchers, whether based at an Australian institution or for Australian scholars based elsewhere.

All formal, completed applications for any fieldwork permit must be received by the AAIA no later than 15 September of any given year. If the fieldwork project is approved, applicants will be notified by late September and required to submit a Greek translation immediately. The AAIA then undertakes discussions with relevant Ministry of Culture officials to maximise the likelihood of approval of the permit by the Ministry of Culture itself. During this period, project directors may be asked to revise their application or provide additional information. The AAIA then submits the final application to the Ministry of Culture on behalf of the project no later than the last working day of November in any given year.

In matters related to underwater archaeology and underwater cultural heritage applications, AAIA consults with the Australian Government Department with lead for administering the Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 on the appropriateness of proposals by Australians and Australian-based researchers in relation to international best practice under the Rules of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Requirements to be a permit holder in Greece (Article 36.4)

- Minimum 5 years excavation experience acquired after obtaining a basic degree (**2018 Amendment**)
- One excavation season is considered one year of experience (**2018 Amendment**)
- Minimum 2 comprehensive scientific publications on excavations or finds of excavations.
- AAIA recognises 'scientific' as peer-review publications.

Application for Fieldwork (2018 Amendment)

New projects

Applications for conducting new research must include the following:

- The scheduled activities for a duration of up to 5 years, with an analytical description of works to be undertaken in the first year and an initial schedule for the activities of subsequent years.
- The justification for the research project.
- CV of the project director, which demonstrates, among other evidence, at least five years of excavation experience and the existence of at least two comprehensive scientific publications related to excavations or excavation finds.
- List of project members with their areas of expertise and the cv of senior staff of the scientific team. For surface surveys in particular, it is important that the study team includes the basic archaeological fields of interest (e.g. prehistorians, classicists, byzantinists) as far as possible, according to the expected research results.
- Data demonstrating the adequacy of technical and financial resources, with a report on the sources of financing.
- A schedule of dates and duration of the project during the current year, which, if fieldwork is involved, cannot exceed eight (8) weeks per project period. This time allotment includes any time required to prepare the site before excavations or other exploration begins, as well as work tending to the site after the completion of activities. Projects should not be scheduled for the first three months of the year, unless there is a special reason for doing so.
- Definition of the boundaries of the site to be investigated on an orthophotomap (topographic map), onto which the area to be investigated during the first year is to be precisely indicated, and the areas to be studied during subsequent periods marked approximately. The precise determination of the locations to be investigated each year and by each particular study method shall be declared with the submission of the corresponding annual application. For surface surveys, the survey area for the entire project shall not exceed 30,000 *stremmata* (sq.metres)
- Description of the research methodology.
- Data concerning the protection status of the area to be studied (archaeologically protected area, protection zones, etc.)
- Documentation concerning the ownership of the area which is to be studied. It is emphasized that the direct purchase or forced expropriation of properties, under the responsibility and expense of the organization conducting the research, shall be an essential prerequisite for the granting of a permit for any systematic excavation. Under certain circumstances, with the approval of the property owner, it may be, however, possible to conduct trial excavations of limited duration on non-expropriated land. In the case of a request for geophysical or surface survey, it is necessary to inform and obtain a signed written declaration (*ypethyne delose*) from the property owners regarding access to property and the type of work to be undertaken by the scientific team.
- The AAIA is able to offer guidance on how to undertake a land ownership search, but the AAIA is unable to undertake this search on behalf of a project.

- The AAIA strongly recommends that the question of ownership is addressed prior to any official application for a permit. Projects that have already undertaken the necessary steps to establish land ownership permissions will have a greater chance of receiving a permit by the Ministry of Culture. Furthermore, the AAIA will prioritise a project that has resolved the question of land ownership over other permit-competing projects it is asked to put forward to the Ministry of Culture for permit consideration.
- In cases of collaborative projects (*synergasies*), a Protocol of Collaboration shall be submitted, completed and signed by the collaborating parties.
- Approval by the relevant Forest Service is required when research is to be conducted in a forested area which needs clearing of undergrowth. The research team is responsible for obtaining Forest Service approval.
- In the case of coastal investigations, the local coastguard authorities should be notified and approval requested.
- For requests to conduct coring/sediment sampling, the sampling sites shall be designated on a map. If the application includes adequate data regarding the processing and analysis of the samples (method and laboratory responsible for the analysis), the coring permit suffices for all the stages of transporting and processing the samples taken, and no further approval is required by the Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments.
- For requests of artefact analyses that involve the taking of samples from artefacts, including pottery and bone (such as petrographic or genetic studies), permission is required from the Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments. This application must also come through the AAIA and not the project directly. The application should include an outline of the research questions and methods, the number of samples requested, photographs of the artefacts to be sampled, whether the sampling will require the export of the whole artefacts or only the samples, the lab and personnel undertaking the sampling and the analysis. All artefacts/samples will be returned to their permanent place of storage, accompanied by photographs before and after sampling.

