The Department of Equine Studies at Hólar University College is the official centre of equine studies and research in Iceland. The goal of the department is to educate its students for a career within the horse industry, such as riding instructions, training and competitions.

The Department offers a three year (180 ECTS) BSc program in riding and riding instructions, with a possibility of graduating with a diploma having completed one or two years of the studies. The major areas within the three-year program are practical riding/training, equine related science subjects and pedagogy for riding instructors.

The environment for studies at Hólar is an international one. Normally a third of the students come from abroad. The official language used within the college is Icelandic.

The campus at Hólar is beautifully located in the heart of the Hjaltadalur Valley, in Iceland’s Mid-North. Hólar is one of the country’s principal historical, cultural and ecclesiastical sites and has been a place of learning through the ages, moving with the demands for education of each new era.

**FACILITIES**
The department of equine science at Hólar University College boosts excellent facilities for students and staff. The stables accommodate over 250 horses. There are three riding halls of different sizes, as well as outdoor riding tracks. The beautiful surroundings offer a variety of different fields and tracks for riding.

**STUDENT HOUSING**
The residency unit on the campus at Hólar offers excellent student housing, of different sizes, suitable for singles or sharing and even some larger apartments available for families. There is a primary school and a pre-school on campus, serving Hólar and the neighbouring rural area.
3 YEARS OF EDUCATION - BSc IN RIDING AND RIDING INSTRUCTIONS

FIRST YEAR

AUTUMN TERM
- Riding I (Seat & aids)
- Equine behaviour
- Equine nutrition
- Biochemistry and physiology
- Methodology
- Pedagogy & riding instructions I

SPRING TERM
- Riding II (Training of the icel. riding horse)
- Anatomy of the horse
- Equine management and health
- The history of the horse
- Equine nutrition – Sport horses
- Pedagogy & riding instructions II

The objective of the 1st year studies is that the students improve their riding skills, obtain theoretical and applied knowledge of equine biology, behaviour as well as its keeping and welfare. At the end of year one, the students should also be able to give basic riding lessons.

SECOND YEAR

AUTUMN TERM
- The emphasis is on training horses at different levels.
- Starting young horses I
- Basic training of young horses I
- Training I
- Training physiology
- Kinesiology & biomechanics of the horse

SPRING TERM
- Starting young horses II
- Training II
- Training III
- Experiments (methodology/statistics)
- Sport psychology
- Pedagogy & riding instructions III

The students spend the last weeks of this term at training stations, supervised by professional trainers. They will also hold their first independent riding seminar.

THIRD YEAR

AUTUMN TERM
- Training for competitions I
- Developmental psychology
- Horse shoeing I
- Final project or BSc dissertation

SPRING TERM
- Training for competitions II
- Training for breeding shows
- Judging horses
- Pedagogy & riding instructions IV
- Horse shoeing II or Genetics & breeding

Upon graduation students should be competent in jobs related to riding instructions and horse training at different stages as well as participating in riding competitions and shows. Furthermore students should have obtained sound scientific skills and thus be prepared for participation in research projects and for further studies in the field of horse training and riding instructions.