

# Valnámskeiðs- bæklingur

## Electives Brochure

Three-Week Course for Exchange Students

**Sumarnámskeið í íslensku • Summer School in Icelandic:  
Three-Week Course for Exchange Students**

**Valnámskeið • Electives • 2012**

**Bókun valnámskeiða/Signing for Electives  
[www.uwestfjords.is](http://www.uwestfjords.is) > MySchool**

**Bókun í valnámskeið hefst þriðjudaginn 7. ágúst kl. 15:00  
/Signing up for the electives starts on Tuesday 7 August at 15:00**

## Keppnin um fjársjóðinn • The Amazing Race around Ísafjörður

**Albertína F. Elíasdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 20**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre (start).

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students race around Ísafjörður in search of the treasure of Grimkell the Wizard and the first team to find the treasure wins. The students must perform various tasks in Icelandic to get clues to where the treasure lies. Students will need to talk, read and listen to Icelandic and must not be afraid to approach the locals for directions and information. The vocabulary in the game consists for some part of the word used in daily life.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary. Speaking. Reading. Communication.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

## Draugar og draugasögur • Ghosts and Ghost Stories

**Albertína F. Elíasdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 25**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Ghosts and ghost stories have always been, and still are, a large part of Icelandic history and culture. This course will introduce to students the most famous Icelandic ghosts and ghost stories, all from Glámur to the deacon from Myrká to the ghosts of Yrsa Sigurðardóttir in Hesteyri. Less known ghost stories will also be introduced, with emphasis on ghost stories from the Westfjords. There is a possibility of visiting the ghosts in Hesteyri, depending on timing and costs.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary. Reading. Culture.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

## Náttúran og umhverfið • Nature and Environment

**Anna Guðrún Edvardsdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 16**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Interest in nature and the environment. Students have to be able to use computers and look for information on the Internet. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

This course teaches students about the Westfjords and how to describe the local environment. Students will learn words associated with nature such as hill, ocean, lake and so on. Students will also learn to recognise and describe natural phenomena orally and in writing or in other creative ways.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary associated with nature and environment. Listening. Comprehension. Knowledge of the local environment in the Westfjords.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

## Landnámssaga Vestfjarða • The Westfjords Settlers' Story

**Anna Guðrún Edvardsdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 16**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Interest in history. Students have to be able to use computers and look for information on the Internet. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students will be introduced to the story of the first settlers in the Westfjords and special attention given to the settlers in Ísafjörður, Bolungarvík, and Súðavík. In this course students will learn to retell the settlers' stories orally and in writing or in other creative ways.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary. Listening. Comprehension. Knowledge of the settlers in the Westfjords.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

## **Talaðu! • Speak Up!**

**Dagný Arnalds**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 16**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Bring the good mood. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

In this course students will learn how to pronounce sounds essential to pronunciation of Icelandic. Improvisations, sing-along and oral exercises will be done to practice voice control and pronunciation. Students will also work with different texts and how to deliver them to a group.

**Færni/Skill:** Pronunciation. Culture.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

## **Kór • Choir for All**

**Dagný Arnalds**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 100**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Bring the good mood. Level A1.

**TIME:** Electives on Tuesday August 8 at 18:00, Thursday August 16 at 14:00 and Thursday August 23 at 18:00.

**Please register so we know the number of photocopies needed. Students are free to attend the first rehearsal and can decide afterwards if they want to participate or not. It is not possible to join the choir at a later time.**

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Open your mouth, train your voices. The choir is for everybody who loves singing. In addition, students will learn pronunciation, vocabulary and about culture.

**Færni/Skill:** Pronunciation. Vocabulary. Culture.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

## Dansaðu og lærðu íslensku! • Dance and Learn Icelandic

Eva Friðbjófsdóttir

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 20**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur, University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students will learn Icelandic as they dance the so-called “old dances” that are really Icelandic folk dances. The dances that will be taught are for example vikivaki, ræll (reel), skottís (schottische) and vínarkrús. Instructions are given in Icelandic and students will learn words like *left* and *right*, *forwards* and *backwards*, *hands* and *feet* and many more.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary. Listening. Following instructions in Icelandic. Dancing.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

## Á djamminu • Iceland after dark

Helga Hilmisdóttir

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 20**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1- A2.

During this course, you will learn vocabulary and phrases which can be useful to know when you go out on the weekend. You will get answers to questions such as: How can I start a conversation with a stranger? What do pickup lines sound like in Icelandic? How do I tell a person who is bothering me to get lost?

