



General Scientific Research in Greenland: Application instructions

Application deadline: May 1st for the current calendar year's summer field season

Scientific research in Greenland requires the issuance of a **GSR-1 permit** for all activities related to sub-surface testing and collection of scientific samples. This includes permission to conduct any work that may potentially disturb or impact the natural environment or nationally registered cultural sites or monuments through survey. Permits are only granted to projects with an institutional affiliation. Independent researchers without some form of institutional support are not eligible to apply.

Please send the **NKAGSA-1 application form** and all requested supplemental documents as a single PDF file to nka@natmus.gl. Supplemental documents include:

- 1. General project overview (max. 1 page).**
- 2. Participant bios for Principal Investigator (PI) and senior personnel (1-page per participant).**
- 3. Detailed maps.** Please provide detailed maps of the locations to be visited. Please be sure to include:
 - a. Satellite images or topographic maps, preferably with a scale of 1:250,000 (please also include scale bars, North arrow and a map legend for any significant points of interest). Locations of registered heritage sites and monuments in Greenland can also be found by going to: <http://nunniffiit.natmus.gl/cbkort>
 - b. Landing sites, base camp locations and travel routes.
 - c. Coordinates should be in UTM or Decimal Degrees.
- 4. Field plan and methods (1-2 pages).** Please provide a description of your field plan and field methodology. This should include information about:
 - a. Scientific rationale and strategy for data collection.
 - b. **If you wish to excavate or sample:** please specify what types and how many natural/cultural sites and features you plan to investigate and the **square area** (in meters) that you plan to excavate or test.
 - c. Plans to mitigate any potential disturbance to the natural environment or cultural landscape.
- 5. Storage, transport and curation plan of scientific samples (1-2 pages).** Please provide a short summary of what types of samples you plan to collect. In addition, please provide information on storage, transport and the **long-term curation** of the samples, including timelines for repatriation of materials back to Greenland. Please also address the following questions:
 - a. Are any of the samples of a sensitive nature (i.e. human remains, exotic or endangered animal species, rare minerals, etc.) Do you have the [proper permits](#) to collect/export the samples? **(Please note: all archaeological investigations retrieving and shipping animal bone materials should have CITES permitting).**
 - b. Do you plan to perform any form of **destructive analysis** on the materials collected?
 - c. Do you have the **financial resources** and facilities available for long-term curation, conservation, storage and ultimate repatriation of the samples? **Please demonstrate that your project has budgeted for the long-term conservation and repatriation of any materials collected while in the field. Please note: the NKA reserves the right to request the long-term conservation on any materials or scientific samples collected in Greenland.**
 - d. If you discover something potentially rare and unanticipated during your field work, do you have a contingency plan in place to preserve or safeguard the object(s)?
- 6. Collaborations and/or public outreach (1 page).** Please provide a brief statement on any plans to publicly disseminate your research in Greenland or any arrangements to include local Greenlandic students and scientists in your fieldwork. This may include collaborations with local museums, secondary schools, or hiring students from the University of Greenland (Ilisimatusarfik).
- 7. Reporting.** Please see page 9 for instruction on the fieldwork reporting requirements. For projects re-applying for a **GSR-1 permit**, a field report should be submitted by **1 May of the following year**. Failure to submit a field report may significantly impact future permissions for the PI to conduct scientific research in Greenland.



NKAGSA-1: Application for General Scientific Research in Greenland

Please email the completed application packet as a single pdf to: nka@natmus.gl

Office use only

No. 20 -

Application packet checklist:

1. NKAGSA-1 application form (6 pages)
2. Project overview (1 page)
3. Participant bios for senior personnel (1-page per participant)
4. Detailed map(s) or site plans
5. Field plan and method (1-2 pages)
6. Storage, transport and curation plan of scientific samples (1-2 pages)
7. Collaborations and/or public outreach (1-2 pages)
8. Insurance statement
9. Firearm and/or Radio permits (optional)

I. General Information about the Project

Formal Project title:			
Date of arrival in GL:		Date of departure from GL:	
Place of arrival to GL:		Place of departure from GL:	
General area of activities:			
Will the expedition take place in a protected or remote part of Greenland where a special Access permit is required? <input type="checkbox"/> *Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
*If yes , you must apply directly to the Government of Greenland (Naalakkersuisut) to Travel in Remote Parts of Greenland .			
Keywords of the project:			

Project Leader or Principal Investigator (permit will be issued in name to the PI)			
Full name and title:			
Nationality:			
Passport nr.		Date of Birth:	
Phone:			
e-mail:			

Institutional affiliation	
Institution or organisation:	
Institutional contact person:	
Address and country:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	

Type of project (please select all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/> Osteology
<input type="checkbox"/> Meteorite collection	<input type="checkbox"/> Genetic
<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnographic
<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify:	



Have you applied for an NKA permit before?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, provide permit number:	
If you have conducted field work in Greenland during the previous year, have you provided the NKA with a field report?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No*	*All field reports are due within 1 year of the date of issue of the original permit. For projects re-applying for a permit, a field report should be submitted no later than May 1st .	

Project abstract (max. 200 words)



II. Financial Support

Do you have the necessary funds to conduct your research in Greenland?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Project funding source(s) or institutional support:	
Please demonstrate that your project has budgeted for the long-term conservation of any materials collected while in the field:	

III. Contingencies

Institutional emergency contact person	
Is the Emergency contact the Same as the Institutional contact?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Emergency contact name(s):	
Address and country:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	

Safety plan (please briefly describe your team's safety precautions and emergency preparedness while in the field):



Firearms

Polar bear ranges in Greenland have shifted in recent years, and the risk of research teams encountering a polar bear while conducting fieldwork has increased. The NKA strongly recommends compliance with policies of host areas and collaboration with the PI's institutional safety and risk offices to prepare for this field hazard. The NKA recommends all researchers be trained in the safe use of firearms and polar bear deterrents.

