The earth is undergoing environmental changes that are historically unique. Increased levels of greenhouse gases are changing the climate; depletion of harvestable fish species and desertification are threatening food security and air and water pollution is affecting human and environmental health. Explaining the causes and consequences, reporting on the relevant issues or designing the appropriate counteractive and management methods is well beyond the ability of a single discipline. At the University of Iceland we foster interdisciplinary thinking and analysis in our search for solutions.

In Iceland, with its unparalleled use of clean energy (over 70% of all energy used is clean and renewable), efficient management of renewable resources, and the largest wilderness area in Europe, students get an unequalled opportunity to participate in the search for solutions.
The University of Iceland is a progressive educational and scientific institution, renowned in the global scientific community for its research. It is a state university, situated in the heart of Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland. A modern, diversified and rapidly developing institution, the University of Iceland offers opportunities for study and research in almost 300 programs spanning most fields of science and scholarship: Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Humanities, Sciences and Engineering. Some of the resources available at the University are uniquely Icelandic. These include exceptionally complete genealogical data and climatological, glaciological, seismic and geothermal records. The University of Iceland holds a leading role internationally in renewable energy and environmental research.

The Power to Think

Pressing questions
What is the supply potential of renewable energy?
How to adapt to and mitigate climate change?
How can we increase economic growth and protect the environment?
How important are ecosystem services?
How does air pollution affect human health?
How to design environmental management systems?
How to enhance environmental impact assessment?

Environment and Natural Resources

The two year masters program in Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Iceland is ideal for those who have finished BSc or BA degrees, and want to concentrate on issues such as sustainable energy systems and policy, energy and the environment, science and policy, environmental management and natural resources such as fisheries and wilderness management. Students will graduate with a MSc or a MA degree in Environment and Natural Resources.

The program is organized by diverse disciplines at the University, including social and natural sciences, business and economics and engineering. This cross-disciplinary collaboration fosters interdisciplinary thinking and gives students a unique opportunity, in consultation with their appointed faculty advisor, to design a tailor made study program based on their interests.

Recent masters thesis focal areas include:
- Sustainable energy systems
- Hydrogen economy
- Biofuels
- Low carbon fuels for transportation
- Environmental management systems
- Environmental impact assessment
- Ecosystems

A small example of available courses:
- Introduction to environment and natural resources
- Environmental and resource policy
- Environmental and resource governance
- Environmental ethics
- Environmental impact assessment
- Strategic environmental assessment
- Environmental Economics
- Cost benefit analysis
- International law on sustainable development
- Environmental Law
- Environmental economics
- Economic Georegulatory
- Spatial and Temporal
- Energy Economics
- Energy Management
- Natural resource management

Program Organization

Application deadline and contact information
Application deadlines are March 15th for the fall semester and September 15th for the spring semester. For more information and for application forms please send an email to umhverfi@hi.is or consult www.umhverfi.hi.is. Applications should be sent to the Faculty of Science office, Hjarðarhagi 2–6, IS-107 Reykjavík, Iceland.

Island offers opportunities for study and research in almost 300 programs spanning most fields of science and scholarship: Natural Sciences, Humanities, Sciences and Engineering. Some of the resources available at the University are uniquely Icelandic. These include exceptionally complete genealogical data and climatological, geodetical, archeological and paleontological records. The University of Iceland holds a leading role internationally in renewable energy and environmental research.