



Educating and collaborating with educators

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Overview

1. The School of Education – University of Iceland

2. Challenges:

- Teacher shortage
- Teacher education in the 21st century
- Connecting research and practice

3. Conclusions



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

<https://english.hi.is/>

School of Education

The School is the leading institution in education studies and well-being in Iceland and has an important social role in regards to the education of teachers, social educators, leisure professionals, sports and health scientists as well as pedagogy and education studies. The School also offers a programme in international studies in education in English.

About SE

Facts and Figures

- » Situated in Stakkahlíð
- » 4 faculties
- » 50 study programmes
- » 2000 students
- » 50 doctoral students
- » 70 international students
- » 20 research centres
- » 150 employees
- » 75% of students are female

Core SE mission statements

SE creates a vibrant learning community

SE is a leading institution in educational innovation and connects researchers, professionals and stakeholders

Diverse ways are developed to share research findings to the educational community

SE initiates professional development

Challenges

Collaboration

✓ Huge decline of enrollment in teacher education 2011-2016

✓ Content and structure of teacher education in the 21st century

✓ Connecting research and practice; academia and professionals

TEACHER SHORTAGE COLLABORATIVE ACTION PLAN

- **Stakeholders: universities, teacher unions, municipalities, government and school leaders joined forces to initiate an action plan**
- **Increased media coverage on educational and school related issues in a POSITIVE WAY**
- **Paid internship and study grants for students in the final year (6.500 dollars/6.800 Euros)**



45 % increase in applications to compulsory school teacher education



25 % increase in applications to pre-school teacher education

Huge increase of male applicants (92%-188%)



A photograph of children playing in a water park. In the foreground, a child in a blue jacket and a red and white patterned beanie is leaning over a water feature. To the left, another child in a purple jacket and a blue beanie with pom-poms is looking towards the camera. In the background, a child in a red hat is climbing on a colorful play structure. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a clear blue sky.

Incentives to strengthen professional development of teachers

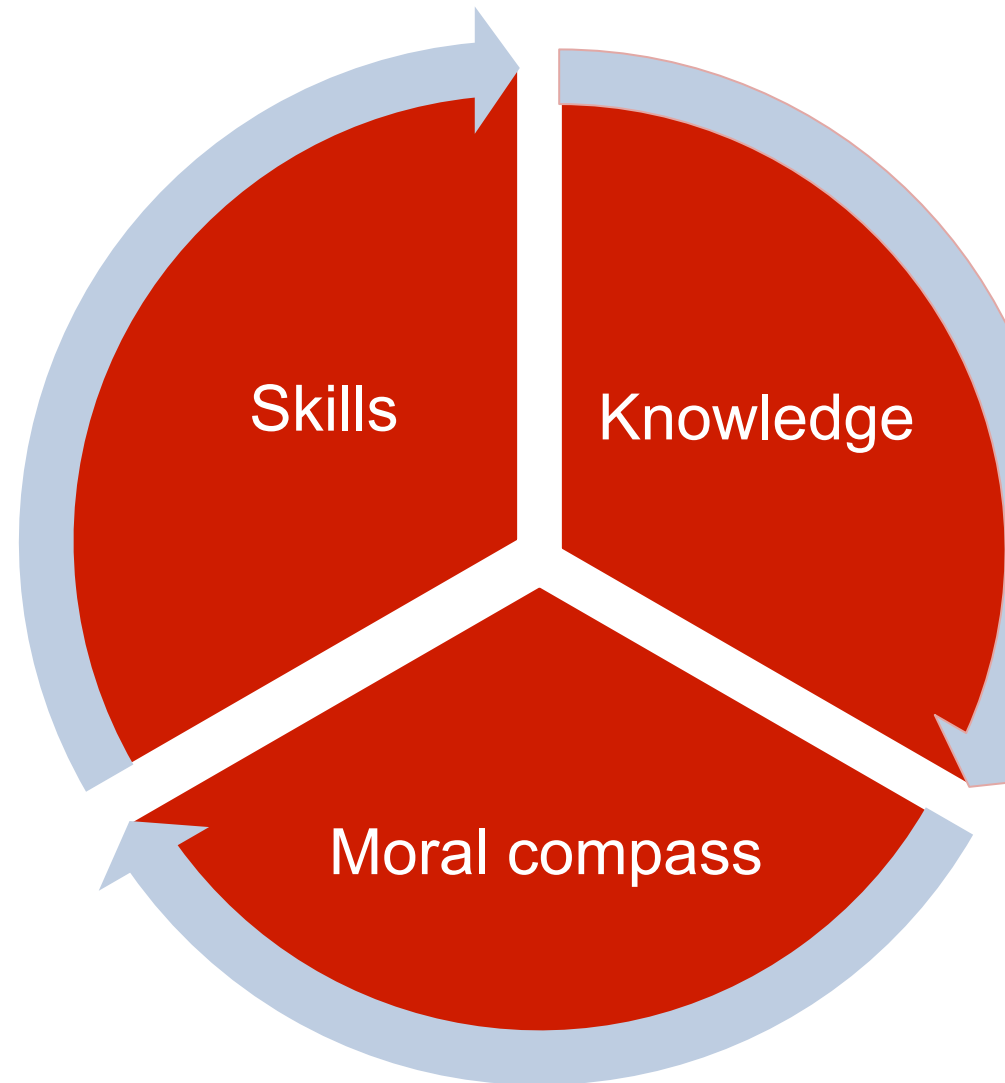
- Teachers receive increase in salary when they finish 30 ECTS university courses
- The government provides funding for experienced teachers to sign up for diploma in Mentoring and educational consultancy
- Mentor teachers in schools for early career teachers and teachers-in-training
- Already, we see a huge increase and are excited to continue to develop our programs and connect to professionals

Content and structure of teacher education

Since 2011 teacher education in Iceland is a five year master program – in all 300 ECTS

What to teach and How?

Professionalism:



New law on teacher education (in effect January 2020)

- Introduces a single licence for teachers for all school levels
- Defines a competence framework for teachers
- 60 ECTS basic didactic and pedagogical competence (one year min)
- 90 ECTS specialized knowledge and skills (18 months min)
- To set up a 'National Teacher Council'
- The bill has been debated for various reasons and calls for a review of the current teacher education programs

TE and Educational Policy in Iceland

The national curriculum introduced in 2011 six main pillars of education that are to be interwoven in school practices through all school levels

Inclusive education, multicultural education, IT and digital learning, innovation, STEM, social skills

Strategic and collaborative process to continue to develop the curriculum for a quality teacher education

Equality

Health and Wellbeing

Literacy

Creativity

Sustainability

Democracy and Human Rights

Structure of teaching – some challenges

Since 2010 emphasis has been on blended learning courses:
About 50% of our students are distance learners

Too many students seem to be unable to focus on their studies

How do we create a vibrant learning community?

Digital literacy and digital learning

Disconnection – how do we mentor and guide our students?

1. Bridging the gap between research and practice

Diverse and relevant research:

International projects – Large scale research – Action research – Educational innovation – Developmental projects

Examples of current research themes:

Do schools support democratic practices?

How can literature contribute to character education?

Collaborative teaching and learning communities in schools

Citizenship, empathy and young people



<https://www.edx.org>

Bridging the gap between research and practice

Connecting stakeholders to develop formal and informal platforms for collaboration, sharing and discussing



W EDUCATION PLAZA
online venue for professional
ning communities
binars, professional hubs ...



The role of the university in teacher professional development

- **First and foremost, establish TRUST and CONTINUITY in collaboration!**
- **Action Research and Developmental Projects**
- **Teachers need to be involved in research**
- **Food for thought:
What is educational knowledge?
Who are the educational experts?**

Concluding remarks

- 1) The SE Action Plan is to strengthen collaboration with the professional and wider community
- 2) Collective responsibility of stakeholders to work together to strengthen the educational system!
- 3) Universities should aspire to graduate skilled educators that are curious, caring and know how to collaborate!