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary. Understanding. Culture.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

### Hjá læknum • Visiting the doctor

Helga Hilmisdóttir

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 30**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1 – A2.

The aim of this course is to teach students central vocabulary around health and the health system in Iceland. We will do vocabulary exercises, oral exercises and read short texts issued by health stations and hospitals.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary. Pronunciation. Understanding. Culture.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

### Málfræðisurningar • Questions about grammar

**Attention:** There is no need to sign up for this course, just show up. You can take this course once, twice or even three times.

Helga Hilmisdóttir

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: -**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur room 2.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Level A1-A2.

Do you have any grammar questions? Here you can come and ask a teacher about grammar, whether you want to know more than what the morning lessons give you, or if you do not understand the grammar that is taught in the morning lesson.

**Subjects:**

*Thursday August 9:* Verbs, numbers and plural of nouns.

*Wednesday August 15:* Cases (nominative, accusative, dative and genitive)

*Thursday August 16:* Putting together sentences. The most common syntaxes and the most common conjunctives and subordinate conjunctions.

**Færni/Skill:** Grammar.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

## Íslensk málstefna • Icelandic Language Policy

**Helga Hilmisdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 30**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Good beginner's vocabulary. Level A2.

This course consists of two parts: a) a lecture on Icelandic language policy, and, b) exercises based on the lecture. During the lecture students will learn the reasons for Icelanders' allegedly strict language policy, and how it has been institutionalized and presented in schools and in the media. Furthermore, students will see some examples of how Icelanders create their own words instead of using international words, such as *leikhús* 'theatre' and *tölva* 'computer'.

**Færni/Skill:** An understanding of how Iceland's official language policy has shaped the Icelandic language.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** English and Icelandic (supported by Power Point).

## Slangur og slettur • Slang and Loanwords

**Helga Hilmisdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 30**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Good beginner's vocabulary. Level A2.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

This course consists of two parts: a) a lecture on slang and code switching in Icelandic teenage talk, and b) an exercise based on the new vocabulary. The introductory presentation will begin by briefly outlining the official language policy in Iceland, followed by a discussion on Icelandic slang. In the second half of the lecture, students will work on vocabulary exercises, e.g. scan blogs and read pop lyrics that contain slang words.

**Færni/Skill:** A theoretical understanding of the use of code switching in teenage talk and the knowledge of the most common slang words used in everyday speech.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** English and Icelandic (supported by Power Point).



### Leikræn tjáning • Performing Icelandic

**Hrafnhildur Hafberg**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 16**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur, University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.

This course starts out with games to warm up the group and mix it together. Then students go on to some improvisations inspired by nature, first without speech and then later sounds and speech are added. Students will also work with texts and different ways to deliver them.

**Færni/Skill:** Pronunciation. Performance. Reading aloud in Icelandic.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

### Ljóðaspegil • Poetry in Overview

**Hrafnhildur Hafberg**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 30**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1- A2.

Students will be introduced to Icelandic Poetry from the old Hávamál to modern poetry. Poetry from different eras of Icelandic history will be examined with special emphasis on how literature reflects people and society in different times. Students will also try out reading poems aloud and delivering them orally.

**Færni/Skill:** Reading. Listening. Vocabulary. Knowledge of Icelandic Poets.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

**Ímynd og raunveruleiki • Image and Reality****Ólafur Guðsteinn Kristjánsson****Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 30****Staður/Place:** Núpur, University Centre.**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1-A2.**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

In this course the Icelandic self-image is examined. Icelanders sometimes like to project a rather strange and glossy outward image that portrays them as tough, creative, independent and rather handsome people that are in tune with nature and like to emphasize this by telling stories of the hidden people, trolls and ghosts. This course will examine this self image and how it relates to reality; this will be done for example by looking at the band Sigurrós and the writings of Halldór Laxness the Nobel laureate. A somewhat different picture is also presented by taking a look at the work of Rob Hornstra, a Dutch photographer.

**Færni/Skill:** Listening. Understanding. Culture.**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.**Barnasögur • Children's Stories****Ólafur Guðsteinn Kristjánsson****Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 16****Staður/Place:** Núpur, University Centre.**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

This course has emphasis on understanding and pronunciation and students will read selected texts and are then asked to answer questions from them. Questions will often be quite humorous and often concern many factors of life in Icelandic society such as family names and food. The children's stories that will be read from are for example *Pipi Langstrom* by Astrid Lindgren and *The Ugly Fish* by Árni Árnason og Halldór Bragason.

