

Reykjavik University

ANNUAL REPORT

2019





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President's Letter

Reykjavik University plays a key role in education and research for businesses and industry in Iceland. Its mission is clear – to create and disseminate knowledge to increase competitive advantage and quality of life for individuals and society. This has led to a clear focus for both education and research at the University.

When it comes to education, Reykjavik University focuses on key areas for strengthening industry and society as a whole, through programs offered in engineering, business, computer science, law, psychology, applied engineering and sport science, as well as a number of programs and courses that bridge between the technical and social science subjects. The focus of the University not only defines the subjects offered, it also defines the approach used. Teaching at Reykjavik University combines a strong theoretical foundation with a practical approach based on real-world problem-solving. Throughout their studies, students work on real projects arising in companies and institutions. This means that students work with experts from industry to solve these problems, which in turn prepares them exceptionally well for the workplace. The impact of this approach is demonstrated by the fact that 80-90 percent of graduating students entering the workforce have secured jobs prior to their graduation.

Research, development, and innovation also play a key role in Reykjavik University's service to industry and society. Since 2006, research productivity at the University has grown many

times over, both in terms of peer-reviewed publications and competitive research funding. Today, Reykjavik University generates more research articles per faculty member – taking into account both journals and conferences – than any other university in Iceland. This has led to the University becoming one of the top 350 universities in the world, according to Times Higher Education. The University also ranks as the 52nd best university younger than 50 years old and 14th best among those with less than 5000 students. Last, but not least, the University is tied for first place among the world's universities when it comes to citations in the Times Higher Education ranking. But the creation of new knowledge is not only about publication; it is also about creating new technologies, new solutions, and new products for industry and society. Great emphasis is thus put on transferring new knowledge and opportunities to industry and society, through start-ups and collaboration with companies.

Innovation and entrepreneurship are cornerstones in both education and research at Reykjavik University. Students take courses focused on these subjects, starting in the first year of undergraduate studies. The University encourages students to start their own companies and offers both space and support for faculty and student start-ups. Currently, the University has shares in seven spin-off companies stemming from faculty and student research. The University has also supported a number of student start-ups without taking equity shares.

Looking towards the future, there are two key drivers for Reykjavik University. One is to constantly strive to further improve the quality of education and research at the University, with particular focus on high standards for degrees offered and student experience. The other is to advance and evolve education and research to meet the opportunities and challenges that come with changes in technology, climate, society and economy.

In 2019, the University made great progress both in terms of quality and advancement. To name just a couple of highlights, the University completed an institution-wide review with a very positive outcome and became the highest-ranked university in Iceland according to Times Higher Education. The University also made structural changes to its academic units, with the primary objective to strengthen academic leadership and to better support the strategy the University has developed for education and knowledge for 2020 and beyond.

The year 2019 was a successful year for the University, in terms of education, research, innovation, industry collaboration and strategic advancement. This is first and foremost thanks to the professional and passionate work of the University's employees. Thus, on behalf of Reykjavik University, we sincerely thank all RU staff for their invaluable contributions to Reykjavik University and Icelandic society.

Dr. Ari K. Jónsson, President, Reykjavik University

NÁMSRÁÐGJÖF
STUDENT COUNSEL



STARFSRÁÐGJÖF
CAREER COUNSEL



SKIPTINÁM
STUDENT EXCHANGE

Reykjavik University

Role

The role of Reykjavik University (RU) is to create and disseminate knowledge in order to enhance the competitiveness and quality of life for individuals and society, guided by good ethics, sustainability, and responsibility.

Mission

The mission of Reykjavik University is to be a strong teaching and research university with an emphasis on technology, business, and law.

Core Activities

The core activities of Reykjavik University are teaching and research, with strong ties to industry and society, emphasising interdisciplinary work, international context, innovation, and service excellence. The culture of RU is shaped by personal relations and respect for society and the environment.

Teaching and Learning

Reykjavik University offers students outstanding education involving broad knowledge of disciplines, a deep understanding of individual components, concepts, theories, and the skills needed for applying methods within a discipline, and the competencies required to apply knowledge in studies and work. RU differentiates itself by offering diverse teaching and assessment methods, practical assignments, active student participation, and integration of studies into industry and society. The programme is aimed at enhancing students' critical thinking, creativity, and independence.

Research

Ambitious research is carried out at Reykjavik University in order to foster education and create new knowledge and innovation for industry and society. The University recognises that research is a creative and entrepreneurial process, driven only by the researcher. Research is evaluated against international criteria and reflects impartiality, professionalism, and recognised scientific work ethics.

Cooperation with Industry and Society

Reykjavik University emphasises ties with national and international industry, which are based on integrity, mutual respect, and benefits to society. The University is an active participant in the shaping and development of industry and society, and works towards meeting the needs of society for specialised knowledge. This is attained through education, research, innovation, development, and participation in discussions on issues arising in society. Furthermore, the University emphasises good relations with its alumni and meets the lifelong learning needs of individuals.

Highlights of 2019

Students

A total of 927 students graduated from Reykjavik University in 2019, 260 in February, 627 in June and 40 in October. 582 students graduated from undergraduate studies, 297 from graduate studies and six doctoral students graduated. In addition to university graduates, 82 students graduated from preliminary studies.

Of those students who graduated from the University in February, 83 were from the School of Science and Engineering; thereof ten graduated with a Master's degree and three with a Doctoral degree. The School of Business graduated 71 students; thereof 45 with a Master's degree and 1 with a Doctoral degree. The School of Law graduated 20 students; thereof 11 with a Master's degree. The School of Computer Science graduated 84 students, thereof six with a Master's degree.

In March the four schools were reorganized into seven departments, and the University graduated 627 students according to the new structure in June. The graduates were split equally

between the two Schools; 313 graduated from the School of Technology and 314 from the School of Social Sciences. 152 graduated from the Department of Engineering; thereof 79 with a Master's degree and two with a Doctoral degree. The Department of Business Administration graduated 143 students; thereof 80 with a Master's degree. The Department of Computer Science graduated 125 students; thereof nine with a Master's degree. The Department of Psychology graduated 76 students; thereof 23 with a Master's degree. The Department of Applied Engineering graduated 36 students and the Department of Sport Science 33; thereof 11 with a Master's degree. The Department of Law graduated 62 students; thereof 31 with a Master's degree.

