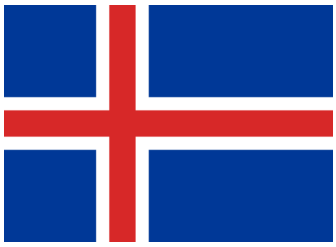


Iceland, The Quick Facts

Country Size:
103,000 sq.km

Population
338,000 (2017)
10.6% are foreign-born

Language
Icelandic
English is widely-spoken

Capital
Reykjavik

Median Age
36.3

Currency
Icelandi Króna (ISK)

Economy
GDP Per Capita
73.092 USD/person (2017)
Unemployment Rate
2.9% (2017)

To learn more about our unique little island visit http://iceland.is .

EURAXESS Country in Focus: ICELAND

Located in the North-Atlantic ocean close by the Arctic Circle, Iceland is very much a bridge between continents. It takes approximately five hours to fly from New York to Reykjavík, and three hours from London.

Iceland is a progressive, modern society that continuously ranks at the top of measurements for quality of life, such as the United Nations Human Development Index. Its economy is one of the most productive economies in the world, per-capita, and it is annually considered to be one of greenest countries on the planet, due in large parts to its vast renewable energy resources.

The Icelandic system of research and development is a multilevel system with a dispersed decision-making structure. It has a number of fully-fledged research institutions, essential funds and a strong force of well-trained scientists, and covers all major fields in science and technology. Icelandic scientists face a challenging task of maintaining the quality and range of research activities. Concentration of research in key areas is important in order to optimize resources.

1.1 Icelandic S&T Policy and Strategy

The Science and Technology Policy Council is responsible for setting public policy in matters of science and technology in Iceland. It's role is to support scientific research, science education and technological development in Iceland so as to strengthen the foundations of the Icelandic culture and increase the competitiveness of the economy. The Science and Technology Policy Council operates pursuant to Act No 2/2003. The Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and its members include the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Minister of Education, Science and Culture, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation as well as 16 representatives nominated by different ministries

and higher education institutions and by the social partners. In addition, the chair may appoint up to four other ministers to the Council. The Council sets the official science and technology policy for a three-year period.

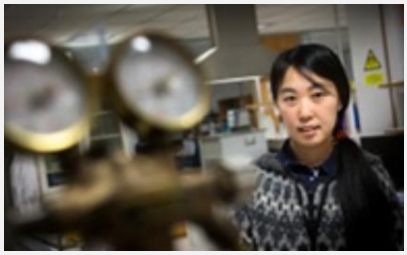
The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS) supports research, research studies, technical development and innovation in Iceland. RANNIS operates under the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and cooperates closely with the Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council providing professional assistance regarding the preparation and implementation of science and technology policy in Iceland. RANNIS administers competitive funds and strategic research programmes, coordinates and promotes Icelandic participation in collaborative international projects in science and technology and promotes public awareness of research and innovation in Iceland.

Funding

THE ICELANDIC RESEARCH FUND (IRF) is an open competitive research fund that supports scholarly research and postgraduate research education in Iceland. To this end, the IRF supports clearly defined research projects of individuals, research groups, universities, research institutes and private enterprises. IRF shall award grants in accordance with the general emphases of the Science and Technology Policy Council and based on an expert assessment of the quality of research projects, the capability of the individuals carrying out the proposed research and their ability to devote time and effort to the project.

The Technology Development Fund is a public, competitive fund that supports innovation and technology development projects. The role of the fund is to support research and development activities, which aim towards innovation in Icelandic industry and increased competitiveness of the Icelandic economy. The fund supports projects along the R&D&I value chain from applied research projects, development of start-up companies, to the first steps into marketing. The fund operates according to the policy of The Science and Technology Policy Council, which role is to promote scientific research and research training in the sciences and encourage technological progress in Iceland.

