West Nordic Studies: Governance and sustainable management is a multidisciplinary Master's Programme (120 ECTS) offered jointly by the University of Akureyri, Iceland, the University of Greenland, the University of the Faroe Islands, the University of Iceland and the University of Nordland, Norway.

The programme includes studies in home universities, a joint intensive course at the University of Akureyri, studies completed at other partner universities and a Master’s thesis.

The West Nordic Studies: Governance and sustainable management programme aims to provide in depth knowledge of the Circumpolar North, to develop abilities to manage and link contemporary issues and past developments, to foster insight into the common issues of the area, and to address the most pressing societal challenges in the region. Graduates will understand and be prepared to meet the complicated challenges of coastal Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands (the NORA region) in the broader context of the Circumpolar North and will be able to strengthen networking in the area. The programme will offer a comparative perspective which will strengthen efforts to address the urgent challenges the region is facing today including the social implications of climate change affecting very small populations and micro-economies; long distances; limited working opportunities; gender issues in society and education; threats to indigenous culture and societal security; contested issues of identity and cultural heritage; the quest for natural resources; good governance and sustainable management.

www.westnordicstudies.net
University of Greenland
The MA program in West Nordic Studies at the University of Greenland provides students with in-depth knowledge in core disciplines such as political science, sociology, economics and international law. The focus is primarily on Greenlandic and Arctic relations.

University of Iceland
The University of Iceland offers an MA degree in West Nordic Studies. Students are able to choose between two specialisations:

Environment and Natural Resources in the High North
The earth is witnessing global environmental change that is unique in its history. These changes are expected to impact societies worldwide, but nowhere is the impact more visible than in the Arctic. This specialization explores these issues, applying a multidisciplinary perspective. Students will gain an understanding of the natural and physical systems that form the basis of the changes taking place and the environmental governance and management methods that can be used to push the region towards sustainable development and green growth.

Small States and Societies
The governance and culture of small states and societies in the Arctic differs in many ways from the large states in the region. In this specialisation emphasis will be placed on exploring the opportunities and constraints they are up against, such as security challenges, means of influencing the international community, the dynamics of cultural identities as well as public administration and governance. This will be placed in local and global contexts within the social sciences and humanities and related to both past and present developments in the wider Arctic area.

University of the Faroe Islands
The University of the Faroe Islands offers students MA and MSc degrees in West Nordic Studies with emphasis on developing a broad overview of governance and sustainability issues from a transdisciplinary perspective in both theory and practice. The programme is both research and practice based, and core courses at the University of the Faroe Islands are oriented towards applied knowledge and dialogue with policy, business, and civil society actors.

University of Akureyri, Iceland
The University of Akureyri offers students of West Nordic Studies specialisation in the field of Polar law. The interdisciplinary Polar law study lines (MA, LLM and Diploma) cover: environmental law; the law of the sea; sovereignty issues; natural resources; the rights of indigenous peoples in the North; self-government and good governance; economic development; Arctic security and Arctic strategies; and land and resource claims in Polar regions.

University of Nordland, Norway
The University of Nordland offers an MA in West Nordic Studies. The students will be provided with necessary knowledge and skills to participate in local governance and in the management of local resources and development in different social contexts. Students will be challenged to understand, analyze, and arrive at solutions that encourage people to maintain and develop more sustainable communities.

University of the Faroe Islands
The University of the Faroe Islands offers students MA and MSc degrees in West Nordic Studies with emphasis on developing a broad overview of governance and sustainability issues from a transdisciplinary perspective in both theory and practice. The programme is both research and practice based, and core courses at the University of the Faroe Islands are oriented towards applied knowledge and dialogue with policy, business, and civil society actors.