In 2019 the first 40 students graduated from the new 14-month master study programmes in the Department of Business Administration.

In the fall 2019 RU welcomed around 1450 new students and 140 exchange students from all over the world.

Full-time equivalent students (FTE)*

Departments	Male %	Female %	Male	Female	Total FTE
Department of Computer Science	75%	25%	540	182	722
Department of Engineering	59%	41%	364	258	622
Department of Business	49%	51%	303	312	615
Department of Law	31%	69%	96	210	305
Department of Applied Engineering	87%	13%	251	39	289
Department of Psychology	17%	83%	49	238	287
Department of Sport Science	57%	43%	86	65	151
Preliminary studies	64%	36%	77	43	120
Grand Total FTE			1765	1346	3112

*Number of students on October 15th 2019, the reference date of Statistics Iceland and OECD

Overview of graduates in 2019

Departments	Male	Female	Total
Law	32	50	82
– BA	13	27	40
– Master	19	23	42
Computer Science	155	54	209
– Diploma	4		4
– BSc	137	53	190
– Master	14	1	15
Business Administration	106	141	247
– BSc	39	43	82
– Master	67	97	164
– PhD		1	1
Engineering	80	71	185
– PhD	4	1	5
– BSc	55	47	102
– Master	33	45	78
Applied engineering	71	9	80
– Diploma	43	5	48
– BSc	28	4	32
Sport Science	25	16	41
– BSc	19	9	28
– Master	6	7	13
Psychology	15	68	83
– BSc	11	48	59
– Master	4	20	24
Total	496	430	927

Education

In 2019 a new study programme was offered at the Department of Psychology, MSc in Applied Behavioural Analysis. The main content of the programme has been verified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

The Department of Engineering, in cooperation with the Department of Computer Science, created a new program in Engineering and Computer Science, making it possible for students to conclude a BSc in both fields and an MSc in Engineering, in five years.

Cooperation with Industry

Reykjavik University, through individual departments, has agreements with numerous companies and institutions in Iceland and abroad on internships and practical course work for students.

Reykjavik University and Landsnet renewed their agreement in 2019, focusing on research and development on the transmission system and renewable energy. Later in the year, Reykja-

vik University and Landsvirkjun signed a similar contract, focusing on renewable energy and sustainability. The two companies became founding members of Reykjavik University's Sustainability Institute and Forum, SIF.

Reykjavik University and Icelandair renewed their agreement in 2019, focusing on research and education in the field of air transport and tourism.

Reykjavik University remains in close cooperation with MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). In November 2019 a group from RU and partner companies visited MIT and took part in the annual Research and Development conference as well as a custom program for the Icelandic group.

Research

The Icelandic Research Fund allocated to RU faculty 232 MISK in total in 2019. RU received seven new grants from the fund in 2019. Reykjavik University awarded 42.7 million ISK to eight PhD research projects from the RU research fund in 2019.

A new Sustainability Institute and Forum (SIF) was established.

Executive Education and Continuous Learning

The RU Open University is a non-academic department of Reykjavik University that annually provides around 250 programmes and courses for executives, specialists, and managers from the industry who aim to improve their work performance and strengthen their skills. About 2,000 people attended Executive Education and Continuous Learning at RU in 2019.

Skema is a project run under the Open University at RU dedicated to allowing all children to learn essential skills in programming and information technology regardless of class, gender or other factors. In 2019 around 2,500 students from all over the country attended Skema's programmes, at almost 200 courses and events.

International Affairs

During the year 2019, 73 RU students went on exchange/ internship programmes to study at partner universities, while 175 international exchange students came to study at RU.

Reykjavik University became a member of NUAS (Nordic Association of University Administrators) in 2019.

The annual meeting of the NORDPLUS network NOREK was hosted by the RU International Office in June 2019 where 20 participants from the Nordic countries participated.

The University continues to prepare for the digitalisation of Erasmus+. The project is co-funded by the European Commission and aims at uniting all universities holding the Erasmus charter within a public infrastructure that facilitates a digital administrative workflow.

Environment

In 2019, RU set up charging stations by 12 parking spaces and offered students and employees two-hour charging, free of charge. On the plan for 2020 is to provide students and staff with better facilities for bicycles and build a bike shed on the University premises. The environment group is also working on reviewing and updating the Environmental Strategy of RU.

Employees

At the end of 2019, there were 266 permanent employees working at the University (244 full-time equivalents). Just over 60% of the University's employees have teaching and, or research obligations. RU has 99 faculty members in the posts of assistant professors (41), associate professors (25) and professors (33).

Equality

In 2019 RU was the first Icelandic University to receive an equal pay certification, after undergoing two audits that covered written procedures, evaluations of jobs ect., as well as an equal-pay analysis which showed that the situation is continually improving. RU has received an equal pay certificate from BSI and was thereby granted an equal-pay certification and consequently permission to use the equal-pay certification badge from the Centre for Gender Equality and the Ministry of Welfare.

In 2019 RU had continued focus on equality and offered both general staff and managers equality training where participants got the chance to consider their behaviour, implicit biases, how to deal with sensitive issues at work and how to lead by example in everyday settings.

Rankings

On the 2020 Times Higher Education (THE) list of the best universities in the world, announced in 2019, RU is ranked in 301st-350th place among the best universities in the world and is, for the first time, Iceland's highest-ranking university. RU has moved significantly up the ranks from 401st-500th place in 2017, when RU first appeared on the list. The overall list is based on teaching, research, citations, international output and industry income. In terms of scientific citations, RU was ranked first in the world, along with six other universities. The citations indicator is an estimate of how often other scientists cite the publications of RU scientists in peer-reviewed outlets.

In 2019, THE published a ranking list of young universities

where RU was placed 52nd out of universities established less than 50 years ago. Among universities that have fewer than 5000 students, RU was in 14th place.

In 2019 Times Higher Education also published a list of universities which have the most positive impact on their community, based on the sustainability goals of the United Nations. Reykjavik University was in 101st–200th place. The University received a particularly good grade and 59th place for the fifth sustainability goal, Gender Equality, which relates to ensuring equality of the genders and strengthening the position of women and girls. RU also received an excellent grade for the fourth sustainability goal, Quality Education, and 86th place. The fourth goal relates to ensuring quality education without discrimination with equality as a guiding principle and creating opportunities for continuing education for everyone. In preparing the list, consideration is, for example, given to the effects of universities on economic growth, industry, development of infrastructure, responses to climate change, etc.