Ongoing fieldwork requirements (Article 39)

- An excavation phase duration is 5 years maximum
- Annual report due to Service in *April of the following year* for publication in a scientific journal or for their electronic registration **(39.2)**
- First publication within two years from start of excavation, to include a list of finds and drawings **(39.3)**
- Progress publication every two years after that, for long-term projects, to include a list of finds and drawings **(39.3)**
- Final publication within five years of the completion of the excavation **(39.3)**
- Final publication within two years of the completion of the survey **(39.5)**
- Report of the activities and results of the previous season, accompanied by plans and photographs, which must provide a composite picture of the field research and its contribution to the enrichment of archaeological data in the wider region.
- The progress of the study and publication of the results from previous years and a relevant schedule for the next research period. Copies of the research publications must be

submitted to the appropriate Ephorates of Antiquities and to the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and/or the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities where appropriate.

- Correlation on a digital orthophotomap (topographical map) of the area to be studied in relation to the area already excavated/studied.
- Submission of a study or technical report for the consolidation and conservation of the ancient remains already uncovered. A prerequisite for considering an application is the care demonstrated for antiquities that have been uncovered, which is the responsibility of the excavator or the excavating organization. Detailed studies which are concerned with conservation, consolidation and reconstruction (*anastilosis*) of antiquities shall be submitted by the Foreign Archaeological Schools/Institutes and the Greek Universities and other Research Institutions to the local Ephorates of Antiquities, to the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and/or the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities, as well as, depending on the case, to the relevant Directorates of the Central Service (Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments, Directorate for the Restoration of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments, Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments). Likewise, the organization conducting the research and the excavator him/herself must take appropriate action for the good state of preservation and in general the presentability of the site, according to its needs and particular characteristics (i.e. vegetation removal, fencing, drainage). Non-compliance with these obligations constitute grounds for terminating the project by the specific excavator.
- Financial report of the previous research period.
- Individual *ephoreias* may have specific requests and demands of projects that are normally spelled out in the permit.

AAIA Requirements for fieldwork permit facilitation and ensuing publication

AAIA requires that any fieldwork project it facilitates falls within one of the AAIA's current research themes. This must be articulated to the AAIA when requested.

The AAIA also requires that each facilitated project submits a report (1500 words) aimed at the general public for publication in the AAIA's annual *Bulletin* following each field season. This satisfies the Ministry's requirement of an annual report due to the Service in April of the year following fieldwork.

The AAIA has an obligation to ensure the timely publication of projects it facilitates to minimise the risk of creating future legacy projects. Therefore, further to the Ministry's requirements pertaining to publication (above), the AAIA stipulates the following requirements with regard to fieldwork publication:

Publication Requirements

- AAIA expects final publication of a fieldwork phase before support for a new phase or new permit at the same site (e.g. moving from survey to excavation at a site) or elsewhere in Greece will be granted.
- 'Final publication' in this regard means that the manuscript(s) have both *undergone peer review* and *been accepted for publication* by the publisher(s).
- AAIA expects that excavation final publications will be in monograph format, but cases can be made for other publication formats, or a mix of formats.
- AAIA recognises that survey projects may be more appropriately published in final format in (a) peer review journal(s).
- The AAIA Archaeological Monographs series has first right of refusal on all monographs arising from projects facilitated by the AAIA. Application for exemption from this must be made at the time of initial application for the fieldwork phase.
- Final publications must contain the catalogue of finds and drawings of structures and sections (Ministry requirements), as well as analysis and discussion of the evidence compiled (AAIA requirements).

Last updated May 2025