

# LEARNING FAROESE AND CULTURE

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This section contains information about Faroese language courses offered at the evening schools, what they teach, where and how to join, as well as information about your right to an interpreter in your contact with the Faroese authorities.

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## THE EVENING SCHOOLS

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As a newcomer, you have the right to Faroese courses offered by evening schools, kvøldskúli, managed by municipalities and financed by the Ministry of Culture and Education. Learning Faroese is an important first step, not only to obtain important information about your rights, obligations, and available services, but also to making the Faroe Islands feel like home. Currently, Faroese language learning is not mandatory by law. However, it is highly recommended to enrol in Faroese language courses, they can make it easier to settle in your new environment.

The bigger municipalities offer tuition or language learning courses in the Faroese language. These courses are held at the evening schools.

The courses are dependent on a minimum number of participants and courses may therefore be cancelled or be unavailable if not enough participants sign in.

You will need to check with the administration of the evening school or the municipality which courses are offered. The following is intended to give you an overview of where tuition is available and other practical information.

## CONTENT OF THE COURSES

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The language courses are designed as a beginner's course with two or three learning levels (beginner, intermediate, and advanced) dependent on the evening school. Some schools have separate courses intended for Nordic speaking learners and English speaking learners, if needed. The level and the design of the classes are usually based on the need and capacity of the students with a hands-on perspective.

The content of the introductory courses is primarily language and partly culture and society including aspects of the local community, such as visits to public agencies and large workplaces. However, each of the evening schools teach uniquely and may differ from each other.

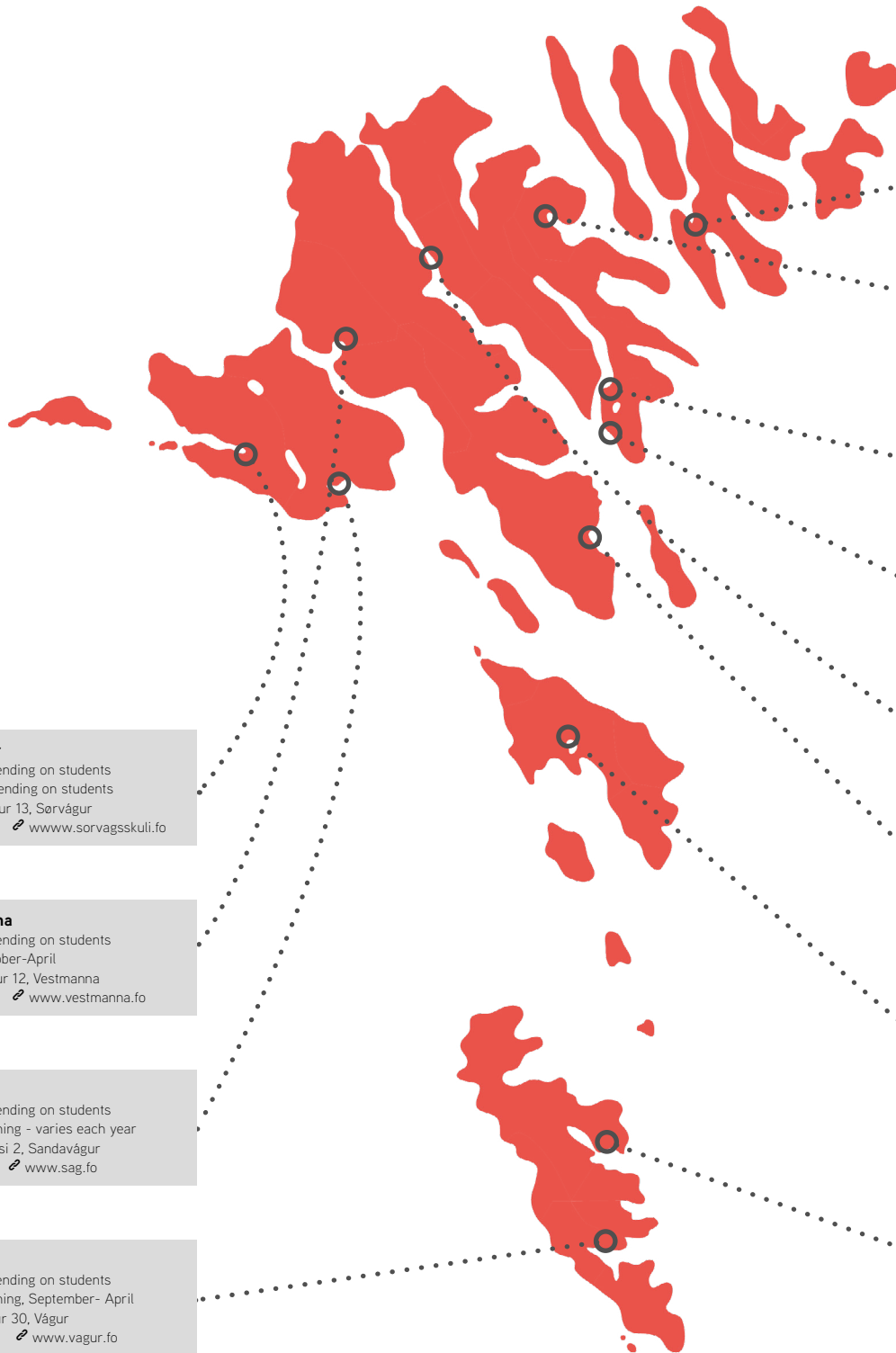
## HOW DO YOU APPLY?

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As a participant, you will always need to sign up before the announced deadlines (if you want to be sure to participate). This can be done simply by contacting the evening school administration or the municipality.

