



DISCOVER
A POWERFUL
COMMUNITY

SITATIS
ISLANDIAE



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

1911-2011

Dear reader

Knowledge knows no borders. Today's young people view the entire world as a potential venue for learning and work, and they are drawn to places that offer the best opportunities and facilities. The University of Iceland strives to be a learning institution on a global scale and to create opportunities for young people – those who reside close by as well as those who come from far away.

The University of Iceland is part of a global network of learning. It is both a laboratory of knowledge and a dynamic energy centre that acts as a generator in the creation of a modern and progressive Icelandic society. Since its founding in 1911 the University has enjoyed constant growth and development, and has made an important contribution to making Iceland one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

In 2011 the University of Iceland will celebrate its centennial. The centennial year will be called "Treasure of the Future". Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the University as the oldest and largest institution of science and education in Iceland as well as on its status as an international university.

In all its principal fields of scholarship the University of Iceland has scientists who have studied at many of the world's leading universities and are respected leaders in their fields. The international networks created by its faculties, academics and scientists are among our most valuable assets.



The University of Iceland places ever-increasing emphasis on international cooperation and agreements have been reached with over 400 outstanding universities overseas on student and faculty exchanges. The University is firmly committed to the reception of international students and scholars and has been hard at work to offer them attractive opportunities for study and research.

The University of Iceland tries to offer courses and research opportunities which are unusual and in some cases unique to this small and vibrantly developing country. Many of our international students come to learn the Icelandic language and courses specific to our culture, heritage and nature, while others come to take advantage of courses and research opportunities in other fields.

The rapid rise in the number of international students studying at the University is a fact which speaks for themselves. We welcome this development, both with respect to our contribution to the international community and also the contribution of international students to the University of Iceland. Global diversity adds depth, character and stimulation to our academic environment and is much appreciated.

Welcome to the University of Iceland.
Kristín Ingólfssdóttir, President/Rector

The University of Iceland – International and Unique

The University of Iceland is a progressive educational and scientific institution, renowned in the global scientific community for its research. It is a state university, situated in the heart of Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland.

A modern, diversified and rapidly developing institution, the University of Iceland offers opportunities for study and research in almost 400 programmes spanning most fields of science and scholarship: Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Humanities, Education, Natural Sciences and Engineering.

Some of the resources available at the University are uniquely Icelandic. These include the manuscripts preserved in the Árni Magnússon Institute, Icelandic census records dating from 1703, exceptionally complete genealogical data and climatological, glaciological, seismic and geothermal records.

The University of Iceland also holds a leading role in sustainable energy and environmental research.







A Mark of Quality

Going for Greatness

The University of Iceland has set itself the long-term goal of being ranked among the 100 best universities in the world and to employ internationally recognized quality standards in all appraisal of its work. We want a degree from the University of Iceland to carry a definitive mark of quality that can be relied upon throughout the world. This goal will be the strength of the University's students in the future.

Extensive and Diverse

The University of Iceland has five schools and 25 faculties offering hundreds of different courses of study. Various types of learning are provided at all higher education levels, through flexible programmes that meet today's demands for an extensive and practical education. The University of Iceland is the only university in Iceland offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in all major academic fields.

Leading Academics

The University of Iceland employs a large number of highly-educated and qualified academics. The vast majority of our permanent academic staff holds doctorate degrees and has studied and participated in research at respected foreign universities. Consequently academics at the University of Iceland are part of a strong and far-reaching global network, and many of them are leaders in their respective fields within the international scientific community.

An International University

The University of Iceland collaborates with over 400 of outstanding international universities and research institutes in student exchanges, research, faculty exchanges and more. All of the University's students have the option of taking part of their degree at universities overseas. Hundreds of international students are enrolled at the University of Iceland during a given academic year, and their number is growing. The University employs numerous international guest professors and scientists and brings in lecturers from abroad almost on a daily basis. Hence the University is made up of a vibrant and multi-dimensional community of people.

Growing and Prosperous

At the University of Iceland we are in the midst of a vigorous period of growth. Research, scientific work and teaching at all levels are thriving, while remarkable achievements are attained on a regular basis with regards to improved facilities at the school. Recent and current undertakings serve to vastly enhance scientific activities and instruction at the University of Iceland, and to improve facilities and opportunities for its students.



