

Case study

Garðyrkjuskólinn á Reykjum – The Horticultural school in Reykir

Iceland



In the Horticultural School of Reykir gardening has been taught since 1939. The school offers study in six different fields; Flower arrangements, Garden- and forest plants, Organic cultivation of vegetables, Greenhouse production, Ornamental gardening and Forestry and nature

The school is in Reykir in Ölfus close to the town of Hveragerði. It started out as an independent school that became a part of the Agricultural University of Iceland in 2005. In the fall of 2022, the Horticultural School became A part of the Polytechnic School of Suðurland, FSU.



Gardyrkjuskolinn-reykjum.is



Horticultural
Education



Geothermal usage



Environmental care



Forestry

Forest and Nature Study



The aim of the **Forest and Nature study program** in Reykir is to prepare students for diverse jobs in the field of forestry in such a way that they meet the qualification requirements of the job and to prepare students for further studies. The program provides students with basic knowledge of jobs related to forestry and environmental care. In addition to basic subjects, students learn about planting forest plants, caring for the growing forest, slashing trees and processing forest products. The emphasis is placed on forestry with a view to rational use of nature.

Field of Work



A **forest technician/horticulturist** in the field of forest and nature works on taking care of woodlands and green areas near settlements and is often hired for management of outdoor areas. They are often in charge of supervision, project management and education in the field of forestry, reforestation and other land improvements.

Wellbeing and Welfare



A **forest technician/horticulturist** in the field of forest and nature takes care of safety, complies with the laws and regulations that affect this field of work and can provide extensive advice. Exploitation of forest products other than timber (e.g., mushrooms, berries, medicinal plants, etc.) is growing and adding to the holistic use of forests in Iceland and it will surely grow further as the forests grow stronger.

Green Friendly Approaches



Energy

Iceland is known for its renewable energy - almost every house in Iceland is heated by geothermal heating or electricity that is produced with hydropower. Electricity in Iceland is mostly produced with hydropower. The location of the school so close to Hveragerði is not a coincidence as this area is an active geothermal site and the school buildings and all the green houses are heated with this geothermal heat from the vicinity.



Waste

With the latest amendments to the Icelandic law on waste management, a uniform classification system for recycling and waste management was established. This is important for the implementation of a circular economy in Iceland and a major step forward, as it has been shown that separate collection of raw materials leads to more and better sorting. The school follows these laws as well as working on massive composting with its plant waste.



Social responsibility and activity

The school offers a variety of individual courses to the public and invites guests to a spring festival to present the school and the results of the students' work.

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