

Faculty of Social Work

School of Social Sciences



Educating Social Workers in Iceland

Social Work has been taught at the University of Iceland since 1981 and is the only university in Iceland to offer education within this field. In 2008 Social Work became an independent faculty within the School of Social Sciences.

The faculty offers one graduate and various post graduate degrees as can be seen in the list below. In order to become a certified Social worker students have to finish the BA degree in Social Work (180 ECTS) and then they can apply for the 2 year MA (120 ECTS) in Social Work with professional recognition. Due to limited number of practice placements the faculty can only accept a limited number of students each year.

Career opportunities

Students who have finished the professional degree pursue various careers as social workers within the welfare, health and school systems. Students who graduate with a professional degree all have good career opportunities as in Iceland is in great need for social workers.



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

About the Faculty of Social Work

The Faculty of Social Work is a strong faculty within the School of Social Sciences at the University of Iceland. There are roughly 490 students studying at the faculty, taught by 9 tenured lecturers, 6 adjunct lecturers, 10 sessional teachers and roughly 40 field practice teachers.

The Dean of the faculty is Guðný Björk Eydal and the vice Dean is Steinunn Hrafnadóttir.

The faculty operates the Centre for Children and Family Research (RBF), The Icelandic Center for Third Sector Research and is a member of The Social Science Research Institute. One of the natures of Social Work is collaboration between different systems, both in the academic field and labour market. Faculty of Social Work works with the social system, health care and school systems.

Research

Lecturers at the faculty carry out research in diverse areas closely associated with the professional field. Emphasis is placed on research on Icelandic society within an international context.



The main research areas include: Child protection, social services, professional development in social work, family and social policy, maternity/paternity leave and child care, child and family issues (including family ties, divorce, child poverty), the position of seniors and issues of aging, guidance, violence, consumer consulting, long-term unemployment and rehabilitation, volunteering and open associations, management and structure of social and health services.

Study programmes offered by the Faculty of Social Work

The Faculty offers one study programme on the graduate level which is taught partly in English, Nordic Master's Programme in Gerontology (NordMag). In addition the Faculty offers the following graduate study programmes taught in Icelandic:

- BA in Social Work
- MA in Social Work with professional recognition (120 ECTS)
- MA in Social Work
- MA in Family Therapy
- MA in Gerontology
- Postgraduate diploma in Child Protection (30 ECTS)
- Postgraduate diploma in Gerontology (30 ECTS)
- Postgraduate diploma in Social Work (30 ECTS)
- PhD in Social Work (210 ECTS)