



RULES FOR SCHOLARS

1. **The Archives are open to qualified Researchers from institutions of Higher Education who are conducting a scientific research project and have an adequate knowledge of archive research.**
2. **Applications to access to the Archives must be submitted to the Prefect along with a letter of commendation on headed paper by either a recognized institute of research or by a person suitably qualified in historical research (i.e. a full professor).**
3. Applications should include the applicant's surname, first name(s), qualifications (these must include at least a four-year University degree or equivalent, PhD, research grant; for clergymen: licence or PhD), profession, nationality, home address, address in Rome and purpose of the research.
4. **Enclose a copy of the Degree Certificate, a copy of a valid identification document (ID Card or Passport) and a passport photo**, which will be applied on the Entry Card that will allow you to have access to the Vatican City and the Archives Study Rooms.
5. Entry Cards expire on 30th June of each year and could be renewed only after handing back the expired one.
6. Undergraduate students are not granted admission into the Archives.
7. In order to allow access to as many Researchers as possible, according to the number of seats available, access is usually not permitted to more than one researcher working on the same topic.
8. The Archives are open to Researchers from 1st October to 30th June (8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) from Monday to Saturday. The Admissions Secretary issues Entry Cards from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Closing periods and days are available on the «Archives Calendar». The Bursar's Office is open to Scholars every day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
9. Scholars holding an Entry Card have access to the Archives from Monday to Saturday, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. A written motivation must be submitted to the Prefect to request afternoon access (from 2:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.).
10. It is forbidden to bring bags, briefcases/computer bags, ballpoint pens, fountain pens, felt-tip pens, etc., cameras, food and drinks into the Study Rooms. Mobile phones must be kept switched off. In case, please, ask the Study Room staff members for permission to use electronic devices not listed above.
11. Only documents up (until) the end of the Papacy of **Pius XI** (10th February 1939) can be viewed, except when a document is covered by the provisions set out in articles 39 and 40 of the Vatican Law on the Archives of the Holy See.
12. Archival material request forms are available and can be used to request no more than three volumes or folders per day. Requests are accepted only up until 12:00 noon; requests made after this time (and during the afternoon timetable) will not be accepted. The Scholar could ask to keep in deposit for some day up to three archival items.
13. All volumes and documents must be handled with the utmost care. It is strictly forbidden to write, even in pencil, on archival documents or to place paper or any other objects on the material. Furthermore, the order of the papers of the archival items must not be altered when reading them.
14. Scholars who need to take notes, may **only use graphite-pencils**. Ballpoint-pens, fountain-pens, felt-tip pens, etc., are strictly forbidden.
15. If the volume, the folder or the document handed to the Scholar is in a poor state of conservation or shows any problem whatsoever, the Scholar must inform the staff members in the Study Room.
16. It is strictly forbidden to take documents out of the Study Room.
17. Indexes must be read in the Index Room and put back in their place. Scholars are not allowed to totally or even partially produce photocopies of these volumes.
18. All Printed material must be viewed in the "Sisto V" Study Room, where it is also possible to access digital copies of the original registers and documents on CD-Rom and DVD-Rom, using specially-dedicated stations, as well as to read the electronic versions of the indexes and inventories available in the intranet. Scholars are not allowed to produce full or even partial photocopies of the printed material.
19. Silence must be observed at all times and in all parts of the Archives. The appropriate dress code and maximum respectfulness for the study environment is required.
20. Scholars unfamiliar with the Archive fonds and indexes should refer to the reference guidebook found among the tools provided by the Prefecture. They should manage their own researches using the publications available in the Study Rooms. Study Room staff members shall provide researchers with any further information or explanation they may need.
21. Researchers are not allowed to take pictures of the documents. Copies can be requested by filling out the appropriate form available in the Study Rooms.



22. In order to publish the picture of a document for editorial and/or exhibition purposes, a **prior authorization** should be obtained from the Archive Prefecture, by filling out the form “Concessione diritti di utilizzo di immagini per pubblicazioni” (“Granting of the right to use pictures for publications”) available in the Study Rooms.
23. **When Scholars are authorized to access the Archives, they also accept the obligation to send to the Prefecture a copy of their publications, articles in journals, exhibition catalogues, books etc. (either hard copies or electronic format) whenever documents from the Archives are used or cited.**
24. **The reference of all volumes and documents should be quoted in the correct and concise form, as indicated in the Index of the Fonds. If in doubt, please ask a staff member in the Study Room. The words «Archivio Segreto Vaticano» (ASV) must be completed with referral to the Vatican City, and not to Rome.**
25. Those who fail to observe these Rules will no longer be allowed to access the Archives.