

= Education in the Faroe Islands =

The levels of education in the Faroe Islands are primary , secondary and higher education . Most institutions are funded by the state ; there are few private schools in the country . Education is compulsory for 9 years between the ages of 7 and 16 .

In the twelfth century education in the Faroe Islands was provided by the Catholic Church . The Church of Denmark took over education after the Protestant Reformation . Modern educational institutions started operating in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and developed throughout the twentieth century . The status of the Faroese language in education was a significant issue for decades , until it was accepted as a language of instruction in 1938 . Initially education was administered and regulated by Denmark . In 1979 responsibilities on educational issues started transferring to the Faroese authorities , a procedure which was completed in 2002 .

Compulsory education consists of seven years of primary education , and two years of lower secondary education ; it is public , free of charge , provided by the respective municipalities , and is called the Fólkaskúli in Faroese . The Fólkaskúli also provides optional preschool education as well as the tenth year of education that is a prerequisite to get admitted to upper secondary education . Students that complete compulsory education are allowed to continue education in a vocational school , where they can have job @-@ specific training and education . Since fishing industry is an important part of country 's economy , maritime schools are an important part of Faroese education . Upon completion of the tenth year of Fólkaskúli , students can continue to upper secondary education which consists of several different types of schools . Higher education is offered at the University of the Faroe Islands ; a part of Faroese youth moves abroad to pursue higher education , mainly in Denmark . Other forms of education comprise adult education and music schools . The structure of the Faroese educational system bears resemblances with its Danish counterpart .

The main language of instruction up to the lower secondary school is Faroese , while Danish is the main language of instruction in upper secondary schools . Education in the Faroe Islands is administered and regulated by the Ministry of Education , Research and Culture (Faroese : Mentamálaráðið) , with Rigmor Dam being the minister since 15 September 2015 .

= = Background = =

The Ministry of Education , Research and Culture has the jurisdiction of educational responsibility in the Faroe Islands . Since the Faroe Islands is a constituent country of the Danish Realm , education in the Faroe Islands is influenced and has similarities with the Danish educational system ; there is an agreement on educational cooperation between the Faroe Islands and Denmark . In 2012 the public spending on education was 8 @. @ 1 % of GDP . The municipalities are responsible for the school buildings for children 's education in Fólkaskúlin from age 1st grade to 9th or 10th grade (age 7 to 16) . In November 2013 1 @, @ 615 people , or 6 @. @ 8 % of the total number of employees , were employed in the education sector . Of the 31 @, @ 270 people aged 25 and above 1 @, @ 717 (5 @. @ 5 %) have gained at least a Master 's degree or a Ph.D. , 8 @, @ 428 (27 %) have gained a B.Sc. or a Diploma , 11 @, @ 706 (37 @. @ 4 %) have finished upper secondary education while 9 @, @ 419 (30 @. @ 1 %) has only finished primary school and have no other education . There is no data on literacy in the Faroe Islands , but the CIA Factbook states that it is probably as high as in Denmark proper , i.e. 99 % .

The majority of students in upper secondary schools are women , although men represent the majority in higher education institutions . In addition , most young Faroese people who relocate to other countries to study are women . Out of 8 @, @ 535 holders of bachelor degrees , 4 @, @ 796 (56 @. @ 2 %) have had their education in the Faroe Islands , 2 @, @ 724 (31 @. @ 9 %) in Denmark , 543 in both the Faroe Islands and Denmark , 94 (1 @. @ 1 %) in Norway 80 in the United Kingdom and the rest in other countries . Out of 1 @, @ 719 holders of master 's degrees or PhDs , 1 @, @ 249 (72 @. @ 7 %) have had their education in Denmark , 87 (5 @. @ 1 %) in the United Kingdom , 86 (5 %) in both the Faroe Islands and Denmark , 64 (3 @. @ 7 %) in the Faroe Islands , 60 (3 @. @ 5 %) in Norway and the rest in other countries (mostly EU and Nordic) .

Since there is no medical school in the Faroe Islands , all medical students have to study abroad ; as of 2013 , out of a total of 96 medical students , 76 studied in Denmark , 19 in Poland and 1 in Hungary .

