

A Foreign Researcher's Guide to the Faroe Islands





**A Foreign
Researcher's Guide
to the Faroe Islands**

Welcome to the Faroe Islands!

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Preface



Our world-famous author William Heinesen gives a very accurate description of the Faroe Islands in his novel *The Lost Musicians*:

“Far out in the radiant ocean glinting like quicksilver there lies a solitary little lead-coloured land. The tiny rocky shore is to the vast ocean just about the same as a grain of sand to the floor of a dance hall. But seen beneath a magnifying glass, this grain is nevertheless a whole world.”

This poetical text sums up the challenges and the opportunities of the Faroese community. We are so small that most of the world has not heard of us. Yet we have a modern and advanced society with a strong and multi-faceted research community.

An increasing number of researchers working in the Faroe Islands and elsewhere are engaged in research projects with relevance to the Faroese society. Our researchers work at the core of several of the areas identified by the European Commission as Societal Challenges, e.g. within the areas of marine resources, aquaculture, health and sustainable energy.

Even though the Faroe Islands are limited in size and population, the society is well organized, and the population is well educated. The structure of the society is transparent, and it is easy to get in contact with authorities and stakeholders.

The small society and the homogeneous population make the Faroe Islands well suited as a test area for research in a number of disciplines. There are plenty of opportunities for researchers who wish to come to the Faroe Islands for a shorter or longer period.

In the Faroe Islands you have the opportunity to be a big fish in a small pond rather than a small fish in a big pond.

We hope that the information provided in this handbook and the constantly updated information on the website of EURAXESS Faroe Islands will be useful to you in your process of finding your way to the Faroe Islands.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Faroe Islands.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Sølvará'.

Annika Sølvará

Director

Research Council Faroe Islands

We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special.

Stephen Hawking

The aim of “A Foreign Researcher’s Guide to the Faroe Islands” is to help researchers from all over the world to plan their scientific research in the Faroe Islands, and to ensure their stay is pleasant and successful. This guide offers lots of practical information about everyday life and guidelines for dealing with the formalities of employment and work in the Faroe Islands.

“A Foreign Researcher’s Guide to the Faroe Islands” is published by EURAXESS Faroe Islands and is available for download (.pdf) on the website of EURAXESS Faroe Islands.

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1 About the Faroe Islands



The Faroe Islands are an archipelago of 18 mountainous islands located half way between Scotland and Iceland in the North Atlantic.

The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation with extensive autonomous powers and responsibilities within the Kingdom of Denmark. The country is not a member of the European Union, but has fisheries agreement, an agreement on trade in goods, and an agreement on research cooperation with the EU.

The Faroese settlement pattern is characterized by a large number of densely populated villages of varying size. Out of a total population of 50,000 around 20,000 live in the capital, Tórshavn. The second largest town is Klaksvík with around 5,000 inhabitants.

The language of the Faroe Islands is Faroese, which is a Nordic language deriving from the Norsemen who settled the islands 1200 years ago.

The living standard of the Faroe Islands is one of the highest in the world. The economy is mainly based on fisheries and aquaculture. Shipping and offshore services as well as tourism are also important means of income.

The Faroe Islands have a well-educated population, with free primary and secondary schooling for all and a number of institutions for higher education and research. Many Faroese study and work abroad in a wide range of fields for a period in their younger years before returning home to settle.

The mobility and flexibility of the Faroese people maintains a broad international perspective.

The Faroe Islands have a highly advanced domestic infrastructure in transportation and digital networks. All islands and inhabited villages are connected by road, subsea tunnels, bridges, ferries or helicopter. From the Faroe Islands there are daily flights and regular ferry and cargo links to all neighbouring countries.

1.1 Basic facts

Total land area:	1,393 sq km
Total marine area:	274,000 sq km
Coordinates:	62°00'N 06°47'W
Islands:	18 (17 inhabited)
Highest peak:	882 m / 2894 ft
Time Zone:	GMT, summer time GMT +1
Population:	50,498 (1 January 2018)
Life expectancy:	Female 84.7. Male 79.9 (2016)
Official Language:	Faroese
Political System:	Parliamentary democracy
Capital:	Tórshavn
Parliament:	The Lagting
Territorial Organization:	29 municipalities
Membership of the EU:	No
Prime Minister:	Aksel V. Johannesen
Currency:	Danish kroner (DKK)
National Day:	July 29th (St. Olav's Day)
International Telephone Code:	+298
Internet Country Code:	.fo
Electricity:	220V

1.2 Nature and Environment

The nature and weather of the Faroe Islands are ravishing and bold. The Faroe Islands are located at the doorstep of the Arctic in the great climate conveyor belt where the warm Gulf Stream meets the cold streams of Arctic waters.

Geology

The Faroe Islands are part of the North Atlantic basalt area, stretching from Ireland to Greenland. The landscape is shaped by volcanic rocks and erosion processes which have taken place since the volcanoes ceased being active 50-60 million years ago.

Glaciers of the ice period have restructured the original plateau to an archipelago with high mountains, deep valleys and narrow fjords.

Fauna and Flora

The vegetation is sparse. The islands are covered by grass, which during the summer period gives the characteristic feeling of a country clad in green.

Animal life is dominated by the ever present sheep that outnumber the human population by a factor of two, as well as the rich and varied bird life, especially seabirds, which attracts bird enthusiasts and ornithologists from all around the world.

Climate

The weather is unpredictable and changeable. It is possible to experience all four seasons in a single day – from moments of brilliant sunshine to misty hill fog to showers and rain or snow.

Due to the influence of the Gulf Stream encircling the islands, there is little variation between winter and summer temperatures.

In winter the average temperature is 3°C. The harbours never freeze, and snowfall is usually short-lived.

In summer the average temperature is 12°C. In sheltered areas, the temperature can be much higher.

1.3 Government and Politics

The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation with extensive autonomous powers and responsibilities within the Kingdom of Denmark.

The autonomy of the Faroe Islands was established by the Home Rule Act of 1948.

The Faroe Islands have exclusive competence to legislate and govern independently in a wide range of areas. These include taxation and financial policy, management of fisheries and all other utilisation of natural resources, social security, education, research and external trade relations.

Faroese autonomy in foreign relations is provided for by a treaty between the Faroe Islands and Denmark, the Foreign Policy Act of 2005.

Although Denmark is a member state of the European Union, the Faroe Islands have chosen to remain outside the Union. The country has fisheries agreement, agreement on trade in goods, and agreement on scientific and technological cooperation with the EU.

The Parliament

The legislative assembly of the Faroe Islands, the Løgting, is one of the oldest parliaments in the world.

The Løgting has 33 members who are elected for a period of four years. All Danish nationals over 18 years registered in the Faroe Islands have the right to vote and to be elected for the Løgting.

The Løgting debates between 150 and 200 various items in one session.

Seven political parties are represented in the Løgting (2018):

Tjóðveldi (The Republican Party)
Javnaðarflokkurin (The Social Democratic Party)
Fólkaflokkurin (The People's Party)
Sambandsflokkurin (The Unionist Party)
Sjálvstýri (The Independence Party)
Miðflokkurin (The Centre Party)
Framsókn (The Liberal Nationalistic Party)

The Government

The executive government, Føroya landsstýri, is headed by the Prime Minister, the Løgmaður.

The government has eight ministries (2018) headed by Ministers, Landsstýrismenn.

Municipalities

The Faroe Islands are administratively divided in 29 municipalities, kommunur, with about 100 cities and villages. The municipalities vary in size from almost 21,000 inhabitants in Tórshavn Municipality to 44 inhabitants in Fugloy Municipality.

The municipal councils are elected for a period of four years. All Danish nationals over 18 years registered in the Faroe Islands and citizens of other countries that have had permanent residency in the Faroe Islands for three years prior to an election have the right to vote and stand for election in municipal elections.

The Danish Parliament

Two members of the Danish Parliament – Folketinget – are elected in the Faroe Islands. All Danish nationals over 18 years registered in the Faroe Islands have the right to vote and stand for elections for the Danish Parliament.

1.4 Language

The national and official language in the Faroe Islands is Faroese. Faroese is used in all matters within business, administration, political and cultural life.

Faroese is a Germanic language which is descended from Old Norse. It is closely related to Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish and Swedish. The closest language to Faroese is Icelandic.

The Faroese people are conscious of the need to preserve their language. Research and development of the Faroese language is a high political priority of the government.

Officially, Danish is the second language and is taught in schools at an early age. English is also taught in schools and is spoken by most people in the Faroe Islands.

1.5 Economy and Business

The Faroese economy is ranked amongst the highest in the world based on GDP per capita. The standard of living is comparable to other Nordic countries.

The economy has a high dependence on the fishing and aquaculture industries which makes it vulnerable to cyclical changes in prices and catches.

The Faroese business sector has, however, in recent years become gradually more and more diversified. Important industries now also include financial services, petroleum related businesses, shipping, maritime services, civil aviation, IT and telecommunications, tourism and creative industries.

