

Useful information

Off Campus Services

Where to go for services and shopping?

Sauðárkrókur (31 km)

All basic services, such as

shopping (one departmental store and two smaller food or grocery stores, as well as special shops such as a chemists, a flower shop, a car and computer spares shop etc)

[health centre](#)

[police station](#)

banks ([Arion](#), [Landsbanki](#), [Sparisjodur Skagafjardar](#))

dentists (at least three, look them up on www.ja.is, the word is "tannlæknir")

repairs (cars, computers etc.)

insurance companies ([VÍS](#), [Sjóvá](#))

gas stations (Skeljungur, N1, Olís)

a few **restaurants/eateries** and one cinema (not offering daily shows)

various **hairdressers** and **beauty salons**

post office

Skagafjörður Municipal [Offices](#)

and more.

Hofsós (25 km)

In Hofsós you'll find a **grocery shop**, a **gas station** (N1) and **car repairs**.

Varmahlíð (42 km)

For **fuel and food**.

Sleitustaðir (12 km)

This is the nearest self service gas station, only selling diesel.

NB: The directory www.ja.is very useful when searching for addresses, and shows results' location on a map. It may be of help to know the **postal codes** for the local area:

Sauðárkrókur - town: 550

Sauðárkrókur area - rural (including Hólar): 551

Varmahlíð (and the inner part of rural Skagafjörður): 560

Hofsós: 565 (and 566 - rural).

Sports & Fitness

Hólar Fitness

The cheapest and simplest way to keep fit at Hólar is to go for a walk. For instance into the "woods".

The swimming pool has regular opening hours during summer. During winter groups or pairs can organize dip ins but no one is allowed to use it on their own (due to safety reasons). Ask at the service desk regarding whom to contact.

Locals/resident students are welcome to use the gym after school hours (it is used by the local school and occasionally by the college itself during the day). Bookings are made by the office of academic affairs.

Hofsós

Here you'll find a popular swimming pool, open to the public..

Sauðárkrókur

A swimming pool (with effective jacuzzis and saunas)

A sports hall used by the local sports clubs after school hours

Fitness centres ([Preksport](#) and [Crossfit 550](#))

A [golf course](#)

The Tindastóll ski resort is not far from Sauðárkrókur, by road 744.

Varmahlíð

A sports centre, with a family friendly swimming pool and a sports hall which can be booked after school hours.

Transport and Mail

Public Transport

The only public transport to and from Hólar is by [Strætó's](#) route no 85.

At present, there are no regular flight connections to Sauðárkrókur, the nearest air services are operated from Akureyri airport.

Postal Services

The nearest [post office](#) is in Sauðárkrókur.

Letters and parcels can be posted at the service desk.

All living in Hólar have their own mailbox, in the basement of the main building.

Parcels and other large items can be picked up at the service desk.

ATMs

The nearest ATMs:

At Hólar: In the main building's foyer (the foyer is open 24/7).

In Sauðárkrókur:

Outside both [banks](#)

In the foyer of Skagfirðingabúð Store.

ID numbers

Information on the Icelandic Personal Identification Number - from the [Multicultural and information Centre](#)

All individuals that establish permanent residence in Iceland shall be registered in the National Registry and need an identification number (kennitala) that is a ten digit long number.

The first six digits are the individual's birthday, month and year.

In a matter of speaking, the identification number is the key to the Icelandic society.

It is necessary to have been issued an identification number in order to register legal residence in Iceland, to get a tax card, open a bank account and to apply for a home telephone and internet connection.

- **Information for EEA and EFTA citizens about how to apply for an identification number**
- **Information for non-EEA and EFTA citizens about how to apply for an identification number** (*Citizens of countries of Africa, Asia, South America, North America, Oceania and for the citizens of the European states that are neither party to the EEA nor EFTA agreement. These are Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Belarus, Macedonia, Moldavia, the Vatican, Russia, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine*).

Rent Compensation

Residents of rental apartments, whether they be social or private rentals could be entitled to rent compensation. The right to compensation depends on the individuals income and will apply to most students. Rental contracts issued by Nemendagarðar Hólaskóla (Hólar Student Housing) qualify for this purpose.

