

Bifröst University Teaching Policy

On the Bifröst University Teaching Policy

It is the policy of Bifröst University to offer outstanding education that provides students with extensive knowledge in their field of study, enhances their broad-mindedness and critical thinking and strengthens their creativity. Emphasis is laid on enhancing students' ability to employ professional work methods, on applying theories and concepts in problem-solving and on enhancing their ability to find solutions for concrete problems. Bifröst University thereby aims to provide students with the best possible preparation for participation in democratic society and the economy, or for continuing studies. Bifröst University fulfils the requirements made for studies in those disciplines for which the University has been accredited.

Teaching methods and organisation of teaching

Teaching at Bifröst University involves diverse teaching methods that emphasise autonomous work methods for students, with solid academic support from teachers. Bifröst University therefore expects students to engage in extensive project work, which sharpens students' initiative and responsibility, as well as their cooperative skills when group work is at issue. Diversity and professionalism are emphasised in course assessment. There shall likewise be congruence between teaching methods, course assessment and intended learning outcomes.

Bifröst University adopts teaching methods based on lectures, which teachers publish on the University learning management system, and on rigorous project work and examinations or final projects. Get-togethers with teachers are offered in on-site sessions in the University calendar, and in Teams meetings at the beginning and end of teaching.

Bifröst University stresses that students should use face-to-face time with their teachers for project work or discussions on course-related topics, as applicable, and watch teachers' lectures online. A point is made of providing students with internship opportunities, at both the undergraduate and Masters level.

Teachers

Bifröst University endeavours to hire competent teachers with a strong academic background, organisational skills that allow them to prepare their teaching well and the desire and ability to impart their knowledge in a systematic way that fosters a positive and creative environment.

Teachers at Bifröst University shall display initiative in pursuing innovation and developing their instruction methods. Bifröst University makes a point of providing teachers with opportunities for continuous education and training in their respective disciplines. Teachers should in the same manner acquaint themselves with rules on learning and teaching, along with the University

teachers' guide, and should comply with all the conditions presented therein

Teaching and links with research and development projects

Bifröst University encourages teachers to link their research and/or field of expertise with their teaching activities, to the extent that this is possible. Students at Bifröst University have the opportunity to participate in research or development projects under teacher supervision, as applicable at any given time, and thus receive training in scholarly work methods.

Teaching and links with the economy and society

A special point is made of linking student learning and project work with the economy and society. Bifröst University aims to provide students with opportunities to complete real-life assignments for businesses, public agencies, NGOs and municipalities which will prepare students still better for future participation in the various economic sectors after the completion of their studies. Bifröst University places no less emphasis on social projects that aim to benefit the local community, including regional development projects, guided by principles of sustainability and social responsibility.

Teaching and international collaboration

Student and staff exchange is an integral part of the University's operations, giving students the opportunity to complete part of their studies at a university abroad. In the same vein, it is the policy of Bifröst University to provide its employees with opportunities to participate in teacher and staff exchange. Bifröst University likewise endeavours to increase collaboration with universities outside Iceland by way of joint course offerings or lines of study funded by third-party grants.

Teaching facilities and working conditions for teachers and students

Bifröst University endeavours to provide good working conditions for teaching and learning, not least in terms of its buildings, technology, services and learning management system. The University endeavours to provide good service for teachers and students that solidly supports them in their teaching and learning.

Quality management for learning and teaching

The University's learning offer and structure of study programmes are reviewed periodically with a view to maintaining and enhancing the strength of learning, to meeting the needs of students to the extent possible and ensuring them a good foundation for participating in employment and in society, or for graduate study.

Bifröst University has a representative on the Quality Board for Icelandic Higher Education, and the University's operations are assessed on a regular basis, through both internal evaluation and periodic external evaluation of the quality of learning and teaching. Student evaluation of teaching is conducted periodically for individual courses, and the results of teaching evaluation are

presented to teachers each semester. The teacher and the respective supervisor shall subsequently examine what elements require improvement and what is well done. Academic Services is responsible for uniformity of presentation for course plans and student assessment for individual courses through systematic quality control for all departments of the University. All study programmes have Programme leaders who work in the relevant department. The Programme leader supervises and monitors the relevant study programme, has an overview over individual courses, their content, and is a mentor for sessional teachers. He takes the initiative on changes in consultation with the Head of Department.

The Code of Ethics and ethical guidelines

Teachers and students at Bifröst University must familiarise themselves with and abide by the University's Code of Ethics. Students bear full responsibility for their own studies and study progress. Relations between teachers and students shall be characterised by mutual courtesy, integrity and respect.

Implementation and follow-up

The academic departments of Bifröst University and Academic Services are responsible for the implementation of the Bifröst University Teaching Policy and follow-up.

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This document is a translation. In the event of any discrepancies between the translation and the original text, the original shall take precedence.