



HÁSKÓLINN Í REYKJAVÍK  
REYKJAVIK UNIVERSITY



**Reykjavik University**  
International Prospectus

# Iceland's leading centre for learning and innovation

Reykjavik University (RU), situated in the heart of Iceland's capital, is a dynamic international university with 3.500 registered students and 250 permanent faculty and staff. At our university, we focus on developing the manpower and knowledge needed for giving industry and society a competitive advantage in a global market. Thus, we work closely with leading companies and international collaborators to provide our students with strong academic foundations, cutting-edge practical experience and extensive connections with industry.

The university offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programmes, taught in our four schools: School of Business, School of Computer Science, School of Science and Engineering and School of Law. We also host a number of research institutes, which span the continuum from theoretical foundations to innovative applications. Our Open University offers an extensive selection of continuous professional education programmes for professionals and industry.

The geographical position of Iceland, located midway between Europe and North America, creates unique crossroads for international collaboration. This enables us at Reykjavik University to conduct our teaching, research and programme development in close cooperation with outstanding universities on both sides of the Atlantic.

Academic excellence and strong ties with industry are not the only reasons to study or work at Reykjavik University: Iceland offers unparalleled natural beauty, a dynamic culture and one of the highest standards of living in the world. We hope you will join us at Reykjavik University to strengthen your competitive position and to experience first-hand the unique environment in Iceland.



**Dr. Ari Jónsson**  
President, Reykjavik University



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## Experience Iceland

- Population: 320,000
- The world's greenest economy: All energy for heat and electricity in Iceland comes from renewable resources
- Iceland's people were ranked the friendliest in the world to foreign visitors (WEF, 2012)
- Awarded UNESCO City of Literature
- Iceland is ranked number one on the Global Peace Index

Iceland is a truly unique study destination with some of the most extreme landscapes in the world. From the midnight sun to the awesome glaciers and volcanoes, Iceland offers an extraordinary experience.

### Reykjavik

Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland and home to 118,000 inhabitants, is a young city that offers students a vibrant mix of culture, heritage, and leisure whilst having one of the highest standards of living in the world. It is a modern city with a culture of entrepreneurship. The progressive spirit has been built from a strong cultural foundation, starting with the ancient Icelandic sagas, which still help shape the nation's identity.

### The "Capital of Cool"

The small city has a broad range of cultural events and recreational facilities to rival much larger capitals, and the lively cultural scene has earned the city the nickname "Capital of Cool". Students can visit cafes, museums, attend gigs or concerts, or soak up Reykjavik's energy by visiting one of the many geothermal swimming pools. The annual Reykjavik Arts and Iceland Airwaves festivals are a must and feature packed programmes of Icelandic and international artists.

### Nature on your doorstep

Reykjavik, encircled by mountains and the sea, lies just minutes away from magnificent unspoiled nature. In a city where salmon fishing takes place within the city limits and whale watching trips can be taken from the old harbour there is always new experiences to be sought.

**For more information on Iceland and its attractions, visit:**

[www.visiticeland.com](http://www.visiticeland.com)

[www.inspiredbyiceland.com](http://www.inspiredbyiceland.com)



# Studying at Reykjavik University

## Why study at RU?

- Commitment to academic and research excellence  
The university places a strong emphasis on excellence in research demonstrated by the high number of articles published in key academic journals each year.
- Outstanding facilities  
Set in one of the most beautiful areas of Reykjavik, right next to Iceland's only geothermal beach, the newly built campus offers students first-rate modern facilities.
- Small class sizes and outstanding teaching
- A dynamic platform for international academics and guest lecturers
- Innovative applied learning approach in real world context
- Unique relations with industries and public institutions  
Our courses are designed in collaboration with industries to ensure they are up to date with latest developments in the rapidly changing areas of engineering, computing, business and law.

## Studies at Reykjavik University

### Undergraduate

Our BSc degrees are 180 ECTS and take a minimum of three years of full-time study to complete. All our undergraduate degrees are taught in Icelandic, however, a number of modules are offered in English for our visiting exchange students.

### Graduate

Our graduate programmes are 90-120 ECTS and take two years of full time study to complete. All departments offer graduate programmes taught in English.

The academic year is divided into two semesters. The autumn semester, runs from mid-August to mid- December, and the spring semester from January to June.



# International students

Every year RU welcomes students from all over the world. If you choose RU for your studies you will be looked after every step of the way by our dedicated international team.

**The staff at the International Exchange Office provide information and assistance with:**

- International Admissions
- Processing exchange applications
- Visa and residence applications
- Housing
- Orientation
- Counselling

**For further information on applying and studying at RU:**

Visit the International Exchange Office website [en.ru.is/international](http://en.ru.is/international) or email [admissions@ru.is](mailto:admissions@ru.is)

## Buddy system

To ensure a smooth integration into the Icelandic way of life, Reykjavik University operates a buddy system. Buddies are current students who have volunteered to help international students in their first few weeks in Iceland.

