

Entering Greece

Section

4

4.1 Introduction

Greece contributes to the overall effort of the Commission to encourage and foster the mobility of the European researchers within the ERA by creating a more favorable environment for scientific personnel in Europe. Thus, all foreign researchers, ether from Europe or not, are welcome to enter the Greek

territory as long as they fulfil the country's legal requirements. Law "2910/2001" available in PDF format, (URL: [www.imepo.gr/pdfs/LAW%202910 2001 English.pdf](http://www.imepo.gr/pdfs/LAW%202910%202001%20English.pdf)) describes the entry and stay conditions of foreigners in Greece, and provides basic information regarding the current legislation for aliens who entering and staying within the country for working as employees or for exercising of an independent economic activity.

4.2 Entry and stay for European Union researchers

Entry

European Union scientific personnel (including the family members, whatever their nationality) have the right to enter Greece without having to comply with special formalities. Needed documentations are a valid passport or an identity card or any official travel document recognised by international conventions. However, apart from the above documents, immigration officers may ask members



of your family to provide evidence of their relation, i.e. to prove their family status or to produce documents evidencing either their dependent status or that they were living under your roof in the country of origin. Thereby, family members who are travelling with you and who are not nationals of a Member State must hold, as a general rule, a valid passport. In the case of minors who might not have such a document of their own, the Greek legislation usually provides for an entry to be made in the passport of one of the parents.

Clearly, researchers coming to Greece from the member states of EU do not require possessing an entry visa, while immigration officers may not:

- Affix a stamp on your identity document on arrival authorising you to enter the national territory;
- Ask you to furnish proof of means to support yourself;
- Ask you how much money you have to spend;
- Ask you questions regarding the purpose and duration of your trip.

Furthermore, immigration officers are entitled to check the validity of your identity document when you cross the border. It should be noted that in the "Schengen Area" border checks are no longer carried out at every border crossing point. The only checks now made are spot checks, although these may take place anywhere on the territory of the country. They involve checking that the person to whom the identity card/passport was issued is the same as the person presenting it at the border.

Stay

If you tend to stay in Greece for less than 3 months (i.e. for teaching in a summer school or participating in a research project) you are not obligated to ask for a residence permit.

Residence permit should be asked only in case your stay lasts for more than three months, and it is a means of proof and not a condition of your entitlement to live in Greece. Thus, in case you have to ask for a residence permit, it is not necessary to take any steps to obtain it before your departure, and you are totally entitled to start your research activities without waiting for your residence permit to be issued.

Moreover, when you apply for your residence permit, you must produce a valid passport or identity card. The Greek authorities are also entitled to ask you to provide other documents which vary according to your circumstances. For example:

- if you are an employee, you may be asked for a signed statement from your employer;
- if you are self-employed, you may be asked to prove your self-employed status by any appropriate means;

4.3 Entry and stay for non European Union researchers

4.3.1 Entry and Exit Requirements for non European Union researchers

Entry

The entry requirements differ in the case of non European Union researchers. Researchers coming from non EU member countries are required to obtain a VISA. According to the Greek Law, VISA will be granted by the Greek consular authority of the researchers' domicile, which shall first take into consideration reasons related to the country's public order, security and public health. VISA shall be valid for 3 months, unless otherwise specified by the provisions hereof.

Stay

Researchers who have obtained a visa to Greece to undertake their research activities may apply for a stay permit for the same reason, provided that they meet the conditions of the Law "2910/2001" and the stay permit shall be granted for a particular reason, to be mentioned in the application.

According to the article 8 of the same Law, researchers who wish to be granted of a stay permit in Greece should, at least two months before the expiry of the visa, submit to the municipal or communal authority of their domicile or residence an application for a stay permit, submitting a photocopy of their passports or other travel document bearing the visa.

The municipal or communal authority shall examine the completeness of the supporting documents and transmit them along with the application to the competent researcher's and immigration service. This service shall examine the application within one month as from its receipt and, after taking into account reasons concerning the public order and security of the country, shall invite the researcher to an interview with the Immigration Committee at a fixed place and time.

The invitation to the interview shall be served with return receipt. In case the researcher fails to appear at the interview, he/she shall be invited again to another interview according to the said procedure. In the event of unjustified failure to appear, the application shall be dismissed.

The stay permit shall be granted by resolution of the Secretary - General of the Region, on an opinion from the Immigration Committee. The stay permit shall be renewed according to the procedure provided for by paragraphs 3-7 of this article, unless otherwise specified by this. Further information:

Immigration Policy Institute (IPI)

URL: www.imepo.gr