The Faroe Islands have trade agreements with the European Union, Norway and Switzerland and with the Russian Federation. The Faroe Islands have a special economic treaty with Iceland which establishes a single economic area encompassing both countries.

Fisheries

Fishing has been the main source of income for the Faroe Islands since the late 19th century.

Fish and fish products – including farmed fish – represent around 90 percent of the total export value.

A large variety of fish stocks is utilised in Faroese waters, as well as from international waters and in other nations' zones through fisheries agreements.

The most important fish species captured by Faroese vessels are pelagic species such as herring, blue whiting and mackerel and demersal fish such as cod, haddock and saithe.

Aquaculture

The clean, temperate oceanic waters and strong currents in the fjords around the Faroe Islands are ideal for fish farming.

Farmed salmon is a vital part of the Faroese economy, representing half of the country's export value.

Faroese salmon is exported to all six continents.

Maritime services

During the last 20 years of oil exploration, the Faroese maritime service industry has developed significantly and is able to provide a wide range of maritime services within all service sectors.

The high standard of domestic transport and harbour infrastructure combined with short domestic distances gives quick access to services for vessels.

The Faroe Islands International Ship Register (FAS) offers a number of financial advantages including a flexible, efficient, and uncomplicated administration.

Tourism

Tourism has become increasingly important to the Faroe Islands in recent years.

The tourist board, Visit Faroe Islands, has been very successful in branding and marketing the Faroe Islands as a tourist destination, resulting in consistent growth in number of overnight stays. From the first half of 2016 to the same period in 2017 overnight stays increased by 9 percent.

As a result of the growing interest for the Faroe Islands as a tourist destination new hotels and restaurants are opening and existing ones are being renovated and expanded.

Creative industries

Several Faroese brands in fashion and design have emerged in recent years and have started to make their mark on the international fashion scene. Most of them focus on knitting.

The Faroe Islands' music scene is buzzing and artists and creators across all genres are delivering performances and recordings to a foreign audience.

A substantial number of artists work with pictorial art and new galleries and art venues pop up every year.

1.6 Education

The education system of the Faroe Islands consists of three main levels: primary and secondary education, upper secondary education, and higher education.

Children normally start school when they are 6 or 7 years old, and school attendance is mandatory until ninth grade is completed.

After primary school, students have the option to enrol in upper secondary school, which normally takes three years to complete. With an upper secondary school diploma, a student is qualified to access higher educational institutions in the Faroe Islands as well as abroad.

Schooling on all levels, from primary school to higher education, is free of charge.

Primary and Lower Secondary Education

The primary school – fólkaskúlin – provides the compulsory schooling from first to ninth grade as well as an optional tenth year. Several primary schools also offer optional preschool education.

There are 44 primary schools in the Faroe Islands. Three primary schools are private schools which charge a small tuition fee but are primarily state-funded.

Faroese is the official language of the primary school. Language lessons for first and second graders only consist of Faroese lessons, whereas Danish lessons begin in third grade and English lessons in fourth grade.

In eighth and ninth grade, the curriculum consists of a number of compulsory subjects that prepare the students for upper secondary school, as well as a range of optional subjects. At the end of ninth grade students need to pass an exam that gives them entry to upper secondary schools.

Upper Secondary Education

There are many options available for those wishing to pursue upper secondary education in the Faroe Islands. Upper secondary education is available as academically oriented education qualifying for higher education or as vocational training providing access to the labour market.

Academically oriented education is primarily intended for preparation for higher education. When students graduate, they can apply to go to universities anywhere in the world.

Academically oriented education is divided into six lines:

Business line	3 years
Humanities line	3 years
Natural science line	3 years
Resource line	3 years
Technical line	3 years
Preparation line	2 years especially intended for adults

Vocational education provides job-specific training and education.

Vocational education is offered within these fields:

Basic business study (FHS) – 1 year preparation for training in a shop or an office

Technical study – 4 years courses on several technical fields along with apprenticeship

Maritime studies – from 1½ to 4½ years studies to become skipper, shipmaster or a marine engineer. Shorter maritime courses are also offered.

Public health studies – 15 months basic study in health care and a further study of 22 months to become qualified as an assistant nurse

Higher Education

Higher education is mainly undertaken by the University of the Faroe Islands. Individual higher education courses are offered by The Business School. Many Faroese pursue higher education out of the islands, mainly in Denmark.

The University of the Faroe Islands has five departments: Faroese Language and Literature, Science and Technology, History and Social Sciences, Education and Nursing.

The university offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees in several subjects. It also offers PhD research opportunities in several fields.

The university works closely with higher educational institutions in neighbouring countries on research and teaching. All degrees offered at the University comply with the objectives of the Bologna process.

Upper secondary and higher education institutes offer individual higher education courses in subjects relating to business, management, economics, and technology.

1.7 Infrastructure

The Faroe Islands have a modern infrastructure with roads, tunnels, bridges and subsea tunnels connecting most of the islands. Regular flights and car and cargo ferries are available all year round for transport of people and goods to and from the Faroe Islands.

Domestic transport

85 percent of the Faroese population are connected by road. Bridges and tunnels, including two sub-sea tunnels, are an important part of the Faroese road net.

A public **bus service** connects most towns and villages. **Ferries** and **helicopters** provide regular service to islands that are not connected by road.

International transport

There are several daily **flights** to the Faroe Islands from Copenhagen (Denmark), and several weekly **flights** from Billund (Denmark), Reykjavík (Iceland) and Bergen (Norway) all year round.

During the summer and at seasonal holidays there are direct connections to further destinations in Denmark, Scotland, and Southern Europe.

There is a direct **ferry** link to Hirtshals (Denmark) throughout the year and to Seyðisfjørður (Iceland) from April to October.

1.8 Communication

The Faroe Islands have a highly developed communication network – from telecommunication and mobile phones to the internet and media.

Telecommunication

Telecommunication technology in the Faroe Islands is undergoing rapid development and major changes occur almost every day. Generally, the telecommunications networks are of a high standard with excellent coverage throughout most parts of the country and at competitive prices.

Mobile phones using the GSM standard are operational in the Faroe Islands. Pay-As-You-Go telephone cards as well as subscriptions for mobile telephones and fixed line telephones and broadband **internet** subscriptions are available from Faroese telephone companies.

There are two telecommunication companies in the Faroe Islands:

Føroya Tele: www.ft.fo

Hey: www.hey.fo

Postal service

The postal service is operated by the national postal company, Posta: www.posta.fo

There is daily postal transport to and from the Faroe Islands, and domestic post is delivered three days a week.

Post offices are in larger towns and villages around the islands.

Media

The Faroese media consists of a national radio and TV station, several private radio stations, internet portals, and a number of newspapers and magazines.

The National Faroese Broadcasting – Kringvarp Føroya: www.kringvarp.fo – transmits Faroese radio and TV programmes as well as foreign TV programmes.

International television channels are transmitted by a Digital Terrestrial Television service. Subscription satellite television is also available.

The main **newspapers** are Sosialurin: www.sosialurin.fo and Dimmalætting: www.dimma.fo.

The main **news portals** are Portalurin: www.portal.fo, Info: www.in.fo, Vágaportalurin www.vp.fo and Norðlýsið www.nordlysid.fo.

1.9 Religion

Religion plays an important part in Faroese culture. According to the constitution everyone is entitled to associate in communities to worship according to his or her convictions.

The Lutheran Church

The majority of the Faroese population, about 80 percent, belongs to the Lutheran Evangelical Church, which is the official church of the Faroe Islands.

There are several organisations and associations attached to the Faroese Lutheran Evangelical Church, among them KFUK and KFUM, which correspond to YWCA and YMCA, Inner Mission and Evangelical Mission.

The Brethren and other communities

The Brethren are the second largest religious community in the Faroe Islands. About 15 percent of the population belong to a Brethren assembly.

Other communities include Pentecostals, Catholics, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventists and Jehova Witnesses.

1.10 Culture and Leisure

The culture of the Faroe Islands has its roots in the Nordic culture. The islands were long isolated from the main cultural movements in Europe and have maintained a large part of their traditional culture. At the same time, the Faroe Islands have a modern and very active cultural life with a wide variety of festivals, exhibitions and other events.

Music

The pleasure derived from music is immense in the Faroe Islands. Almost every occasion is an opportunity to sing and play. In recent years, the Faroese music scene has really come into its own, and several Faroese musicians have had great international success.

Music festivals with a variety of local music in all genres and top foreign groups and musicians are held in many places in the summer.

Literature

Faroese literature has developed in the past 100 years after the Faroese language was written down in a standardised format in the late 19th century. The Faroe Islands have produced several talented authors and poets and have twice been awarded The Nordic Council's Literature Prize.

Art

The everchanging Faroese weather and special light have fascinated foreign and local artists over the years. The islands have a very active art scene, and the younger generation of Faroese artists are forging new paths for Faroese art.

Sports

Football is the most popular sport in the Faroe Islands. The Faroese Football Association is a member of UEFA and FIFA and the Faroese national team takes part in UEFA European Championship and FIFA World Cup qualification games.

