

The Biology of Arctic Fishes - Iceland

The 2010 International Field Studies Program in the Biological Sciences is offering a course in the Biology of Arctic Fishes. The course will be taught at Hólar University College in Iceland and will give students the opportunity to study the ecology, physiology, and evolution of these fishes in their natural setting. Hólar is in northern Iceland in the Hjaltadalur valley of the Skagafjörður district. The area is renowned for horse breeding and training, and heritage tourism. The University is near the city of Sauðárkrókur, the second-largest town on the north coast of Iceland. The setting at Hólar University College provides a unique opportunity for students to study the biology of Arctic fishes within a few miles of the Arctic Circle while enjoying a mild climate.



CLASS: Students will receive three credits for BIOL 399: International Field Studies. Instruction will be over a two week period beginning June 4, 2010. Dr. Bjarni K. Kristjánsson of the Department of Aquaculture and Fish Biology at Hólar University College and Dr. E. Eugene Williams of the Department of Biological Sciences at Salisbury University will jointly teach the course. The course will include lectures, laboratories and field activities, including a trip to Lake Mývatn (pictured). Topics covered in the course include the evolutionary ecology of Arctic fishes, Iceland's unique geology and its impact on the biology of Icelandic fishes, the evolution of Icelandic freshwater fishes, fish physiology at the organismal and molecular levels, mechanisms of acclimation and adaptation, and other topics.

HOST INSTITUTION: Hólar University College traces its roots to an agricultural school that was established at Hólar in 1882. Over the years, the agricultural school developed into a modern university and became specialized to suit the needs of the region. Today, Hólar University College is a scientific educational and research institution offering degrees in aquaculture and fish biology, equestrian studies (horsemanship as well as horse breeding), and rural tourism studies.

EXCURSIONS: In addition to studying the biology of Icelandic fish, a significant portion of the course will focus on Icelandic culture. Three hours each week will be devoted to studying the language of the Vikings, Old Norse, now called Icelandic. Group trips to see the work of local artists displayed in Skagafjörður Library and Archives, in the Safnahús in Sauðárkrókur, and to the Glaumbær Folk Museum (with an 18th century turf-house farm) are planned. Trips to local geological sites, like Dettifoss, the most powerful waterfall in Europe, may also be planned. We plan to spend one full day and night in Reykjavik, either at the beginning or end of the course to explore the world's most northern capital city. Students may also enjoy horseback riding and river rafting very close to the University.

HOUSING: Students will live in the dormitories at Hólar University College and eat in the University cafeteria. You will live like an Icelandic student!

COST: Tuition and fees for the 2010 BIOL 399 course are estimated to be close to \$3500. Final costs will be determined in spring 2010. The price will include all tuition, round-trip airfare, room and board in Iceland, all travel within Iceland, and international health insurance. Costs not included in the program fee are passport fees, costs for personal items purchased in Iceland, and some miscellaneous expenses. US citizens do not need visas to visit Iceland. Passports, which are required, must be valid for three months beyond the end of the intended stay.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION: An initial deposit of \$250 is due at the time of application. This deposit is part of the total advertised cost of the program. Once the faculty director academically admits a student, the initial non-refundable deposit is due to the Cashier's Office. The student will be automatically enrolled into the study abroad course. The University Billing Office will then bill each registered student for the total cost of the study abroad program (less the deposit amount) through the regular university billing system. Standard university deadlines for withdrawals do not apply to study abroad programs. ***Once the published Application Deadline occurs, the accepted student is responsible for the entire amount of the study abroad program charge.***

APPLICATION INFORMATION: Application forms are available at the Center for International Education or from the faculty director. Completed application forms are currently being accepted by the faculty director or by the Center for International Education. Students should also submit a completed faculty recommendation form from a faculty member who knows the student well. Admission is competitive and enrollment is very limited. Students will be admitted on a rolling basis until the program is full. The application deadline is February 15, 2010. For more information see the program website at www.salisbury.edu/intled/studyabroad/summer/iceland/. All questions concerning the program should be addressed to the program director:

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