

# The Settlers' School



Símanúmer

## The Settlers' School is 120 lessons of studies.

- The studies place an emphasis on spoken Icelandic and practical knowledge of Icelandic society and economy.
- The studies are intended for working adults whose primary language is not Icelandic.
- The studies take place mainly through discussions and projects where the students gather information from i.e. the Internet, the media and institutions.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture has approved the school as reduction of secondary school studies by up to 10 credits.

## Icelandic

58 lessons plus integration with computer studies, social studies and proficiency folder.

Principal emphasis is placed on spoken language and written language mainly as means for communication and expression. It is taken into consideration that Icelandic may be from a completely different group of languages than the student's native language. Students work on projects where they use experience from their own culture and introduce their national dishes, holidays, customs and traditions. At the same time, they gather material on Icelandic society. Take interviews and recount them or write them. Listen to the radio and the television, and recount, write about or discuss subjects and grammar. Keep a journal. Write Icelandic text on computers. Discuss subjects and grammar of spoken and written language. Instructors in Icelandic and computers consult with one another regarding topics.

## Social studies

20 lessons plus integration with Icelandic, computer studies and proficiency folder.

The main emphasis is placed on rights and obligations of the labour market, social security, health services, school, withholding tax and Alþjóðahús (the Intercultural Centre) and/or something comparable to it.

## Computers

15 lessons integrated with Icelandic, social studies and proficiency folder.

The principal emphasis is placed on basic aspects of writing on the computer, saving and downloading documents. Also training in the writing of texts by doing projects. Students become familiar with searching on the Internet and communication through e-mail. Students work on projects from Icelandic studies, practice writing and forming the layout of text in a word processing program and send and receive e-mail in Icelandic as well as browsing Icelandic web pages on the Internet and searching for particular information.

## Competence Portfolio

15 lessons along with integration with Icelandic, social studies and computers.

Students record information on their studies, courses, work and hobbies. The current work is defined specially in cooperation with the students' supervisors who are most often present. Discussions, data collection and recording. It is preferable for supervisors to participate in the registration and evaluation of their employees in the proficiency folder. In that way, they become better familiar with their employees' talents, education and experience.

## Self-esteem and communication

10 lessons

Main emphasis is placed on people's dissimilar communication patterns and different behaviour. Assertiveness, non-assertiveness and aggressiveness in communication. The effect of varied self-confidence on people's behaviour. Issues that pose the biggest threat to self-confidence and how to deal with them. Ways to promote increased self-confidence and a more secure demeanour so that people achieve better communication, are happier and feel better. Various issues relation to communication techniques, such as to listen, to criticize, to receive criticism, to solve differences. Main issues in relation to communication in the workplace and workplace culture.

People within the group come from various cultures, and it is therefore important that each and every one can cultivate his origins and culture at the same time that they deal with different customs in a new country.

The topics can, for example, be conflicts, assertiveness/non-assertiveness, communication skills, anger management or other topics decided upon jointly by the school's students and the instructor. Work involves co-operation and team spirit.

## FROM STUDENTS' COMMENTS



**I encourage everyone who has the chance to look into what the Settlers' School has to offer to make their life easier and more fun –says Aziza Ascour.**

Before I began studying at the school, I tried learning Icelandic by studying books and reading the newspapers, but this was not very successful. Self-fortification and communication is a big part of the studies and a very important one.



**It is good to have the support of the workplace –says Phitploen Nopalit**

One of the good things about the studies is that we have the support of the workplace to attend the school. I am very pleased with the school, and all the settlers are fun to be around and show interest in the studies. The main goal is to learn and speak Icelandic, but we also learn social studies where we receive i.a. information on our rights and obligations in society.



**Happy to be able to participate in the settler studies –says Milder David Cabanas**

I was an apprentice but had to take a break from my studies to learn more Icelandic, which is indeed the main purpose of the settler studies. All teaching is conducted in Icelandic, which results in our getting a lot of experience in speaking and writing Icelandic.



**We learned more than Icelandic –says Karla Barralaga**

I also benefited from learning about the country and the people. We visited the Directorate of Immigration to learn about their work. We learned to use computers and learned how one buys an apartment. Of course, we also got to know people from other countries.