Rowing is the national sport of the Faroe Islands. Rowing competitions are held in different towns and villages during summer.

Swimming is a popular sport in the Faroe Islands, and several Faroese swimmers have achieved very good international results.

Other popular sports in the Faroe Islands include handball, gymnastics, badminton, horse riding, judo, volleyball, table tennis, tennis and athletics.

Fishing

Several species of fish can be fished in the Faroese lakes and streams, and sea trout and salmon can also be caught around the coast. Fishing in lakes and streams is permitted from May 1st until August 31st. Coastal fishing is generally permitted, but there might be local exceptions.

Faroese Cuisine

The Faroese restaurant culture has changed drastically within the last decade. Innovative Faroese chefs have established the Faroese gastronomy on the international culinary scene.

New restaurants are consistently emerging, and it has become commonplace for Faroe Islanders to eat at restaurants.

Important elements of the Faroese cuisine are lamb, fish, whale meat and seabirds. The taste of the traditional food is primarily determined by the preservation methods used, which especially include the maturing and drying of meat and fish.

Along with the traditional products, the Faroese cuisine has moved closer to the European norm in recent years, and consumption of vegetables has greatly increased.

Nightlife

Especially in Tórshavn, there are several restaurants, cafés, bars and nightclubs for all ages.

Events

Music festivals with local and international musicians are held throughout the country in the summer period. The largest festivals are G! Festival in Gøta in mid July and the Summer Festival in Klaksvík in early August.

Local festivals with sports, concerts and various other activities for all ages are held around the country during the summer.

St Olaf's Wake – Ólavsøka – is a national holiday of the Faroe Islands held in Tórshavn on July 28th and 29th. People from all over the islands gather in the capital to celebrate the national holiday which is also a cultural and sports festival with boat races, football matches, art exhibitions, folk music, and Faroese chain dancing. The Faroese Parliament opens its session on July 29th after a procession and a service in the Cathedral of Tórshavn.

Cultural institutions

The Nordic House is a cultural organization under the Nordic Council of Ministers with the objective of supporting and promoting Nordic and Faroese culture. It offers a wide range of events all year round, including concerts, exhibitions, and theatre performances.

The National Art Gallery in Tórshavn features a permanent exhibition of older and modern Faroese artists as well as travelling exhibitions of foreign artists and special showcase exhibitions of Faroese artists.

The National Theatre in Tórshavn performs Faroese plays and classical and modern plays from abroad.

The National Museum offers displays on Faroese geology, botany, zoology, archaeology, folk-life and history.

2 Research landscape



There is a thriving and growing research culture in the Faroe Islands, with several institutes, laboratories, museums and private companies working on original research projects.

Many Faroese researchers living abroad and researchers from other countries are engaged in research issues related to the Faroe Islands. A number of these are young PhD students enrolled in overseas universities.

International collaboration is essential to the quality of Faroese research and innovation. Faroese researchers participate in many international networks, and the Faroese research and innovation landscape is to a large extent anchored in international partnerships.

2.1 Higher Education sector

The University of the Faroe Islands – Fróðskaparsetur Føroya – conducts research, provides higher education, and disseminates information about academic research methods and results.

The university has five departments:

Department of Language and Literature

Department of Education

Department of History and Social Sciences

Department of Nursing

Department of Science and Technology

Research is conducted in a number of fields that are taught at the university. The university collaborates closely with other research institutions and with private companies in certain research areas. The university also collaborates with several universities in neighbouring countries.

Further information:

University of the Faroe Islands: www.setur.fo

2.2 Research institutes

There are several governmental research institutes in the Faroe Islands. These institutes mainly conduct research in marine, natural and medical sciences.

Some of the governmental research institutes also have specific tasks assigned by the government, e.g. to make proposals concerning the exploitation of fish stocks and recommendations on health related issues.

Most institutes have substantial collaboration with international research institutes on joint research projects. A growing part of such research is financed by national and international research foundations.

Medicine, Public Health and Genetics

Medical research in the Faroe Islands is centred around three establishments:

The Department of Occupational Medicine and Public Health – Deildin fyri Arbeiðs- og Almannaheilsu – has considerable experience in Faroese and international medical research and has presented research results which have generated great international interest.

Further information:

The Department of Occupational Medicine and Public Health: www.health.fo

The National Hospital of the Faroe Islands – Landssjúkrahúsið – has in recent years been involved in a growing number of research projects. Several of these have been initiated in collaboration with the Genetic Biobank, with participation of both foreign and local researchers.

Further information:

The National Hospital of the Faroe Islands: www.lsh.fo

The Genetic Biobank – Ílegusavnið – is a governmental institution with a mandate to organize, develop and administer a Tissue Registry (biobank), a Diagnosis Registry and a Genealogy Registry.

The Biobank processes applications for permission to access and study the information contained in these registries.

Further information:

The Genetic Biobank: www.genetics.gov.fo

Marine Biology

Research within marine biology is centred around two institutes:

Faroe Marine Research Institute – Havstovan – is a governmental research institute conducting research on marine climate and ecosystems in Faroese waters with the emphasis on commercially exploited fish stocks.

The institute conducts regular research cruises with its research vessel, Magnus Heinason.

The institute cooperates with a number of research groups in other countries and participates in national, Nordic, and European funded projects.

Further information:

Faroe Marine Research Institute: www.hav.fo

Aquaculture Research Station of the Faroes – Fiskaaling – is a public company conducting research and development within aquaculture.

Further information:

Aquaculture Research Station of the Faroes: www.fiskaaling.fo

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Four institutes conduct research on earth and environmental sciences:

The Faroese Geological Survey – Jarðfeingi – is the national geological survey of the Faroe Islands. It conducts research and geological mapping onshore as well as offshore, and all relevant data is stored in the national geological archive.

The Directorate is responsible for all administrative tasks relating to petroleum exploration and exploitation activities in the Faroe Islands.

Further information:

Faroese Geological Survey: www.jardfeingi.fo

The Environment Agency – Umhvørvisstovan – conducts research on pollution in animals, humans, nature and urban areas and maintains an environmental specimen bank with various biological items suitable for further research.

The institute also conducts targeted research, i.e. impact and environmental status assessments, upon agreement with the government, municipalities, the Danish environmental agency and other stakeholders.

Further information:

The Environment Agency: www.us.fo

The Faroese Food and Veterinary Agency – Heilsufrøðiliga Starvsstovan – carries out statutory control and laboratory checks within the food and veterinary fields and undertakes research and development in connection with these tasks.

The agency participates in Faroese, Nordic and international research programmes related to fish disease and food hygiene.

Further information:

The Faroese Food and Veterinary Agency: www.hfs.fo

The Agency for Agriculture – Búnaðarstovan – carries out statutory control and tests within the agricultural field and undertakes research and development in connection with these tasks. The agency participates in several international research programmes.

Further information:

The Agency for Agriculture: www.bunadarstovan.fo

National Heritage

The National Museum – Tjóðsavn Føroya – collects, catalogues and exhibits archaeological and biological specimens.

The museum participates in several international research programmes.

Further information:

The National Museum: www.savn.fo

2.3 Industrial sector

The industry participates in several research projects conducted by governmental research institutes. A few private companies also have research programmes of their own.

iNOVA

Research Park iNOVA is a scientific environment in Tórshavn providing access to modern laboratories, high-end instruments, offices and event location for private companies and public institutions.

The research park was created as a part of a coordinated effort by the government and an array of the largest private enterprises on the islands to improve the scientific infrastructure of the Faroe Islands.

Further information:

iNOVA: www.inova.fo

2.4 Research funding

Several funds in the Faroe Islands offer financial support for research projects.

Faroese Research Foundation

The Faroese Research Foundation is a government fund funding research and research driven innovation projects connected to the Faroe Islands.

Grants are given to Faroese researchers and research students, research and development at or associated with Faroese research institutes and commercial enterprises, and research and development, which has significance in the Faroese context.

It is required that at least one third of the total cost is funded by others than the Faroese Research Foundation.

Funding from the Faroese Research Foundation is allocated once a year. The application deadline is mid February.

Research Council Faroe Islands – Granskingarráðið – administers the Faroese Research Foundation.

Further information:

Research Council Faroe Islands: www.gransking.fo

Health Insurance Fund

The Health Insurance Fund funds research and development in the medical field.

Researchers can in association with research institutes in the Faroe Islands apply for funding for projects, which can develop the medical field in the Faroe Islands. All funding must be used in the Faroe Islands, except expenses for travelling and conferences.

Research Council Faroe Islands administers the Health Insurance Fund.

Further information:

Research Council Faroe Islands: www.gransking.fo

Fisheries Research Fund of the Faroe Islands

The Fisheries Research Fund is a government fund for fisheries research and development projects. The intention is to stimulate scientific and industrial R&D projects in order to develop the Faroese fishing industry, harvesting, processing and trade, with regards to the biologically, economically and socially sustainable use of marine resources.

Grants are given to Faroese researchers or research students and foreign researchers cooperating with Faroese researchers or research institutes.