Schools and Faculties

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

- » Faculty of Education Studies
- » Faculty of Sport Sciences, Social Education and Leisure Studies
- » Faculty of Teacher Education

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES

- » Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- » Faculty of Earth Sciences
- » Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- » Faculty of Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science
- » Faculty of Life & Environmental Sciences
- » Faculty of Physical Sciences

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- » Faculty of Food Science & Nutrition
- » Faculty of Medicine
- » Faculty of Nursing
- » Faculty of Odontology
- » Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- » Faculty of Psychology

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

- » Faculty of Foreign Languages, Literature and Linguistics
- » Faculty of History and Philosophy
- » Faculty of Icelandic and Comparative Cultural Studies
- » Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

- » Faculty of Business Administration
- » Faculty of Economics
- » Faculty of Law
- » Faculty of Political Science
- » Faculty of Social & Human Sciences
- » Faculty of Social Work

For all further information on our schools, faculties, programmes, courses and research institutes please visit our website, www.hi.is.

Unique Studies in Iceland

Local Academic Attractions

The University of Iceland has much to offer both exchange and regular international students, on all academic levels and most faculties give courses in English.

One of the main attractions for international students is the studies that are unique to Iceland. Examples of those are Icelandic Studies for International students, Medieval Studies, Earth Sciences, studies in Environment and Natural Resources and an international LL.M. programme.

Icelandic Studies for International Students

Icelandic Studies for International students comprises two main sections: a language component, where students receive instruction and training in writing, speaking and understanding modern Icelandic, and a cultural component, which deals with the language, literature and history of Iceland. In this latter component, students read both Norse and modern Icelandic literature and receive instruction in ancient and modern history as well as studying the morphology, syntax and phonetics of modern Icelandic. Together, the language and the cultural components form a whole in which students see how they have interacted historically as well what influence they continue to exert on one another.

Icelandic Studies for International students is an option available to all international students: Regular students who wish to complete one year, two years or three years of a BA programme, exchange students who wish to study Icelandic during their exchange period in Iceland, or any

international students in other academic disciplines who wish to take a course or two in Icelandic language or culture.

MA in Medieval Icelandic Studies

This programme is run in cooperation with the Manuscript Institute and the Sigurður Nordal Institute. The course is aimed at providing postgraduate students with the necessary tools to study Old/Medieval Icelandic texts in the original and in their manuscript context, with a special emphasis on interdisciplinary study. Classes are taught in English.

The candidates for the MA in Medieval Icelandic Studies are required to have finished the course Icelandic Online, which may be found free of charge online at www.icelandic.hi.is, or equivalent courses in Icelandic or Old Icelandic, either at their home universities or in Iceland. The candidates will be able to attend courses in Modern Icelandic for international students at the University of Iceland during the academic year, depending on the timetable of the courses.

International Studies in Education

The International studies in Education is a comprehensive international education studies programme, offered by the School of Education. The programme is on two levels, a B.A. degree and an M.A. degree. It provides a new option for students whose interests lie in international studies in education, a course of study which up until recently has not been on offer in Iceland. It responds to the interests of students who, for instance, want to work in international schools in Iceland or in schools or other educational settings in other countries.

The programme focuses on education in the context of globalization and the development of multicultural societies, sustainable development and on development studies and education in developing countries.

Earth Science for International Students

A one-year course of study is offered for earth science students, covering topics in geology, geography, and geophysics. Emphasis will be put on aspects of Icelandic geology like volcanic and geothermal activity, glaciers and plate tectonics, as well as physical and human geography. The course is suitable for Erasmus exchange students from the EU and others who want to spend a year in Iceland as a part of their university education. A minimum background of one year of undergraduate study in earth science is an assumed prerequisite. All teaching is in English.

Nordic Volcanological Centre

Opportunities offered by the exceptional geological conditions in Iceland have been the basis for a Nordic collaborative programme in volcanology for the last three decades. By working in Iceland, geoscientists from other countries can gain experience and understanding of ongoing volcanological processes. Nordvulk's activities include a basic research programme as well as a training programme for young scientists. The most important aspect of Nordvulk's activities is a Nordic programme for young researchers. Each year Nordvulk advertises five positions for young researchers in volcanology, granted for one year at a time. These positions provide opportunities for students and post-docs from the other

Nordic countries to come and stay in Iceland and participate in research projects in volcanology and related fields.

