



THE AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT ATHENS

ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΝΟ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

Research Permits

According to the policy of The Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, AAIA members who wish to study or undertake scientific analysis of objects held in Greek museums, storerooms or archaeological sites must apply for permission through the AAIA. The AAIA submits the relevant application to the Greek Archaeological Service on the researcher's behalf. Requests may be submitted to the AAIA Executive Officer in Athens throughout the year.

Research permits can take a variable amount of time to be issued, ranging from a few weeks to several months. Applicants must submit their requests to the AAIA at least six months prior to the dates of their proposed work.

Applications to study and/or publish unpublished material require additional permissions and procedures and can take up to one year to process. Applicants intending to work with unpublished material should therefore contact the AAIA Executive Officer as early as possible.

Research permits fall under the following categories:

1. Study and publication permissions for archaeological material

Requests to **study** objects in museum collections or storerooms are submitted by the AAIA to the relevant Ephoreia of Antiquities or Museum for approval. When applying for a permit please provide information according to the following topics and questions:

- Wider framework/ purpose of study: Briefly describe your research project and the purpose of the proposed study.
- Material: Attach a catalogue of the objects, including inventory numbers and their display or storage locations. Where inventory numbers are unavailable, photographs identifying each object should be provided. This procedure applies only to published material; requests concerning unpublished objects are subject to different permissions and procedures. For published material, please also provide the relevant bibliographic reference (please note that preliminary reports of excavations, such as those published in the *Archaeologiko Deltio* or the *Praktika* of the Archaeological Society, are NOT considered publications).

- If you want to study **unpublished** material, please make sure your request is accompanied by the written permission of the excavator (applies to excavations that are considered active within the last 6 years). Where the material derives from a project conducted under another Foreign Archaeological School or Institute in Athens, the application must also be accompanied by a letter from that institution granting the applicant permission to study and/or publish the material.
- Proposed Work: Be specific about the work you intend to carry out on the objects (e.g. study, photography, measurement, drawing, making squeezes, etc) and list any equipment that will be used.
- Dates of proposed work: Give specific dates, e.g. 2–17 October 2026. If approximate dates are acceptable at first application, then say so instead.

Please note that permission to study material does not constitute permission to publish it. If publication is also intended, this must be requested explicitly and the following information provided:

- a) Title of publication
- b) Print run (for printed publications)
- c) Publisher
- d) Language(s) of Publication

A thesis deposited in a publicly accessible institutional online repository is considered an electronic publication under Greek law. Publication and image permissions must therefore be obtained in the same way as for other digital publications, even when the thesis is a non-commercial academic work.

- To obtain image permissions, please complete the appropriate form from the list below. Appropriate permission is required for all images reproduced in a publication, including photographs, drawings and reproductions such as line drawings based on photographs. **As of 2025 associated fees may apply and are typically determined on a case-by-case basis following the submission of your application.**

Depending on the proposed activity and form of publication, applicants may need to complete one or more of the following forms:

[Application form for permission to photograph in museums and archaeological sites](#)

[Application form for permission to use images in printed publications](#)

[Application form for permission to use images in e-publications](#) (also applies to research theses accessible via institutional online repositories)

[Application form for permission to use images on the internet](#)

1. Permits for analysis of archaeological material

A new circular on permissions to sample and analyse archaeological material came into effect in June 2017. The terminology and categories below follow the Ministry circular:

- a) Requests for analysis that require sampling.
- b) Requests for analysis that do not require sampling, but involve intervention or cause damage to the material.
- c) Requests for analysis with non-invasive methods.
- d) Requests of all categories that involve modern movable or immovable monuments.

Please consult the **circular** ([Greek Version](#)) - ([English Version](#)) before submitting your request.

In all cases the request must include the following information:

- the wider framework/ context of the request and the purpose of the analysis of the material, the research institution where the analysis is going to take place, the laboratory and the person in charge of the analysis.
- The written permission of the person who holds exclusive publication rights to the material.
- Description of the analytical techniques to be applied. In cases of sampling, mention whether the technique is destructive or non-destructive. In cases of *in situ* analysis, mention whether the technique is intrusive or non- intrusive.
- For all requests: a detailed catalogue of the movable or immovable monuments that are going to be sampled or examined *in situ*, accompanied by photographic documentation (indicating, if possible, the part from where the sample will be retrieved).
- Specifically for sampling requests: the total number, dimensions, quantity and form of samples – as well as the method of their preparation, if required, and a description of the sampling method. The dimensions and number of samples must be the minimum required for the analysis. **Requests involving a large number of samples must be fully justified in relation to the total quantity of material available.**
- Specifically for requests for *in situ* analysis using intrusive techniques or techniques that damage the material: a description of the type and extent of the intrusion or damage to be caused to the material.
- Requests submitted by undergraduate/postgraduate students must be accompanied by a letter from their supervising professor.

- Transport of archaeological objects requires a separate transport permit, whereas transport of approved samples does not require a separate transport permit.

Updated 3 September 2026