Funding from the Fisheries Research Fund is allocated once a year. The application deadline is early December.

Further information:

Fisheries Research Fund: www.fvg.fo

Business Development Fund

The Business Development Fund supports initiatives, which diversify commercial enterprise and enhance knowledge. The fund provides grants for e.g. development of goods and services, innovative projects and research and study projects.

Grants are given to Faroese concerns only. Foreign researchers cooperating with a Faroese concern can apply for grants from the Business Development Fund.

Further information:

Business Development Fund: www.vinnuframi.fo

3 Entry conditions



Depending on your citizenship, you may need an entry visa and/or residence permit when coming to the Faroe Islands for a short or a long term stay.

3.1 Nordic Citizens

Citizens of Nordic countries, i.e. Denmark, Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, are free to live, work and study in the Faroe Islands. Neither visa, residence permit nor work permit is required.

Citizens of Nordic countries can enter the Faroe Islands without a passport. However, they must be able to identify themselves upon request. A driving licence is valid form of identification.

3.2 Non Nordic Citizens

Non Nordic nationals must have a valid **passport** in order to enter the Faroe Islands.

Short term stay

Citizens from most countries outside EU must obtain a tourist **visa** for travelling to the Faroe Islands for up to 3 months.

The Faroe Islands are not part of Schengen. Consequently, a Schengen visa or a visa for Denmark does not give the holder the right to enter the Faroe Islands. When a visa is applied for at the Danish Embassy, it must be specifically for the Faroe Islands.

Non-Nordic nationals entering the Faroe Islands for a stay of up to 3 months must have the required means for the stay and for the return journey.

Researchers and lecturers invited to teach or conduct similar activities in the Faroe Islands can work for three consecutive months in the Faroe Islands without a work permit.

Long term stay

For stays longer than three months researchers and research candidates must have a **residence and work permit**. This also applies to EU citizens, as the Faroe Islands are not a member of the European Union.

A residence permit in Denmark does not carry with it the right to reside in the Faroe Islands.

A residence and work permit for the Faroe Islands is normally granted with a validity of up to 1 year.

Applications for a residence and work permit are processed by the Danish agency for Recruitment and Integration (SIRI) in consultation with the Faroese Immigration Office.

The application must be filed by the researcher and his or her employer together. The application must be submitted to a Danish diplomatic mission in the country where the researcher is residing. Normally processing time for applications for residence and work permit is around 3 months.

Researchers must have a written job contract or job offer from a Faroese research institution specifying salary and employment conditions when applying for a permit. It is not a requirement that the applicant is employed full time as a researcher. Salary and employment conditions must correspond to Faroese standards.

If the researcher wants to change employment to another research institution during his or her stay in the Faroe Islands, he or she must apply for a new residence and work permit before starting work with the new employer.

Research candidates who have a master's degree can be granted a residence and work permit if they want to conduct research as part of their further education or career development at a Faroese research institute or company, which provides the necessary facilities.

Research candidates must be able to support themselves by their own means or through payment from research institutes or employers in their country of origin while staying in the Faroe Islands.

Researchers and research candidates can get permission to **sideline work** if the work is relevant to their main employment.

A foreign resident in the Faroe Islands will lose his residence and work permit if he **leaves** the Faroe Islands for an extended period of time, or if he no longer maintains a residence in the Faroe Islands.

Applications for **extension** of the residence and work permit must be submitted before the permit expires. The applicant is allowed to stay in the Faroe Islands and continue to work until the application has been processed.

Fast track arrangements

Certain groups of employees can be granted residence and work permission according to a special fast track arrangement.

Doctors with an authorization to work in Denmark who hold a written job offer from a Faroese hospital can be granted a residence and work permit by the Danish Immigration Service without consulting the Faroese Immigration Office, provided requirements for the terms of employment, including salary and work conditions, are met.

Semi-professional **athletes** and coaches and **oil industry employees** can obtain special permits according to fast track arrangements.

Family members

A foreign national who has been granted residence and work permit in the Faroe Islands is allowed to bring his or her spouse or cohabiting partner as well as children under the age of 18 to the Faroe Islands.

Accompanying family members will be granted residence permits for the same period as the foreign national with a work contract in the Faroe Islands.

The foreign national must be able to support his family members and the family must live together in the Faroe Islands.

The spouse or cohabiting partner is allowed to work full-time for the entire period of his or her permit.

Permanent residence permit

A foreign national who has held a residence and work permit in the Faroe Islands under the same conditions for seven consecutive years and has achieved a substantial attachment to Faroese society, will normally qualify for a permanent residence permit.

In order to be granted a permanent residence permit the foreign national must still meet the requirements for a residence permit, he must not have been incarcerated or been given any other form of serious criminal sentence during his residence in the Faroe Islands, and he must not have overdue public debt in excess of DKK 79,070.

Further information:

Faroese Immigration Office: www.immigration.fo

The Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration: www.nyidanmark.dk

4 Arrival



4.1 Getting here

The Faroe Islands have good connections to mainland Europe by air and by sea.

There are several daily flights to the Faroe Islands from Denmark and several weekly flights from Iceland and Norway throughout the year. In the summer period, there are regular flights from several other destinations in Europe.

There is a regular car ferry service to the Faroe Islands from Denmark throughout the year and from Iceland from April to October.

Further information:

Atlantic Airways: www.atlantic.fo

SAS: flysas.com

Smyril Line: www.smyrilline.com

4.2 Registration

All Non Nordic citizens residing in the Faroe Islands and Nordic citizens staying for more than 6 months must register at their local municipality.

All individuals registered in the Faroe Islands will be given a personal Faroese **civil registration number** (p-tal).

The civil registration number is the key to a range of actions in the Faroese society, such as receiving health services, opening a bank account and paying taxes.

Nordic citizens

Nordic citizens who are staying in the Faroe Islands for less than 6 months do not have to register in the Faroe Islands.

Nordic citizens who intend to stay for more than 6 months must notify their new address in the Faroe Islands to their local municipality within 5 days after arrival.

Nordic citizens staying for less than 6 months will be given a temporary civil registration number.

Non Nordic citizens

Non Nordic citizens must notify their new address in the Faroe Islands to their local municipality within 5 days after arrival.

Non Nordic citizens must have a valid residence permit in order to register in the Faroe Islands.

Further information:

Tórshavn Municipality: www.torshavn.fo

4.3 Removal goods

Removal goods can be sent to the Faroe Islands as freight by sea or by air. It is normally considerably cheaper to transport a large quantity of removal goods by sea than by air. However, transport by air may be a cheaper solution than transport by sea when moving to the Faroe Islands from a remote country.

Removal Companies

Several Faroese freight companies offer a door to door service of transport of personal belongings to the Faroe Islands. The company will pick up the removal goods at the address in the home country and transport them in steel containers or removal boxes by road and sea to the new address in the Faroe Islands. Some companies also offer to pack and unpack removal goods.

Removal companies:

Norlink Cargo Express: www.norlink.fo

Posta: www.posta.fo

Safari Transport: www.safari.fo

EUR-Express: www.eur.fo

Samskip: www.samskipnorthatlantic.com

Smyril Line Cargo: www.smyrillinecargo.com

Insurance

It is important to insure removal goods. Removal companies normally have limited responsibility and most household contents insurances and normal travel insurances do not cover removal goods.

A removal insurance can be obtained through the removal company.

Customs

Personal belongings imported to the Faroe Islands are exempt from tax and duty, on the condition that the owner is indeed moving his domicile to the Faroe Islands and giving up his foreign domicile.

As proof of moving, the Faroese customs authorities – TAKS – require a certificate of change of address from the municipality the owner is moving to in the Faroe Islands.

Belongings imported as removal goods exempt from tax and duty must have been owned and used by the person moving or his household for at least 6 months before moving to the Faroe Islands. The items must continue to be used by the person moving or his household in the Faroe Islands.

Food items, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages cannot be imported as removal goods exempt from tax and duty.

The entitlement to import removal goods exempt from tax and duty lapses one year after moving.

Further information:

Customs and Tax Office: www.taks.fo

4.4 Pets

Dogs and cats can only be imported to the Faroe Islands if the owner has a permanent address in the Faroe Islands or is moving to the Faroe Islands. Pets are not permitted for stays shorter than 3 months or to transit through the Faroe Islands to another country.

As a general rule it is prohibited to import exotic and dangerous animals to the Faroe Islands.

Fighting dogs and other dogs with aggressive behavior are not permitted to enter the Faroe Islands.

ID number

Dogs and cats must have an ID number which can be presented as a tattoo or a microchip in line with recommended ISO standards.

Veterinary certificate

Dogs and cats must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate stating that the dog or cat is healthy, has all the required vaccinations and has been treated against parasites.

The veterinary certificate must not be issued earlier than 48 hours before the beginning of the journey to the Faroe Islands and must be signed by an authorized veterinarian and a veterinary inspector of the country of origin.

Puppies and kittens must be vaccinated against the same diseases and treated against the same parasites as fully grown animals.