## Orientation days

RU is committed to ensure that all our students experience a smooth transition into their studies. A two-day orientation programme, part of which takes place outside of Reykjavik, is run each semester for our new students to get to know each other and to ensure they have the information they need for their studies and living in Iceland.

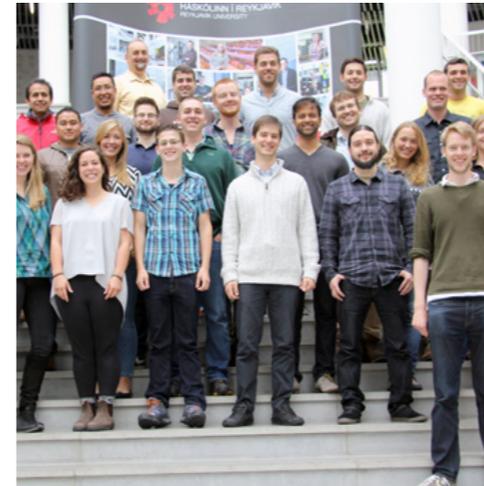
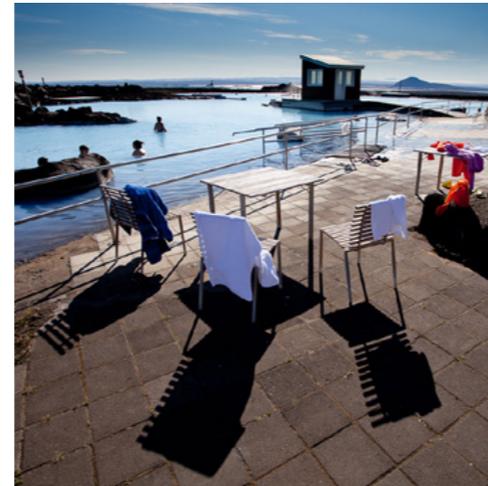
## Information for institutions

The International Exchange Office has developed extensive networks of partnerships and agreements with international institutions. For further information send enquiries to [gudlaugm@ru.is](mailto:gudlaugm@ru.is)

“We were exchange students from France when we met at Reykjavik University. On returning home we decided to apply for full time graduate studies at RU as we were impressed by the high level of teaching and methods provided, support from the administration and the campus facilities. This decision has enabled us to continue our studies at RU and explore more of Iceland, thus encompassing our thirst for adventure and our desire to further our education.”

**Elise Wehrlé** ▶  
Studying MSc in Human Resource and Organisational Psychology

**Nicolas Pierre Hippolyte**  
**Emile Olivier** ▶  
Studying MSc in Marketing





**“The International Business programme at RU is taught by skilled professionals and academics, who provide a down-to-earth approach to the curriculum. As part of my studies, I participated in the internship programme with ThinkGeoEnergy, a start-up company in Reykjavik, which led to me receiving a full time job offer. I am now working in a vibrant industry with an exciting and growing company. My studies at RU have provided me with a great basis for my work today.”**

**Francisco Rojas Riano**  
MSc in International Business



## School of Business

Programmes at the School of Business are designed to develop the competence and skills a global manager needs to run an organisation in a world that demands innovative business leaders. The emphasis of our approach, which integrates academic study with practice, is on professional development. Students are encouraged to apply their analytical abilities to real-world projects by taking advantage of RU's strong ties with industry and the business community.

Our curriculum is delivered by visiting professors from leading international business schools, as well as by our resident faculty members. We have welcomed professors and lecturers from many universities, including Boston University, Spain's IESE Business School, Copenhagen Business School and London Business School.

RU's MBA is one of only 3% of the world's MBA programmes to have achieved accreditation from the Association of MBAs (AMBA). The undergraduate programme in Business Administration is EPAS accredited. The School of Business follows the PRMA principles for responsible management education.

### Full degree programmes offered in English:

Our master programmes are 90 - 120 ECTS and take one and a half to two years of full time study to complete.

- MSc Business Administration
- MSc/MCF Corporate Finance
- MSc/MHRM Human Resource Management and Organisational Psychology
- MSc/MIBM International Business and Marketing
- MSc Marketing
- MBA
- PhD Business Administration
- PhD Psychology

The graduate programmes in Finance, Human Resource Management and Organisational Psychology, and International Business and Marketing are available through two routes: the MSc programmes require students to submit a research-based thesis, the course-based Masters level programme does not require students to submit a thesis.