S N A P S H O T



Developing Flavouring Agents from Seaweed

Yuetuan Zhang (China)

Zhang is a doctoral student at the department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Iceland, and her research focuses on Icelandic seaweed, which can be found in abundance in Icelandic fjords and coastline, and its potential for developing novel flavouring agents. Her project has to do with the fundamentals of the biophysics of taste but also includes a practical aspect that allows the food industry to make more tasty food according to Zhang. Research on peptides shows a lot of potential to be a healthier replacement for salt in future food processing without

1.2 Icelandic Research and Innovation institutions

The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies was established in 2006 with the merger of several Icelandic institutes in the field. The institute is located in Reykjavík and has the role of preserving and studying medieval Icelandic manuscripts and disseminating knowledge to the scientific community and public at large about the its research in Icelandic studies, history, langue and literature as well as preserve and augment the collections within its care.

Matis ltd. is an Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute founded in 2007. For years, Matís has been considered a valuable partner in multiple, miscellaneous projects and has played a leading role in large international projects with some of the largest food and ingredient companies in the world. Matís employs around 100 staff in offices, laboratories or Food Innovation Centres located in cities or towns around Iceland. Matis' turnover in 2014 was around $11.3 million USD, of which approximately 35% comes from international cooperation.

Iceland GeoSurvey is a self-financing, state-owned, non-profit institution established in 2003. It is based on seven decades of continuous experience in the field of geothermal and hydropower research and development. During this period Iceland GeoSurvey has provided consulting, training, and scientific services to the Icelandic power industry and the Icelandic government, and to numerous foreign companies and governments all over the world. Although the focus is on geothermal exploration, development, and utilization, Iceland GeoSurvey's experience covers many other geoscience-related fields as well, including groundwater studies, marine geology, and environmental monitoring.

The Icelandic Meteorological Office IMO is a governmental institution under the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources. The research focus of IMO is on weather and climate, atmospheric processes, glacier and avalanche studies, hydrological systems, earthquake and volcanic processes and geohazards. IMO also focuses on research in multi-parameter geophysical monitoring to develop more accurate forecasts of hazardous events. IMO has participated in several European and Nordic funded research projects, having the role of lead partner in many of them.

Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) is a government institute under the auspices of the Ministry of Industries and Innovation. The institute employs around 190 staff, operates 2 research vessels and 10 branches around the country, including an aquaculture experimental station. MFRI is leading in marine and freshwater research in Icelandic territories and the arctic, providing advice on sustainable use and protection of the environment. The main research priorities are research on marine and freshwater ecosystems,

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

University of Iceland
The University of Iceland is a research university and places great emphasis on quality in research. The university operates dozens of research institutions and centre.

Reykjavik University
Reykjavik University has a clear and progressive research strategy,

University of Akureyri
Research is one of the fundamental aspects of the University of Akureyri.

Bifrost University

The Agricultural University of Iceland

Iceland Academy of the Arts

Holar University College

OTHER RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Landspitali - University Hospital

Icelandic Institute of Natural History

Innovation Center Iceland

National Energy Authority of Iceland

Nordvulk - The Nordic Volcanological Centre

The Science Institute - University of Iceland

Institute for Experimental Pathology of the University of Iceland

Iceland Forest Service

National Land Survey of Iceland

sustainable exploitation of main stocks, ecosystem approach to fisheries management, research on fishing technology and seafloor and habitat mapping. MFRI is highly regarded in the scientific community and is therefore a valuable research partner, active at an international level with a strong infrastructure and high quality equipment. MFRI is an appealing work place with progressive human resources policy to strengthen the institute's competiveness and an effective gender equality policy.

1.3 Study in Iceland

Study in Iceland is a service housed within the Icelandic Center for Research. The new website, http://study.iceland.is, was launched in 2017 brings together information and resources for international students interested at studying at one of Iceland´s seven universities. The website is run in collaboration with Íslandsstofa (Promote Iceland) and provides information on university education, Icelandic as a foreign language, summer schools, life in Iceland, and a practical guide for applicants and foreign students. Study in Iceland also provides advice and signposting to services through e-mail or phone for interested parties.