The Food, Veterinary and Environmental Agency can refuse import of an animal if the disease situation in the country of origin is insecure, or if the veterinary certificate is lacking or incomplete.

Further information:

Food, Veterinary and Environmental Agency: www.hfs.fo

4.5 Vehicles

A vehicle registered abroad can be used in the Faroe Islands without registering in the Faroe Islands, if the owner is planning to stay for less than one year. The vehicle may not be used by anyone residing in the Faroe Islands or for any commercial carriage.

Import

A person moving to the Faroe Islands is allowed to import one motor vehicle as removal goods exempt from tax and duty.

The vehicle must be intended solely for the owner's personal use. If the vehicle changes owner within 1 year after the day of import, it will be subject to tax and duty according to the general import rules.

Registration

A vehicle imported as removal goods must be registered with the Faroese Vehicle Administration within the first two weeks after arriving in the Faroe Islands.

Before being registered in the Faroe Islands, the car must be inspected by the Vehicle Administration.

The owner of the car must pay a registration fee and take out an insurance before the vehicle gets a license plate.

Insurance

The insurance must cover damages to the property of others. Insurance covering loss or damage to your own car is optional.

Insurance companies:

Betri Trygging: www.betri.fo

Trygd: www.trygd.fo

Tax

All motor vehicles registered in the Faroe Islands must pay a tax based on weight and type of usage and fuel twice a year.

Further information:

Tax and Customs Office: www.taks.fo

Faroese Vehicle Administration: www.akstovan.fo

4.6 Driving licence

Driving licenses issued in Nordic countries and EU countries are valid in the Faroe Islands. Persons with a driving license issued in one of these countries may exchange their license for a Faroese driving license without passing a new driving test.

Persons with a driving license issued in a country outside the EU and the Nordic region must exchange their driving license for a Faroese driving license within 14 days after arriving in the Faroe Islands. Before exchanging their licence, they must pass a new driving test.

Further information:

Faroese Vehicle Administration: www.akstovan.fo

5 Accommodation



Finding suitable accommodation in the Faroe Islands can be difficult. It is advisable to start searching for housing as soon as plans for a research stay have become definite.

5.1 Short term accommodation

A variety of hotels, guesthouses and rented flats and houses are available for short-term accommodation.

Lists of hotels and guesthouses can be found here:

Visit Faroe Islands: www.visitfaroeislands.com

Visit Tórshavn: www.visittorshavn.fo

Airbnb: www.airbnb.com

5.2 Rented flats

The Faroese rental market is quite limited. There are no housing rental companies in the Faroe Islands, and apartments for rent are normally part of a family's home set aside for a tenant.

Host institutions

At some host institutions special housing for international researchers is available.

The National Hospital in Tórshavn has a number of houses, apartments and rooms for rent for doctors and other staff-members working for a limited period within the Health Service.

The University of the Faroe Islands has a house with three rooms available for researchers on a short-term basis. The university also has appointments with private house-owners who rent rooms to foreign researchers participating in summer institutes.

Other host institutions may also provide assistance for researchers searching for housing.

Private market

Houses and apartments for rent can be found in **newspaper** advertisement pages and **web portals**.

The main newspaper for advertising accommodation is Sosialurin. It can be bought all over the Faroe Islands and can also be accessed online: www.sosialurin.fo

The main web portal for housing (and other topics) is: www.torg.fo

Some landlords prefer to respond to advertisements placed by potential tenants. Therefore, it may be a good idea to publish an advertisement specifying your particular needs on websites and in newspapers.

The **rent** for houses and apartments depends on location, size and standard. Electricity and heating is normally paid separately but can also be included in the rent.

Normally the landlord will claim a deposit in advance to the amount of up to three months' rent which is returned to the tenant when moving out if the apartment or house is in the same condition as when the tenancy started.

The Faroese Tenancy Act provides that a **standard contract** specifying the rent and conditions for the tenancy must be filled in and signed by the landlord and the tenant. The notice period to vacate a rented flat is 3 months if the apartment is part of the landlord's home and 5 months if the landlord does not live in the same house.

The Faroese Property Rental Appeal Board handles complaints about tenancy matters.

Further information:

Faroese Property Rental Appeal Board: www.leigunevndin.fo

5.3 Buying property

Buying and selling property is mostly handled by real estate agents and lawyers. The agents advertise houses and apartments on websites and in newspapers.

Houses and apartments can also be sold privately. Advertisements can be found in the newspapers and on websites.

An average house in Tórshavn costs around DKK 2,800,000 (2017). Houses outside Tórshavn are considerably less expensive.

The Faroese banks provide financing for houses and apartments. 35 per cent of the interest paid on mortgage loans for houses inhabited by the owner is refunded by the government.

Real estate agents:

Skyn: www.skyn.fo

Betri Heim: www.betriheim.fo

6 Personal finance



The banks offer payment services and provide loans for various purposes.

There are four banks in the Faroe Islands:

Bank Nordik: www.banknordik.fo

Betri Banki: www.betri.fo

Norðoya Sparikassi: www.ns.fo

Suðuroyar Sparikassi: www.ss.fo

Bank account

As an employee in the Faroe Islands you will need a Faroese bank account in order to receive your salary. You will need a Faroese civil registration number to open a bank account.

The bank will request a copy of your passport and a residence certificate in order to allow you to open an account.

Bank deposits in Faroese banks up to DKK 750,000 per person are guaranteed through a deposit guarantee fund.

Payment services

Debit and Credit Cards

The banks offer debit and credit cards for withdrawal at cashpoints and making purchases.

New customers normally receive a MasterCard Debit, which only allows the owner to withdraw the amount available on the account.

If the bank assesses your financial standing to be satisfactory, you may be offered a Visa/Dankort which allows purchases and cash withdrawals higher than the deposit. An interest will be charged for such amounts. A Visa/Dankort can be issued for withdrawal and payment in most countries around the world.

Customers that are well known to the bank may also get a MasterCard Credit, which allows the owner a balance of debt.

Online banking

All banks offer online banking, which allows you to transfer money and pay bills within the Danish Realm without paying service fees.

Online banking is the easiest and cheapest way to transfer money, but it is also possible to ask the post office or the banks to pay bills or transfer money. In this case, a service fee will be requested.

The best way to transfer money between the Faroe Islands and countries outside the Danish Realm is by using SWIFT/BIC which is an international system for direct account-to-account transfer that can be made online. A fee is charged for SWIFT/BIC transfers.

Loans

The banks offer mortgage loans for buying real estate property and loans for other purposes, e.g. for purchasing a car. The bank will make an assessment of your financial standing before granting a loan.

7 Learning Faroese



It is possible to carry out research work and give lessons to bachelor students in the Faroe Islands without acquiring knowledge of Faroese. However, Faroese is the working language at all research institutions, and learning Faroese will make it easier to integrate professionally and privately.

7.1 Courses

Evening Schools

The bigger municipalities offer courses in Faroese language for foreigners. These courses are held at the evening schools.

All foreigners with a residence and work permit have the right to participate in a 20 hour course in Faroese at an evening school free of charge.

The language courses are designed as a beginner's course with two or three learning levels. Some schools have separate courses intended for Nordic speaking learners and English speaking learners.

Usually courses start in September or October and run until April.

Further information:

The Evening School in Tórshavn: www.kvoldskulin.fo

Courses at Bachelor Level

The University of the Faroe Islands offers bachelor level courses in Faroese language for foreigners.

The courses are designed as distance education but the students have the opportunity to meet at the beginning, halfway through and towards the end of the course.

Two BA level courses are available. Entry requirements for the first level are an upper secondary education diploma or equivalent qualification. Applicants for the second level must have completed the first level or a summer course in Faroese. Each course lasts one semester.

Summer Courses

The International Summer Institute in Faroese Language and Culture is held at the University of the Faroe Islands normally every second year in August. The duration of the course is three and a half week.

The courses offer an intensive and comprehensive introduction to Faroese language and culture.

The participants in the summer courses are mostly university students.

The tuition fee for the course is DKK 6,500.

A **Nordic Summer Course** in Faroese language and literature is held at the University of the Faroe Islands in June most years. The course is offered by Nordkurs, an institution run by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The course is intended for students of Nordic languages at Nordic universities.

The duration of the course is three weeks.

Private Courses

It is possible to attend private courses in Faroese language arranged by linguistic experts. Private courses may be arranged for groups of foreigners with the same background or for individuals.

The host institution can provide information about language teachers offering private courses for foreigners.

7.2 Self studies

Several self study courses in Faroese are available online and in textbooks.

Faroese Online

Faroese Online is a course in Faroese language for beginners free of charge. The course includes a series of different types of interactive, visual and audio exercises which enables foreigners to learn Faroese for everyday life in a fun and easy way.

CEFR courses at different levels will be offered soon. These are sequenced courses with increased difficulty levels each building on the previous course.

Further information:

Faroese Online: www.faroeseonline.com

Faroese – A Language Course for beginners

The Faroese publishing firm Stíðin has developed a language course presented in English, Faroese – A Language Course for beginners. It consists of a textbook, a CD and

a grammar book. The material can be purchased in bookshops. The audio material is freely available.

