

Brown University  
86 Weybosset Street  
Providence, 02903  
United States

Garðabær, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
202504-0144/I.M.B.  
10.01.01

**Application for a research permit within protected areas - Geysir, Krísuvík, Lýsuhóll,  
Landmannalaugar, Rauðauga**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Brown University, dated on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for a research permit at Strokkur, Krísuvík, Lýsuhóll, Landmannalaugar and Rauðauga (Augað).

Landmannalaugar and Augað are located within Fjallabak that is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Geysir is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbances of geological monuments are prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soil and rocks, without permission from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Reykjanes country park is protected cf. regulation 520/1975. Disturbance to geological formations is prohibited.

Lýsuhóll is not a protected area and therefore the project is not subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland but a permit from the landowner might be needed.

According to art. 31 of the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 all off road driving in Iceland is prohibited.

***Description of the project:***

The project applied for consists of collecting about 100 gr. of sediment and mineral samples at each location (1 kg total) and 25-30 water samples (1 liter total) within the above-mentioned areas during July 6-13, 2025, including Lýsuhóll which is not a protected area. Samples will be collected at Strokkur and Geysir, on two locations within the Fjallabak nature reserve and at Seltún. Sample locations will be decided in consultation with a ranger. The soil samples will be collected with a spatula or a spoon.

***Impact assessment:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the areas, as long as the project description and conditions of the permit are followed.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Brown University permission on its behalf a permit to collect samples for research as described above during the period of July 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 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 the project starts.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 12 hours before entering the sites.
- If the project dates or description changes the Nature Conservation Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- All sample collection shall be done in consultation with rangers.
- 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.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permits to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.

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, f.e. 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.

A permit from the Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency might be needed for the project in geothermal areas ([www.uos.is](http://www.uos.is)).

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

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

***Permission fee:***

Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for operational, events, research and other activities is **62.400 ISK** according to art. 7. a. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

***Supervision:***

The Nature Conservation Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Nature Conservation Agency.

Sincerely

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir  
***advisor***

René Biasone  
***advisor***