

CHID Iceland: Regeneration: Matter, Myth, and Memory in Iceland
Reykjavik, Iceland

Program Terms: Summer Quarter

Homepage: [Click to visit](#)

Dates / Deadlines:

There are currently no active application cycles for this program.

Fact Sheet:

Primary Language(s) of Instruction:	English	Courses available in English?:	Yes
Field of Interest:	Humanities, International Studies, Language & Cultural Studies	Affiliated Department:	CHID

Program Description:

CHID Iceland: Regeneration: Matter, Myth, and Memory in Iceland

Location: Iceland

Department: Comparative History of Ideas (CHID)

Estimated Program Dates: June 23 – August 22, 2014

Estimated Program Fee: \$5,800

Credits: 15

Program Director: Phillip Thurtle (CHID)

UW Study Abroad Advisor: Katherine Kroeger kroegk@uw.edu

Application Deadline: January 17, 2014

Information Session(s): TBA



Program Description

Icelanders are used to beginning again. During its millennium of human settlement, Iceland has had to recover from devastating natural disasters, the depletion of its natural resources, colonization by the Danes, and difficult economic hardships. Despite these challenges, Iceland has emerged as the most literate country in Europe, developed the highest life expectancy in the world, established a thriving culture of musical and artistic innovation, pioneered efforts in energy conservation, and leads the rest of Europe in post economic crisis political reform. Asked why they seem to thrive in the face of so much adversity, most Icelanders would reply that it is because of their capacity to adapt to new circumstances. The opportunity that Iceland offers, then, is an understanding of how the specific characteristics of a place (its environmental and cultural resources and constraints) can contribute to a general understanding of how adaptation and change occurs.

Unfortunately, few of us are given the analytical tools necessary to understand change. Most of us limit our understanding of the process of change to an understanding of specific acts of creation. These acts are said to have origins that mark an object or an event with a unique identity. Analyzing a point of origin then, promises to tell us much about the identity of that event. In practice, however, these moments are hard to locate (why this moment and not that?) and difficult to define (what qualities mark this moment as distinct?). Consequently, the CHID Iceland Program will use Iceland's unique relationship to its environment and its singular cultural heritage to think about "second origins", or the importance of beginning again. This focus allows us to eschew the hubris of creating something new in favor of the adaptability required to work with a world already in process.

Beginning and ending in Reykjavik, "Regeneration: Matter, Myth, and Memory in Iceland", will spend a full eight weeks developing a conceptual archeology of Icelandic cultural and natural history. When students arrive, they will begin their studies by exploring the cultural imaginary of the far north as portrayed in art, film, music, and literature. Students will get a chance to talk to internationally renowned musicians and filmmakers as they absorb the beauty of the capital city. We then head north to the wild but well settled Western Fjords. Here we investigate the relationship between Icelandic literature and environment by literally walking the story of one of the sagas and learn the basics of the Icelandic language. We then move to the fishing and farming villages of Northern Iceland where we investigate the social dynamics of honor societies at a Viking archeological site. In the desolate Eastern Fjords, we study the importance of flora and fauna in civil development by visiting Iceland's only reindeer herd and forest. Our focus then shifts to the inorganic processes of geology and thermodynamics that mark the landscape of Southern Iceland. We read about the importance of ice (and take a "sound walk" on Europe's largest glacier) and Iceland's geology (by staying in a village that was engulfed by a volcano 40 years ago). We then return to Reykjavik to give the students a chance to "begin again" by fostering more creative and just relationship with the environment and each other.



Location

Various cities, Iceland

Sites

Reykjavik, West Fjords, Holar, East Fjords, Southern Iceland



Housing

Since the program travels around Iceland, students will stay in many different living arrangements. Housing was selected so as to place students in close proximity to the lessons learned for that part of the program. Also, most of the housing has a supplemental meeting place for classroom studies. Finally, accommodations were chosen based on safety, cleanliness, and cost.



Academics

Pre-Requisites/Language Requirements/Physical Components

There are no prerequisites. There is a small amount of walking required during the program and one fairly strenuous hike that is recommended but not required. Students interested in either the relationship of nature to society or the arts and media production will excel on this program. Students will be able to receive I&S, NW, or VLPA credit to help meet their general requirements. In addition, CHID students can receive Gateways and 390 credit.

Credits

15 Credits

Courses

CHID 444: Eye and Mind (5 credits)

Investigates life as an emergent phenomenon across the disciplines of biophilosophy, art, art history, literary criticism, and information studies with an emphasis on interdisciplinary methods. Addresses key issues in phenomenology, social theory, contemporary bioart, and complexity studies.

CHID 390: Colloquium in the History of Ideas (5 credits)

Basic theoretical issues in the comparative history of ideas as a disciplined mode of inquiry; examination of representative historical figures and problems.

CHID 471: Europe Study Abroad (5 credits)

This version of CHID 471 investigates the relationship between natural and human history. Students will investigate how civil and social development relates to the non-human forces of Northern Europe including but not limited to climate, geography, flora, and fauna.