Audio material:

Faroese Course: www.stidin.fo/FaroeseCourse

Lexin

An online encyclopedia with interactive pictures and audio material that can translate between Faroese and a number of other languages is available.

Online encyclopedia: Lexin:

www.snar.fo/spael/samvirkni-og-spoel-a-snar/lexin-myndatema

8 Employment



8.1 Job vacancies

Scientific vacancies in the Faroe Islands can be found on the EURAXESS Jobs portal.

Scientific vacancies are also advertised in local and foreign newspapers and scientific magazines, and most research institutes post job vacancies on their websites.

Job vacancies can also be found in the Faroese Employment Registry- www.starv.fo – which is administrated by the Unemployment Fund. If you have a Faroese ID-number, you can also post your CV in the Employment Registry.

Unemployed members of a Nordic unemployment scheme can come to the Faroe Islands to look for a job for 3 months with a grant from their home fund.

8.2 Recognition of qualifications

In order to work in the Faroe Islands, you may need a professional recognition of your qualifications.

Recognition of foreign diplomas, degrees and other qualifications in the Faroe Islands will in most cases be similar to recognition of qualifications in Denmark.

Information on recognition of qualifications in Denmark is available from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education and the Danish ENIC/NARIC National Information Centre.

For some positions, a Faroese or Danish authorisation is needed. For example, foreign trained doctors and other health personnel must be authorised by the Danish National Board of Health.

8.3 Salary

Salary is set according to negotiated settlements between the employer and the relevant trade union.

Salary is set according to seniority and competence. If the position requires competence at Phd or professorial level, and the employee meets these requirements, a special Phd or professorial addition is given.

A fixed percent of the monthly salary is paid by the employer to a private **retirement pension plan** set up by the relevant trade union with the Faroese Life Assurance Company.

Persons moving to the Faroe Islands to work for a limited period can apply to the Customs and Tax Office for exception from paying a percentage of their salary to a Faroese retirement pension plan.

8.4 Employment rights

Employment rights are regulated by law or specified in the contract with the employer.

Holiday

Employed academics with a fixed monthly salary have the right to six weeks paid holiday a year.

The timing of the holiday period must be discussed in advance.

Public holidays in the Faroe Islands are:

New Year's Day
Maunday Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday
Easter Monday
Prayer Day
Ascension Day
Whit Sunday
National Flag Day (April 25th)
Constitution Day (June 5th) – ½ day
St. Olaf's Eve (July 28th) – ½ day
St. Olaf's Day (July 29th)
Christmas Eve (December 24th)
Christmas Day (December 25th)
Boxing Day (December 26th)
New Year's Eve (December 31st)

Illness

An employee with a fixed monthly salary has the right to paid leave while absent from work due to illness.

The employer can demand to see a doctor's certificate, though usually not before a week's period of illness.

Child's sick day

Academics with a fixed monthly salary have the right to 2 days of paid absence from work if their child is taken ill. The total number of days absent from work due to children's illness cannot exceed 10 days a year for each child.

Parental leave

Female academic employees have the right to leave with normal salary for 24 weeks when having a child. After the first 14 weeks from childbirth either the mother or the father can claim the remaining weeks of leave with normal salary.

After the 24 weeks of leave with normal salary the mother or the father is entitled to leave with pay from the Parental Leave Fund until 46 weeks after birth.

Insurances

Faroese employers are obliged to insure all employees against work-related injuries. The employee or his or her next of kin is entitled to compensation in case of injury, disease or death in connection with carrying out work.

Employees who have a Faroese retirement pension are normally supplementary insured against consequences of disability, serious disease and death.

Trade unions

Most employees in the Faroe Islands are members of a trade union. Trade unions have extensive rights in respect of negotiations with the employers and their organisations. Central wage contracts are made between trade unions and employer organisations. Trade unions also maintain the professional interests of their members at their place of work.

The main trade unions for researchers are:

Faroese Union of Academics: www.akf.fo

Faroese Union of Economists and Legal Advisors: www.blf.fo

8.5 Unemployment

Nordic citizens working in the Faroe Islands are entitled to benefits from the Faroese Unemployment Scheme – ALS – if they become unemployed.

Non Nordic citizens with a temporary work permit in the Faroe Islands are not entitled to unemployment benefits from the Faroese Unemployment Scheme.

A fee for the Unemployment Insurance Scheme is automatically withheld by the tax system from all wages paid to registered residents in the Faroe Islands. Foreign citizens with a temporary work permit can apply for exemption from paying this fee.

Employees who are dismissed from their job and have the right to unemployment benefits must inform ALS immediately that they are unemployed.

Unemployment benefits are based on the wages received during the last 12 months prior to becoming unemployed with a maximum of DKK 17,500 per month.

Unemployment benefits can be obtained for a total of 648 days during a period of 3 years.

A person receiving unemployment benefits must be available for any kind of work. If he or she refuses to accept a job offered by ALS, the right to unemployment benefits will be suspended for 4 weeks.

Further information:

The Unemployment Insurance Scheme: www.als.fo

8.6 Intellectual Property Rights

According to Faroese law, the **copyright** of a scientific work belongs to its creator. The scientist has the exclusive right to the creative and technical expression of his work and it is prohibited to reproduce text from the work without mentioning the source.

The copyright protects only the exact expression of the work. Ideas, principles and conclusions can freely be used by others.

The copyright is generated by the creation of the work itself and needs no special registration.

Inventions, company labels and industrial designs can be protected by **intellectual property right**. The Danish Patent and Trademark Office can provide a patent or a utility model which gives the creator a right for a limited time to exclude others from producing, using or selling the inventions without permission.

Patents and utility models are basically territorial rights and therefore limited to the

countries for which the protection is granted. After a novelty search and patentability examination performed by the Danish Patent and Trademark Office, it is possible for the applicant to proceed with the patent application internationally.

Further information:

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture: www.mmr.fo/arbeidsoki/mentan/upphavsraettur

Danish Patent and Trademark Office: www.dkpto.org

9 Taxation



The Faroese tax system is based around a set of direct and indirect taxes.

The tax system includes personal income taxes, value added tax and special taxes and excise duties on various goods and services.

9.1 Personal Income tax

All individuals who are living in the Faroe Islands must pay tax on all personal income.

Personal income tax is collected on wages, interest, gifts and inheritance. Personal income tax is paid to the government, the municipality and in most cases also to the church.

The total government and municipal tax paid on regular taxable income cannot exceed 50 percent.

Full tax liability applies to persons who are resident in the Faroe Islands or who stay here for at least 180 days in any 12 month period. Persons with full tax liability pay tax on all income, from the Faroe Islands and abroad. The tax rate for persons with full tax liability depends on income and municipality of residence.

Limited tax liability applies to persons who work temporarily in the Faroe Islands for less than 180 days. Employees with limited tax liability pay a fixed tax rate of 42 per cent on income earned in the Faroe Islands with no deductions.

The Faroe Islands have agreements on avoidance of double taxation with the Nordic countries, Greenland, India, Switzerland, Great Britain, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey, Bermuda, Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands.

Tax system

All individuals who have a Faroese civil registration number are automatically registered in the Faroese tax system.

All remuneration has to be paid out through a financial institution, which withholds taxes and duties for social funds.

Each tax payment is based on the income up to the date of the latest wage payment converted into annual income.

Wage earners who only receive wages from Faroese employers receive a completed tax sheet after each year from the Tax Administration. If the completed tax sheet is incorrect, the tax payer has to file a tax return.

Self-employed persons are obliged to keep accounts and must submit a Tax Return along with their accounts.

Rental income from real estate property in the Faroe Islands or abroad has to be registered as B-income.

Taxes deducted from the income may have been over or underestimated. In these cases, the tax payer will receive a payment from the tax authority or will be required to pay additional taxes.

Government tax is based on a progressive system, meaning that the tax rate rises as the amount subject to taxation rises. No tax is paid on the first DKK 65,000 of the taxable income. A fixed amount and a tax rate increasing from 15 to 30 per cent is paid on the remaining income.

A person earning between DKK 330,000 and DKK 800,000 pays DKK 44,500 of the first DKK 330,000 and 25 percent of the remaining income.

A deduction in the government tax is made for each child under the age of 18. The deduction is DKK 9,200 for children under 7 years and DKK 6,500 for older children.

Municipal tax rates are determined each year by each municipality. The rates vary from 16 to 22 percent (2018). No tax is paid on the first DKK 30,000 of the taxable income.

A deduction in the municipal tax is made for each child under the age of 18. The deduction is determined by the municipalities and varies between between DKK 4,500 and DKK 10,000 (2018).

Church tax is levied at a rate of 0.6% to 0.9% of regular taxable income exceeding DKK 30,000. Church tax is payable by members of the National Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Private **pension contributions** to Faroese pension plans can be deducted from the taxable income.

9.2 Subsidies

Residents in the Faroes can apply to receive interest subsidy for private mortgages and education loans. No subsidy is granted for private consumer loans.