### Programmes taught in Icelandic with selected modules available in English:

- BSc Business Administration
- BSc Business Administration with a minor in Computer Science
- BSc Business Administration with a minor in Law
- BSc Psychology
- MACC Accounting and Auditing
- MABI Management Accounting and Business Intelligence
- MIIM Information Management
- MSc Clinical Psychology



**“When I heard about the Computer Mathematics programme at Reykjavik University I had no doubt that this was what I wanted to study. The teaching supports a creative approach to learning, which enables me to create new ideas and find solutions to problems.”**

**Elísabet Guðrúnar- og Jónsdóttir**  
Student in Computing Mathematics

## School of Computer Science

Computer science is a fundamental discipline in today's IT-driven society, as we use computer systems, directly or indirectly, in nearly all of our daily activities. Computer science also plays a major role in many other disciplines, as progress in areas such as biology, physics, and engineering rely on the ability of computers to solve problems of ever-increasing conceptual difficulty and magnitude.

Technology industries are increasingly demanding professionals with graduate degrees in the field of computer science. The Computer Science study programmes at Reykjavik University are balanced between a strong theoretical foundation and practical training, providing the necessary foundations for advancing science and technology through emphasis on research and innovation. Our graduates are highly sought-after professionals.

We perform cutting-edge research in the areas of artificial intelligence, databases, natural language processing, user interfaces and theoretical computer science. This is done in close collaboration with leading international universities, industry, and other partners.

### Full degree programmes offered in English:

- MSc Computer Science
- MSc Software Engineering
- PhD Computer Science

### Programmes taught in Icelandic with selected modules available in English:

- Diploma in Applied Computing
- BSc Computer Science
- BSc Computer Science with Business Minor
- BSc Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science (DIMACS)
- BSc Software Engineering
- MIM Information Management
- MSc Language Technology



**“The approach to studies at Reykjavik University places great emphasis on solving practical assignments. During my undergraduate studies, I was tasked with solving a case that was currently being tried in one of Iceland’s district courts. It was very interesting to get such insight into a real court case and the procedures. I also had the opportunity to plead the case in the University’s courtroom, to practice my litigation skills. My studies have prepared me well, and the knowledge and experience I’ve gained have already served me well in my career.”**

**Árni Þórólfur Árnason**  
Graduate law student

## School of Law

The School of Law at Reykjavik University offers ambitious and progressive programmes at undergraduate and graduate level with the aim of graduating outstanding lawyers capable of becoming leaders in their fields.

The three-year BA degree programme in Law consists of a mix of lectures, seminars and case studies, as well as discussion groups. Through the undergraduate programme, students acquire a broad theoretical foundation in the main subjects of law. Great emphasis is also placed on the practical application of legal theory through the study of cases and practical project work.

The BA in Law with Business minor combines two years of study in Law (120 ECTS) and one year of Business studies (60 ECTS). Upon graduation students have the option to pursue further studies towards a two-year Master of Law degree.

Flexibility and personal choices characterise the graduate programme, which offers a wide range of options for specialisation as well as the possibility to combine law with other fields of study. The structure of the Master’s programme consists mostly of independent work under the instruction of RU’s professors, with a strong emphasis on research and projects.

### **The following aspects can grant credits towards the Master’s degree:**

- Seminars relating to research projects.
- Studies at overseas universities.
- Internships, organised by the School of Law in co-operation with institutions and businesses.
- Master’s thesis/project.

Research is an integral part of the School of Law, which operates three research institutes.

### **Programmes taught in Icelandic with selected modules available in English:**

- BA Law
- BA Law with Business minor

### **Full degree programmes offered in English:**

- ML Law
- PhD Law



**“RU’s emphasis on industry involvement has provided me with valuable access to the Icelandic energy industry. The insightful power plant visits, the classes held by working professionals, the internship opportunities and access to conferences in the ISE MSc programme, enhance an already strong curriculum. The programme puts great emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, which is invaluable in a world that is becoming increasingly complex and connected.”**

**Samuel Perkin**  
MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering

## School of Science and Engineering

The aim of the School of Science and Engineering at Reykjavik University is to provide an outstanding education in engineering and related fields, with a special emphasis on research, development and innovation. Using a broad theoretical basis, students participate actively in hands-on practical projects in close cooperation with local and international industry and research institutions. The school has strong international ties, with approximately 30% of its faculty coming from abroad and many international guest lecturers visiting every year.

The school is a member of the CDIO network, which emphasises teaching curriculum in the context of professional engineering. Students gain a strong academic foundation, which is applied to realistic projects. Our graduates are accustomed to the process of design, implementation and operation, which they will face in their future careers.