Housing

252 student apartments and six apartments for visiting faculty are being built at RU premises on Nautholsvegur 83 to 89. The first 122 apartments will be leased out to students in autumn 2020.

The University opened Seres, an innovation centre for current and former RU students to work on their entrepreneurial ideas.

Awards

Ólafur Eysteinn Sigurjónsson received the RU 2019 Research Award. The service-award went to Einar Magnússon, exam officer and the recipient of the 2019 Teaching Award was Olivier Matthieu S. Moschetta, Assistant Professor at the Department of Engineering.

Organisation changes

In 2019 the former four schools of Reykjavik University were reorganised into seven departments in two schools.

Dr. Ragnhildur Helgadóttir was appointed Dean of the new School of Social Sciences. Within the School of Social Sciences are the Department of Business Administration, Department of Law, Department of Psychology, and Department of Sport Science. Ragnhildur has served as Professor in the School of Law since 2006 and as Dean of the School from 2014 to 2019. She is chair of the Science Committee of the Science and Technology Policy Council.

Dr. Gísli Hjálmtýsson was appointed Dean of the new School of Technology. Within the School of Technology are the Department of Computer Science, Department of Engineering, and Department of Applied Engineering. He has been a professor and Dean of the School of Computer Science at RU since 2017 and from 2001 to 2007.

Dr. Bryndís Björk Ásgeirsdóttir is the Department Chair of the new Department of Psychology. She has worked at RU since 2005, serving as Study Programme Director in the Psychology Department and as Associate Professor and Head of the Psychology Department since 2015.

Eiríkur Elís Þorláksson is the Department Chair of the Department of Law. Eiríkur has been an associate professor at RU since 2012.

Dr. Friðrik Már Baldursson is the Department Chair of the Department of Business Administration. He has been a full professor of economics at Reykjavik University since 2007. Friðrik Már served as Dean of the School of Business from 2009 to 2013.

Dr. Hafrún Kristjánsdóttir is Department Chair of the new Department of Sport Science. Hafrún was appointed Associate Professor in the School of Science and Engineering earlier in the year and has served as Head of the Sport Science Department since 2013.

Dr. Ágúst Valfells is the new Department Chair of the Department of Engineering. He has been a researcher and teacher at RU since 2005, mainly focusing on energy studies and particle acceleration.

Hera Grímsdóttir is the Department Chair of the new Department of Applied Engineering at Reykjavik University. Hera has worked as Head of the Construction Architecture Division at Reykjavik University since 2015 but has taught at the University from 2013, first as a part-time teacher.

Dr. Luca Aceto is the new Department Chair of the Department of Computer Science at Reykjavik University. Luca has been a professor of computer science at Reykjavik University since November 2004.



Governance

The President represents the University, is in charge of its day-to-day activities and is responsible for its operations to the Board of Directors. The President is responsible for the quality of RU's operations and the execution of internal assessment. The President appoints School Deans, Executive Directors and other University personnel who report directly to the President, but the President consults with the Board as regards their selection and primary tasks.

The Executive Council of Reykjavik University is composed of the President, who is also the chair, School Deans, Department Chairs, Executive Directors, chairs of the Curriculum Council and Research Council and other key personnel as decided by the President. The Executive Council shall approve rules of the University and other strategic documents. The Executive Council shall furthermore discuss the annual operating plan of the University, operating results and internal and external assessment results.

The Dean of a School is appointed by the President in consultation with the Board, following an evaluation committee

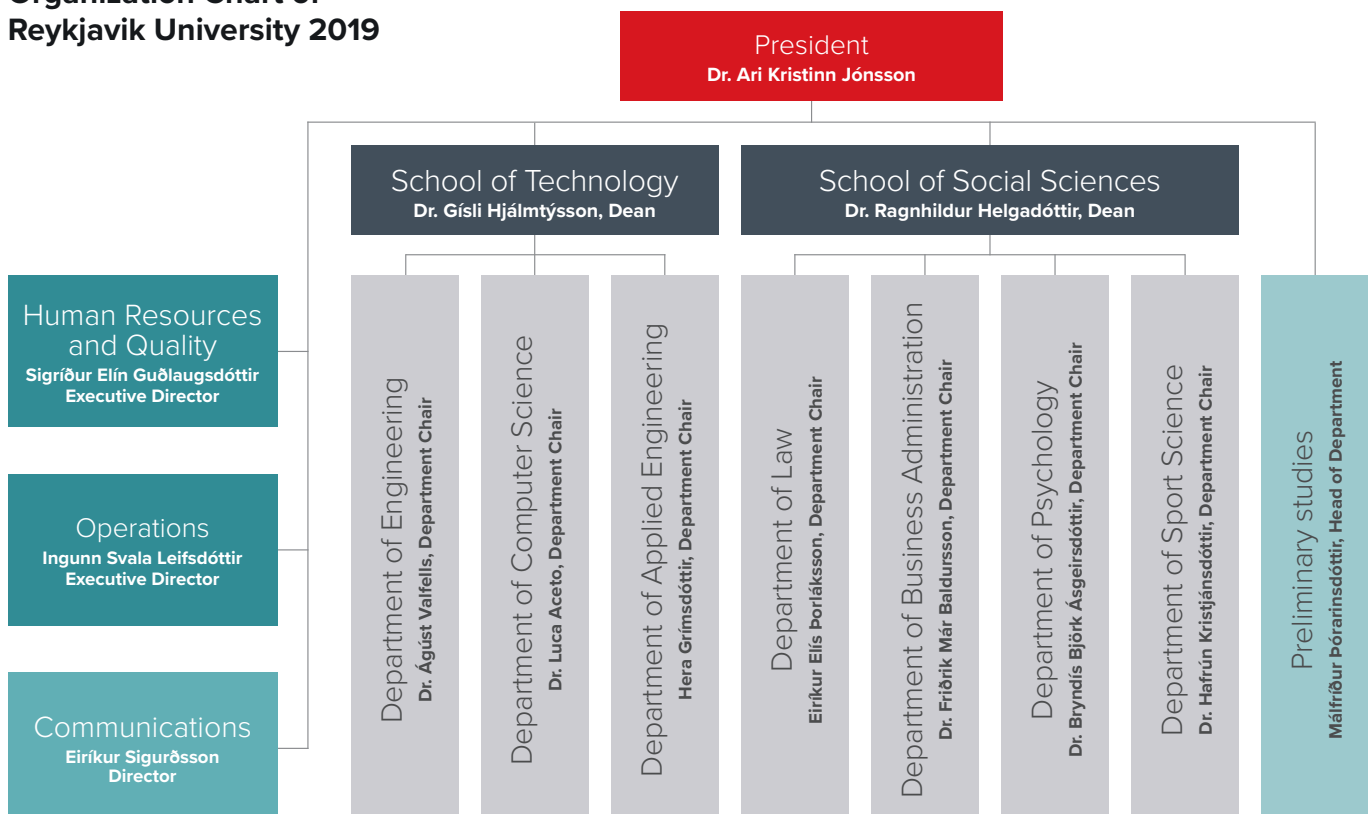
report. Deans of Schools and the President initiate strategic planning for the University and supervise strategy implementation. Deans of Schools, in consultation with the President, represent the University internally and externally to parties outside RU. The Dean of a School acts as a substitute for the President.