1.4 Important information for incoming researchers: EURAXESS Iceland

The Icelandic Centre for Research is the coordinator of EURAXESS in Iceland and the EURAXESS Bridgehead organization. RANNIS coordinates and promotes Icelandic participation in international cooperation in science, education and culture and interacts with corresponding agencies and research councils in other countries and provides assistance to incoming researchers with advice on daily life and formalities of moving to Iceland. The EURAXESS network in Iceland is quite small as it consists of three members in the country:in addition to RANNIS the University of Iceland and the University of Reykjavík are established as EURAXESS contact points.

euraxess RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

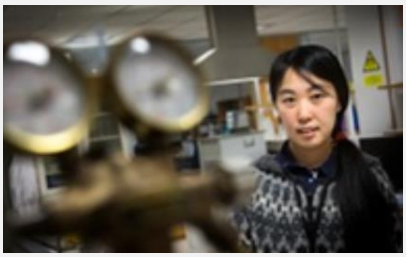
http://euraxess.is

Different snapshots for different countries' newsletter

Switch out for the snapshot on page 2

China

SNAPSHOT



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Japan

SNAPSHOT

Sampling Lava Flow in Iceland

Yuhji Yamamoto (Japan)

Dr Yamamoto is associate professor at the Center for Advanced Marine Core Research, Kochi University, Japan. Over the past 15 years his research has focused on the evolution of Earth's magnetic field. With the support of the Watanabe Trust Fund hosted at the University of Iceland, he resampled the lavas of the Lundarháls ridge in the Borgarfjörður region of western Iceland. With the help of Dr. Maxwell Brown, a research specialist in paleomagnetism at the Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Iceland, he collected at least five new samples per each type of lava flow [source].

India

SNAPSHOT

Finding New Enzymes in Sea Cucumbers

Varsha A. Kale (India)

Dr Kale finished her PhD in Medicine from the University of Iceland in 2014. During her studies she won a special grant for a project that aims at isolating carbohydrates in Sea Cucumbers as well as developing sea bacterias that help with that process. She successfully found several of these type of sugars and enzymes and showed that they have biological functions including immunomodulation. The project was conducted in cooperation with the Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute Matis [source].

North-America

ASEAN

Latin-America and The Carribean

SNAPSHOT

Icelandic Glacier Tells the Whole Story of Climate Change

David Harning (United States)

David Harning, as a PhD student at the Department of Geology at the University of Iceland, has studied with his supervisor the glacier Drangjökull in Iceland and its adjacent lakes. By drilling into the glacier and analysing core samples as well as studying sediment samples from the lakes they can get a picture long-term development of the position and the size of the glacier at different times and therefore the climate in the North Atlantic, including the temperature and precipitation in the far past. Harning's research project was partially funded by the Grant of Excellence from the Icelandic Research Fund [source].

SNAPSHOT

New Technologies in Aquaculture

Le Hoang Bao Chau (Vietnam)

Le Hoang Bao Chau is an aquaculture professional from Vietnam that studied as a fellow at the United National Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland in 2014. During her fellowship in Iceland she worked on developing a special feed for fish larvae fish improve their survival rate with the aim of bringing the new technology back with her home to Vietnam. The training programme helps professionals like Le Hoang to find solutions based on Icelandic aquaculture know-how and gives them a unique access to advanced research facilities and expert knowledge of academic institutions and private companies in Iceland (source).

SNAPSHOT

Bringing Knowledge of Geothermal Energy to El Salvador

Edwin Melara (El Salvador)

Edwin Melara is a Geothermal Fluids Chemist and reservoir expert for LaGeo geothermal power plant in El Salvador. Edwin developed his expertise in the UN University Geothermal Training Programme in Iceland. The course is designed so you can learn skills from sampling and analysis to interpretation and evaluation, as a reservoir expert. To support El Salvador's pursuit of green energy the United Nations Geothermal Training Programme in Iceland has trained generations of energy experts, providing them with cutting edge geothermal knowledge and skills (source).