

# Act respecting the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies

2006 No 40 12 June

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**Date of entry into force: 1 September 2006.** Amended by Act No 61/2011 (entry into force 15 June 2011), Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011) and Act No 22/2015 (entry into force 17 March 2015).

Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.

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■ **Article 1** The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies is a university institution which operates on its own budget and reports to the [Minister].<sup>(1)</sup> The Institute maintains close ties with the University of Iceland as further described in this Act, and forms part of its academic community.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 419.

■ **Article 2** The Government of Iceland is the guardian of the manuscripts and documents received under the terms of the agreement between Denmark and Iceland regarding the transfer of part of the manuscripts held by the Arnarnagnæan Institute and the Royal Library in Copenhagen into the care and supervision of the University of Iceland, which is dated 1 July 1965 and which was ratified on 1 April 1971. The documents constitute the Árni Magnússon Institute in Iceland, the preservation and supervision of which is entrusted to the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies.

■ **Article 3** The function of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies is to conduct research in the field of Icelandic studies and in related academic disciplines, particularly those concerned with the Icelandic language and Icelandic literature; to disseminate knowledge about these fields of study; and to preserve and bolster the collections which are in its care or ownership. The Institute shall perform this function first and foremost by:

a. assembling and preserving primary sources in its field of study; collecting ethnographic material and sources on Icelandic vocabulary and proper names; and providing access to these sources to scholars and the general public;

b. conducting research into manuscripts, ethnographic collections and other sources of information about the Icelandic language and Icelandic literature and history; conducting lexicological and onomastic research; and carrying out language technology projects;

c. promoting greater knowledge of the Icelandic language; working toward its strengthening and preservation in spoken and written form; and providing academically-based linguistic advice and guidance, including on technical vocabulary and neologisms;

d. strengthening academic cooperation in the Institute’s fields of study in Iceland and abroad and boosting awareness of Icelandic studies among the public and in the international academic community; and participating in collaborative projects on the teaching of Icelandic and Icelandic studies abroad;

e. publishing scholarly works, editions based on manuscripts, ethnographic material, dictionaries and books on proper names;

[f. advising the general public and organisations on the collection, cataloguing and preservation of place names, as well as on newly coined names].<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 22/2015, Article 11.

■ **Article 4** [The Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> shall appoint five members to the Institute's Board of Directors for a four-year term. Three members shall be appointed on the nomination of the Governing Council of the University of Iceland and two, one of whom shall serve as Chair, shall be appointed without nomination.

□ The role of the Board of Directors shall be to advise the Director and provide opinions on the Institute's work plans and on its organisation.

□ Those recruited to work as researchers at the Institute shall form a Board of Studies (*húsping*) which shall be convened by the Director and which shall operate in accordance with more detailed provisions laid down in a Regulation.

□ [The Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> shall issue a Regulation providing for the organisation of the Institute after receiving the proposal of its Director and the opinions of the Board of Directors and the Board of Studies.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 419.

■ **Article 5** [The Minister]<sup>(1)</sup> shall appoint the Director of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies for a five-year term after obtaining the opinion of the Board of Directors. The Director must meet the qualifications to be eligible as a Professor in the Institute's field of study as determined by a three-member jury appointed by [the Minister]<sup>(1)</sup>. Of the jury members, one shall be appointed on the nomination of the Board of Directors and shall serve as Chair, one shall be appointed on the nomination of the Board of Studies, and one without nomination.

□ The suitability of persons appointed as jury members and the work carried out by the jury shall be governed by rules equivalent to those that apply to the appointment of research specialists and teaching staff at the University of Iceland.

□ The Director shall lead the activities and finances of the Institute. The Director shall hire the Institute's staff and serve as its representative. The Director shall take responsibility for the Institute's finances and for ensuring that its activities are in compliance with legal and administrative provisions.

<sup>(1)</sup>Act No 126/2011, Article 419.

■ **Article 6** The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies shall enter into collaboration agreements with the University of Iceland regarding working relationships, economic relations, and joint recruitments. The Institute shall cooperate with other higher education institutions on the basis of special agreements.

□ Those recruited to work as researchers at the Institute shall guide students who are candidates for a master's or doctoral degree and teach courses in their respective areas of expertise as agreed with the faculties of the University of Iceland.

