

Durham University
c/o David Roberts
DH1 3LE, Durham
United Kingdom

Höfn, þriðjudagur, 24. júní 2025
202506-0097/C.E.J.B.
10.01.01

**Subject: Application for a research permit - Durham University, David Roberts –
Breiðamerkurjökull and other outlet glaciers in Southeast Vatnajökull National Park**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from David Roberts, on behalf of Durham University, dated 19.6.2025, to conduct research within Vatnajökull National Park.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007.

According to art. 14, it is prohibited to cause damage or disturbance to the wildlife, geological formations, landscape, and cultural heritage sites within Vatnajökull National Park.

According to paragraph 4 of art 15 of act no. 60/2007, driving motor vehicles off-road in Vatnajökull National Park is prohibited.

Description of the project:

Project name: Durham University field trip

Date, timeline and duration of the project: Sept 10th to 17th 2025

Location inside Vatnajökull National Park: Breiðamerkurjökull, Fjallsjökull, Hrútárjökull, Kvíárjökull, Svínafellsjökull, Skaftafellsjökull for teaching and research projects on glacial geomorphology/processes.

Description of the project, purpose and execution: Staff will lead the students to sites at Skálafellsjökull, Breiðamerkurjökull, Fjallsjökull, Hrútárjökull, Kvíárjökull, Svínafellsjökull, Skaftafellsjökull for teaching on 11th and 12th Sept. Students will work in small project groups on Breiðamerkurjökull, Fjallsjökull, Hrútárjökull, Kvíárjökull on the 13th, 14th, 15th Sept. The students will be mapping landforms, observing and cleaning sediment sections, measuring clast form and fabrics.

Description of methods for sample taking, if part of the research: Mapping landforms, observing and cleaning sediment sections, measuring clast form and fabrics.

Other information that the applicant wants to submit: Risk Assessment attached.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project *Durham University field trip* to be minimal and likely to have a positive impact on the conservation value of the area through the teaching of field skills to students.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants David Roberts, on behalf of Durham University, permission on its behalf to conduct research within Vatnajökull National Park as described above on 10th – 17th September 2025 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it. The best way to do this is to 'reply-all' to the email that this permit was sent with.
- If the project dates or description changes the Nature Conservation Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- When it is necessary to go off-path, extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation. All traces of activity must be removed afterwards.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the project.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the rangers at Jökulsárlón, Skaftafell or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to a third party for commercial use.
- Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.
- Samples should be collected where any resulting disturbance to soil, vegetation or geological formations is not visible to other visitors.
- All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.

Site-specific conditions

- Svínafellsjökull, Kvíárjökull – while these glaciers are within the boundary of the National Park, the surrounding land is not. The applicant may need a permit from the landowner for this project.
- Fjallsjökull and Hrútárjökull – note that some of the land south of these glaciers is privately owned, the applicant may need permission from the landowner for this project.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, e.g. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Nature Conservation Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Natural Science Institute of Iceland (www.ni.is).

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland requests access to reports and scientific articles of the aforementioned studies, which could be used for educational purposes about the area and/or assist in its management, free of charge.

Linda Björk Hallgrímsdóttir

Assistant Park Manager, Skaftafell

Charlotte Brzeski

Assistant Park Manager, Breiðamerkursandur