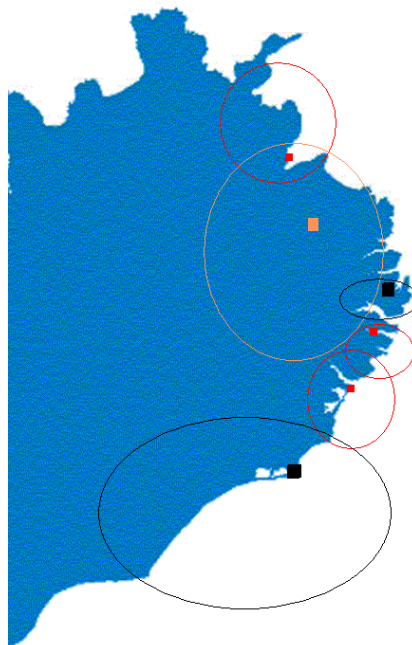




Pekkingarnet Austurlands

Distance Studies

with the East Iceland Knowledge Network
2008-2009



Information for Distance Students in East Iceland

www.tna.is

Egilsstaðir, Iceland
2008

Helpful Points for Distance Students in the Area Served by the East Iceland Knowledge Network

The East Iceland Knowledge Network (TEIKN) was founded in June 2006. It replaced the former Educational Network of East Iceland and retained the former Network's objectives, which are to make it easy for people to take university-level distance studies and continuing education programmes in the region extending from Bakkafjörður fjord in the north to the Öräfi area in the south. In addition, TEIKN has the objective of increasing and strengthening research work in the East.

In order to ensure that no one in the region will be discouraged from applying for courses due to a lack of nearby facilities, TEIKN has the aim of providing first-class equipment at as many places as possible. Distance education occurs in various ways: while some study groups use video conferencing equipment, other students attend periodic class sessions at their local school. Also, various online educational websites are used for communicating textual, audio and graphic material to distance students.

TEIKN has negotiated agreements with most Icelandic universities on services for their students, as well as with various institutions and local authorities on the provision of appropriate facilities. While individual agreements differ considerably from case to case, they have the common target of making it as convenient as possible for people to carry out their studies. In some cases, the only service provided by the local school is allowing distance students to take exams in the vicinity of their homes, but TEIKN considers its purpose to be to serve all distance students on an equal basis, regardless of the intentions of local schools.

TEIKN educational and vocational counsellors visit distance students in the various learning centres and may also be visited by these students at the University Study Centre in Egilsstaðir or at Nýheimar, Höfn. These counsellors can introduce efficient study organisation and skills to the students, give guidance on filling out application forms and selecting courses, and help with exam anxiety and other challenges that face both distance and other students.

A library and information professional teaches interested students how to search databases and assists students in looking for references and putting final touches to their assignments. Furthermore, students may obtain assistance in learning basic computer skills and the use of particular computer programs.

Distance learning centres: In the autumn semester of 2008, around 200 East Iceland distance students were enrolled in university-level education, conducting their studies at the University of Akureyri, Reykjavík University, University of Iceland, Bifröst University, Hólar University College and the Agricultural University of Iceland.

Distance students are distributed throughout East Iceland, but can gain access to TEIKN learning centres in the following villages: Vopnafjörður, Seyðisfjörður, Egilsstaðir, Reyðarfjörður, Neskaupstaður, Fáskrúðsfjörður, Breiðdalsvík, Djúpivogur and Höfn. The learning centres include facilities for reading and doing individual assignments and for cooperating on group assignments. More detailed descriptions of these facilities appear below and on the TEIKN website, www.tna.is.

Staff of the East Iceland Knowledge Network

Egilsstaðir

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Vopnafjörður

Pórunn Egilsdóttir programme manager thorunn@tna.is

Reyðarfjörður

Einar Sveinn Arnason programme manager einarsveinn@tna.is

Facilities and Services of Each Distance Learning Centre

Vopnafjörður

Telephone: 473 1569

(Mynd af Kaupvangi)

This learning centre is located in Kaupvangur, the Vopnafjörður Cultural Centre, and serves mainly residents of the surrounding district.

