

University Gateway



Bifröst University preparation program

Cooperation, initiative, responsibility

University Gateway curriculum

Issued for students who start in the schoolyear 2023-2024

Curriculum title:

University Gateway – Bifröst University preparatory program whose first language is not Icelandic

Contact person:

Head of University Gateway

Number of credit units:

70 credit units at the Icelandic upper-secondary school level

April 2023

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University Gateway – about the program

This curriculum describes the content of the University Gateway program at Bifröst University, as well as methods of teaching and assessment. The program is designed in accordance with Icelandic rules nr.835/2019 on preparatory studies for Universities. The program is 70 credit units at the Icelandic upper-secondary school level – which is equal to one year of full time studies. However, the program is structured so that students spread their studies over two or more years. Those whose Icelandic is not their first language are expected to take the Icelandic as second language program alongside the University Gateway.

Emphases of the National Curriculum for the Icelandic Secondary school level (í. Aðalnámskrá Framhaldsskóla) are reflected in the University Gateway program. This includes integrating into the courses the six pillars of Icelandic Educational Policy for the elementary and secondary school levels. The six pillars are literacy, sustainability, health and wellbeing, democracy and human rights, equality, and creativity. The values of Bifröst University are also reflected in the program. The values are initiative, cooperation and responsibility.

The objective of the University Gateway program is to prepare students for university studies in Icelandic in the fields of Humanities and Social Science and provide them with knowledge and skills that are valuable for professional development. Students graduate from the University Gateway Program with knowledge, skills and competences of level 3 of the Icelandic Qualification Framework of Education (ISQF), and level 4 of the European Qualification Framework (EQF).

The University Gateway program emphasises critical thinking and student initiative. The teaching is mostly online, but once during each semester the students and teachers meet for an on-campus workshop.

Admission requirements

The University Gateway program is for adult learners. In order to be eligible for studies in the program you will need to have an Icelandic identification number (í. kennitala). In addition you will need to fulfill any of the following academic requirements:

- Completion of a learning program at ISQF level 2 / EQF level 3
- Completion of the equivalent of 100 credit units at the Icelandic secondary school level
- Having completed the [Menntastoðir](#) program and having at least 2-3 years of work experience.

Foreign educational documents are evaluated by Enic natic Iceland to assess if admission requirements are fulfilled.

Students in the University Gateway program may be eligible for a student loan from the Icelandic student loan fund. Information about the eligibility are available on their website.

According to information from the Icelandic directorate of immigration, studies in the University Gateway program does not make you eligible for a residence permit for students.

Program description

The University Gateway program is designed in order to prepare students for University education in Icelandic in the fields of Humanities and Social Science as well as providing them with valuable skills for professional development.

Core subjects in the program are mathematics and english, and students are expected to take the Icelandic as second language program alongside the University Gateway. Students take courses in information technology, social sciences as well as the courses My path in life. Students take one of three electivis: Accounting and financial literacy, Stofnun og rekstur fyrirtækja or Landið mitt Ísland.

Part of the program is instructed in English and part in Icelandic. Courses in the first year are instructed in English. Students study Icelandic as second language alongside the program. When they have reached level A.2.2. on the European Language framework they can take courses instructed in Icelandic in the Gateway program. Most courses in the second year are instructed in Icelandic.

Students have the option for an additional Teams meeting once a week for study support and help with Icelandic vocabulary related to their studies.

Most courses are taught in six week sessions with an additional seventh week for assessment. However, some of the courses are shorter or longer due to the nature of the subjects. Students get a week-long break between sessions. This structure helps students to focus on the subjects they are taking. Students attend campus workshops once each semester.

Study progression

The University Gateway program is 70 credit units at the Icelandic secondary school level, which is equal to full time studies in one year. However, the program is spread so students take it in two years, as they are expected to take the Icelandic as second language program alongside the Gateway program. However, students can take the program at a slower or faster pace, but they need to have reached level A.2.2. in Icelandic in order to take courses instructed in Icelandic.