Application and regulations

- Applications for rent compensation should be sent to the municipality where the applicant has his legal domicile.
- **The application has to be renewed at the beginning of each year.**
- The application form is available at the local civic centre or on the **Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security** website, but some municipalities have a specific form.
- The rental contract (húsaleigusamningur) must be registered for the individual to be able to apply for rent compensation. This is done at the **District Administration Office** (Sýsluskrifstofum).
- Some municipalities grant special rent compensation to those undergoing unusually difficult social or financial circumstances. Such grants must be applied for from the municipal social services.
- To be entitled to rent compensation, the applicant must have his legal domicile at the place he is renting. Students studying outside of their own community are exempted from this rule.
- Compensation is not paid for the renting of rooms with communal kitchens and bathrooms, nor for apartments in commercial buildings. Exceptions from these stipulations are as follows:
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 - 1. Students renting on campus or in dormitory
 - 2. The handicapped renting in communal homes.
- Rent compensation is calculated on the amount of rent paid, the size of the family involved, financial circumstances and possessions.
- Rent compensation is exempt from income tax but must be declared on the tax return form.
- The applicant for rent compensation can make a formal complaint to the municipal social service ruling committee (úrskurðarnefndar um félagsþjónustu sveitarfélags) should he find his case unfairly treated.

(Information fetched from the [Multicultural and information Centre](#)).

Library

Library and Information Services at Holar University College (HUC)

The library is situated in the main building's second floor, above the gymnasium of HUC. Above it, in the attic, is a small computer lab. The library specialises in the college departments' subject areas - tourism studies, equine science, aquaculture and aquatic biology, and is slowly building up. The part of the library stock which primarily relates to the subjects of the department of aquaculture and aquatic biology is kept in the department's headquarters, *Verið* in Sauðárkrókur.

The library participates in the union catalogue for Icelandic libraries at leitir.is providing access to broad range of scientific, educational and entertainment material. Inter-library loans are easily accessible through this collaboration as well as from libraries abroad. The HUC library participates in the Iceland Consortium (IC) allowing nationwide access to [databases](#) and [electronic journals](#) via hvar.is and leitir.is. HUC participates in Skemman.is, an online institutional repository of Icelandic university libraries. It houses students' digital theses and dissertations as well as articles and other research material from the universities' academic staff.

The library staff participates in teaching information literacy (the students ability to find, use and assess information in a professional and responsible manner), e.g. introducing the library and the various information resources to HUC students by means of short courses or classes connected to specific courses in the curriculum.

HUC has made a collaboration contract with the University of Akureyri (UA) regarding library and information services. A librarian from UA works at the HUC library one day bi-weekly but students and staff have daily access to the librarian's services via phone or email (bsha@unak.is, 460-8050/460-8060) during the [UA Library and Information Services](#) opening hours. Sigurlaug Stefánsdóttir is the library assistant at Hólar and when not in the library, she is based at the service desk where day-to-day assistance (e.g. book loans, printing, etc.) is provided.

IT Services

The college's network administrator is [Broddi Reyrr Hansen](#) whose office is in room 210 in HUC's main building.

The Hólanet is a part of the RHnet (The Icelandic University Research Network), and all [rules](#) of the RHnet apply.

All students and teachers at Hólar University College are given a username for the Hólanet, as well as an e-mail address, which they are expected to use during their work and/or studies at the college.

In the main building, laptops can be connected to the wireless network, except for the library where cable connections are available.

Please pay attention to network safety. All computers connected to the Hólanet must be equipped with active anti-virus software. If in doubt, please contact the network administrator who will assist you.

Any infected machines will be disconnected from the network.

Short (3 m) network cables can be bought at the service desk.

The computer lab above the library in the main building is open during library hours.

Connections in student housing:

Geitagerði: cable

Nátthagi: cable

Brúsabyggð: Wireless

- please contact the service desk for information on individual flats or houses. s

Printing

The initial allowance for printing is 250 pages per term. More can be bought (at 20 ISk per page) at the service desk, where students can also ask for colour printing.

Rules

[in Icelandic only.](#)

Please note that no downloading is allowed (films, live radio etc.).