The evening school in Tórshavn has also an online sign-up service (in Faroese) where you need the Faroese identification number, *p-tal*.

Usually the start of a course is in September or October running until April. Lesson times are mostly in the evenings and are often adjusted according to the working-hours of the participants. Some schools may not follow this schedule so please check in with your residing municipality for accurate details.



### Klaksvík

Level: Beginner/intermediate/advanced  
When: Evening, varies each year  
📍 Nólsoyar Pálsgøta 32, Klaksvík  
☎ 215826 🌐 [www.kks.fo](http://www.kks.fo)

### Fuglafjørður

Level: Beginner & Culture  
When: Evening - varies each year  
📍 Ennisvegur 38, Fuglafjørður 3  
☎ 238010 🌐 [www.fuglafjordur.fo](http://www.fuglafjordur.fo)

### Runavík

Level: Depending on students  
When: Morning, October-April  
📍 Rókavegur, Runavík  
☎ 237133 🌐 [www.kurk.fo](http://www.kurk.fo)

### Toftir

Level: Depending on students  
When: Evening, varies each year  
📍 Heygsvegur 28, Toftir  
☎ 447332 🌐 [www.toftaskuli.fo](http://www.toftaskuli.fo)

### Oyrarbakki

Level: Depending on students  
When: Evening, September-April  
📍 Skúlavegur 8, Oyrarbakki  
☎ 281296 🌐 [www.svs.fo](http://www.svs.fo)

### Tórshavn

Level: Offers various levels  
When: Day & evening, Varies each year  
📍 J.H. Schrøtersgøta 1, Tórshavn  
☎ 302474 🌐 [www.kvoldskulin.fo](http://www.kvoldskulin.fo)

### Sandoy

Level: Depending on students  
When: Evening, October-April  
📍 Heimasandsvegur 142, Inni í Dali  
☎ 272914 🌐 [www.meginskulin.fo](http://www.meginskulin.fo)

### Tvøroyri

Level: Depending on students  
When: Evening, September-April  
📍 Kirkjubrekka 3, Tvøroyri  
☎ 581821 🌐 [www.tvroyrarskuli.fo](http://www.tvroyrarskuli.fo)

### Sørvágur

Level: Depending on students  
When: Depending on students  
📍 Skúlavegur 13, Sørvágur  
☎ 233222 🌐 [www.sorvagsskuli.fo](http://www.sorvagsskuli.fo)

### Vestmanna

Level: Depending on students  
When: October-April  
📍 Toftavegur 12, Vestmanna  
☎ 506670 🌐 [www.vestmanna.fo](http://www.vestmanna.fo)

### Giljanes

Level: Depending on students  
When: Evening - varies each year  
📍 Á Giljanesi 2, Sandavágur  
☎ 344424 🌐 [www.sag.fo](http://www.sag.fo)

### Vágur

Level: Depending on students  
When: Evening, September- April  
📍 Vágsvegur 30, Vágur  
☎ 269567 🌐 [www.vagur.fo](http://www.vagur.fo)

## IS IT FREE?

All foreign nationals who do not have Faroese as a first language and are registered with an identification number, *p-tal*, have the right to participate in courses on Faroese language and culture at an evening school free of charge.

It is possible to apply for a special travel allowance to cover travel costs to attend the more comprehensive courses that run in the daytime. For now, these are only offered in Tórshavn. Please contact the evening school administration for more information.

## OTHER LANGUAGE LEARNING OPTIONS

There is no official list of private tutors for Faroese language learning but it is not too difficult to ask people about a tutor in your community or through social media.

The Faroese University offers bachelor level courses in Faroese language for foreigners each semester. In addition, every second year, the university offers a three-week summer course, International Summer Institute, intended but not limited to Nordic speakers. The tuition fee is app. 6500 KR. Please contact the university for more information.

## INTERPRETATION

In criminal cases at the court interpretation services are provided free of any charge if it is assessed that interpretation is needed. This is according to the Danish Procedural Code. In other cases than criminal cases, the interpretation expenses are part of the overall court costs. In Faroese courts when needed, telecommunication with or without video is also used for interpretation.

The law on Faroese health insurance stipulates that the National Health Insurance pays the costs of interpretation when it is needed in connection with a primary doctor's or a specialist's appointment.

Regarding other medical treatments, e.g. at a hospital, it is vital that the patient understands what is being said about a treatment and the health situation. In the act governing patient's rights in the Faroe Islands, it is stated that the patient has a right to get information on his/hers health situation and possible treatment, including risks and side-effects. Furthermore, it is stated that information about for instance

### USEFUL PHRASES

ENGLISH	FAROESE
My name is ...	Eg eiti...
How are you?	Hvussu gongur?
I come from...	Eg komi úr...
I don't understand	Eg skilji ikki
Do you speak English?	Tosar tú enskt?
How much is this?	Hvussu nógv kostar hetta?
Where is the toilet?	Hvar er vesið?
Thank you	Takk fyri
Help!	Hjálp!
Call the Police	Ringið eftir politinum!

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intended treatment, should be given in a manner that is appropriate for the receiver.

In other contexts, such as during parent-teacher meetings in schools, or meetings with the municipal social services or similar, an interpreter might also be needed. It is always advisable to check first with the agency regarding its policy on interpreting expenses.

Therefore, in matters relating to health services and the judicial system, you may be provided with an interpreter and/or translated documents. In other contexts the user might have to pay the expenses or find a solution together with the agency concerned. Individual public authorities assess independently whether to use an interpreter in the situation at hand. And it is the agency concerned that decides whether it pays for the interpretation service or not.

*Available interpretation services are listed at the back of this handbook.*