International MS in Food Science

An international Masters degree (MS) in Food Science is offered in collaboration with Matis, the Food Research Institute of Iceland and food processing companies. All courses are taught in English. The programme is based on research project in close collaboration and supervised by the teachers of the faculty.





Environment and Energy

Among the countries of the world, Iceland has the highest proportion of renewables in any energy portfolio. Up to 71% of Iceland's primary energy comes from hydroelectric and geothermal energy. Even enjoying this favorable position, the Icelandic research community is still working hard in order to improve the ratio of renewables as well as considering ways to sequester the greenhouse gases emitted from the fossil fuel sources left. The University of Iceland holds an internationally leading role in these fields.

Environment and Natural Resources

This is a postgraduate, interdisciplinary degree programme, providing academic insight into the various aspects of environmental issues and the utilisation of natural resources.



The programme is organized by three of the University's schools: Social Sciences, Humanities and Engineering and Natural Sciences. It is open to exchange students.

This Master's programme is designed to meet the needs of society for increased levels of environmental research, which is necessary to successfully tackle environmental problems and plan sustainable resource use. Applicants must have graduated with a BS or BA degree or a comparable university degree at an undergraduate level, and have demonstrated a capacity for learning and/or doing independent research. A supervisory board assesses qualifications from institutions other than the University of Iceland.

LL.M. in Natural Resources Law and International Environmental Law

This is a new specialized Master's programme in law created for students from around the world who have reached a relatively high standard in their basic legal education (corresponding to a law degree after at least three years of law studies) and want to focus on legal rules relating to natural resources and issues of environment or resource management in an international and European perspective. The programme is conducted exclusively in English.

The LL.M. programme is inspired by Iceland's unique natural setting and legal history within the field of natural resources law. It is furthermore built on the Law faculty's strengths in this area as well as in the field of environmental law. The programme is organized in such a way as to provide in-depth analysis in the specialized fields of natural resources and international environmental law, combined with an ample opportunity for participants to experience the natural wonders and beauty of Iceland and its culture.





Language of Instruction

At the University of Iceland the principal language of instruction is Icelandic, a language descended from Old Norse and, in its written form at least, still very similar to it. Textbooks are mainly in English and Icelandic. Most faculties offer courses in English and some departments allow international students to take their examinations in English during the first semester of study. This is, however, always subject to the approval of each faculty and individual instructors.

Courses in Icelandic for foreign exchange students are held at the University of Iceland every summer. For further information contact the Office of International Education at www.ask.hi.is.

A complete list of all courses and programmes taught in English for international and exchange students is available in the Course Catalog on www.hi.is.

Icelandic Language Courses

Summer courses at the Sigurður Nordal Institute

The Sigurður Nordal Institute, in cooperation with the School of Humanities at the University of Iceland, organizes every year an International Summer Course in Modern Icelandic and Icelandic Culture. The course is primarily intended for university students of language and literature, but anyone interested in Icelandic and Icelandic culture is welcome to apply. The applicants' residence must be outside of Iceland.

The Icelandic intensive language preparation course (ILPC) for exchange students

An intensive course in Icelandic for exchange students is organized every summer in August by the Office of International Education. Exchange students are strongly advised to take a course in Icelandic. For further information and registration contact the Office of International Education.

The Academic Community



Excellent study facilities

The University of Iceland makes an effort to offer its students excellent study facilities. A strong and efficient intranet serving students and teachers is being continuously improved, the student registration system keeps track of each student's progress, and the student counsellors at the University are innovators in their field in Iceland. Each faculty has study facilities and a library, as well as numerous computer labs. The National University Library and the University Bookstore both provide excellent services for students and academics.

Singing, acting and dancing

The University Choir is an important component of the social life at the University of Iceland. The Choir appears at various public functions held by the University, as well as holding its own concerts and recordings. There is also an excellent womens choir at the University.