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Facilities for individual and group work, by arrangement
- Facilities for taking examinations

Manager

Pórunn Egilsdóttir Telephone: 473 1569 / 846 4851 thorunn@tna.is

Opening hours according to distance course schedules and by special arrangement

Seyðisfjörður

Telephone: 472 1172

Located in the tall, historic building that is part of the local school, this learning centre serves the residents of Seyðisfjörður.

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Facilities for individual and group work, by special arrangement
- Facilities for taking examinations

Contact person

Þorsteinn Arason Telephone: 472 1172 / 860 1172 thara@skolar.sfk.is

Reyðarfjörður

Telephone: 471 2848

Now serving the residents of Reyðarfjörður and Eskifjörður in the building where Landsbanki used to be, this learning centre will soon move into new premises at the Molinn Shopping Centre.

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Facilities for taking examinations
- Reading and group work facilities
- Educational counselling
- Photocopying, according to set fees

Manager

Einar Sveinn Árnason Telephone: 471 2848 / 844 0032

Neskaupstaður

Telephone: 477 1620

Primarily serving the residents of Neskaupstaður and Eskifjörður, this learning centre is located in the Vocational Junior College, Neskaupstaður.

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Group work facilities
- Access to computers, the Internet and reading areas, by arrangement
- Photocopying, according to set fees
- Facilities for taking examinations
- Counselling available through the College, by arrangement
- Library access
- Interviews with the TEIKN educational counsellor

Manager

Guðrún Áslaug Jónsdóttir Telephone: 477 1838 / 863 1774

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Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as during scheduled classes and by arrangement with the manager

Fáskrúðsfjörður

Telephone: 475 9020

Mostly serving the residents of Fáskrúðsfjörður and Stöðvarfjörður, this learning centre is located in the local school.

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Facilities for individual and group work, by special arrangement
- Facilities for taking examinations

Contacts

Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir (video conferencing equipment) Telephone: 475 9020 / 895 1532

lineik@skolar.fjardabyggd.is

Eygló Aðalsteinsdóttir (examinations) Telephone: 475 9020

eya@skolar.fjardabyggd.is

Opening hours according to distance course schedules and by arrangement

Breiðdalsvík

This learning centre, to be located in the building once used by the cooperative, serves Breiðdalur district residents and is expected to open formally on 30 October 2008.

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Facilities for individual and group work, by special arrangement
- Facilities for taking examinations

Contacts

Páll Baldursson Telephone: 470 5561 / 896 6716

palli@breiddalur.is

Helga Svanhvít Þrastardóttir Telephone: 470 5560

skrifstofa@breiddalur.is

Opening hours according to distance course schedules and by arrangement

Djúpivogur

Telephone: 478 8836

This learning centre serves residents of the Djúpivogur district and is located in the local school.

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Facilities for individual and group work, by special arrangement
- Facilities for taking examinations

Contacts

Halldóra Dröfn Hafþórsdóttir
dora@djupivogur.is

Telephone: 478 8246 or 478 8107 or 899 6913

Kristrún Gunnarsdóttir
kristrun@djupivogur.is

Telephone: 478 8836 or 478 8878 or 895 5578

Opening hours according to distance course schedules and by arrangement

Höfn, Hornafjörður

Telephone: 470 8070

This learning centre mainly serves the residents of Hornafjörður. The centre operates in the Secondary School of Austur-Skaftafellssýsla County, at Nýheimar, where the manager's office is also located.

(Mynd af Nýheimum)

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Group work facilities
- Access to computers, the Internet and reading areas, by arrangement
- Student lockers
- Photocopying, according to set fees
- Facilities for taking examinations
- Educational counselling by arrangement
- Library access

Staff

Ragnhildur Jónsdóttir Telephone: 470 8030 ragnhildur@fna.is

Nína Síbyl Birgisdóttir Telephone: 470 8043 nina@fna.is

On-call phone numbers for video conferences: 863 7220 or 470 8013

Open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., in addition to scheduled classes and by arrangement with staff

University Study Centre, at Vonarland, Egilsstaðir

This is the centre of administration for distance student services. All distance students should be able to seek assistance from the professional staff employed here.

