



# Guidance

In this section, you will find guidance and advice to help you prepare and avoid common mistakes in the application process for the **UK-Iceland Explorer Scholarship Fund**.

## **Who can apply?**

Individuals with Icelandic or dual citizenship who are starting their full-degree studies in the UK, either at master or doctoral level, in the upcoming autumn semester. We encourage you to apply if you meet our eligibility criteria.

## **Is the fund open to all academic disciplines?**

For the study grant: Yes. Please note that in order to qualify for the UK Space Agency's Internship Programme (SPIN), your studies will need to have a space-related focus, as work placements will be with companies in the space sector.

## **What makes a good application?**

What matters most is the ability to submit a thoughtful application that demonstrates your interest in studying in the UK, academic performance so far, leadership and networking skills and clear career ambitions. If you face social barriers of any kind, we encourage you to describe your situation in the application form.

## **What should be kept in mind in the application process?**

- Make sure that you have answered **all** the questions. Incomplete applications are deemed ineligible.
- In questions which require yes/no answers, remember to pick **either yes or no**.
- Remember to include all information about your **experiences** that could be of relevance to the fund. Not only your academic record but also any practical experience like a part-time job or volunteering work can tell us a lot about yourself and your ambitions.
- **Count** the words when answering essay questions that indicate a maximum number. If the maximum word count is exceeded, your application will be deemed ineligible.
- Do **not repeat** answers to any of the essay questions. Make sure you enter new and original answers for each of them.
- You must complete the application form in **English**. Applications in other languages will be deemed ineligible.
- A copy of your **transcript of records** should be sent together with your application form.
- You should not wait for the outcome of your application to the UK-Iceland Explorer Scholarship Fund to apply for the university courses you are interested in. This is an independent application process that you are responsible for yourself. Any **study offers** from UK institutions that you have received should be sent to the fund together with your scholarship application. In case you have not received an offer yet, the grant can only be awarded conditionally until you have your offer.

### **Why do you need references?**

References are an integral part of the UK-Iceland Explorer Scholarship Fund selection process. You must supply the names of two referees when you submit your application. Please select them carefully. They should be people who can comment on your general suitability to receive a grant from the UK-Iceland Explorer Scholarship Fund. Referees should be known to you, either in an academic or professional capacity. They should not be a relative or a close personal friend.

## **How are interviews conducted?**

If you are shortlisted for a UK-Iceland Explorer Scholarship, you will be invited to attend an interview in Reykjavik or online. An interview is a great opportunity to really demonstrate why you should be selected for a scholarship and why you should join the UK-Iceland Explorer community.

You will be interviewed with a selection panel representing both countries. It will be conducted in English. You will be asked a series of questions discussing some of the information you provided in the application form. The panel will ask questions that will enable you to explain your personal and professional aspirations, and how the UK-Iceland Explorer Scholarship Fund can facilitate your achievement of these goals. Your course choices will also be discussed, and you will be asked to provide an update on your applications. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their interview shortly after they are conducted.

## **How is funding awarded?**

For the first year of the UK-Iceland Explorer Scholarship Fund, funding will be awarded directly to the student by Rannís.

For future scholarships in subsequent years, the funding for study will be provided directly to the chosen UK institution and contribute towards your course fees. For internships through SPIN, funding will be provided directly to the company, to cover salary payments.

## **Do I need a student visa to study in the UK?**

If you are 16 or over and want to study at higher education level, you'll need to apply for a [student visa](#) through the Student Route.

You need to wait until you have an offer from a university before applying for a visa. Your university will then be able to give you a document called a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS). To do this, your chosen institution needs to be approved by the UK government as a licenced sponsor.

You will need to complete an application, and have it accepted before you arrive in the UK.

You can apply for a student visa up to six months before your course starts.

Find out more about student visas on the [UK government website](#).

### **Where can I find information on postgraduate studies in the UK or on the UK Space Agency's Internship Programme (SPIN)?**

We recommend that you have a look at the [Rannís website for study abroad](#). Please note that tuition fees and application deadlines differ between UK institutions and study courses. The best source for this kind of information is found on the relevant UK institution's website.

The UK Space Agency provides useful information on its [website](#). Any successful applicants wishing to pursue a SPIN placement will be contacted directly by the SPIN team.