

Applying to the Greek Consulate for the relevant Visa

The formalities involved in this process are set forth in a special Law (#3386) of 23 August, 2005. This has clarified the residence situation for Members of CIG.

According to this law, members of the Foreign Archaeological Schools/Institutes are specifically covered under article 23 and spouses and family members under article 54.

Reference to these paragraphs should be made at the time of application for the visa. Tell the consular official that you are applying for a visa as a Member of a Foreign Archaeological School/Institute as set forth in article 23 of Law 3386/2005. (You may wish to have a copy of the relevant pages of the Law with you.)

A foreigner who wishes to come into Greece as a member of a Foreign Archaeological School/Institute must provide a Greek consulate in his/her country of residence with the following documents:

- a. a passport or other travel document recognized by the Greek state;
- b. certification that he/she has been appointed a member of a Foreign Archaeological School/Institute;
- c. proof of sufficient funds to cover his/her living expenses;
- d. a statement which shows that the applicant has obtained housing;
- e. a health certificate declaring that the applicant does not suffer from infectious/communicable diseases;
- f. a certificate of insurance covering medical and pharmaceutical expenses, hospitalization, and medical evacuation/repatriation;
- g. a police report (clearance) from one's country of residence.

(For the certifications required on paragraphs (b) and (d) above, please contact CIG's Assistant Director, Dr Jonathan Tomlinson.

N.B. An Encyclical (3497.3/19/A.S. 1057 of 26 April 2006) issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (C4 Directorate for Justice, Home Affairs and Schengen) for the use of consular authorities charged with issuing these entry visas has slightly modified the list previously in effect. In particular, item "f" above now specifically calls for "travel insurance which covers any expenses necessary for repatriation of the applicant for medical emergencies."

Acquiring the relevant documentation and the actual visa application process take a certain amount of time, and the whole process involves the payment of some fees. Some consulates also require an interview and an actual visit to the consulate to present the documentation and pay the fee.

**DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!
WITHOUT A VISA, ONE CANNOT OBTAIN A RESIDENCE PERMIT!**

N.B. The visa itself will be pasted into your passport and will normally say that it is valid for a single entry into the Schengen zone and for a duration of ninety days. This is designed to allow one enough time to take care of the formalities involved in applying for the actual residence permit. Until the residence permit is issued (usually two to three months after full application has been made), while one may travel freely within the Schengen zone, one is NOT authorized to leave and reenter. If one leaves the Schengen area within a three-month period after arrival, one may be required to acquire another visa to be readmitted into Greece. Multiple entry visas are occasionally issued, but this is a rare case and must be arranged directly with the consular agent when making application for the visa.

Arrival in the Schengen zone

The Member must make sure that his/her passport gets stamped on his/her initial arrival in the Schengen zone. If one flies to Greece from North America and changes planes in Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Paris, *vel sim.*, the local authorities rarely stamp one's passport (since one is in transit), unless one specifically insists that they do so. Insist! The Greeks cannot stamp your passport when you arrive here because you will have arrived on an internal intra-Schengen flight. If your passport doesn't get stamped, you will need to produce your arrival tickets AND boarding pass for your arrival in the Schengen zone (NOT your arrival in Greece) for the residence permit application.