Vonarland, home to the University Study Centre, is located at Tjarnarbraut 39e in Egilsstaðir and also houses the TEIKN head office. Students who live nearby attend lessons and use the educational facilities here.

The building includes three classrooms with excellent network connections, as well as four sets of video conferencing equipment and ideal facilities for teaching. Besides being able to use their own laptops on the network, students may utilise any of the twenty laptops available on site.

The data factory has two powerful computers. The aim is to keep the programs installed that students may need for statistics, drawing, graphics or other purposes and that they would be able to access in computers at the universities themselves.

Although it is mainly residents from Hérað and Borgarfjörður Eystri who use the University Study Centre from day to day, the Centre serves all East Iceland residents. Those who live farther away can take advantage of the services there by phoning, emailing, or visiting whenever suitable.

(Mynd af Vonarlandi)

Services

- Wireless Internet and access to the national secondary school network
- Video conferencing equipment
- Group work facilities
- Facilities for taking examinations, even at times outside the usual university exam periods
- Access to computers, the Internet and reading areas, by arrangement
- Photocopying, according to set fees
- Educational counselling during advertised consultation hours and by appointment
- Data factory during the Centre's opening hours and by appointment
- Help with gathering information and working on assignments
- Kitchen access
- Student lockers
- Office facilities for graduate students, as circumstances allow

TEIKN University Study Centre Telephone: 471 2838
Fax: 471 2238 On-call number: 892 2838

Staff

Stefanía Kristinsdóttir, stefania@fna.is; Laufey Eiríksdóttir, laufey@fna.is; Bergþóra Arnórsdóttir, bergthora@fna.is; Katrín María Magnúsdóttir, katrin@fna.is; Emil Björnsson, emil@fna.is

Open weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and also according to distance course schedules; in addition, students may arrange for admittance to the building outside of opening hours.

(Mynd af nemendum)

General information

Knowledge Network offices

Egilsstaðir: Vonarland, Tjarnarbraut 39e, 700 Egilsstaðir. **Telephone:** 471 2838 (main number), 471 2638 (counsellors), 471 2738 (managing director), 892 2838 (on-call number). **Fax:** 471 2238. **Email:** fna@fna.is

Neskaupstaður: Búland, Mýrargata 10, 740 Neskaupstaður. **Telephone:** 477 2838

Vopnafjörður: Kaupvangur, 690 Vopnafjörður. **Telephone:** 473 1569

Hornafjörður: Nýheimar, Litlabrú 2, 780 Höfn. **Telephone:** 478 1595

Library access

Like other university students, distance students should be served by the university in which they study. It should send them whatever material they need, if the university library has it available. If material is not available at the university library but can be found in Icelandic libraries which are not within East Iceland, the distance student may request either a public library in East Iceland or the University Study Centre librarian for assistance with an inter-library loan.

Within East Iceland, every library is registered in the Icelandic Library Consortium, called Gegnir. Towards the north, the libraries in Vopnafjörður, Seyðisfjörður, the valleys of Hérað, Fjarðabyggð municipality, Breiðdalur and Djúpvogur are all designated by Gegnir as being in the region of East Iceland, whereas the libraries at Höfn are designated as belonging to South Iceland.

In the group associated with East Iceland, the various libraries cooperate actively, not least in order to serve the distance students distributed throughout the region. As a result, every registered borrower at any of these libraries may borrow material from any public library in the region, as long as the library in question is listed in Gegnir.

The East Iceland Knowledge Network represents the region's newest library. It consists of a research library based on a number of cooperating bodies, such as TEIKN itself, the Health Directorate of East Iceland, the Regional Office for Affairs of the Disabled, the Development Association of East Iceland, the forestry programmes Héraðs- og Austurlandskógar, the East Iceland Environmental Research Institute and the East Iceland Heritage Museum. Since this cooperation is mainly intended to serve these bodies as a reference library, TEIKN only loans out materials in exceptional circumstances, for instance to distance students within the region.