Please note: expeditions in the Northeast Greenland's National Park **are required** to bring a firearm with minimum calibre of 30.06 in accordance with § 9, stk. 3 of the Executive Order nr. 21 of 22 September 2005, on the Protection and Hunting of Polar Bears.

Will you bring a firearm with you on your project? No **Yes***

*If yes, please include a firearm permit with your NKAGSA-1 application. You can download the firearm application form www.naalakkersuisut.gl/expeditions. The permit must be obtained from the Chief Constable of Greenland (politi@politi.gl).

Emergency beacons, VHF radios and satellite phones

It is strongly recommended that project personnel bring a personal location beacon (PLB), Maritime VHF and/or satellite telephones into the field. In the event an expedition is split into several groups, at the very minimum all sub-groups should always have a working satellite phone.

Number of VHF radios*:	
Number of PLBs:	PLB ID Code(s):
Number of satellite phones:	Satellite phone numbers:

*Please contact radioforvaltningen@nanog.gl for more information on obtaining a radio permit in Greenland.

Transportation

Means of transportation to and from the activity area:	
Means of transportation within the activity area:	



IV. Additional permits

Some projects may require multiple permits from different administrative departments in the Greenland Self-Government. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that all proper permits and permissions have been obtained prior to the fieldwork.

Activities which require specific permit (check appropriate):

- Collection, transport or export of any endangered wildlife or flora (this includes ancient animal remains)
Find application form at <http://naalakkersuisut.gl/en/About-government-of-greenland/CITES>. Send your application to: citeskontor@gh.gl
- Studies on wildlife (mammals, birds, fish)
Find application form at www.naalakkersuisut.gl/expeditions. Send your application to: apnn@nanoq.gl
- Studies on plants, fungi, lichens, invertebrates, etc.
Find application form at www.naalakkersuisut.gl/expeditions. Send your application to ipan@nanoq.gl
- Collection or acquisition of biological material (genetic resources)
Find application form at www.naalakkersuisut.gl/expeditions. Send your application to isiin@nanoq.gl
- Collection of minerals and export permit for geological samples
Find application form at <https://govmin.gl/minerals/application-and-reporting-forms>, send your application to mlsa@nanoq.gl
- Setting up ground-based instruments (e.g. camera, antenna etc.) or camps for more than 2 months
Find application form at www.naalakkersuisut.gl/expeditions and send your application to paian@nanoq.gl



V. Conditions for GSR-1 permit

By signing this application, the PI agrees to submit a mandatory field report to the NKA no less than one year from the date of issue of an NKA General Scientific Research (GSR-1) permit. For projects re-applying for a **GSR-1 permit**, a field report should be submitted by 1 May of the following year. Failure to submit a field report may significantly impact future permitting for scientific research in Greenland.

The projects PI and affiliated researchers possess exclusive rights to the data collected during fieldwork for a maximum period of five (5) years, starting from the initial date of the issuance of the **original GSR-1 permit**. However, the NKA reserves the right to use any photos provided in the mandatory field report for public dissemination and/or public outreach. The photographer will be cited provided the name is indicated in the report.

All excavated material and scientific samples remain the sole property of Greenland. This includes all human remains, cultural artefacts, organic materials, animal remains, minerals, soil, and any and all supplemental data (e.g. genetic) collected during fieldwork. Consequently, rules for the return of physical materials must be followed per the guidelines provided in the **GSR-1 permit agreement**. **Please note: the NKA reserves the right to request long-term conservation on any materials collected in the field.**

Additionally, the PI agrees to notify and share any subsequent peer-reviewed publications, popular articles, and/or video media related to the fieldwork with the Greenland National Museum.

By signing this application, the PI and affiliate institution confirm that the project possesses the adequate human and financial resources needed for the project, including any and all activities related to any future conservation, curation and storage of scientific samples and objects.

Date	Place	Signature of Principal Investigator
Name of sponsoring institution(s)		
Date	Signature of institutional contact	Institutional contact's title



VI. Reporting Instructions

A mandatory field report should be submitted to the NKA before the end of one (1) calendar year after the date of issue of an **NKA General Scientific Research (GSR-1) permit**. The field report should be primarily descriptive of the work performed while in Greenland, provide a project abstract, information on the participants, maps, site plans, background on the activity area, summary of data collected, etc.

Please note: PIs are not obligated to report the interpretations or analysis of their research or data. The field report is only a summary of what activities were performed during the fieldwork and what materials were collected and/or exported out of Greenland. These reports are made public on the NKA homepage and should not include any proprietary information or raw data.

There are no strict rules on the format or style of the report, however the NKA has created a [report template](#) that is available for download.

For archaeological investigations

For archaeological projects, all collected artifacts and samples should be given a unique **X number** and the PI should register and submit a list of all finds using the [NKA Artifact Registration template](#).

For organic objects, the NKA requests that the artifact's state of preservation be ranked on a scale of **'poor'**, **'good'** or **'excellent'**. This also includes indicating whether further conservation measures are required for the object, and if so, what measures will be employed to preserve the object by the PI and project participants.

As excavations have the potential to yield unexpected and delicate organic materials, we encourage PIs and archaeologists working in Greenland to review the guidelines for conservation outlined in the [Conservation Manual for Northern Archaeologists, 3rd ed. \(2007\)](#) prior to entering the field. Familiarity with standardized techniques for field recovery, safe handling, storage and transportation of delicate organics are essential to minimizing damage and ensuring an object's long-term survival.

All questions and inquiries related to the reporting and conservation should be sent directly to nka@natmus.gl.