

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of Cambridge

Guidance for those submitting claims for the return of artefacts

1 - Please read 'Our approach to the return of artefacts', which is the Museum's formal framework for considering repatriation requests. Please also contact members of curatorial staff to discuss the proposal, in advance of preparing a request.

2 - Your request should clearly identify the organisation or institution making the claim, and briefly explain its recognised, representative status, in relation to the relevant community. We will also need to know that your request is supported by your government (or a government institution, such as a national museum). If you do not wish to seek such support or cannot obtain it, please explain the context to us.

3 - Please clearly identify the artefact or group of artefacts that the claim relates to. Please provide a list, including the MAA catalogue numbers, which the MAA collections team can help you with.

4 - Please explain the significance of the artefacts, why the community seeks their return and what criteria in our policy are relevant (e.g., they were taken illegitimately; or, they are secret/sacred and not appropriately displayed or accessed, etc.).

5 - Please outline where, if returned, the artefacts would be cared for, and how they would be managed (e.g. curated within museum collection; kept for use in community centre, etc.).

6 - We appreciate a short document covering the points above. You may attach, where appropriate, fuller statements concerning cultural significance; evidence of provenance; images of artefacts and extracts from catalogues; or other relevant documents. In all cases, please attach letters of support, or other evidence for the recognised, representative status of your organisation or institution, and of support from relevant government bodies (or explanation of why it cannot be provided).

16 February 2026