= = = Language = = =

Although the Faroese language is designated as the country 's principal language , the Home Rule Act of the Faroe Islands states that the Danish language " is to be learnt well and carefully " . Up to ninth grade , most school material is in Faroese ; there are Danish classes since third grade . In upper secondary education this pattern is reversed ; courses are taught in Danish , except the Faroese language courses . The Faroese language is taught 64 hours per week , overall , throughout compulsory education , while Danish is taught 29 hours per week ; exams in both languages are equal in length . English language courses start from 4th grade and they are taught for 60 hours annually at that grade , 90 hours in 5th grade , 120 hours in 6th , 7th , 8th and 9th grade ; pupils who chose to take the 10th grade have the option to get another 120 hours of English lessons .

= = History = =

In the Middle Ages there was education in Kirkjubøur offered by the Catholic Church . According to the Sverris saga , Sverre of Norway received schooling by Roe the bishop of Faroe Islands ; later speeches of his , show that he was taught Latin , a feature revealed by his knowledge of the Decretum Gratiani . The school in Kirkjubøur continued until the Protestant Reformation . After the reformation Latin Schools were established in the Danish kingdom , extending over today 's Denmark , Iceland , Greenland , Faroe Islands , Skåneland and Gotland in Sweden , and Øsel (now Saaremaa) in Estonia . The Latin School in the Faroe Islands is first mentioned in 1547 , in a letter to Thomas Koppen who got the Faroe Islands as a fief .

In 1870 the Faroese Teachers School (Faroese : Føroya Læraraskúli) was established to offer training and qualification for teachers . The first maritime schools were founded as private institutions in Tórshavn in 1893 . The first Evening School was founded in 1904 , with joint financing by the Løgting and Denmark . In 1912 a Danish Royal decree established compulsory primary education , with the provision that teaching was in Danish . That decision led to tensions in education as Faroese teachers Louis Zachariassen and Jákup Dahl continued teaching in Faroese and were persecuted for doing so ; the issue was resolved in 1938 when Faroese was recognized as equal to Danish in Faroese schools . In 1927 the Danish government , upon the request of the Faroese parliament , established a public navigational school in Tórshavn , followed by a marine engineers school in 1929 .

The Faroese Nursing School was established in 1960 by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs ; it traces its roots back in 1910 when nurses were trained in the hospital of Tórshavn . The University of the Faroe Islands , was established in 1965 ; Klaus H. Jacobsen , a Dane , was appointed as the first lecturer in 1970 to teach courses for the examen philosophicum , a prerequisite at the time to pursue higher education in Denmark . After Denmark abandoned the examen philosophicum in 1971 , on the initiative of Jacobsen and Kjartan Hoydal the university accepted its first full @-@ time science students in the autumn of 1972 . Education in the Faroe Islands was administered by Denmark under the Home Rule Act , until in the late 1990s its administration was transferred to the Faroese government as a matter of local interest .

In 1979 responsibility on educational matters started transferring from Denmark to the Faroese authorities , with the Faroese government getting full economic responsibility of education in 1988 . By 1996 education became the responsibility of the Faroese government ; this procedure was completed in 2002 , preceded by the establishment of the Ministry of Education , Research and Culture . The administration of the Nursing School was passed to the Ministry of Education , Research and Culture in 2000 and the degree was recognized as a bachelor 's degree in 2003 . In 2005 the marine schools of navigation and engineering merged to form the Centre of Maritime

Studies and Engineering . On 1 August 2008 the Faroese School of Education and the Faroese School of Nursing were incorporated into the University becoming its departments .

= = Structure = =

= = = Primary and lower secondary education = = =

Compulsory education in the Faroe Islands is provided for nine years from the age of 7 to 16 . Primary education in the Faroe Islands commences at the beginning of the school year in the calendar year in which the child has reached the age of seven years . It is part of the compulsory education , and it lasts at least seven years , Primary education is provided by 51 Fólkaskúli and 3 Free Schools ; some of these Fólkaskúli also provide optional preschool education . In 2014 there were 5 @, @ 205 students attending primary education in the Faroe Islands .

