

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to pay its respect to the Embassies in Ankara and takes pride in notifying them of the matters below:

1. Foreign researchers and film producers have until present carried out their research, investigation, excavation, film-making, etc., according to the terms of law no. 88/12839 dated 4/04/1988, which was published in the Official Gazette numbered 19799 of 29/04/1998, and entitled “Regulations pertaining to foreigners, or those applying on their behalf, wishing to do scientific research, study, or film making in Turkey, as well as to members of the foreign press.”

There have been many complaints that bureaucratic procedures resulted in lengthy delays in getting a response to applications by foreign researchers and film makers. In order to simplify these procedures, the above-mentioned regulations have been updated, particularly through the input of the T.C Ministry of Culture and Tourism and some institutions working in coordination with the Ministry. New regulations, entitled “Amendments to the regulations pertaining to foreigners, or those applying on their behalf, wishing to do scientific research, study, or film making in Turkey, as well as to members of the foreign press,” were approved by the Council of Ministers on October 6, 2003, decision number 2003/6270, and were promulgated in the Official Gazette of November 10th, 2003 numbered 25285.

The updated regulations make one addition to the end of item 2b of the law number 88/12839 of 4/04/1988, change the third part of item 3, and change item 7.

The updated regulations simplify the formalities for foreign researchers applying to do research and make films, by having them apply directly to the relevant institutions, and establishing that their request be answered within five days. The type of research that is not in the scope of these new procedures is indicated below.

[Please note that despite the 5-day rule, some institutions may need longer to process your request.]

2. If the research is archaeological excavation, survey, underwater archaeology, and/or cadastral registers, it will continue to be subject to the previous regulations, number 88/12839 dated April 4, 1988. Therefore, researchers in these areas will continue to send their application forms to our Ministry to be forwarded by us to the relevant ministries and offices. The response to these applications will be sent by our Ministry, according to where the application was made from, to the relevant Turkish Embassy abroad or to the relevant foreign Embassy in Turkey.

[In other words, those who are applying for an archaeological excavation or survey permit need to continue applying in the old manner through the Turkish consulates when they are abroad or through their relevant embassy when applying in Turkey.]

3. Applications for all other research in Turkey (i.e. that is not part of land and underwater archaeological excavations, surface surveys, or research in the cadastral registries) including all research and study related to the archaeology, history, geology, sociology and nature of the land, air seas, waters, lakes and rivers of Turkey, including the use of still and moving film for scientific purposes, will be made directly to the institution

where the research will be carried out, or to the administrative unit directly responsible for it. The researcher will apply “directly” to the institution by mail, fax or e-mail, using the application form attached.

[In other words, the procedures apply to individuals that are applying not as part of an archaeological excavation or survey project but on their own to do research in the relevant areas listed above. This type of application procedure is referred to as “dogrudan” or “directly.”]

The relevant institutions or directorate will likewise respond “directly” by post, fax, or e-mail to the foreign researcher.

The relevant contact information that is necessary for the applicant to complete their “direct” application forms is provided in Attachment D.

4. The procedures for applications for film shootings for scientific purposes has been provided above. Applications for video and voice recording, documentary and film shootings for promotional purposes, on the other hand, have been made subject to the terms of the “Regulations regarding the producers of film, video, and music works, and foreigners wishing to produce films, and those in production partnerships with foreigners.” Applicants for these types of filming need to use application form “Sample 2 (Ornek –II)” and send it directly to Kùltür ve Turizm Bakanlıđı Telif ve Sinema Genel Mùdùrlùđù.

Kùltür ve Turizm Bakanlıđı Telif ve Sinema Hakları Genel Mùdùrlùđù
Eski Adliye Binası Kat:3
06330 Ulus
ANKARA

Tel: (+90 312) 310 0811- 310 0026 – 310 0142
Faxes: (+90 312) 310 0063
E-Posta: telifhaklari_sinema@kulturturizm.gov.tr

The permission will be given by the above-mentioned General Directorate and will be sent directly to the applicant.

5. Subjects remaining out of the scope of scientific research, investigation and archaeological excavation, such as news collecting by foreign journalists, radio and TV reporting in public spaces, interviews, photographing, video and voice recording, and film shooting, will continue to be overseen by our Ministry’s Information Office (ENFD) in conjunction with the General Directorate of Press, as has been the case up to now.
6. The Interior Ministry has promulgated new regulations regarding the residency of foreign researchers in Turkey. (This is assuming it has no objections of its own to the application made “directly” by the foreign researcher.) According to these:
 - a) If the foreign researcher, having received a positive reply to his or her “direct” application, is of a nationality that requires a visa to enter Turkey, a “research” visa for the period stipulated by the Institution applied to will be given in person to the applicant by an Embassy of Turkey abroad. This visa will be valid for the

period indicated on the document supplied to the applicant by the institution applied to. This document will be presented by the applicant to the Embassy.
[This applies to foreign nationals who cannot come in on a simple tourist visa and to any researcher who may need to extend the tenure of his or her research beyond three months.]

- b) Foreign researchers who are exempt from such a visa will be allowed to stay in the country to do research for the period allowed them by this exemption.
[This applies to U.S. and most western nationals who can purchase a tourist visa at the airport valid for three months, except if they need to remain in Turkey for longer than three months. In that case, researchers will need to secure a research visa for the desired tenure prior to arriving in Turkey.]
- c) All researchers, whether they enter the country with a visa or without, who find that the residency period allowed them is insufficient for their research, can apply directly to the institution where they are conducting research for an extension of their permission; if the extension is granted they will then have to apply to the directorate of security in the Province for a “residence permit.” The residence permit will be given to them personally at the provincial directorate of security.

These procedures are for those researchers who apply “directly” to the relevant institutions/units. The application form is different than last year’s and an example of the new forms/regulations is provided in the attachments.

With the new regulations, the name and address of the institution/unit that the researcher will need to know to contact for “direct” applications will be provided by Turkey’s Embassies or Consulates. If the researcher requires a visa, and has received a positive reply to the “direct” application to the relevant institution/unit, they will receive their visa for the required period from one of Turkey’s offices abroad.

These procedures will become valid starting from the 21st of June 2004.

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With this opportunity, The Foreign Ministry of Turkish Republic expresses its deep respects to the Foreign Embassies at Ankara.

Ankara, June 8, 2004

Attachments:

- A) The law of Council of Ministers dated October 6, 2003 and numbered 2003/6270
- B) Sample I Application Form
- C) Sample II Application Form
- D) The contact addresses of the relevant institutions/ units.

To all the Embassies
ANKARA