



Policy areas handled by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

Arts and cultural heritage

The state's function in the area of arts and cultural affairs is the operating of institutions, management of funds and assistance in projects, either in form of statutory contributions or funding based on the national budget appropriation at the time.

Supporting funds for arts and cultural affairs mostly provide project grants except for the salary fund for artists and the salary fund for scientific authors that grant wages.

Mass media

The Icelandic National Broadcasting Service and the Broadcasting Committee, which among other things grant legal bodies and individuals temporary operating licence for radio.

Sports and youth affairs

The Ministry supervises sports and youth affairs to extent of which the state is responsible.

In that respect the Ministry gathers information about sport practice in the country and sports facilities. Also, the ministry promotes research within the sporting area.

Educational matters

The Ministry handles the formation and the execution of the educational policy and addresses issues of all school levels. The Ministry issues the main curricula of pre-primary schools, compulsory schools and upper secondary schools, ballet schools and music schools. Furthermore the Ministry is in charge of analysing and distributing information, supporting innovation and development in schools and is responsible for evaluation and supervision of educational activities.

The pre-primary school is the first level of the educational system and is non-compulsory. The compulsory school is mandatory for children and adolescents between the ages of six and sixteen. Anyone who has completed compulsory education or equivalent basic education has the right to enter a course of studies in an upper secondary school.

The final examination may be defined as; shorter upper secondary school diploma, vocational examination, matriculation examination, additional education at upper secondary school level and other final examinations. Music schools offer instruction to students from the age of pre-primary school until adult years. The studies are divided into basic studies, intermediate studies and advanced studies.

Continuing education is offered by centres of continuing education in the rural area and various educational parties in the metropolitan area.

The university's function is to provide education to students in order to work independently at scientific projects, innovation and arts and to fulfil functions in the society demanding higher education. The Ministry supervises the quality of teaching and research provided by the universities.

Student loans

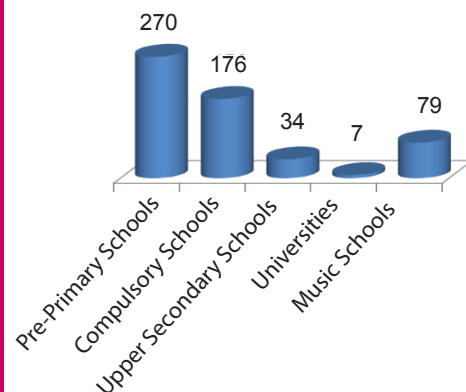
Students studying at higher educational level or pursuing vocational education at upper secondary level can receive student loans to provide their basic needs.

Science and research

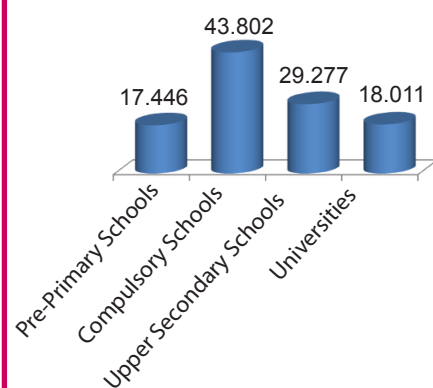
The government's policy in science and technical matters is defined by the Council for Science and Technology for three years a time. The council's function is to promote science research, technology education and technical advancement in the country in order to strengthen the fundamentals of the Icelandic culture and to increase the competitiveness within the economy.

Research is performed by the universities, scientific research institutes, private institutions and companies, as well as self-employed individuals.

Number of schools in 2009



Number of students in 2009



National budget of 2009, proportional division of fields

- Ministry - 667 million ISK
- Universities and research - 20.250 million ISK
- Upper Secondary Schools - 19.012 million ISK
- Compulsory Schools - 647 million ISK
- Teaching assistance - 7.685 million ISK.
- Museums, art instit. etc. - 9.203 million ISK.
- Other - 1.335 million ISK