Upon completion of the first seven years of primary education , students can continue their studies in lower secondary education in the 8th and 9th grade and if they wish to , they can also take the 10th year of Fólkaskúli . Two thirds of the pupils from the 9th grade chose to take the 10th grade of Fólkaskúlin also . Lower secondary education lasts two to three years and , as with primary education , it is provided by Fólkaskúli and is free of charge . The first two years are part of the compulsory education , while the third year is optional , though a prerequisite to continue to the upper high school . In 2014 there were 1 @, @ 932 students in lower secondary education .

The final examination from the Fólkaskúli gives access to upper secondary education like " Studentaskúlin " , " Fiskivinnuskúlin " or other similar secondary schools which takes three years or (Higher Preparatory Examination (HF)) which takes two years . It also gives access to the one year FHS Yrkisnám from Føroya Handilsskúli (Faroese business college) or the 3 @-@ year secondary education Búskaparbreytin (Economy secondary school) from Føroya Handilsskúli .

= = = Upper secondary education = = =

Upper secondary education is offered by eight schools that offer five different type of courses . The Studentaskúli is an academically oriented three @-@ year @-@ long school . Upon completion students can apply for admission in higher education institutions . This type of education is offered at three schools : Føroya Studentaskúli og HF @-@ Skeið in Tórshavn , Studentaskúlin og HF @-@ skeiðið í Eysturoy in Kambsdalur and Miðnámsskúlin í Suðuroy in Suðuroy . Another type of upper secondary education is HF , which is a 2 @-@ year academically oriented course for adults , that is offered at Føroya Studentaskúli og HF @-@ Skeið and Studentaskúlin og HF @-@ skeiðið í Eysturoy . The Business College (Faroese : Føroya Handilsskúli) , also called FHS , offers a three @-@ year curriculum and its completion allows its alumni to continue to higher education . It is also possible to take a one @-@ year education from the Business College . There are two Business Colleges , one in Tórshavn and one Kambsdalur . The Technical college (Faroese : Tekniski skúlin) offers courses on several technical fields along with apprenticeship . It is offered in two schools , one in Tórshavn and one in Klaksvík . Its alumni can pursue higher education in technical sciences or take higher education courses of the Technical College . The Fisheries College (Faroese : Fiskivinnuskúlin) in Vestmanna . It focuses in the fishing industry and food science and upon its completion students can continue in higher education studies related to the fishing industry .

= = = Vocational education = = =

= = = = Maritime education = = = =

There are two vocational maritime schools in the Faroe Islands : The Centre of Maritime Studies and Engineering (Faroese : Vinnuháskúlin) in Tórshavn and the Sjónam Maritime School (Faroese

: Sjó nám) in Klaksvík .

Vinnuháskúlin offers three @-@ year studies to become a shipmaster or a marine engineer , in addition to shorter versions of these , while it also offers a one and a half @-@ year studies to become a captain and individual marine courses . In 2010 100 % of the graduates for skipper , shipmaster , machinist and marine engineer were men . All graduates from Vinnuháskúlin in June 2015 were men .

Sjó nám in Klaksvík offers a 1 ½ year shipmaster education , which qualifies its alumni to be either First Officer or Captain on merchant ships up to 3000 gross tonnage . In order to get access to the education , the applicants must fulfill the terms according to Ship Master Law (Kunngerð um skiparaútbúgving) number 107 of 20 September 2005 , i.e. the applicants must have experience from working on board a ship which is at least 20 gross tonnage for at least 36 month , of which at least 18 months should be from a larger vessel of at least 200 gross tonnage . They should also have finished the nine years of compulsory primary and lower secondary school with at least " passed " results in Faroese , Danish , English , physics , chemistry and math .

Sjó nám also offers a shorter maritime education of six months . It is a ship assistant education (Faroese : skipsatstøðingur) which provides the students to be able to perform all kinds of work on deck and in the engine room on board a ship . The applicants must be at least 17 and a half years old and must have completed the 9 years of Fólkaskúlin . The applicants must also have a health certificate for seamen . This education together with 9 months which are required for becoming an able @-@ bodied seaman , qualifies the alumni for the 1 ½ year long shipmaster education .