■ **Article 7** Two special research positions shall be maintained at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies. One shall be specifically linked to the name of Árni Magnússon and the other to the name of Sigurdur Nordal. After obtaining the opinion of the Board of Studies, the Director may fill these positions for specific periods of time without advertising the vacancies.

■ **Article 8** The recruitment of researchers to the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies shall be governed by rules equivalent to those that apply to the recruitment of teaching staff and research specialists at the University of Iceland. A three-member jury, appointed by the Director, shall evaluate the suitability of applicants. Of the jury members, one shall be appointed on the nomination of the Board of Directors and shall serve as Chair,

one shall be appointed on the nomination of the Board of Studies, and one on the nomination of [the Minister].<sup>(1)</sup> When recruiting staff to work as researchers, the Director shall seek the opinion of the Board of Studies.

Those recruited to work as researchers shall have one of the academic titles of ‘Assistant Research Professor’, ‘Associate Research Professor’ or ‘Research Professor’.

The Institute shall adopt a code of ethics, including provisions on the academic freedom of staff.

<sup>(1)</sup>*Act No 126/2011, Article 419.*

■ **Article 9 ...**<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup>*Act No 61/2011, Article 14.*

■ **Article 10** The operating costs of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies shall be paid by central government as further specified by the annual Budget Act.

The Institute may charge fees for the copying of material from its magnetic tape collection; for the creation and publication of photographs of manuscripts; for all specially prepared copies of material held by the Institute; for access to research facilities; for the provision of expert services related to the inspection of material and the assembly of sources; and for access to exhibitions hosted by the Institute. The Institute shall issue tariffs for the aforementioned services.

The Minister<sup>(1)</sup> may issue a Regulation<sup>(2)</sup> containing more detailed provisions on the implementation of this Act.

<sup>(1)</sup>*Act No 126/2011, Article 419.* <sup>(2)</sup>*Regulation No 861/2008.*

■ **Article 11** This Act shall enter into force on 1 September 2006.

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■ **Transitional provisions** Upon the entry into force of this Act, the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies shall take over the assets and liabilities of the Icelandic Language Institute (*Íslensk málstöð*); the University of Iceland Institute of Lexicography; the Árni Magnússon Institute in Iceland; the Sigurdur Nordal Institute; and the Place-name Institute of Iceland. As one of the consequences of this the employees of the above organisations will become employees of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the first paragraph, the posts of director of each of the organisations merging to form the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies shall be abolished. The Directors shall, however, provide assistance to the Director appointed pursuant to the fourth paragraph and shall therefore continue to work for the Institute in this capacity until 31 October 2006. Notwithstanding the above, the abolition of the posts of Director of the Árni Magnússon Institute in Iceland and Director of the Institute of Lexicography shall not impact on the positions of the current Directors as professors at the faculty of Humanities at the University of Iceland. Each of the departing Directors shall be offered employment as researchers at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies from 1 November 2006 and shall, if recruited in that capacity, retain all rights acquired during their previous employment.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 5, first paragraph, of this Act the faculty of Humanities at the University of Iceland, replacing for this purpose the Board of Studies, shall nominate one member to the jury charged with evaluating the suitability of the Director of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies for the purpose of appointment to office pursuant to the fourth paragraph.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 11, the appointment of the Board of Directors pursuant to Article 4 shall take place no later than 1 July 2006 for the purpose of providing an opinion on the appointment of a Director pursuant to Article 5. The appointment of a jury pursuant to Article 5 shall also take place no later than 1 July 2006 for the purpose of assessing the suitability of candidates for the post of Director. The appointment of a Director pursuant to Article 5 shall take place no later than 1 September 2006.

□ Appropriations to the Árni Magnússon Institute in Iceland, the Icelandic Language Institute, the University of Iceland Institute of Lexicography, the Sigurdur Nordal Institute and the Place-name Institute of Iceland under the 2006 Budget Act which remain undrawn on the entry into force of this Act shall be transferred to the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies.

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*Disclaimer: This is an English translation. The original Icelandic text, as published in the Law Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi) is the authoritative text. Should there be discrepancy between this translation and the authoritative text, the latter prevails.*