**Færni/Skill:** Listening, Vocabulary. Pronunciation. Questions.**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Mostly Icelandic.

**Vera á eða fara til? • To Stay or Go?****Ólafur Guðsteinn Kristjánsson****Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 20****Staður/Place:** Núpur, University Centre.**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Extensive knowledge of grammar is not required and this course is good for both beginners and intermediate students. Level A1-A2.**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Icelandic has sometimes been called the Latin of the north and with good reasons. Surrounding verbs and adjectives change most nouns and to be able to communicate efficiently requires training and quick thinking. In this course the students will work with the names of places in Iceland, how they are changed by inflection and how to use them in common speech with the correct verbs and prepositions. Basically this course is about teaching the students to express where they are at the moment and where they are going. Real places and place names in Iceland will play a big role in this course and there is special emphasis on the local region Vestfirðir so that the newfound knowledge can be used right away.

**Færni/Skill:** Inflection. Grammar. Vocabulary.**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.**Spilum! • Card games and board games****Ólöf Bergmannsdóttir****Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 12****Staður/Place:** Núpur.**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Some vocabulary and knowledge of grammar. Level A2-B1.**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students will play different board games and card games in Icelandic to increase their vocabulary and sense for the language. These will be games that students might be familiar with in their own languages but also games such as The Icelandic Board Game which is designed for learning Icelandic. The aim of the Icelandic Board Game is to travel around Iceland, beginning in Keflavik-airport and ending in Reykjavík.

**Færni/Skill:** Listening, Vocabulary. Reading. Pronunciation. Grammar. Questions. Following instructions in Icelandic.**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

## **Myndaorðabók • Picture Vocabulary**

**Ólöf Bergmannsdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 12**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre/Fræðslumiðstöð (first floor).

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Guided self-study: Students will get the opportunity to access a vocabulary-training program owned by Fræðslumiðstöð Vestfirja. They will train their vocabulary in guided self-studies. The program is based on pictures and is interactive.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

## **Búðarall • Shopping Rally**

**Ólöf Bergmannsdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 20**

**Staður/Place:** University Centre (start).

**Prerequisites:** Students have to be able to ask questions and know the numbers. Level A1-A2.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students will be divided into small groups and sent on a mission in downtown Ísafjörður. At the first stop, they will receive a map and instructions on where to go. At each stop, the students have a task they will have to complete, e.g. find a particular person in the store and ask a question or find out how much a particular item costs. Students will also have to mark the places on the map. The answers to all the questions will be submitted to the course leader when the last task has been completed.

**Færni/Skill:** Understanding simple instructions and the ability to ask for simple information in Icelandic. Vocabulary regarding the town centre, money and shopping.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

**Minningargreinar • Necrologies****Peter Weiss****Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 30****Staður/Place:** University Centre.**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Vocabulary of family members and relationships. Level A1-A2.

Students will read necrologies (obituaries) from the newspaper Morgunblaðið. In a necrology, there is always information on the life of the person who has died: place of birth, family and work. It can be challenging to understand the makeup of Icelandic families, however, students in this elective will learn to make sense of this complicated system by making family trees and understanding the relationship within families as well as in Icelandic society. They will learn to understand these written texts and be able to pronounce a similar text of their own.

**Færni/Skill:** Reading and oral comprehension, writing, vocabulary.**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.**Vestfirðir í dag • Westfjords Today****Peter Weiss****Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 100****Staður/Place:** Núpur.**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

This elective is a pure lecture, where students will learn about the development and the problems of the most remote region of Iceland. Power point will be in English to facilitate understanding, but the lecture itself will be only in Icelandic.

**Færni/Skill:** Listening.**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

### **Smáauglýsingar • Advertisements**

**Ragnheiður M. Guðmundsdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 20**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur, University Centre.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students will read and understand different types of advertisements, for example for rooms, cars and other things they could need during the winter. By that they will gain practical vocabulary for every day use.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary training.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

### **Bökum! • Let's bake!**

**Ragnheiður M. Guðmundsdóttir**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants: 10**

**Staður/Place:** Núpur, kitchen.

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** None. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students will learn basic vocabulary to be able to follow baking recipes and other recipes in Icelandic in addition to vocabulary concerning kitchen utilities. With the help of their teachers students will bake simple pastry in the kitchen at Núpur, and enjoy the result.