The Student Theatre Group is open to everyone with an interest in drama and has for many years been a familiar part of Reykjavík's cultural scene. The University Dance Forum is a new venue, welcoming all students.

Student Associations

There are nearly 50 student associations and various student-interest groups operating at the University of Iceland. The associations organize social events and other happenings for students throughout the academic year.

ESN Reykjavík is a group of Icelandic and international students working together for the better understanding between cultures, supporting the exchange between Icelandic and international students. Kosmó is a group of students who study Icelandic for international students.

The University Sports Centre

All students at the University of Iceland can use the University Sports Centre for a nominal fee. The Centre contains an excellent weight-lifting room and runs fitness and aerobics classes of various types.

Office of International Education



The Office of International Education (OIE) plays an extensive role in the University's international cooperation. As well as providing services for the whole educational sector in the country, for example as a National Agency for the Erasmus and Nordplus programmes and an Info Centre for Study Abroad, it serves as the International Office of the University of Iceland.

The main objective of the International Office is to handle all formal relations between the University and institutions of higher education abroad. It assists students, professors and the university administration in relation to the University's participation in multinational cooperation, such as Erasmus, Nordplus, ISEP, and AEN, in addition to various bilateral agreements. Furthermore, the International Office provides various services for exchange students and visiting staff members.

Inquiries about the University and requests for application forms should be directed to the International Office, ask@hi.is, www.hi.is.

Application Deadlines and the Academic Year

The academic calendar varies somewhat from one faculty to another. Generally the autumn semester begins in early September with examinations in December, while the spring semester begins in January with examinations completed by the end of May. Some faculties start their courses in late August.

International degree seeking students

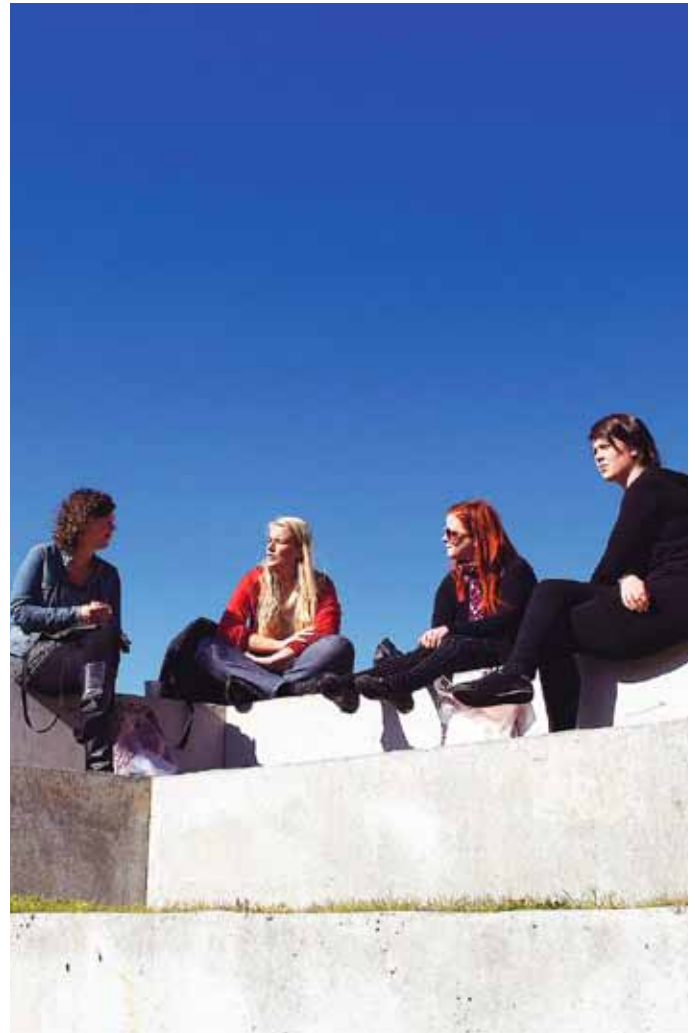
Information for international degree seeking student and an application for admission can be found online at www.hi.is. The application deadline for international students is February 1st of the year they commence their studies. Students from the Nordic countries should apply before June 5th unless applying to study Icelandic for international students; in that case, Nordic students should apply before February 1st.