= = = Public Health School = = =

The Public Faroese Health School (Faroese : Heilsuskúli Føroya) in Suðuroy is a vocational school offering two types of education . The health care assistant education (Heilsuhjálpari) takes fifteen months . Following graduation , pupils can choose to leave the school and work in home care and retirement homes . Alternatively they can continue with another 22 months and become an assistant nurse (heilsurøktari) . The assistant nurse can work in various places , mostly in retirement homes or hospitals . The graduates from the Health School are mainly women . In 2012 almost 90 % of the School 's graduates were women .

= = = Other schools = = =

The Faroe Music School (Faroese : Musikkskúlin) runs fourteen institutions around the islands that are responsible for teaching music in the Faroe Islands . The pupils pay between 1 @,@ 200 and 1 @,@ 600 DKK each year in order to get lessons , the price depends on which municipality the pupil lives in . In Tórshavn there are classes , called Musikkspælistova , for children up to 6 years costing 600 DKK for a year ; it also offers a three @-@ year musical education program in Tórshavn , which is a middle @-@ range training for Faroese people aged 14 to 25 , costing 2 @,@ 400 DKK annually and admitting up to 8 pupils a year .

The Evening School (Faroese : Kvøldskúli or Frítíðarundirvísing) , offers a variety of courses for everyone and Faroese language lessons for foreigners . Courses range from handicraft , music lessons , foreign languages to swimming . The courses are offered by the municipalities , with 50 % of the teachers ' wages paid by them and the rest paid by the Ministry of Culture and Education ; the Ministry of Culture pays 100 % of the wages in cases of disabled people .

Additionally there are the School of Home Economics (Faroese : Húsarhaldsskúli Føroya) and the Folk High School (Faroese : Føroya Fólkaháskúli) offering half @-@ year courses in food and diet , hygiene , sowing , embroidering and humanities , arts and creative subjects respectively .

= = = Higher education = = =

Higher education in the Faroe Islands is mainly undertaken by the University of the Faroe Islands , a public research university granting academic degrees . Individual higher education courses are

offered by The Business School . Many Faroese pursue higher education out of the islands , mainly in Denmark ; in August 2015 a report showed 1 @, @ 345 Faroese students in Denmark , 904 in the Faroe Islands and 182 in other countries . Studni , the Faroese Student Grant Fund , provides student grants and loans to Faroese students , to study either in the Faroe Islands or abroad .

= = = = University of the Faroe Islands = = = =

Higher education is offered by the , Tórshavn based , University of the Faroe Islands (Faroese : Fróðskaparsetur Føroya) . It was founded in 1965 , as Academia Færoensis , by members of the Faroese Academy of Sciences . The university is divided in two faculties : the Faculty of Humanities , Social Sciences and Education and the Faculty of Natural and Health Sciences , offering several B.Sc. degrees , M.Sc. degrees and Ph.D.s. It is publicly funded and in 2010 it received approximately 68 million DKK . Admission requirements include taking the upper secondary school leaving examination . Specific departments could place additional requirements , e.g. in 2015 the Software Engineering department required a grade of 6 / 13 in mathematics .

= = = = Higher education from the Business School = = = =

It is possible to take individual higher education courses in Commerce from the Business School in Kambsdalur and in Tórshavn . The alumni can work at the same time and take one course each semester . After three years they will have achieved 60 ECTS which is the same as the first part of the HD education . They can also take the second part of the HD education from the Business College , and they can also combine it with courses from the Aarhus University via distant education . If they wish to study further for at MBA they must take it from a university in Denmark , i.e. the Aarhus University .

= = = = Research = = = =

Research in the Faroe Islands is administered by the Faroese Research Council (Faroese : Granskingarráðið) . Each year the Parliament of the Faroe Islands allocates money to the Faroese Research Foundation , and it is the Faroese Research Council that decides its recipients . From 2002 to 2012 the Research Foundation had received over 70 million DKK . Research is conducted by several governmental institutions (i.e. museums , laboratories , hospitals , marine institutes) and the University of the Faroe Islands .