Other subsidies include transport subsidy, double household subsidy, child support and alimony.

Interest subsidy is only offered for mortgages on houses in the Faroe Islands in which the owner lives.

Interest Subsidy

Interest subsidy is given for private mortgages for houses in the Faroe Islands in which the owner lives.

The subsidy is 35 percent of the interest. Subsidy for loans for private housing can be granted for interest up to DKK 100,000.

Transportation subsidy

A subsidy is granted at a standard rate for travel expenses between home residence and work provided that the daily transportation distance exceeds 20 km each way.

Double Household subsidy

Married persons residing in the Faroe Islands who for work-related reasons have two homes can be granted a double household subsidy.

Child Support and Alimony

Individuals who pay alimony or child support for more than one child are entitled to a subsidy of 40 per cent. Subsidy for child support is only given for the amount exceeding the pay for one child.

9.3 Capital Gains tax

All capital gains income earned by Faroese residents, irrespective of source, is subject to Faroese taxation.

Interest on deposits in Faroese and foreign banks is taxed as capital gains income. Tax on interest on deposits in a Faroese bank is withheld at source by the bank.

Individuals with other capital income than interest from deposits in Faroese banks have to file a capital income tax return.

9.4 Pension tax

Contributions to pension plans are taxed at source at 40 percent before the net payment is transferred to the insurance company or bank.

No tax is charged when pensions are paid out.

Pension contributions made before January 1st, 2012, have not been taxed at source and will be subject to tax when paid out.

9.5 Social security duties

In addition to taxes all employees have to pay contributions to various social funds. These are deducted from the income in the same way as tax.

Unemployment Insurance Fund

Residents between the age of 16 and 67 years working in the Faroe Islands are liable to contribute to the Unemployment Insurance Fund (ALS). The contribution is 1.25 percent of the taxable income.

Foreign residents with temporary work permits can seek exemption from contributing to ALS.

Parental Leave Fund

Residents between the age of 16 and 67 years working in the Faroe Islands are liable to contribute to the Parental Leave Fund. The contribution to BAS is 0.71 percent of the taxable income.

Labour Market Supplemental Pension Fund

All residents under 67 year liable to pay tax in the Faroe Islands pay 2.25 per cent of their taxable income to the Supplementary Labour Market Pension Fund.

National Health Insurance

All residents over the age of 18 have to pay a monthly contribution to the National Health Insurance.

The contribution is a fixed amount of DKK 175 and 0.6 percent of the taxable income.

The Broadcasting License Fee

All residents between 24 and 66 years pay DKK 150 kr. per month to the Faroese Broadcasting Corporation. Residents older than 66 years pay DKK 50 per month.

9.6 Vehicle tax

All cars registered in the Faroe Islands must pay a motor vehicle tax every half-year. The size of the tax depends on usage, weight and power of the vehicle.

9.7 Value Added Tax

Value added tax (VAT) is a consumption tax on sales and is levied whenever a sale of goods and services occurs throughout the distribution chain. VAT is also levied on the import of goods. A standard rate of 25 percent is applied on most goods and services.

Some goods and services are exempt from VAT. Among these are certain cultural activities and sports, personal transportation, financial and insurance transactions and literary, compositional and other artistic activities.

9.8 Customs and Excise duties

Goods imported into the Faroe Islands may be subject to customs duties. The basis of the charge varies with the classification of the goods.

Excise duties are levied on a variety of commodities, including alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, chocolate, confectionery and motor fuel.

Further information:

Customs and Tax Office: www.taks.fo

10 Health care



10.1 Health insurance

Health care services are financed by the government and by mandatory contributions from all residents through the National Health Insurance.

All individuals residing in the Faroe Islands, who have a Faroese civil registration number are automatically covered by the National Health Insurance.

The National Health Insurance covers general and specialized medical treatment and gives supplement to prescribed medicines, dental treatment and other specialized treatment, e.g. physiotherapy and psychotherapy.

Citizens of the Nordic countries and Great Britain staying in the Faroe Islands on a **short term** basis have the right to health care on the same terms as Faroese citizens if they become ill or injured.

Residents of other countries will need to acquire their own traveler's health insurance while staying on a short term basis in the Faroe Islands.

The health insurance regulation for EU countries does not apply to the Faroe Islands.

Further information:

National Health Insurance: www.heilsutrygd.fo

10.2 Medical care

Urgent medical care

For health emergencies – call 112. The emergency telephone number must be used only for emergency calls in case of serious injury or illness when immediate treatment is needed.

For medical assistance outside normal working hours – call 1870. The staff at the Medical Assistance Centre will provide advice over the telephone or ask the patient to come to a check-up at a hospital.

Emergency service is provided when necessary at the Acute department of the National Hospital.

For urgent dental service on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays – call +298 314544 between 10 and 11 am.

General Practitioners

General medical treatment is provided by primary doctors – General Practitioners. Every new residence is assigned a General Practitioner by the National Health Insurance.

The General Practitioner is the first point of contact for any illness except for emergencies. He or she will direct patients to specialists when needed.

The General Practitioners also provide statutory duties such as vaccinations and medical examinations of children and pregnant women.

General Practitioners also have telephone consultation hour from 8 to 9 am for simple questions or prescriptions.

Specialist treatment

Specialist health care services are available in hospitals or from practicing specialists. Seeing a specialist requires a referral from a General Practitioner.

For some specialist services a patient's charge is claimed. The patient's charge is paid directly to the specialist.

Dental care for adults is carried out by dentists in private practice. The National Health Insurance covers part of the cost for dental care.

Children up to the age of 16 are entitled to free public dental treatment. Children's dental services are administrated by the municipalities.

Mental health service and **physical therapy** are available at private practices. If a General Practitioner has referred the patient to a psychologist or a physical therapist, the National Health Insurance will cover 40 percent of the cost.

Hospitals

The General Practitioner can refer patients to hospital treatment.

There are three hospitals in the Faroe Islands – in Tórshavn, Klaksvík and Suðuroy. The National Hospital – Landssjúkrahúsið – in Tórshavn is the main hospital. Most illnesses and injuries can be managed at the National Hospital but in some cases, it may be necessary to receive treatment abroad.

Pregnancy and childbirth

Pregnancy check-ups are carried out by the General Practitioners and by midwives. Ultrasound scans are available for free in the 18th week of pregnancy.

Childbirth takes place at the National Hospital in Tórshavn. Mother and child normally stay between 2 and 5 days in hospital after childbirth.

Pharmacies

Medicine is sold at pharmacies. Some medicines are freely available to buy and for others a prescription from a doctor is needed. The National Health Insurance provides benefits for some medicines.

Pharmacies are located in Tórshavn, Klaksvík, Tvøroyri and Runavík. Furthermore, there are approximately 30 pharmacy outlets throughout the islands.

11 Family



The Faroe Islands are considered to be a family-friendly society with a safe and peaceful environment and generous family benefits and child care.

Same-sex marriage has been legalized in the Faroe Islands.

11.1 Spouses

The accompanying spouse or cohabiting partner of a foreign researcher with a work permit in the Faroe Islands is free to take on any job position.

Job vacancies can be found in the local newspapers or in the Employment Registry www.starv.fo.

11.2 Parental leave

Female academic employees have the right to leave with normal salary for 24 weeks when having a child. The leave can begin 4 weeks before anticipated birth.

After the first 14 weeks from childbirth the mother and the father can divide the remaining weeks of leave with normal salary between them as they wish.

After the 24 weeks of leave with normal salary the mother or the father is entitled to leave with pay from the Parental Leave Fund until 46 weeks after birth.

The father is entitled to 4 weeks of leave together with the mother. If he goes on leave within the first 14 weeks after birth he will receive benefit from the Parental Leave Fund.

The grant from the Parental Leave Fund is based on the average salary received during the last 12 months prior to giving birth. The grant cannot exceed DKK 25,000 per month.

For Nordic citizens income earned in another Nordic country counts as basis for grant from the Parental Leave Fund.

After the paid leave, the mother or the father has the right to unpaid leave until 52 weeks after the birth of the child.

Further information:

Parental Leave Fund: www.barsil.fo

11.3 Single Parents benefit

Single parents are entitled to **child maintenance** from the parent who does not have the child on a daily basis. The maintenance can be paid in advance by the Department of Social Services if the person liable to pay the maintenance does not pay on time.

Single parents also have the right to a special **public subsidy**.

11.4 Child Health care

Health services for children up to the end of school age (16-17 years) are free of charge.

Children's nurses examine the children in their home regularly up to the age of 18 months. If the child or the family has special needs, the nurse's home visits can continue up to school age.

Foreigners moving to the Faroe Islands with small children must contact the children's nurse in order to receive home visits.

General Practitioners provide medical checks up to the age of 5 and vaccinations according to a vaccination programme.

School nurses provide regular medical checks and personal interviews as well as parental guidance and information on health related issues.

Further information:

Gigni: www.gigni.fo

11.5 Day care

The municipalities provide day care for children up to school age. Day care can be provided in private homes or in day care centres.