Students are offered a wide range of electives, both within the School of Science and Engineering and through interdisciplinary co-operation with other schools at RU. Programmes can lead to relevant professional engineering certifications.

### Full degree programmes offered in English:

- MSc Civil Engineering
  - Concrete Technology
  - Structural Design
- MSc Electrical Engineering
- MSc Engineering Management
- MSc Financial Engineering
- MSc Mechanical Engineering
- MSc Biomedical Engineering
- MSc Sustainable Energy Science (ISE)
- MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering (ISE)
- PhD Engineering and Applied Sciences

### Programmes taught in Icelandic with selected modules available in English:

- BSc Biomedical Engineering
- BSc Civil Engineering
- BSc Electrical Engineering
- BSc Engineering Management
- BSc Financial Engineering
- BSc Mechanical Engineering
- BSc Mechanical and Energy Engineering
- BSc Mechatronic Engineering
- BSc Sports Science
- MEd Sport and Health Education
- MSc Exercise Science and Coaching



**ICELAND SCHOOL OF ENERGY**  
REYKJAVIK UNIVERSITY

**“During my undergraduate studies I became particularly interested in both geothermal energy and reservoir engineering, leading to my decision to study at the Iceland School of Energy. Iceland has some of the best geothermal resources worldwide, and is a forerunner in the global geothermal energy industry. The programme at RU offers a wide variety of courses relating to renewable energy, and gives students the opportunity for interaction with the energy industries throughout the country. The practical fieldwork, experienced professors, and industry collaboration make the Iceland School of Energy the perfect place to further my education in the field of geothermal energy.”**

**Lindsay Allen**  
MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering

## ISE - Iceland School of Energy

ISE offers interdisciplinary graduate degrees that aim to create leading experts in management, design and research in the field of sustainable energy. Our graduates acquire a broad-based understanding of sustainable energy systems as well as a solid knowledge of one of the core disciplines in science, business or engineering.

### Renewable Energy in Iceland

The highly distinctive geopolitics of Iceland and its practical and sustainable use of its wealth of natural resources, provides students at the university with a truly unique opportunity to study, in situ, questions of sustainable energy development and their appropriate application for different societies.

### Students explore sustainable energy from the perspective of:

- Engineering
- Business
- Earth Science
- Law and Economics

**120 ECTS, 18 months, full-time study**

- MSc Sustainable Energy Science
- MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering

### Is ISE for me?

The ISE programmes are intended for students and professionals with diverse backgrounds, but with a common goal of searching for ways to meet the growing demand for clean, safe energy in a convenient and cost efficient form.

### Get practical experience

- Students experience and learn from some of the world's key experts in renewable energy.
- Operated in cooperation with two leaders in the field of renewable energy; Reykjavik Energy, [www.or.is](http://www.or.is) and Iceland GeoSurvey, [www.geothermal.is](http://www.geothermal.is)
- Learning is heavily based on practical and fieldwork experience.
- Opportunities for internships and research co-operation with industries.
- Open access to experienced professionals and scientists.

### Courses for professionals

Iceland School of Energy offers a number of short courses for students and professionals, which can be tailored for groups. For further information please contact [icelandschoolofenergy@ru.is](mailto:icelandschoolofenergy@ru.is)

### Three week summer school

Iceland School of Energy offers an intensive three week summer school that provides students with an overview of sustainable technologies. The summer school is a mandatory course for both our MSc programmes.



# Open University

## Executive and professional education

As professionals we need to constantly maintain and improve our skills and knowledge to compete in the labour market and deliver results. The Open University at Reykjavik University offers a wide range of courses in business, technology and law; course length ranges from one semester to a year. The Open University also works with companies and organisations to offer customised courses to suit the specific needs of your organisation.

The main objective of our programmes is to provide participants with recognition in their field or to expand their knowledge and skills in a specific profession. All our courses are characterised by our strong links with industry and practical approach to teaching.

### Our subject areas

Strategy, Leadership, Finance, Marketing and Sales, Sustainability and Innovation, Personal Development, Languages, Human Resources, Psychology, Engineering, Information Technology and Law.

### Advisory Committee

Our advisory committee, made up of leading authorities from academia, industry, professional associations and alumni, plays a key role in assisting us with developing courses that are sensitive to industry changes and developments and ensuring that we are at the forefront of professional education. The committee further strengthens our relationships with industry and gives us an insight to the major challenges professionals and managers face in their careers today.

If you would like to discuss professional development and training opportunities for yourself, or your organisation,

**please contact us at:**

**Email:** [openuniversity@openuniversity.is](mailto:openuniversity@openuniversity.is)

**Telephone:** +354 599 6300

Please visit our website for further information, [en.ru.is/open-university](https://en.ru.is/open-university)