Students take total of 50 credits of mandatory courses. They take at least 15 credits in English, of which 10 are mandatory courses, and they choose between English as Second Language and Academic English. Those who do not have English as their first language take English as second language, and those who have English as their furst language take Academic English. 15 credit units are electives. Here is the program structure for the University Gateway program for students who start in Fall 2023. Course descriptions are here on our [curriculum website](#).

| 1 st year Fall semester | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Intensive session. Two weeks | Credits |
| My Path in Life 1 (all semester) | 1 |
| Information Technology | 3 |

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|---|---|
| Session 1. Six weeks | |
| Icelandic Culture | 5 |
| English as Second Language (B1) (restricted elective) | 5 |
| Session 2. Six weeks | |
| English: Literature, grammar and expression (B2) | 5 |

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|--|---|
| 1st year Spring semester | |
| Session 1. Six weeks | |
| English: Vocabulary and composition (B2) | 5 |
| Session 2. Six weeks | |
| Academic English (C1) (restricted elective) | 5 |
| Accounting and Financial Literacy (elective) | 5 |

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|--|---|
| 2nd year Fall semester | |
| Session 1. Six weeks | |
| Skapandi og gagnrýnin hugsun | 5 |
| Stærðfræði 1 | 5 |
| Session 2. Six weeks | |
| Stærðfræði 2 | 5 |
| Landið mitt Ísland (elective) | 5 |

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|--|---|
| 2nd year Spring semester | |
| All semester: Leiðin mín í lífinu 2 | 1 |
| Session 1. Six weeks | |
| Stærðfræði 3 | 5 |
| Samfélagsspegill | 5 |
| Session 2. Six weeks | |
| Accounting and Financial Literacy (elective) | 5 |
| Stofnun og rekstur fyrirtækja (elective) | 5 |
| Tölfræði | 5 |

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. In all programs at Bifröst University there is an emphasis on cooperative learning and real projects that are connected to the community, businesses and organizations. Assessment is based on regular assignments and projects 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 himself is responsible for using the resources provided in the program for his own success.

Assessment

Assessment in the University Gateway program is largely cumulative. Students have regular assignments for work in throughout each course. They participate in discussion and work on thematic projects. Each course has either a final project or a final exam. Exams can be written or oral. Teachers are expected to provide much feedback and should be able to provide students with explanation and criteria for grading.

Opportunities for further studies at the completion of the University Gateway program

A student who successfully completes the University Gateway program and has reached level B.1.2 in Icelandic as second language fulfills the admission requirements for undergraduate studies in all departments of Bifröst University. Other universities have their own admission requirements and students who plan to apply to other universities are encouraged to seek information about the admission requirements of that University before starting the University Gateway program.

Competency criteria

Completion of the University Gateway program is at level 3 of the Icelandic Qualification framework of education (ISQF) and level 4 of the European Qualification framework (EQF). The program is designed based on Icelandic rules nr. 835/2019 on preparatory studies for Universities. Student work is evaluated in standardised credit units of the Icelandic secondary school system. One credit unit equals 18-24 hours of student work. At the completion of the program students should be able to show the following knowledge, skills and competencies.

Knowledge

The student:

- Has basic knowledge in the core subjects of the secondary school system and is able to use it for his work and further studies
- Has basic understanding of humanities and social science that prepares him for university studies in those fields
- Has a vocabulary extensive enough to express his knowledge and opinions and provide sound arguments for them
- Is able to read social and cultural environment and understands differences in cultures
- Understands the connections between school and work
- Understands the role of an active and responsible citizen in a knowledge community
- Has knowledge of international science community and understands its connection to the Icelandic research community
- Understands the nature and execution of democratic decisions in different situations.
- Has vocabulary and knowledge of a foreign language that he can use to further his studies

Skills

The student:

- Is able to express himself in a clear, critical and creative way about basic subjects in the field of humanities and social science
- Can use the appropriate technology and methods used in the fields of humanities and social sciences, including mathematics
- Can show initiative and independence in work methods, problem solving and knowledge building
- Is able to participate in discussion about social issues in a responsible way
- Can communicate and understanding of the core subjects of the secondary school level and basic subjects of humanities and social science

Competencies

The student:

- Can express his opinions and explain his work methods in a responsible and critical way
- Can express himself and used material and information in a foreign language whether it is in connection to work og further studies
- Shows responsibility in work, in creation and whn knowledge is used.
- Can use his knowledge to detect new opportunities in his environment and in order to take on further studies
- Is able to make a critical assmessment of his own worj
- Is an active and responsible citizen in a democratic society • Can understand his education in an international context
- Can connect his knowledge and skills with technology and scienc