

# **Research Policy of the Department of Rural Tourism, Hólar University**

## **1. Introduction:**

The Department of Rural Tourism Research Policy builds on policy developed at Hólar University (HU), as approved by the University Board on 21 December 2015. The research policy focuses on fundamental values and ethics in regards to research and the research support system of the university.

The Department of Rural Tourism is committed to a high standard of research quality. This commitment is reflected by a faculty pursuit of external research funding, publications of peer-reviewed papers and textbooks. The department is also committed to increasing the number of graduate students. The department actively seeks international connections for collaborative benefit of students and faculty in the areas of instruction, research, and mentorship.

## **2. Core values:**

The Department of Rural Tourism emphasizes academic freedom and responsibility as core values in research. In regards to use of methodologies, the selection of research topics and external co-operations and academic freedom is essential. The department focuses on strengthening research in three main areas according to HU's research policy: collecting data, critical analysis and sharing knowledge. International dialogue and collaboration is highly emphasized and the department aims to publish its research findings on international conferences and peer reviewed publications in recognized journals.

## **3. Building up research:**

The department's faculty jointly shapes the focus of research within the department with regular meetings, continuously developing the research understanding of faculty and students (Annex 1). Decisions such as recruitment of new faculty, faculty career development, the attraction of new students and the need for facility and equipment improvements are based on this focus. The recruiting process, from advertisement to hiring, will be transparent and reflects the department's focus on research and teaching, in accordance with the recruitment procedures of Hólar University. The department seeks to recruit the most qualified staff possible by advertising positions, nationally and internationally.

## **4. Participation of research students:**

The department emphasizes the participation of graduate students in research projects. Participation and responsibility of these students, as well as their supervisors, is clearly defined in guidelines for supervision and supervision contracts, agreed upon by the division of graduate studies.

## **5. Supporting research:**

Hólar University supports research of academic faculty through its travel fund for conference presentations (see HU regulations) and by offering faculty opportunities to go on sabbaticals (see HU regulations). Improving research is also supported through the Human Resources and Equity policies of Hólar University College that safeguard equal rights. The department works systematically towards improving its equipment and technology, in line with its research focus. The department supports research of its academic faculty in any way possible at each time.

## **6. Research quality management:**

The Department of Rural Tourism emphasizes high quality, internationally recognized research. The department also emphasizes integrity and high standards, making certain to treat human subjects with due consideration, respect and honesty, based on HU's Code of Conduct ([http://www.holar.is/almennt\\_efni/sidareglur](http://www.holar.is/almennt_efni/sidareglur)) and in line with Icelandic regulation on data protection (<https://www.personuvernd.is/information-in-english/>).

### ***6.1. Research involving people and archiving research data:***

According to data protection measures, the department will create human subject protection guidelines, including guidelines regarding data collection, storage of data and the destruction of any personal, anonymous data collected during the course of research (Annex 2).

### **6.2. Intellectual property**

The department respects intellectual property according to Icelandic law and code of conduct in the international academic society.

### **6.3. Collaboration and inner quality control:**

The department organizes a forum for its researchers to meet regularly to discuss progress and results of the research and to formulate aims for collaborative research and to provide critical support.

## **7. Research output and visibility:**

The research output provides one way of measuring activity and, to some extent, the quality of research. All research conducted within the department should be widely disseminated in formal publications such as scholarly journals and books, as well as on the Hólar University web site.

- The department emphasizes the importance of increasing research grants.
- The department faculty regularly publish peer-reviewed papers in international publications and is committed to clearly displaying its activities and publications on the university's web pages, in Icelandic and in English.
- The department faculty strives to improve visibility in online media, such as Research Gate, Academia.edu and personal web sites, and that all members of academic staff regularly update their CV's online, including information on research activities as publications and academic presentation.
- The department emphasizes the participation of faculty and research students in national and international research conferences.
- The outcome of research within the department will be registered in the CRIS system of the Icelandic government.