A Department Chair is hired by a School Dean, following an evaluation committee report.

Chairs of Departments are responsible for their academic management and shall initiate strategic planning for their Department. Department Chairs carry an operational and financial responsibility for their Department towards the School Dean.

The Executive Directors of RU are appointed by the President. Executive Directors are responsible for the organisation and operations of RU's support services and serve in defined roles according to a decision by the President. The President defines the roles and tasks of support services in accordance with the needs of the University at any given time

Organization Chart of Reykjavik University 2019



Board of Directors

Reykjavik University's Board of Directors is made up of five full members and one alternate member, each elected at RU's annual meeting. The Board of Directors is responsible for planning, administration, finance, determining tuition fees, and general operations. The President of RU attends meetings of the Board of Directors.

Members:

- **Hjörleifur Pálsson, Chairman,**
Business Administrator
- **Ásta Fjeldsted,**
Managing Director, Icelandic Chamber of Commerce
- **Frosti Ólafsson,**
CEO, ORF Genetics
- **Guðrún Hafsteinsdóttir,**
Chairman of SI - the Federation of Icelandic Industries
- **Halldór Benjamín Þorbergsson,**
Managing Director, SA-Business Iceland

University Council

The University Council of Reykjavik University operates as a forum for discussions regarding academic policy, teaching and research and collaboration with industry. The Council has ten members representing industry, academia and government.

The President of RU arranges and attends the meetings of the Council. Deans of RU Schools and the president of the student union also attend.

Members:

- **Hjörleifur Pálsson, Chairman,**
Business Administrator
- **Arndís Kristjánsdóttir,**
Lawyer
- **Ragnar Guðmundsson,**
CEO of Norðurál
- **Eyjólfur Árni Rafnsson,**
Chairman of SA-Business Iceland, President
- **Georg Lúðvíksson,**
CEO of Meniga
- **Guðrún Hafsteinsdóttir,**
Chairman of SI - the Federation of Icelandic Industries,
Marketing Director of Kjörís
- **Hreggviður Jónsson,**
Chairman of Veritas Capital
- **Hörður Arnarson,**
CEO of Landsvirkjun
- **Katrín Olga Jóhannesdóttir,**
Chairman of the Iceland Chamber of Commerce
- **Kristín Friðgeirsdóttir,**
Professor at London Business School and
lecturer at RU MBA

School of Social Sciences

Reykjavik University's School of Social Sciences provides students with a solid foundation in methodology, as well as hands-on learning that prepares students for the challenges they face after graduation.

The School offers study programmes in law, business administration, economics, psychology, and sport science, in four departments. Courses are at BSc and MSc level, as well as PhD. Most MSc programmes are taught in English.

Researchers at the School of Social Sciences have a strong track record in research and, in some fields, they have a considerable global impact, as through PlanetYouth, an international effort focusing on substance abuse prevention. Main areas of research within the School are business, finance, economics, management, innovation and entrepreneurship, health psychology, development psychology, clinical psychology, cognitive and neuropsychology, domestic and international law, performance analysis and evaluation of sports, psychological, and sociological factors in sport.

Researchers at the School are often engaged in public discussion and policymaking in Icelandic society and make their expertise available to the media and the general public.

Dr. Ragnhildur Helgadóttir is Dean of the School of Social Sciences.



Department of **Business Administration**

Department Chair: **Dr. Friðrik Már Baldursson**

In the activities of the Department of Business Administration, emphasis is placed on excellent teaching, varied teaching methods, student participation, high-quality research and publication in accredited, international science journals, good connections with industry and society through practical projects, internships and the involvement of part-time teachers from industry, caring for the well-being of the students, co-workers and society.

The Department of Business Administration has been a member of the United Nations Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) network since 2012.

Undergraduate programmes

- Business Administration, BSc
- Business Administration with Computer Science minor, BSc
- Business Administration with Law minor, BSc
- Economics, BSc
- Marine Innovation, diploma
- Business and Store Management, diploma

Graduate programmes

- Accounting and Auditing, MACC
- Business Management, MSc/MBM
- Corporate Finance, MSc/MCF
- Executive MBA
- Human Resource Management and Organizational Psychology, MSc/MHRM
- Information Management, MSc/MIM
- Innovation Management, MSc/MINN
- Marketing, MSc/MM
- Tourism and Hospitality Management, MSc/MTHM
- Business, PhD





Department of Law

Department Chair: **Eiríkur Elís Þorláksson**

The Department of Law provides students with a solid theoretical foundation, extensive knowledge of key subjects, and the possibility of studying individual fields in considerable depth. Teaching is in the form of lectures, practical projects, and discussion sessions.

The Department offers law studies at undergraduate, graduate, and PhD levels. Courses are taught in Icelandic, although many courses at the graduate level are available in English.

Undergraduate programmes

- Law, BA
- Law, with Business minor, BA

Graduate programmes

- Law, ML
- Law, PhD

Department of Psychology

Department Chair: **Dr. Bryndís Björk Ásgeirsdóttir**

The Department of Psychology aims to deliver undergraduate and postgraduate programs of learning that meet the highest academic standards, satisfy the requirements of statutory and professional regulations, are well-received by students, attractive to prospective students, and relevant to the needs of the community.