Exchange students

If you want to take part of your studies as an exchange student at the University of Iceland, there must first be an agreement between your home institution and the University of Iceland. Secondly, you must have finished a complete year (60 ECTS credit units) of your studies at your home institution.

The principal language of instruction at the University is Icelandic, but most departments have some courses in English for exchange students. All prospective exchange students should begin the process of enrolment by contacting their home university, from which they must be nominated as exchange students. The student's status must be recognized by the home institution and the University of Iceland.

Application deadlines for exchange students are May 1st for the fall semester and October 1st for the spring semester. Application forms for exchange students can be found online at www.hi.is.





For further information contact:

Office of International Education

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101 Reykjavík
Tel.: +354 525 4311
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University of Iceland, Service Desk

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Some useful links:

ESN Reykjavík: www.esnreykjavik.com

The Nordic Volcanological Centre:
www2.norvol.hi.is/page/nordvulk

The Sigurður Nordal Institute: www.nordals.hi.is/page/nordals

The Árni Magnússon Institute: www.am.hi.is

The Intercultural Centre in Reykjavík: www.ahus.is

Icelandic Online: www.icelandic.hi.is

The Student website: www.student.is

Reykjavík's official website: www.visitreykjavik.is
Iceland's official travelguide: www.visiticeland.com

Iceland – New and Different

Iceland is an island of 103,000 km (39,756 sq.miles), about one-third larger than Scotland or Ireland. Its highest peak, Hvannadalshnjúkur, rises to 2,110 m and over 11 per cent of the country is covered by glaciers, including Vatnajökull, the largest in Europe.

Iceland means new and different things for you to see and do, whatever the season. Every part of the year has its own special attractions, character and charm. And don't let the name deceive you – Iceland can be very warm in summer when the sun shines virtually round the clock, while January temperatures are around 0°C.

Situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Iceland is a hot spot of volcanic and geothermal activity: 30 post-glacial volcanoes have erupted in the past two centuries, and natural hot water supplies much of the population with cheap, pollution-free heating. Rivers, too, are harnessed to provide inexpensive hydroelectric power.

Reykjavík – Pure Energy

Shaped by the energy of the earth, bustling with the energy of a cosmopolitan capital, surrounded by the pure unpolluted energy of nature, Reykjavík is a city of striking contrasts where international influences mingle with Icelandic national traditions. A unique culture where old embraces new.

Whatever your interests, Reykjavík has something to offer. Whether you are seeking the bustling energy of a cosmopolitan city, the thundering thermal energy in the ground beneath your feet, or the quiet green energy of the landscape surrounding the city, Reykjavík promises a memorable visit.

One way to soak up Reykjavík's pure energy is to visit one of the many thermal swimming pools or spas. Going to the pool is very much a way of life for Reykjavík's residents, ideal for relaxing, re-energizing and socializing.





Eyjafjallajökull



Iceland can truly be described as a geographical meeting point of nature's forces, sitting on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the Eurasian and North-American Plates are constantly moving apart.

Iceland is one of the most active volcanic regions in the world where eruptions occur on average every three to four years. However, more than half of the eruptions occur in uninhabited areas, and in many cases beneath glaciers.

A number of internationally leading geoscientists are employed at the University of Iceland. These scholars are regularly consulted worldwide at the occurrence of major natural disasters and also lead and participate in ongoing international research on forecasting natural disasters.

Geological activity in Iceland is monitored 24 hours a day, all year round, both on the ground and in space.

In March 2010, Eyjafjallajökull, a volcano in the south of Iceland erupted for the first time since 1821. Due to an ash cloud covering much of Europe following the eruption, air traffic in Europe was temporarily brought to an unprecedented standstill in April.

Aware of an imminent eruption, scientists at the Institute of Earth Sciences at the University of Iceland (IES) established a number of temporary stations continuously recording GPS and seismic activity around Eyjafjallajökull. This monitoring continued throughout the eruption which lasted for 3 months. The data collected from this period in Icelandic geological history is a unique contribution to research and understanding of the natural forces at work, which, as the eruption in Eyjafjallajökull proved so clearly, is of global importance.



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND