Folkloristics

Award Autogenerated Code
10028-IC

Region
Europe and Eurasia

Country
Iceland

Number of Grants
1

Stipend

$4,000 per month or $4,500 per month for grantees with a dependent or dependents, payable monthly.

A dependent must stay in Iceland for at least 80% of the grant period to be eligible for a dependent supplement.

The grant is denominated in U.S. dollars but paid in Icelandic krona (ISK), according to the current exchange rate.

The grant is intended to cover living costs in Iceland. No separate housing allowance provided (the grantee pays for housing out of the stipend).

Grantees are responsible for arranging their own housing, but the host institution is expected to assist the grantee in finding housing and settling in. Grantees whose host institution is in a rural setting can in some instances expect that their institution may provide housing.

Estimated Travel and Relocation Allowance

Travel allowance is a lump sum, $1,500, payable with the first grant payment.
Baggage allowance is $400, payable at the end of the grant period.

No receipts are required for travel and baggage allowance.

All allowances are denominated in U.S. dollars but paid in ISK, according to the current exchange rate.

Dependent Tuition Allowance

Children can attend primary and lower-secondary public schools at little or no cost. A limited stipend for tuition or other costs associated with bringing children to Iceland may be available, maximum 5,000 USD per grantee.

Candidate Profile
Academics, except early career

Activity
Teaching

Application Deadline
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Grant Activity

The North as a Place of Imagination: Undergraduate level lecture course, 2x80 minutes per week, average class size: 20-30, students buy books and read articles in pdf.

Gender and Folklore: Graduate level seminar, 1x80 minutes per week, average class size: 8-12, students buy books and read articles in pdf.
It would be appreciated if the visiting Fulbright professor were willing to advise students who are carrying out research related to the lecturer’s fields of interest and expertise. It would naturally also be useful for us to hear about the teaching of Folkloristics in the US and the state of the art in the study of folklore in the US.

**Grant Length**
Approximately 5 months

**Grant Dates**

1 semester, starting August 2021 OR January 2022 (to be determined in consultation with the scholar selected for the award)

**Locations**
University of Iceland, Reykjavik

There are 4 full time faculty members in the Folkloristics program at the University of Iceland.

--Professor Terry Gunnell (research areas: Old Norse religions; Nordic and Gaelic folk legends, festivals and folk beliefs; performance studies and folk drama; the collection of folklore in the 19th century; modern school traditions; immigrant traditions)

-- Professor Valdimar Tr. Hafstein (research areas: intangible heritage; copyright; material culture; masculinities; wrestling; swimming)

--Associate Professor Kristinn Schram (research areas: folk narrative; folk customs; festivals; Arctic culture; human-animal relations)

--Associate Professor Ólafur Rastrick (research areas: cultural heritage; the body; cultural history; cultural policy)

In addition, we have a University Research Center in Folkloristics in Hólmavík in the north of the country (150 minutes from Reykjavik) that is an annex of the Dept. of Folkloristics and Museum Studies. The research center has two faculty members (Jón Jónsson and Eiríkur Valdimarsson) and is focused on Public Folklore.

Finally, we have two faculty members that we share with the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, Professor of Research Gísli Sigurðsson (whose research is on oral tradition and medieval oral literature) and Assistant Professor of Research Rósa Porsteinsdóttir (who is the head archivist of the folklore sound archives and whose research focuses on fairy tales, folk ballads, and folk music).

