



**Land area:** 1,393 sq km

**Sea area:** 274,000 sq km

**Coordinates:** 62°00'N  
06°47'W

**Population:** 54,700

**Language:** Faroese  
Danish and English are  
widely spoken

**Capital:** Tórshavn

**Median age:** 39.9

**Currency:** Danish Króna  
(DKK)

**GDP Per Capita:** USD  
70,057

**Unemployment rate:** 0.8

**Read more about the Faroe Islands:**  
<https://www.faroeislands.fo>

## EURAXESS country in focus:

# The Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands are an archipelago of 18 mountainous islands located half way between Scotland and Iceland in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean.

The Faroe Islands are a self-governing nation under the external sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark. Faroe Islands have exclusive competence to legislate and govern independently in a wide range of areas, including management of fisheries and other natural resources, taxation and customs, social security, education, and research.

Fishing and fish farming are the most important industries in the Faroe Islands. In recent years tourism has become increasingly prominent.

Autonomy in foreign relations is provided by a treaty between the Faroe Islands and Denmark effectively giving the Faroese freedom to negotiate treaties with other states and international organisations.

Although Denmark is a Member State of the European Union, the Faroe Islands have chosen to remain outside the Union.

The Faroe Islands have trade and fisheries agreements and cooperate in various aspects of research and innovation (R&I) with the EU.

## Research and development policy

[The Council for Research, Development and Innovation](#) is responsible for taking stock of the R&I environment and giving related advice on public policy. The Council consists of seven members with scientific experience appointed by the Minister of Research.

Statistics for research and development (R&D) are reported every year. In 2022 R&D was 1.5% of GDP, which is considerably higher than 20 years ago but slightly lower than in the other Nordic countries. Two thirds of the R&D is carried out by private companies.

Statistics for innovation are reported biannually. In 2022 innovation was 2.2% of GDP. This is higher than in the other Nordic countries. Around 80% of the innovation is carried out in the fields of fisheries, aquaculture, and telecommunication.

In its annual report for 2023 the Council for Research, Development and Innovation recommends increasing public investment in R&D and taking measures to strengthen the framework for innovation.

## Funding

A number of funds in the Faroe Islands offer financial support for research projects.



[Research Council Faroe Islands](#) administers several funding programmes and coordinates and promotes Faroese participation in collaborative international R&I projects.

Funding is provided for annual open calls for research carried out by Faroese researchers, for researchers who cooperate with a Faroese research institute or for research projects which are considered significant in a Faroese context.

The Danish government offers funding for marine research and for collaborative projects in foreign affairs, security, and defence policy in the North Atlantic Ocean. This fund is available to researchers from the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark.

[Fisheries Research Fund of the Faroe Islands](#) is a public competitive fund supporting scientific and industrial research and development projects in order to develop the Faroese fishing industry.

[Business Development Fund](#) supports initiatives which diversify commercial enterprise and increase the use of knowledge.



*Geologists carrying out research for NASA in the Faroe Islands. Photo: Daniel Page*

## International relations

Financial support for research projects or studies in the Faroe Islands may also come from funds abroad.

The Faroe Islands have been an Associated Country to the European Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation since 2010, enabling Faroese researchers and innovators to participate in the programmes on equal terms with researchers from EU Member States.



The Faroe Islands are an independent member of NordForsk, Nordic Energy Research, and Nordic Innovation – funding organisations under the Nordic Council of Ministers.

## Research institutions

The Faroe Islands have several excellent research institutions and well-trained researchers, covering all major fields of science.



[The University of the Faroe Islands](#) trains PhD students and conducts research in several disciplines. The university collaborates closely with other research institutions, private companies in the Faroe Islands, as well as with universities in neighbouring countries.



[Faroe Marine Research Institute](#) conducts marine research and provides the Government of the Faroe Islands with scientific advice based on its research on marine resources and environment. The institute has its own advanced research vessel, equipped for studying the marine environment, fish stocks, and for carrying out seismic surveys.

[Firum](#) provides services for the aquaculture industry and conducts research to build internationally recognised knowledge for sustainable aquaculture.



[Faroe Geological Survey](#) conducts research about geological nature values and is responsible for all administrative tasks related to hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in and around the Faroe Islands.



[Health Research Unit](#) carries out research in the fields of health and genetics. It works closely with the National Hospital and with the Faculty of Health at the University of the Faroe Islands.

[Faroe Environment Agency](#) conducts research on pollution in animals, humans, nature and urban areas, and it maintains a diverse environmental/biological specimen bank.

[Faroe Food and Veterinary Authority](#) carries out statutory control and laboratory checks within the food and veterinary fields, and undertakes R&D in connection with these tasks.

[Agricultural Agency](#) handles the administration of public land tenancy and conducts agricultural R&D.

[National Museum](#) collects, catalogues, preserves and conducts research on Faroe Islands archaeological and cultural heritage.



## EURAXESS Faroe Islands

[EURAXESS Faroe Islands](#) provides assistance to incoming researchers with advice on daily life and the formalities of moving to the Faroe Islands. EURAXESS Faroe Islands has Service Centres or Contact Points in all public research institutions and industry. Research Council Faroe Islands is the Bridghead organisation of EURAXESS in the Faroe Islands.