The Department of Psychology offers students a BSc course in psychology and two MSc courses, one in Applied Behaviour Analysis and one in Clinical Psychology, for those students that wish to become certified psychologists.

The course sequence in the MSc psychology programme is approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

Undergraduate programmes

- Psychology, BSc

Graduate programmes

- Applied Behaviour Analysis, MSc
- Clinical Psychology, MSc
- Psychology, PhD





Department of **Sport Science**

Department Chair: **Dr. Hafrún Kristjánsdóttir**

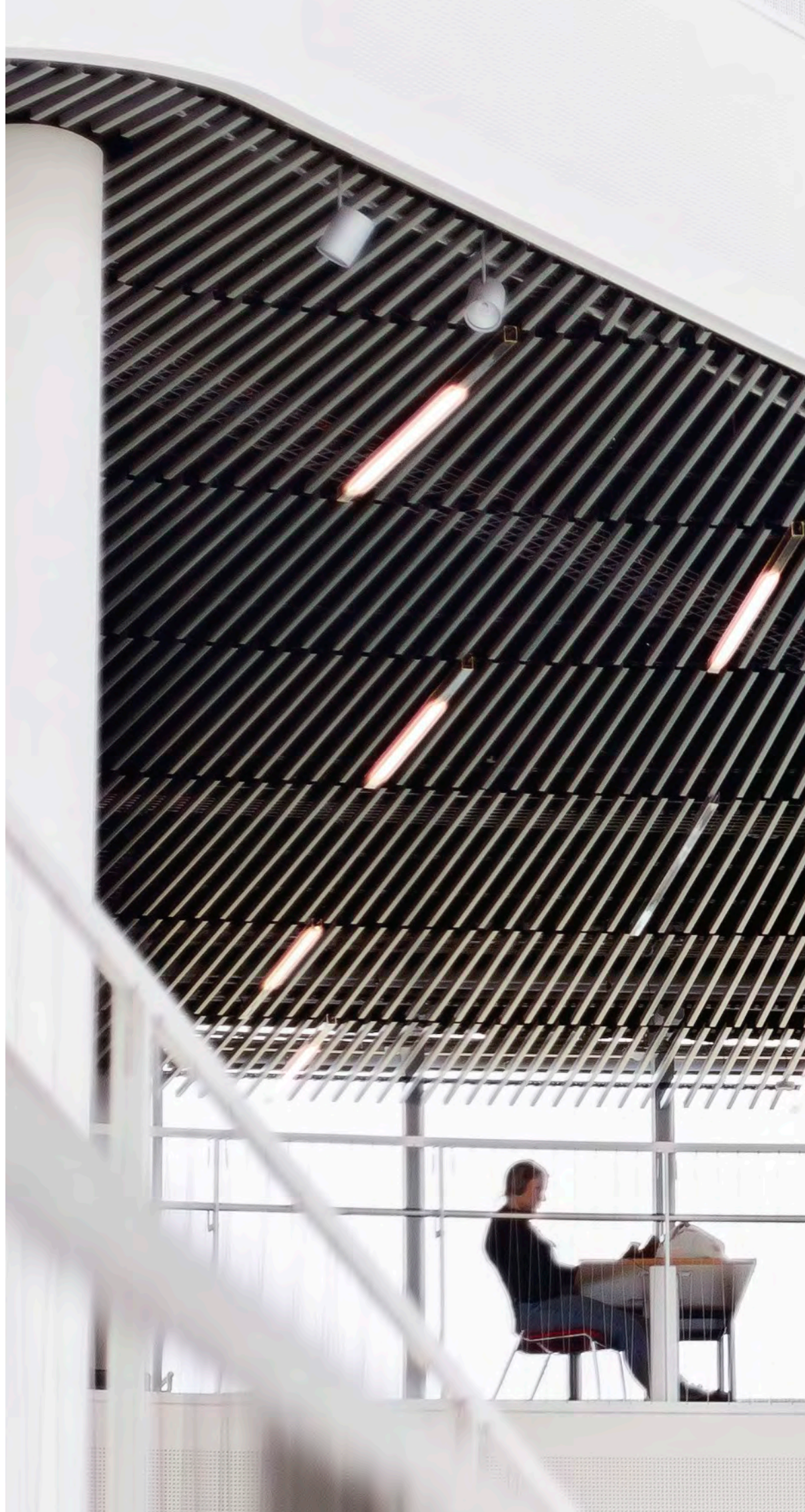
The Department of Sport Science offers ambitious undergraduate and graduate studies which provide students with a fundamental knowledge of sports and sport science and the roles and activities undertaken by sports scientists, e.g. as physical education teachers, and directors of sports. The master's programs are intended for leaders, coaches, teachers and other professionals who seek in-depth knowledge in the field of sports coaching, teaching, sports/PE teaching in schools and fitness centres.

Undergraduate programmes

- Sport Science, BSc

Graduate programmes

- Exercise Science and Coaching, MSc
- Sports Health Education, MEd



School of Technology

The School of Technology spans the range from theoretical computer science and physics, to artificial intelligence and mechatronics, to applied engineering and web-programming.

The school uses project-based learning to train students in applying the underlying theories to real-world problems. Excellence in research both drives the knowledge pursuit and provides training to students at all levels.

Motivated in part by the United Nations Sustainability goals, the School of Technology has defined four major themes – Sustainability, Data-Driven Health Care, Traceability, and Language Technologies – to drive research, teaching and external partnerships.

The School offers study programmes in computer science and engineering in three different departments. Courses are at BSc and MSc levels, complementing a research-oriented PhD program. Graduate programs and a large fraction of undergraduate courses are offered in English.

Research is carried out in increasingly interdisciplinary centres that focus on a wide range of societal goals such as biomechanics, applied neuroscience, tissue engineering, structural and earthquake engineering, rheology, microwave engineering, optimisation, language technology, electrical power engineering, turbulence, sustainability, nanotechnology, risk and decision analysis, project management, sleep, artificial intelligence, virtual environments, software engineering, databases, voice and natural language processing, human-computer interaction, financial technologies and theoretical computer science.

