

WORK AND TRAVEL ICELAND 2016

What is the work like?

The most common jobs are in traditional farming and in hospitality.

Farm work

The farm work involves taking care of cattle and sheep, caring for the cows, milking and feeding them all year around, sheep herding in the fall, helping with the birthing of lambs in spring and hay-making during summer, gardening, assistance with household chores is often required, etc.

Alternatives depend on jobs availability each time.

Hospitality

The work in hospitality may involve kitchen work, housekeeping, cooking, catering, maintenance work, reception, laundry, etc. Most placements require flexibility, i.e. work duties in different departments. The placements can be hotels/guesthouses, country hotels or restaurants.

Some of the placements operate both a traditional farming and tourism.

The work placements are all around Iceland, mainly in the countryside. No farms are located in the highland. It can be five minutes to an hour drive to next town.

Requirements

- › Be able to stay min. 3 months and up to 12 months
- › Be between 18-30 years old
- › Must have an upper intermediate English skills (B2). For tourism it is a big plus to have a good skill in other languages, such as German, France, Italian, Spanish
- › Have a valid driving license
- › Have a clean criminal record
- › Be physically and mentally healthy
- › Be a non-smoker is preferred
- › Be a non – vegetarian is a must in agriculture
- › A previous work experience is a must, min 1 year (the work experience does not have to be in farming or in tourism)
- › Be able to provide 1-2 written references from former employers.

What is included?

Please note that all placements need to be confirmed before arrival of the participants. Placements cannot be guaranteed.

- > Coordination and confirmation documents
- > An information package (handbook, information about driving in Iceland etc.)
- > Pick up at the bus station to the accommodation
- > One night accommodation and breakfast in Reykjavik upon arrival
- > A pick up to the orientation to the sponsor's office
- > 2-4 hours orientation upon arrival (depends on the number of participants)
- > Transport from the orientation to the bus station (if the participants leave to their work placement the same day)
- > Accommodation arrangement at the work placement
- > Salary:*
 - > **Farming:** Salary min. 206.711 ISK before taxes plus vacation money 10,17% (21 years old and younger) and 208.711 ISK before taxes plus 10,17% vacation money (22+)
 - > **Hospitality:** Salary 199.814 ISK plus 10,17% vacation
- Farms only: One way flight ticket is reimbursed after six months of work at the same farm, maximum 35.000 ISK and the other way after 12 months, maximum 35.000 ISK (maximum 70.000 ISK to/from Iceland if participant stays for 12 months at the same farm).
- > An Icelandic mobile pre-paid SIM-card/phone number
- > 24/7 support line
- > Certification upon request

*Min. salary per month is around €800, after taxes and deductions of payment for food and accommodation (it depends on the value of the currency and how many days the employee stay at the work placement, participants do not pay for food and accommodation the days they spend away from their work placement).

Orientation

All placements start with an orientation, the day after arrival. The orientation will cover assistance with registration, Icelandic job market, culture, and main concerns when working on the field.

What is not included?

- > Flight to/from Iceland
- > Bus ticket from the airport to the bus station in Reykjavik (45 min.)
- > Travel expense to/from placement
- > Medical, liability/travel insurance
- > Telephone calls, internet access (a free access is often available on the farms) and personal needs, toiletries, special diet, gifts, etc.
- > Food and accommodation (see more information below in the part about food and accommodation)

Enrolment procedure

We must receive applications **8 weeks** before the planned starting date.

We have the highest demand from April till September in the tourist sector (high season).

The agricultural jobs are available all year around, (highest demand April through June) many of the farms requesting employees for up to a year (12 months). Horse training jobs are few and usually demand extremely high level of skills but many of the farms keep horses as a hobby.

Arrival dates: arrival dates are all year around for Work & Travel Iceland.

The participant must provide:

- > An application and CV in English
- > A motivation letter
- > A smiling picture
- > A copy of the passport (a good copy with a clear photo)
- > A health certification
- > A copy of the driving license
- > A police record
- > A written reference from a former employer (1-2 references)
- > An interview form
- > A prove of health, travel and liability insurance (must be brought to the orientation meeting)

Applications cannot be accepted before all documents have been sent to Student Travel. The participant must show prove of health, travel and liability insurance at the orientation on arrival.

Work hours

Regular work hours are 40 hours per week, shift and/or overtime possible, 1-2 days off per week. Often employees prefer to gather days off and take longer holidays away from their work placement. Employees are entitled to lunch and/or dinner brakes (depends on their shift) and two coffee brakes during 8 hour work shift. At farms the work hours can/will be irregular.

Taxes

All individual that reside in Iceland are subject to having their income taxed. Participants receive a personal tax credit card when applied for an identity number and/or a permission to stay.

Food and accommodation

In farming a room at the farmer´s home is most usual. At some farms is a staff house or a staff apartment. Normally the farmer provides food and accommodation. There may be exceptions where the worker buys and makes his own meals. When food and accommodation is provided the employee pays max. 2040 ISK per day (approx. 13 EUR) in farming and 1500 ISK in tourism (ca.10 EUR).

In tourism, the accommodation can be in the employer´s house, shared staff apartment/house or a room that is let.

Acceptance process and pre-arrival step by step

- › Student Travel receives an application and other necessary documents from an applicant, including signed terms and conditions.
- › The application is reviewed, references are contacted and the applicant is interviewed.
- › The application is then accepted or declined by ST and/or the sponsor, preferably within a week. If accepted the applicant must pay the programme fee in full after placement has been confirmed.
- › If the sponsor has not placed the applicant 2 weeks before planned starting date then we will request a 4-week extension. If we have not been able to offer the applicant a job after the 4-week extension, the applicant can then decide whether to continue or cancel and receive full refund.
- › The sponsor will offer the participant a maximum of 2 work placements. If they refuse all of them, then we have the right to cancel the participant's participation in the programme, and charge them for the programme according to our cancellation policy. Please keep in mind that it never makes a good impression to decline a job offer without a valid reason.
- › An interview will be organized for the participant and a possible employer.
- › After a placement has been confirmed by both parties, participant will be sent an information package and a confirmation letter which he/she must sign before arrival.
- › Arrival day is arranged by employer, the sponsor and the participant.
- › The participant needs to send his/her travel information as soon as possible so accommodation on arrival date can be booked.
- › When arriving in Keflavik, Iceland's International airport the participant shall take a Flybus to Reykjavík. Arrival information is further explained in the confirmation letter.

Program fee

Work & Travel 3-12 months €740

