

Welcome to Verkmenntaskóli Austurlands

Velkomin í Verkmenntaskóla Austurlands



**VERKMENNTASKÓLI
AUSTURLANDS**

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Verkmenntaskóli Austurlands (VA)

Verkmenntaskóli Austurlands (VA) is vocational school in Neskaupstaður, a town of about 1500 inhabitants in East Iceland. Neskaupstaður is a part of Fjarðabyggð municipality. VA is in fact the only VET school in the east half of Iceland, from Akureyri to Selfoss.

We have 7 trades for vocational educations; electrician, house building, engineer, industrial Mechanics, practical nurses, hairdresser, assistant in kindergarten and elementary schools. We also offer students two ways in general education; study programme in Natural Science and in Social Sciences. Recently we started a new trade, in Innovation and Technology - a new line of education which is a kind of mix between vocational studies and general education.

We are small school with about 250 students. Most of the students come from area in 50 km radius from Neskaupstaður.

Two years ago we opened a fabrication laboratory (Fab Lab) in the school and we are now aiming more towards technology, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Quality issues are very important to us and we are working on implementing quality system in our school, ISO 9001. The goal is to get quality certification in the next year or so.

We collaborate with 12 Icelandic schools on secondary level, that are all located in rural parts of Iceland. Our goal is to increase the offer in trades both in general education and in vocational studies.

About Fjarðabyggð

Municipality of Fjarðabyggð was formed by the union of nine formerly independent East Iceland communities. Residents of the municipality is now about 4.700.

Mjóifjörður, Norðfjörður (Neskaupstaður), Eskifjörður, Reyðarfjörður, Fáskrúðsfjörður and Stöðvarfjörður developed on the basis of fishing. Today there are major fishing companies in Norðfjörður, Eskifjörður and Fáskrúðsfjörður, and fishing is carried on in Stöðvarfjörður, though on a smaller scale.

At Reyðarfjörður, fishing has been replaced by service industries and aluminium production. Fjarðabyggð's distinctive feature is its beautiful nature and the nearness of majestic mountains surrounding each community.

A period of major development in Fjarðabyggð is now ending and an exciting new era is taking over, an era in which the priority will be to strengthen the infrastructure of society, improve the environment and cultivate services.

More information about Fjarðabyggð here: <http://en.visitfjardabyggd.is/>

Information about East Iceland; where to stay, dine and what to do is here: <https://www.east.is/en>

Where to stay and dine? What to do in Neskaupstaður?

Where to stay in Neskaupstaður

[Hildibrand Hótel](#) – a boutique apartment hotel, offering spacious self-catering apartments all with their own private balcony overlooking the fjord.

[Skorrahestar](#) - The guesthouse at Skorrahestar farm is in a renovated barn.

[Við lækinn](#) - Cozy family guesthouse located in the center of Neskaupstaður.

[Hotel Capitano](#) - Hotel Capitano is a small and friendly hotel in a renovated 100 year old corrugated iron clad house, located right on the ocean front in Neskaupstaður.

Where to dine in Neskaupstaður

There are a couple of restaurants in Neskaupstaður

[Kaupfélagsbarinn](#)

[Grill 66](#)

Hotel Capitano

[Nesbær – coffee shop](#)

[Bait Shack](#) – seasonal opening

What to do in Neskaupstaður

If you have some time to spare we do recommend:

[Swimming Pool](#) – we do have an amazing pool in the center of town

[Avalanche fences and hiking trails](#) – From the avalanche fences above the town you get great view over the town and fjord. It's easy to walk between the fences on hiking trails.