Dr. Gísli Hjálmtýsson is Dean of the School of Technology.



Department of **Applied Engineering**

Department Chair: **Hera Grímsdóttir**

The Department of Applied Engineering offers college-level professional training, with emphasis on practical applications of engineering theories. Attracting students with vocational training, the Department offers a number of diploma programs and degrees in applied engineering. Integrating professional teamwork in a wide array of projects involving design, building, and testing. The Department is a member of CDIO.

The Department is undergoing significant growth, in large part as a result of a strategic effort to attract students with vocational training. The effort is driven by four objectives, facilitating the transition from vocational training to academia, increase access and visibility, ensure teaching quality, while maintaining fiscal viability.

Courses offered within the Department of Applied Engineering are at the diploma or BSc level and are taught in Icelandic.

Undergraduate programmes

- Applied Civil Engineering, BSc
- Applied Electrical Engineering, BSc
- Applied Mechanical/Energy Engineering, BSc
- Construction Architecture, BSc
- Construction Technology, Diploma
- Electrical Technology, Diploma
- Mechanical Technology, Diploma
- Technology - Business Administration, Diploma





Department of **Computer Science**

Department Chair: **Dr. Luca Aceto**

In all study programmes within the Department of Computer Science, emphasis is placed on the quality of teaching and balance between a strong theoretical foundation and knowledge of up-to-date practical technologies and methods. The department encourages interdisciplinary study paths as emphasis, minors or second majors, across all departments at RU.

Two of the Department's study programmes, Computer Science (BSc and MSc) and Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science (BSc), have received international accreditation through the European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education (EQANIE). Those are the only internationally accredited study programmes of their kind in Iceland.

Undergraduate programmes

- Applied Computing, Diploma
- Computer Science, BSc
- BSc Computer Science, research-based, BSc
- Software Engineering, BSc
- Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science, BSc

Graduate programmes

- Computer Science, MSc
- Software Engineering, MSc
- Computer Science, Double Degree Programme UNICAM, MSc
- Language Technology, MSc
- Nordic Master in Intelligent Software Systems, MSc
- Computer Science, PhD

Department of Engineering

Department Chair: **Dr. Ágúst Valfells**

Based on a strong theoretical foundation, the Department of Engineering offers study programs in engineering at all levels, with additional graduate programs in project management, energy science, and the operation of electrical grid/systems.

The Department is one of 100 members of the International Cooperation Network for the Development of Technical Education CDIO (Conceive, Design, Implement, Operate), whose focus is on the quality of engineering and technology studies. To that effect, the Department completed a major revision of the curriculum. The Department combines basic disciplines to actual projects, thereby connecting learning outcomes to challenges faced by society. The Department now offers all undergraduates a double major in Computer Science.

Undergraduate programmes

- Biomedical Engineering, BSc
- Electric Power Engineering, BSc
- Engineering Management, BSc
- Financial Engineering, BSc
- General Engineering, BSc
- Mechanical Engineering, BSc
- Mechatronics Engineering, BSc
- Sustainable Energy Engineering, BSc

Graduate programmes

- Biomedical Engineering, MSc
- Civil Engineering, MSc
- Engineering and Computer Science, MSc
- Engineering Management, MSc
- Financial Engineering, MSc
- Mechanical Engineering, MSc
- Mechatronics Engineering, MSc
- Sustainable Energy / Engineering, MSc (Iceland School of Energy)
- Electric Power / Engineering, MSc (Iceland School of Energy)
- Master in Project Management, MPM
- Engineering, PhD



Research at Reykjavik University

Reykjavik University (RU) has a clear and progressive research strategy and stands first among equals in Iceland when it comes to research in its academic fields. Overall research activity is continually rising. The number of publications in peer-reviewed outlets has quadrupled, and the total allocation to the University from the Icelandic Research Fund has increased fivefold since 2007.

Approximately 45% of RU publications in peer-reviewed outlets are in peer-reviewed scholarly journals, 45% at peer-reviewed conferences/in conference proceedings and 10% are peer-reviewed books and book chapters. Not only the number of articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals has been increasing gradually, but the proportion of articles published in high-quality journals has also increased markedly.

External financing of research at RU has been strengthened significantly with increasing efforts to obtain research support from domestic and foreign sources. Allocation to RU affiliated scientists from the Icelandic Research Fund of the Science and Technology Policy Council in 2019 is around 232 million ISK.

Research activity of RU faculty, with research duties, has been assessed annually by a panel of international experts. The main objective of the research assessment is to examine the quality of the research and research activity at RU. The RU Research Council is responsible for and in charge of the assessment, and the process is operationally coordinated by RU Research Services.

In 2019, the assessment process was reviewed by the RU Research Council, RU Deans and RU Department Chairs. Therefore, the assessment was not carried out in 2019. The plan is to do the assessment every second year, i.e. the next assessment will be in 2020.

Allocation to RU affiliated scientists from the Icelandic Research Fund 2008-2018, in thousand ISK

Ár	Grant amount
2019	231,637
2018	271,275
2017	246,493
2016	204,326
2015	169,392
2014	148,741
2013	133,822
2012	110,896
2011	84,299
2010	114,014
2009	80,229
2008	68,365
2007	51,44
2006	37,98
2005	18,65
2004	13,25

Research groups, centres, labs, and institutes at RU

Department of Business Administration

- RU Centre for Research on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CRIE)
- RU Institute for Research in Finance and Economics
- The Research Center on HRM
- Center for Research in Marketing and Consumer Psychology (CRMC)

Department of Computer Science

- Center for Research on Engineering Software Systems (CRESS)
- Center for Analysis and Design of Intelligent Agents (CADIA)
- Icelandic Centre of Excellence in Theoretical Computer Science (ICE-TCS)
- RU Center of Financial Technology (FINTECH)

Department of Engineering

- Engineering Optimization & Modeling Center
- RU Neurolab
- Structural Engineering and Composites Laboratory
- The EHG Group (Electro Hystero Gram)
- The Nanophysics group
- Center of Risk and Decision Analysis (CORDA)
- Institute of Biomedical Engineering (IBNE)
- Sustainability Institute and Forum (SIF)

Department of Law

- RU Institute of International and European Law (IIEL)

Department of Sport Science

- Physical Activity, Physical Education, Health and Sport (PAPESH) Research Centre

Department of Psychology

- The Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA)
- Icelandic Center for Trauma Research (ICE-TRE)
- RU Centre for Research Training in Clinical Psychology

Research Council

The Research Council of Reykjavik University has the role of implementing the research policy of the University, and establishing and maintaining a strong research culture within the University.

