



Spring in Iullisat, West-Greenland.
- Photo: Niels Einarsson.



Háskólinn
á Akureyri
University
of Akureyri

Polar Law

Heimskautaréttur LL.M. / M.A.

POLAR LAW

Polar Law describes the legal regimes applicable to the Arctic and Antarctica. Emphasis is placed upon relevant areas of public international law, such as environmental law; the law of the sea; questions of sovereignty and boundary disputes on land and sea; natural resources law; the rights of indigenous peoples in the north; self-government and good governance; and land and resource claims in polar regions.

MASTERS PROGRAMS IN POLAR LAW

The Masters Programs at the University of Akureyri are the first of their kind in the world and will provide a unique focus on Polar Law. They come about in a timely fashion when climate changes are having a dramatic effect on the Arctic and Antarctic regions, when the opening of the northwest and northeast passages is becoming possible, when current and potential boundary disputes on land and sea remain unresolved, when issues and questions of national and local governance are moving forward on national and international agendas, and, last but not least, when multiple threats to the environment are sending serious danger signals and calling for urgent measures. One of the interesting areas of study to which the Masters Programs can contribute concerns the possible lessons that the legal regime for the Antarctica could provide for solutions in the Arctic region.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The University of Akureyri is working closely with the universities in Tórshavn (Faroe Islands), Nuuk (Greenland) and Rovaniemi (Finland) to offer this program. It will also cooperate with the University of the Arctic and with universities in Canada, Alaska and Russia. Plans are also being made for cooperation with the universities in Copenhagen, Lund, Oslo, Tromsø and Turku.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Masters Program is designed for both lawyers (leading to the LL.M. degree) and non-lawyers (leading to the M.A. degree), preparing them for work in both the public and private sectors, with roles in national and local governments, with international organizations, with indigenous peoples of the Circumpolar North, with academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, and with national and transnational corporations to promote the interests of the polar regions and their inhabitants.

www.polarlaw.is



www.unak.is

PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS

The Polar Law Program is designed primarily as a masters level program. All the Polar Law subjects are taught in English and applicants should have good written and spoken English skills.

M.A.

The M.A. degree involves 120 course credits (ECTS) in Polar Law, including a 60 ECTS research thesis, during a two year program of study. A previously completed B.A. degree (or comparable university degree) is a prerequisite for M.A. degree studies in Polar Law.

LL.M.

The LL.M. degree involves 90 course credits (ECTS) in Polar Law during three semesters of study. A previously completed B.A. degree in law (or comparable law degree) is a prerequisite for LL.M. studies in Polar Law.

INDIVIDUAL COURSES

Exchange students from other schools

(for instance, students enrolled at the University of the Arctic) and individuals working in related agencies or institutes may take individual courses in the Polar Law Program. Such students will be individually assessed to determine whether they have sufficient preparation for the courses that they intend to take.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMAS

The Polar Law Program offers a 60 ECTS study at the master level leading to a graduate diploma, and a 60 ECTS study at the bachelor level leading to an undergraduate diploma. The admission requirement for the graduate diploma is a previously completed B.A. degree in law (or comparable law degree). The admission requirement for the undergraduate diploma is one year (60 ECTS) of university studies at the bachelor level in a relevant field within the humanities or social sciences, or a high school diploma plus significant relevant work experience.

TEACHING AND TEACHERS

The programs are offered under the academic directorship of Professor Gudmundur Alfredsson. Teaching staff also include

- David Leary
- Kári á Rógvi
- Natalia Loukacheva
- Aviaja Helms
- Timo Koivuova
- Marie Jacobsson
- Malgosia Fitzmaurice
- Laila Susanne Vars
- Mininnguaq Kleist
- Jón Haukur Ingimundarson
- Ágúst Þór Árnason
- Margrét Heinreksdóttir

All courses are taught in intensive seminars of 3-5 weeks duration each.

For further information, course descriptions, and application forms, please visit the Polar Law website: www.polarlaw.is or contact Agust Thor Arnason, Project Manager, agust@unak.is, tel.: +354 899 3035.



THE UNIVERSITY OF AKUREYRI

The University of Akureyri has grown rapidly since it was founded in 1987. It is known for its quality on-campus and distance education. The number of students is over 1400 and members of staff are around 180. As a public university, it offers the Polar Law Programs without tuition fees to students from anywhere in the World. Applicants are required to pay a registration fee of 550 Euros but 75% of this fee is refundable for applicants who decide not to begin their studies.

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT AKUREYRI

Akureyri is a university town of approximately 17,000 inhabitants situated in Northern Iceland. It enjoys the tranquillity and beauty of a small-town whilst offering the services and social life that might be expected of the "Capital of the North." These include ski-slopes, an outdoor thermal swimming pool and other sports facilities, a vibrant bar culture, a major hospital, excellent schools and child-care facilities. The cost of living in Akureyri is lower than that in

Reykjavik, owing primarily to lower housing costs. Akureyri is served by its own airport with frequent connections to Reykjavik and direct flights to Copenhagen during the summer months. Lessons in Icelandic language are available for new residents of the town. However, day to day business can usually be conducted in English, for example, medical services, banking and shopping. To discover more about Akureyri, go to: www.visitakureyri.is