**Flex Option**
No

**Discipline Type**
Only applications in the following disciplines will be considered

**Areas of Interest**
Folkloristics

**Special Features**

Our previous Fulbright professors have all played important roles in the academic community in the field during their stays at the University of Iceland and through continuing cooperation after their departure. We hope the same will be true of our next Fulbright professor. We have set them up in offices in our hallway (vacated by professors on sabbatical leave), organized welcome receptions in their honor, a welcome and a farewell dinner, and invited them to give lectures to the Icelandic Association of Folklorists. They have also been introduced to other colleagues in the field outside the department (and in the Social Sciences and Humanities in general), given them tours of the relevant research institutes, day trips to such places as the Golden Circle; the roundup of horses in Skagafjörður (Laufskálavarða); the University Research Center in Folkloristics in Hólmavík; and various museums around the country. Outside of such organized events, they have of course frequently joined us informally for lunch, dinner, drinks, swimming, and department parties (and even musical soirées). While we have not been able to provide our visitors with housing, we have always successfully helped to locate good apartments for them to rent within walking distance of the university and the city center. As a matter of course, they all have access to the university library and that in the Árnamagnéan Institute (which has perhaps the best folkloristic library in the country and well as housing the
folkloristic sound archive).

The department has had excellent experience with previous Fulbright professors, allowing them to develop important ties with a number of universities in the United States, which have continued after their visits. The department chair, Professor Valdimar Hafstein, is a Fulbright alumnus. The department is eager to strengthen the ties with US colleagues, and will of course be happy to help plug anyone who comes here into our professional networks in Europe.

Furthermore, Associate Professor Kristinn Schram, is the former director of the Center for Arctic Policy Studies at the University of Iceland and maintains an active research interest in Arctic cultures and representations of the North. He has a broad collegial network in this subject area and would be particularly pleased to introduce to these colleagues a visiting US folklorist who can teach a course on the North in folklore.

**Degree Requirements**

Ph.D. (or other terminal degree) required

**Additional Qualification Information**

We are looking for a folklorist with a PhD and a number of years of teaching experience at the university/college level and a scholarly publication record in the field.

We are looking for a visiting professor who can teach courses on Gender and Folklore and on the North in folklore, or the North as a place of imagination in narratives, images, maps, etc.

Gender is one of the gaps we have identified in the otherwise fairly broad curriculum we offer to our students and, as it happens, a great deal of the most interesting scholarship on gender in general and on gender in folklore in particular comes from the US. A course on the North as a place of imagination would also help our students to envision and understand Iceland and Icelandic folklore in a broader international context, something we think would be really fruitful for them, and good for the field in Iceland.

It could be a great injection of vitality to receive a Fulbright scholar for a semester who could teach these topics to our students and infuse new ideas and knowledge from American Folkloristics into the local scene.

**Invitation Requirement**

A letter of invitation is optional

**Additional Comments**

Contact person for this award: Valdimar Tr. Hafstein, Professor Department of Folkloristics, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology, and Folkloristics, School of Social Sciences, University of Iceland

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**Helpful Links**

[University of Iceland] [2]
[Folkloristics at the University of Iceland] [3]
[Folkloristics at the University of Iceland on Facebook] [4]
[University of Iceland Research Center in Folkloristics] [5]

**Multi-Country/Area Award**
No

**Grant Length Filter**
Three to five months

**Award Code**
11212-IC
Special Award Benefits

The scholar will be invited to monthly grantee enrichment events provided by the Fulbright Commission during the academic year. Also, the scholar will be taken out to lunch at the beginning and end of the grant period for briefing, debriefing.

Special funding for disabled grantees

Funding is available for US Fulbright scholars to Iceland with a disability, be it a structural or functional impairment or activity/participation limitation, that entails additional costs that are not covered specifically through the Fulbright Program. Funding may be available for a wide range of disabilities, including, for example, hearing, vision or movement impairment. The funding could, for example, be used to assist with specialized housing needs, in-country transport or specialized assistance. The extra funding amount will depend on need and will be decided by the Commission after consultation with the scholar and can be expected to be between 2.000 and 9.000 USD. Funding is provided through the Bruce A. Fowler Mobility Fund.

Language Proficiency Requirements

None, English is sufficient

Source URL: https://awards.cies.org/content/folkloristics

Links
[1] mailto:vth@hi.is
[3] https://www.hi.is/thjodfraedh
[5] https://rannsoknasetur.hi.is/strandir/welcome