Members:

- **Dr. Hannes Högni Vilhjálmsson, chair,**
School of Computer Science
- **Dr. Kristinn R. Þórisson,**
School of Computer Science
- **Dr. Jónas Þór Snæbjörnsson,**
School of Science and Engineering
- **Dr. Þröstur Olaf Sigurjónsson (part-time),**
School of Business
- **Dr. Jack James (part-time),**
School of Business
- **Dr. Bjarni Már Magnússon,**
School of Law
- **Catherine Elisabet Batt (part-time),**
Student representative
- **Hlín Kristbergisdóttir (part time),**
Student representative

Due to reorganisation of RU in 2019 and in view of a new Research Council Charter, a new Research Council was established in September.

Council members 2019 (from September):

- **Dr. Bjarni Már Magnússon, chair,**
Department of Law
- **Dr. Marta Kristín Lárusdóttir,**
Department of Computer Science
- **Dr. Jónas Þór Snæbjörnsson,**
Department of Engineering
- **Dr. María Kristín Jónsdóttir,**
Department of Psychology
- **Dr. Marina Candi,**
Department of Business Administration
- **Margrét Vala Kristjánsdóttir,**
Department of Law
- **Dr. Jose Miguel Saavedra Garcia,**
Department of Sport Science
- **Baldur Þorgilsson,**
Department of Applied Engineering
- **Hlín Kristbergisdóttir,**
Student representative

Curriculum Council

The Curriculum Council of Reykjavik University has the role of considering issues that regard teaching and learning at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Members:

- **Ingunn Gunnarsdóttir, chair,**
Department of Engineering
- **Dr. Ingi Þór Einarsson,**
Department of Sport Science
- **Þóra Hallgrímsdóttir,**
Department of Law
- **Dr. Kamilla Rún Jóhannsdóttir,**
Department of Psychology
- **Hrefna Sigríður Briem,**
Department of Business Administration
- **Eypór Rafn Þórhallsson,**
Department of Applied Engineering
- **Dr. Kári Halldórsson,**
Department of Computer Science
- **Dr. Haraldur Auðunsson,**
Department of Engineering
- **Þorgerður Jónsdóttir,**
Department of Preliminary Studies

Events

Reykjavik University hosted over 300 public seminars, conferences, meetings, thesis defences, presentations, competitions, open houses and other public events in 2019. Below is a list of some of the more prominent events.

Hnakkathon - The Fisheries Challenge

January 29-31

In partnership with Fisheries Iceland, RU organised an event called Hnakkathon for the fourth year in a row. Hnakkathon is a three-day event where RU students team up and compete to demonstrate their skills in developing and implementing ideas and solutions for businesses in the fishing industry.

International Day

February 12 and September 12

RU celebrates International Day every semester. The event focuses on international experiences and exchange opportunities for students. RU's international students offer dishes from their home countries and provide information on their home institutions, which are part of the University's extensive exchange network. Between 500 and 1000 students attend this event.

RU Mental Health Awareness Week

January 29 - February 2

The Mental Health Awareness Week at RU is organised by Student Counselling and the Psychology Department. From Monday through Friday, the focus is put on mental health through open seminars and lectures at lunchtime.

UTmessan

February 8-9

UTmessan is one of the most significant IT events in Iceland. Students and employees of Reykjavik University showcase a wide variety of technological research projects at the event.

RU Graduation

February 10

258 students graduated from RU at a graduation ceremony held in the Harpa conference and music hall in February. Birgir Finnsson, Dept. Fire Chief at Capital District Fire and Rescue Service gave the Ceremonial Speech and Erna Sigurðardóttir, ML in Law, spoke on behalf of graduates. Védís Hervör Árnadóttir, Communication Director of the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce, delivered awards for exceptional results

in undergraduate studies, on behalf of the Chamber. Those were received by: Joseph Karlton Galloghy, BSc in Marketing, Bryndís Gyða Michelsen, BA in Law, Magnús Björn Sigurðsson, BSc in Computer Science and Heiðar Snær Jónsson, BSc in BSc Financial Engineering. Dr. Ari Kristinn Jónsson, President of RU, closed the event with an address to the graduates.

Secondary School Visits

Visits from graduating secondary school students are one of the most important ways in which RU introduces prospective students to the University and the programmes offered. Programmes are introduced both through videos and presentations given by RU students. The visits primarily take place in November, February, and March. Approximately 1,250 graduating students came for a visit, from 15 schools in the spring term and eight in the autumn term.

AIESEC Career Days

January 23

Career Days are held annually by the International Association of University Students (AIESEC), in cooperation with Reykjavik University. Thousands of university students and more than 80 companies and institutions participated in the event.

Dean's-list Ceremony

February 27 and September 26

Twice every school-year the Dean's lists for each School is presented at an event in the Sun. Students who achieve the best results in each examination period enter the RU Dean's List and have their tuition fees for the next semester waived.

Open University Day

March 2

All universities in Iceland work together on the annual Open University Day to present their educational programmes and services to prospective undergraduate students. Thousands of students from secondary schools attend, making this the single most important event for reaching potential RU students. After the event, all the universities go on a joint road-show to secondary schools located throughout the country.



Lecture from former Olympic Champion

March 15

Dwight Phillips, former Olympic and world champion, visited RU with his lecture, "7 ways to how I became a World and Olympic Champion". Phillips is a four-time world champion in the long jump.

The Programming Competition

March 23

The Reykjavik University Secondary School Programming Competition has taken place for many years. The Competition is open to secondary school students who are interested in programming, irrespective of whether they have an education or experience in the field or not. Prizes are given to the best team in each league. The winning team in the Beta Division for experienced programmers came from Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík in 2019. A team from Tækniskólinn won the Delta Division, for less experienced programmers.



Management Competition

March 27

The Reykjavik University Secondary School Management Competition was held by the School of Business for the second time in 2018. Teams competed in running a chocolate factory in an Edumundo simulator. The winning team came from MR and MS.



Graduate Study Week

March 25 – March 29

RU introduces its graduate programmes at introductory meetings in Graduate Study Week.