[Easter Cave](#) – a short hike (only recommended if there is now snow – takes about 1-2 hours)

[Skorrahestar](#) – riding tours

[Neskaupstaður's Museum House](#)

- [Jósafat Hinriksson's Seafaring and Smithy Collection](#)
- [The Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Tryggvi Ólafsson's Art Collection](#)

Program of Stay

Weekday	Task / Occupation
Tuesday 17/04/2018	Arrive to Iceland???
Wednesday 18/04/2018	Visit David Duro in Hornafjörður Drive to Neskaupstaður in the afternoon
Thursday 19/04/2018	<p>National Holiday in Iceland, called „first day of summer“</p> <p>9:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Icelandic education system – Bobba, studies director of VA <p>10:00 – 12:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Erasmus+ workshops, cooperation between VA and Nesskóli – 13 - 15 years old students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three workshops will be running (subjects might be changed a little): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fab Lab work shop – 2D design, vinylcutter, lasercutter ▪ Micro:bit workshop – programming and electronics ▪ Sphero workshop - programming <p>12:00 – 13:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch (cafeteria in VA is closed so you'll have to grab something to eat elsewhere) <p>13:00 – 15:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workshops will still be running – if you like you can take more part there. If you've seen all the workshops already the afternoon is all yours.
Friday 20/04/2018	<p>Neskaupstaður - job shadow in Verkmenntaskóli Austurlands (VA)</p> <p>8:30 – 9:30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour around VA.; Academic studies, hairdressing, electricity, mechanics. <p>9:30 – 9:50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee break with the teachers <p>9:50 – 10:50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit carpentry classroom – teacher is Sigurjón – his students are on their second term in carpentry. <p>10:55 – 11:55</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Fab Lab – teachers are Varði and Lilja – our students will be working on their final projects in the Fab Lab beginners course

	<p>11:55 – 12:30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch at VA's cafeteria (in the dormitory) <p>12:30 - 13:30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit carpentry classroom – teacher is Jón (Nonni) - students on fourth term in carpentry are building a 15m² house in the classroom. <p>13:35 – 14:35</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Fab Lab – teacher is Viðar – he is teaching a course in designing and building speakers (3d design and CNC milling) <p>Travel to Akureyri in the afternoon??</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>21/04/2018</p>	<p>Akureyri</p> <p>12:00 – Visit Fab Lab Akureyri and get a tour and introduction to the lab.</p> <p>Drive to Reykjavík???</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p>22/04/2018</p>	<p>Day off</p>
<p>Monday</p> <p>23/04/2018</p>	<p>Reykjavík</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Job-shadow visit at Borgarholtsskóli í Reykjavík ○ Contact person is Kristveig Halldórsdóttir, teacher and international coordinator in Borgarholtsskóli, erlentsamstarf@bhs.is - http://erlentsamstarf.bhs.is/index.php/en/
<p>Tuesday</p> <p>24/04/2018</p>	<p>Fly back to Spain</p>

Practical information

Weather and Clothes

There is a saying about the weather in Iceland, "If you don't like the weather just wait five minutes, it will have changed by then." So be prepared for snow, sleet, rain and sun – and check out the weather forecast (<https://www.yr.no/>).

Person of Contact:



International Coordinator

Lilja Guðný Jóhannesdóttir

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Emergency

In the event of emergency please call 00 354 112.

While in Neskaupstaður

If you're in need of consulting a **doctor**:

- On weekdays from 8:00 – 16:00
 - Call +354 470 1450 and you'll reach the local clinic in Neskaupstaður 1700
- Outside of office hours, on weekends and national holidays
 - Call +354 1700 and you'll reach a nurse which can connect you to a doctor

If you're in need of a **dentist**:

- Dentist in Neskaupstaður, +354 477 1888
- Dentist in Reyðarfjörður, +354 474 1465

Concluding Remarks

We trust that you will have a pleasant and informative stay here in Verkmenntaskóli Austurlands. Likewise, that it will be a visit that will benefit you both professionally and personally. Hopefully, your time here will provide insight into life in Iceland and open a network system for making new contacts.



Kær kveðja,

Elvar Jónsson

Headmaster of Verkmenntaskóli Austurlands