

Icelandic as second language



Bifröst University preparation program

Curriculum

Issued for students who start in the schoolyear 2024-2025

Curriculum title:

Icelandic as second language – Bifröst University preparatory program

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About the program

This curriculum describes the Icelandic as second language program at Bifröst University. The program is designed in accordance with Icelandic rules no.835/2019 on preparatory studies for Universities.

Bifröst University offers a program in Icelandic as second language at levels A1.2 to B1.2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, CEFR. The program is designed as part time studies for two years so students can study alongside work or other studies. Students in the University gateway program take both programs simultaneously.

The program is designed to prepare students who do not have Icelandic as their first language for university studies instructed in Icelandic and participation in Icelandic society.

Admission criteria

Those who have abilities in Icelandic at level A1.2 on the CEFR can start the Icelandic as second language program at Bifröst University.

First time applicants take a language assessment test so they can start at the appropriate level. Applicants might have to wait until a course at their ability level is available.

Program description

The program is structured so that those who have abilities at level A1.2 when they start can reach level B1.2 when they have completed in two years. Students need to pass assessment in order to start each level so the studies can take longer or shorter depending on the student's progression. Each ability level is divided into two six-week courses that each is equivalent to 5 credit units at the upper secondary level. Students can also take courses from the University Gateway program in order to support their language studies. Typical progression of a student who starts at level A1.2 would be as shown in the following table:

| Level A (first year) | Level B (second year) |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Fall session 1 (six weeks) | Fall session 1 (six weeks) |
| Icelandic as second language A1.2 | Icelandic as second language B1.1 first part |
| Fall session 2 (six weeks) | Fall session 2 (six weeks) |
| Icelandic as second language A2.1 first part | Icelandic as second language B1.1 second part |
| Spring session 1 (six weeks) | Spring session 1 (six weeks) |
| Icelandic as second language A2.1 second part | Icelandic as second language B1.2 first part |
| Spring session 2 (six weeks) | Spring session 2 (six weeks) |
| Icelandic as second language A2.2 first part | Icelandic as second language B1.2 second part |
| Summer session | Sumarlota Summer session |
| Icelandic as second language A2.2 second part | Academic Icelandic. B.2 |

Information on course offerings is available on our [website](#).

Teaching methods

Bifröst University is the leading online University in Iceland, and teaching methods will reflect that. Students will access recorded lectures and instructions, learning material and assignments in the University's learning management system. Weekly online classes will be in each course. In all programs at Bifröst University there is an emphasis on cooperative learning and real projects. Assessment is based on regular assignments, projects and tests that train students to work independently. Cooperation and team work are also important parts of the studies. Teachers use flipped learning in their instructions. In the learning process students are trained to use their creative imagination as well as analysis and critical skills. The role of the instructor is to facilitate learning by providing continuous guidance and feedback on student work. However, the student him- or herself is responsible for using the resources provided in the program for his or her own success.

Assessment

First time applicants take an assessment test to evaluate their ability level. Students also need to pass assessment to progress between ability levels. Each course also includes various assignments, projects and other assessment activities that are designed to enhance student's abilities. They participate in discussion and work on thematic projects. Students receive regular verbal and written feedback they can use to work on their progression.

Opportunities for further studies upon completion of the Icelandic as Second language

Students who pass assessment and have reached abilities at level B1.2 on the CEFR can start University programs instructed in Icelandic at Bifröst University if they fulfill other admission requirements of the academic departments.

Those who do not fulfill general admission requirements for university studies can apply for the [University gateway program](#) and take the two programs together.