Children with special needs can receive specialized pedagogical assistance in the day care centres.

Parents can register their children for day care six months before they move to the Faroe Islands.

After school, care is provided in most municipalities for children in early school years.

Parents have to pay a fee for day care for their children. In some municipalities the fee will be reduced if the family has several children in day care.

Further information:

Tórshavn Municipality: www.torshavn.fo

11.6 School and Education

All education in the Faroe Islands is free of charge.

The education system is made up of three main levels: elementary school, secondary school, and higher education.

Education is compulsory for at least 9 years, normally beginning at the age of 7.

Faroese is the language of education in all Faroese schools. School children who move to the Faroe Islands are entitled to 20 additional lessons in Faroese.

Elementary school

The public elementary schools offer 9 years of compulsory basic education and an elective 10th year.

In Tórshavn Municipality, there are 10 public elementary schools and two private elementary schools.

Some public elementary schools also offer a special primary school class for six-years old children.

Secondary school

There are several types of secondary schools in the Faroe Islands building on the education received in elementary school.

Secondary education can be divided into three groups: technical, business, and general education.

The diplomas awarded by the Faroese secondary schools are equivalent to those awarded in the Danish educational system.

Diplomas from the general upper secondary school and diplomas after three-years' study at technical and business schools give access to higher education.

Higher education

Higher education is offered at the University of the Faroe Islands. The university offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees in several subjects.

Vocational academic education is offered at the educational centre Glasir.

12 Pension



12.1 Retirement pension

Retirement pensioners in the Faroe Islands receive pension contributions from several sources.

Obligatory private pension scheme

All wage-earners with full tax liability in the Faroe Islands are obliged to pay a percentage of their salary to a private retirement pension plan.

According to agreements between trade unions and employers, the employer contributes to the employees' pension. For academics employers pay 16% of their salary to a private pension scheme.

The pension plan is normally set up by the trade unions. Most trade unions have an agreement with the Faroese Life Assurance Company about retirement pension.

Pension savings are pre-taxed at 40%.

Persons moving to the Faroe Islands to work for a limited period can apply to the Customs and Tax Office for exception from paying a percentage of their wages to a Faroese retirement pension plan.

The private retirement pension is inaccessible until the age of 67. Up to 15 percent can be paid out in one payment when the owner reaches the age of 67. At least 45 percent of the pension must be paid out as a continuous pension on a monthly basis until death.

Labour Market Supplemental Pension Fund

The Labour Market Supplemental Pension Fund is financed partly by the employer and partly by the employee, currently at the rate of 2.25% of the salary paid by each party.

Individuals who live in the Faroe Islands for at least 3 years between the age of 15 and 67 have the right to a monthly payment from the Labour Market Supplemental Pension Fund.

Entitlement to a full monthly payment from the Labour Market Supplementary Pension Fund is earned after at least 40 years of permanent residence in the Faroe Islands. If the period of residence is shorter, the pension is calculated as 1/40 of the full pension for each year of residence in the Danish Realm.

If the individual moves to another country after turning 67 he or she will still have the right to benefits from this pension scheme.

National Retirement Pension

All residents with Danish citizenship who have lived in the Danish Realm for at least 3 years between the ages of 15 and 67 and foreign citizens who are married to a Danish citizen, are entitled to a national retirement pension at the age of 67.

In order to obtain a full retirement pension in the Faroe Islands, the pensioner must have resided in the Danish Realm for at least 40 years. If the period of residence is shorter, the pension is calculated as 1/40 of the full pension for each year of residence in the Danish Realm.

Nordic citizens have the right to National Retirement Pension in the Faroe Islands under the same conditions as Danish citizens.

The Faroese national retirement pension is composed of a basic amount, which is independent of any outside income, and an additional grant that fluctuates depending on the amount of outside income.

Further information:

Department of Social Services www.av.fo

12.10 Disability pension

Residents between 18 and 67 years with Danish citizenship who have lived in the Danish Realm for at least 3 years after the age of 15 and foreign citizens who are married to a Danish citizen, are entitled to a disability pension if their work capacity is permanently reduced by at least a half.

In order to obtain a full disability pension in the Faroe Islands, the resident must have resided in the Danish Realm for at least 4/5 of the time after the age of 15. If the period of residence is shorter, the pension is calculated in proportion to the time of residence.

Nordic citizens have the right to disability pension in the Faroe Islands under the same conditions as Danish citizens.

Disability pension can only be granted if there is no suitable work available and it is not possible to improve the working capacity through work-improving measures.

Disability pension is granted at three different levels depending on loss of capacity for work.

Further information:

Department of Social Services: www.av.fo

13 Leaving the Faroe Islands



13.1 Registration

If you move from the Faroe Islands to another Nordic country, you must report the relocation to the municipality where you will be living. You will only be registered as having left the Faroe Islands once the municipality to which you are moving has informed the municipality which you are leaving.

If you move from a Faroese municipality to a country outside the Nordic region, you must notify your Faroese municipality before you leave.

If you move abroad for less than six months, you can retain your registered address in the Faroe Islands unless you rent out or lend your house or flat.

It is advisable to keep information about your Faroese ID-number in case you need to be in touch with Faroese authorities later on.

Further information:

Tórshavn Municipality: www.torshavn.fo

13.2 Banking

You can keep your Faroese bank account and internet bank after leaving the Faroe Islands. It is important to keep the bank account open for approximately one year in case you receive reimbursements for e.g. tax or deregistration fees.

Normally, you cannot keep your Visa debit card if you no longer receive a salary in the Faroe Islands. The bank may let you keep your Mastercard debit card for some time after you have left the country.

If you have a mortgage loan in the bank, you can keep the loan as long as you pay your debts. If you sell your house, you will have to pay back the loan.

If you have a car loan in the bank, you will have to pay back the loan when you deregister your car.

13.3 Taxation

You will receive a pre-printed tax return for the previous year in March after having left the Faroe Islands. If the pre-printed information is incorrect, you will have to file a tax return.

Excess tax, if any, will be paid out to your Faroese bank account.

It is important that you inform the Faroese Tax Office if you change your address after having left the Faroe Islands.

13.4 Holiday pay

Employees with a fixed salary will get unused holidays paid out as salary when they leave their job.

Hourly-paid employees get 12 percent of their wages earned from April 1st to March 31st paid out as holiday pay on May 2nd.

Overtime work is paid by the hour, and employees with a fixed salary will have holiday pay for overtime work paid out on May 2nd.

Foreigners who have holiday pay due must keep their Faroese bank account until they have received their pay.

13.5 Car registration

If you want to take your Faroese registered car with you when you leave the Faroe Islands, you will have to deregister it.

When deregistering the car, you are entitled to a refund on part of the paid registration duty. The amount will be transferred to your Faroese bank account.

13.6 Unemployment insurance

Nordic citizens who are moving from the Faroe Islands to another Nordic country can have their membership of the Faroese Unemployment Scheme transferred to an unemployment scheme in the country they are moving to.

In order to get transferred to an unemployment scheme in another Nordic country, you will have to obtain a certificate proving your membership from the Faroese Un-

employment Scheme three weeks before you leave. The certificate and pay slips from your employer must be handed over to the unemployment scheme in the country you are moving to within 8 weeks after your membership of the Faroese Unemployment Scheme has expired.

In order to get unemployment benefit in the country you are moving to you must be able to document that you have been employed for a certain period of time. The length of the period varies from country to country.

13.7 Parental leave

If a parent moves from the Faroe Islands to another Nordic country while being on paid leave from the Parental Leave Fund, she or he can receive payments from the fund until the end of the parental leave period. The parents can choose to receive payments from the parental fund in the country they are moving to instead.

14 EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion



EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is a unique pan-European initiative delivering information and support services to professional researchers. Backed by the European Union and its Member States, it supports researcher mobility and career development, while enhancing scientific collaboration between Europe and the world.

Further information:

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>

14.1 EURAXESS Faroe Islands

EURAXESS Faroe Islands is part of the EURAXESS network. The objective of EURAXESS Faroe Islands is to give on-line information and practical assistance for researchers moving to and from the Faroe Islands.

EURAXESS Faroe Islands has Service Centres and Local Contact Points in all public research institutions and in the industry.

Research Council Faroe Islands is the **Bridgehead Organisation** of EURAXESS Faroe Islands.

The **National Service Centre** is located at:

Research Council Faroe Islands

Bryggjubakki 12
FO-100 Tórshavn

Phone: +298 567800
E-mail: euraxess@gransking.fo

The **Local Service Centre** is located at:

University of the Faroe Islands

J.C. Svabos gøta 14
FO-100 Tórshavn

Phone: +298 352500
E-mail: euraxess@setur.fo

Local Contact Points are located at:

Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority
The Environment Agency
Faroese Geological Survey
Department of Occupational Medicine and Public Health
National Hospital of the Faroe Islands
Aquaculture Research Station
National Museum
Faro Marine Research Institute
House of Industry

Further information:

EURAXES Faroe Islands: www.euraxess.fo



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