

Gender studies in vocational education

Iceland

<https://wp.borgo.is/wp-content/uploads/KYN2A05.pdf>

DESCRIPTION

In recent years, Icelandic upper secondary schools, including those offering also vocational education, have put **greater emphasis on gender studies**. The first school to introduce a specific course did so in 2007. Since 2017, the Me-too movement has then significantly contributed to raising awareness about the importance of educating young people about **gender equality, diversity, fostering increased understanding and tolerance**.

Nowadays, some schools offer gender studies as a **part of a mandatory life skills course**, while others offer a **full course** (up to 60 hours over one school term, plus homework) dedicated entirely to gender and equality studies. This has been supported by a solid gender studies program at the University of Iceland at graduate level.

REFLECTIONS

Boys who pursue **male-dominated vocational education** may be the least interested in taking a mandatory gender studies course. However, they are also likely to be among those who benefit the most from it, becoming an important **driving force for change** towards more **gender-balanced workplaces** with regards to **equality for all**.