International Visiting Week

April 11-13

The International Office hosts many international visits and organises the International visiting week each year, where RU's international partners have the opportunity to learn about the University and meet and interact with colleagues.



Biomedical Engineering Day

May 7

Ninth annual Biomedical Engineering day.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards

May 17

RU first-year students attend a three-week workshop where they come up with ideas for business and draw up a business plan. The students learn about innovation and entrepreneurship, the making of business plans, and interdisciplinary cooperation. The workshop provides students with knowledge that will be useful when they enter the economic sector as well as with skills that are likely to create jobs in the community. The team Simplex had the best idea in 2019.

Technology Day

May 17

Technology Day is held annually by the Department of Applied Engineering. On this day the public is invited to observe and learn about the technological projects that came about through practical courses and the work that takes place within the Department.

Girls in Technology

May 22

The Girls in Technology (Stelpur og tækni) day 2019 was held in cooperation with the Federation of Icelandic Industries (SI) and The Icelandic Digital Society (SKÝ). Around 1000 girls from 9th grade in elementary schools participated in Reykjavik. They attended workshops at RU where they were e.g. presented with challenges in web design, programming and artificial intelligence. Following the workshops, the girls visited companies in the tech industry where they got a chance to meet female role-models and see what it is like to work in the industry. The event was also held in Akureyri in cooperation with the University of Akureyri. A total of 1200 girls took part in the two Girls in ICT events in Iceland in 2019.

The Elementary School Innovation Competition

May 20-21

The Innovation Competition is for elementary school students in the 5th, 6th and 7th grades. The Competition begins in autumn and ends in spring with a workshop where finalists have the opportunity to implement their ideas with assistance from instructors from RU and the University of Iceland. More than 1200 ideas were sent in from 38 schools. The winners this year were Anna Valgerður Árnadóttir and Oliwia Huba from Brekkjubæjarskóli in Akranes with a brilliant porridge maker.

Preliminary Studies Graduation

June 7

Sixty-two students graduated from Preliminary Studies in 2018, in addition to 22 students who finished courses in Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics to qualify for particular higher education programmes.

RU Graduation

June 16

Six hundred twenty-seven students graduated from RU at a graduation ceremony in Harpa conference and music hall in June. Ragnhildur Ágústsdóttir, BSc in Business 2005, spoke on behalf of RU alumni and Sindri Ingólfsson, BSc in Computer Mathematics spoke on behalf of graduates. Katrín Olga Jóhannesdóttir at Iceland Chamber of Commerce, delivered awards on behalf of the Chamber for exceptional results in undergraduate studies. The awards went to: Esther Ýr Óskarsdóttir BA in law, Jevgenij Stormur Guls, BSc in Engineering Management, Sverrir Bartolozzi in BSc Economics and Matthías Davíðsson, BSc in Computer Science. Dr. Ari Kristinn Jónsson, President of RU, closed the event with an address to the graduates.

Orientation Days

August 7

Every semester at RU starts with Orientation Days, where new students are welcomed and introduced to practical matters concerning their studies and life at RU.

The RU Awards

September 10

Reykjavik University awards three staff members every year for achievements in their field, in three categories: teaching, service and research.

Disaster Days

September 12-13

During Disaster Days, students from the Department of Engineering work together in interdisciplinary groups to find solutions to a specific problem by using engineering methods. At the end of the week, the student groups present their solutions and compare them.

International Staff Week

In 2019 September RU welcomed 40 participants from universities around the world. Two workshops were organised during the event, for participants and RU staff members, one on intercultural communication in HEI's and the other on fostering intercultural communication from the teaching perspective.

Graduation from Department of Business

November 13

The first 40 students graduated from the new 14-month master study programmes in the Department of Business Administration.



Finance

Reykjavik University is a non-profit corporation, owned by the private non-profit institution of the Iceland Chamber of Commerce for business education (Sjálfsseignarstofnun Viðskiptaráðs um viðskiptamenntun, SVÍV), the Federation of Icelandic Industries (Samtök iðnaðarins, SI), and Business Iceland (Samtök atvinnulífsins, SA). The University is run as a private non-profit institution, therefore its owners do not profit financially from the University's activities. All financial contributions and profits from the University's activities are spent on furthering the operations of RU.

A positive turnaround has occurred in the operations of the parent company of Reykjavik University in recent years. The primary aspects of that success have been higher revenue due to an increase in student numbers and, at the same time, considerable restraint in spending. Furthermore, the government has been increasing allocations to universities, with the aim of reaching average funding of universities in OECD countries and, later, the average of other Nordic Countries. Despite the increased contributions of the government, the per student allocation of funding is still low and amounts to a little more than half of what other Nordic countries allocate per student. This inevitably has a negative impact on the work of the universities and Iceland's competitive position for the future.

The higher revenue of Reykjavik University is used to reinforce the operations and especially teaching quality and the professional strength of the University. Results for the year 2019, before subsidiaries, were better than predicted. Looking to the future, the operations of the University itself will reach a balance, but the earnings of the enterprise group will be negative in the next few years due to the cost of capital associated with the premises of the University.

The total revenue of Reykjavik University amounted to 6,409 million ISK in 2019 but 6,048 million ISK in 2018. The year's earnings were negative in the amount of 195 million ISK but were negative by 186 million ISK in the previous year. The book value of equity at year's end was 1,561 million ISK, but amounted to 1,755 million ISK in the previous year. The equity ratio at the end of 2019 was 51%.

Income statement for the year ended December 31, 2019

Numbers in thousands of Icelandic krona (ISK)

	2019	2018
Operating income		
Treasury contribution	3.571.700	3.388.900
Tuition and other income	2.146.511	2.110.733
Grants	691.082	548.850
	6.409.293	6.048.483
Operating expenses		
Salaries and related expenses	4.054.897	3.616.188
Housing expenses	1.166.335	1.119.692
Other operating expenses	1.046.284	1.080.576
Depreciation	161.945	165.219
	6.429.461	5.981.675
Operating result	(20.168)	66.808
Financial income (expenses)		
Net financial income	53.026	38.362
Result before share of loss of subsidiaries	32.858	105.170
Share of loss of subsidiaries	(227.607)	(290.924)
Result for the year	(194.749)	(185.754)