**Færni/Skill:** Vocabulary training.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic.

## Íslenskar kvikmyndir • Icelandic Films

**Attention:** There is no need to sign up for this course, just show up.

**Helga Hilmisdóttir/Ólafur Guðsteinn Kristjánsson**

**Fjöldi/Number of Participants:** -

**Staður/Place:** Núpur (dining hall)

**Forkröfur/Prerequisites:** Some understanding in Icelandic. Level A1.

**Hæfniviðmið/Learning outcomes:**

Students will watch selected Icelandic films. An instructor briefly introduces each film. Films will be in Icelandic (but with English subtitles). After the film there is time for discussion.

**Færni/Skill:** Listening. Vocabulary. Film culture.

**Tungumál/Language of teaching:** Icelandic and English.

### ***Á köldum klaka/Cold Fever (1995)***

A Japanese businessman travels to Iceland and has a series of misadventures while venturing to a remote area to perform a traditional burial ritual where his parents died several years back.\*

Director: Friðrik Þór Friðriksson

Writers: Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, Jim Stark

Stars: Masatoshi Nagase, Lili Taylor and Fisher Stevens

### ***Börn Náttúrunnar/Children of the Nature (1991)***

Old Þorgeir must leave his home far off in the Icelandic 'countryside' and move into a home for senior citizens in Reykjavik. There he meets an old friend from his childhood, Stella. Þorgeir soon becomes unhappy living there and together with Stella he steals a jeep. Together they leave the city for Stella's old home in northwestern Iceland. A drama who asks us: how important is it to have a long life if you have to leave everything that has a meaning for you?\*

Director: Friðrik Þór Friðriksson

Writers: Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, Einar Guðmundsson

Stars: Gísli Halldórsson, Sigríður Hagalín and Baldvin Halldórsson

### ***Englar alheimsins/Angels of the Universe (2000)***

Páll is an artistic and sensitive young man. Getting dumped by his girlfriend, Dagný, triggers his descent into madness. We follow him on his way to inevitable doom; at home with his parents who finally can't cope, and in the mental institution, Kleppur.\*

Director: Friðrik Þór Friðriksson

Writer: Einar Guðmundsson (novel)

Stars: Ingvar Eggert Sigurðsson, Baltasar Kormákur and Hilmir Snær Guðnason

### ***Sódoma Reykjavík/Remote Control (1992)***

Since his mother wants to watch TV, Axel, a young auto-mechanic, must recover her remote control, accidentally taken by his punk sister Maja. During his quest, he becomes involved in the conflict between Moli, the liquor smuggler, and Aggi, a night club owner who wants to be Iceland's first mafia boss.\*

Director: Óskar Jónasson

Writer: Óskar Jónasson

Stars: Björn Jörundur Friðbjörnsson, Þórarinn Eyfjörð and Thorarinn Oskar Thorarinsson

### ***Mýrin/Jar City (2006)***

A murder opens up a bleak trail of long buried secrets and small town corruption for a worn out police detective and his squad.\*

Director: Baltasar Kormákur

Writers: Baltasar Kormákur (screenplay), Arnaldur Indriðason (novel)

Stars: Ingvar Eggert Sigurðsson, Ágústa Eva Erlendsdóttir and Björn Hlynur Haraldsson



***Nói Albínói/Noi the Albino (2003)***

Is he the village idiot or a genius in disguise? 17 year old Noi drifts through life on a remote fjord in the north of Iceland. In winter, the fjord is cut off from the outside world, surrounded by ominous mountains and buried under a shroud of snow. Noi dreams of escaping from this white-walled prison with Iris, a city girl who works in a local gas station. But his clumsy attempts at escape spiral out of control and end in complete failure. Only a natural disaster will shatter Noi's universe and offer him a window into a better world.\*

Director: Dagur Kári

Writer: Dagur Kári

Stars: Tómas Lemarquis, Þróstur Leó Gunnarsson and Elín Hansdóttir

***Útlaginn/Outlaw: The Saga of Gísli (1981)***

The saga of Gísli Súrsson) is one of the Sagas of Icelanders. It tells the story of Gísli, a tragic hero who must kill one of his brothers-in-law to avenge another brother-in-law. Gísli is outlawed and forced to stay on the run for thirteen years before he is finally hunted down and killed. The saga was likely written in the 13th century, it describes events taking place in the period 940-980.\*

Director: Ágúst Guðmundsson

Writer: Ágúst Guðmundsson

Stars: Tinna Gunnlaugsdóttir, Arnar Jónsson and Kristján Jóhann Jónsson

\* Heimild: IMDb *The Internet Movie Database* ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))