Program Directors & Staff

Phillip Thurtle, CHID and History, Program Director

Phillip Thurtle is an associate professor in CHID and History. He received his PhD in history and the philosophy of science from Stanford University. He is the author of *The Emergence of Genetic Rationality: Space, Time, and Information in American Biology 1870-1920* (University of Washington Press, 2008), the co-author with Robert Mitchell (English, Duke University) and Helen Burgess (English, University of Maryland) of the interactive DVD-ROM *BioFutures: Owning Information and Body Parts* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008), and the co-editor with Robert Mitchell of the volumes *Data Made Flesh: Embodying Information* (Routledge, 2003) and *Semiotic Flesh: Information and the Human Body* (University of Washington Press, 2002). His research focuses on the material culture of information processing, the affective- phenomenological domains of media, the role of information processing technologies in biomedical research, and theories of novelty in the life sciences. His most recent work is on the cellular spaces of transformation in evolutionary and developmental biology research and the cultural spaces of transformation in superhero comics.

thurtle@uw.edu

Erik Parr, CHID, Assistant Director

erikparr@gmail.com

Program Expenses

Cost:

Estimated Program Fee of \$5,800, the UW Study Abroad Fee (\$300), airfare, food (about \$28/day), UW Study Abroad Insurance (\$40/month), other health expenses/immunizations and personal spending money.

Average Airplane Ticket Price:

\$1,000 – 1,400* roundtrip

*Subject to when & where you buy your ticket.

Payment Schedule:

Program fees will be posted to your MyUW student account and can be paid the same way that you pay tuition and other fees. Check your MyUW Account periodically for due dates.

Payment Type	Payment Amount	Payment Due Date
CHID Fee	\$300	July 11, 2014
Non-Refundable UW Study Abroad Fee	\$300	July 11, 2014
Program Fee Balance	\$5,500	July 11, 2014
TOTAL FEES CHARGED	\$6,100	-

Orientation

To be eligible to study abroad, all program participants must attend an in-person pre-departure orientation facilitated by the UW Study Abroad Office. You are also required to attend all program-specific orientations offered by your Program Directors.

You must register for orientation through your online study abroad account in order to attend a scheduled session. You can visit the [orientation section](#) of our website to view the current orientation schedule.

Orientation must be completed prior to the enrollment deadline for the quarter that you are studying abroad.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Most forms of financial aid can be applied to study abroad. You can verify that your financial aid award will apply to your program costs by contacting the [Financial Aid Office](#). Financial aid or scholarships awarded as tuition waivers or tuition exemptions might not apply so you will need to verify that these funds are eligible for use with study abroad by contacting the funding office.

Financial aid and most scholarships are disbursed according to the UW academic calendar (at the beginning of the quarter). If your program starts before the start of the UW quarter, your financial aid will not be available to you prior to your departure. If your program starts after the first day of the quarter, your financial aid will be disbursed at the start of the program. In either of these cases, you will have to finance any upfront costs such as airfare, health insurance and the start of your time abroad on your own. Please take this into consideration when you are making plans.

Revision Request

In some instances you may qualify for an increase in your financial aid award (typically in loan funds). Check with the [Financial Aid Office](#) about your options. To request a revision in your aid, you will need to submit the following paperwork to the Financial Aid Office:

1. [Revision Request Form](#)
2. [Summer Application for Financial Aid](#)
3. Budget of student expenses for your program: The UW Study Abroad Office will upload this budget to your study abroad account after a signed contract has been submitted to the UW Study Abroad Office. You can request an unofficial copy of this budget by emailing ipe@uw.edu.

Visit the [Finances section](#) of our website to learn more about disbursement, revising your aid package, short-term loans and scholarships.

Application Process

The application includes a Personal Statement, three short answer questions, two faculty recommendations, and electronic signature documents related to UW policies and expectations for study abroad. Following the on-line application process students may be contacted by the Program Director for an in-person interview. Once an admission decision has been made regarding your application, you will be notified by the study abroad system via email.

Disability Accommodations

The University of Washington is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, and education for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation for this program, contact Disability Resources for Students at least 8 weeks in advance of your departure date. Contact info at [Disability Resources for Students](#).

Withdrawals

\$350 of the total program fee and the \$300 UW Study Abroad Fee are **non-refundable and non-revocable** once a contract has been submitted, even if you withdraw from the program. Students withdrawing from a program are responsible for paying a percentage of the program fee depending on the date of withdrawal. More details about the withdrawal policy are included in your payment contract. No part of the program fee is refundable once the program has begun. The date of withdrawal is considered the date (business day) a withdrawal form is received by the UW Study Abroad Office. Notice of withdrawal from the program must be made in writing by completing the following steps:

1. Provide notice in writing to the Program Director that you will no longer be participating in the program for which you have signed a contract and accepted a slot.
2. Submit a signed withdrawal form to the UW Study Abroad Office, 459 Schmitz Hall.

Visit the [Withdrawals section](#) of our website for more information.

Please see the CHID website for information on the CHID Fee withdrawal policy:
<http://chid.washington.edu/study-abroad-fees-financing-and-withdrawal>.

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