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## Comprehensive Guide NES Artist Residency / NES Listamiðstöð

*NES is located in the remote and rural town of Skagaströnd, North West Iceland. This guide is to help you navigate your experience of living in a remote landscape and to ensure you are fully prepared when you arrive. Please take the time to read through, as many of your questions will be answered here.*

### Essential Contacts

NES Director **Vicki O'Shea** lives in Skagaströnd and is contactable on +354 892 3375.

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## Part I: Before Your Arrival

### Residency Fees and How to Pay

NES relies on artist fees to operate. You must pay your fees in advance:

- A deposit of 1 month fee is required **within 1 month after we send a contract to you**. **Sending** the 1 month fee is needed to secure your place at NES.
- All remaining fees are due **no later than 3 months prior** to your residency start date.
- For residencies longer than three months, your deposit will act as the fee for your last month of residency.

*Note:* If you rely entirely on grant funding to attend NES, please ensure that your funding is secured three months prior to the commencement of your residency. A letter from your funding agency committing the funding for this specific residency can be submitted.

*Note:* If due to extenuating circumstances, you need an extension to pay your deposit, please email [nes@neslist.is](mailto:nes@neslist.is) to discuss options. If you need to cancel your residency, please see our cancellation policy below. NES will be happy to assist rescheduling if possible.

### Deposit, Payment and Cancellation Policies

Your residency is not secured until your written confirmation and payments are received. The placements at NES are competitive, particularly in certain months, and other artists are regularly on our waiting list.

### Written Confirmation of Attendance

Please return (via email) a scanned, signed copy of the offer of residency within one month of the date on the letter.

### Fees

*Please see the website for current residency fees.*

Prices vary for a single, double room and/or a double/private studio space. Depending on your currency the payment needs to be equivalent to the Euro amount of your residency.

We currently have 3 accounts for payments, one in USD, one in EURO and one that accepts/transfers from your currency (other than USD or EURO) into ISK. If your currency is USD or Euro please select the corresponding IBAN account to make payment.

If your currency is not one of the above, you can make payment into the ISK account by sending in your currency and it will be deposited as ISK. (For example if you are Australian and send your equivalent payment in AUD it will be deposited into our account as the equivalent in ISK.)

### Grants and Funding

NES is not a funding or grant body and we do not offer grants to attend the residency.

We recommend doing a Google search for grants or checking with your country's government bodies, arts counsels, or philanthropic funding organizations.

## Payment Information

The following information should be used to make your residency payments by electronic transfer.

<b>Account Holder:</b>	NES Artist Residency
<b>Address:</b>	Fjörubraut 8, 545 Skagaströnd, Iceland
<b>Name of bank:</b>	Landsbankinn hf.
<b>Bank address:</b>	Höfði, 545 Skagaströnd, Iceland
<b>SWIFT:</b>	NBIIISRE
<b>IBAN (USD)</b>	IS98 0161 38 180100 6603 0803 20
<b>IBAN (EURO)</b>	IS70 0161 38 718100 6603 0803 20
<b>IBAN: (ISK)</b>	IS84 0160 2600 6603 6603 0803 20
<b>Purpose:</b>	Artist's Full Name, First Month of Residency

**Use your name and the first month of your residency as a reference with the payment so that we can easily match the incoming payment to your file.** When you have made the transfer, please send us an email so that we can verify that we have received your payment.

Please note: a local bank fee, currently 700 ISK and your own applicable bank fees will be applied for each deposit/transaction made. We are also able to receive payments via the methods below.

**Online Transfers** Many artists have paid successfully with <https://wise.com/>, this can save you bank fees. Not every country has access to this but many do. Please still pay into our correct account for the currency you are sending, as is listed on the previous page.

**Credit/Debit Card** You can pay your fees with a Debit or Credit card at a secured web payment gate provide by the company Rapyd, they accept Visa and Mastercard. If you choose this method contact us first at [nes@neslist.is](mailto:nes@neslist.is) and you will receive a payment link from us via email and it will transfer you to Rapyd's secured payment page.

**PayPal** We will accept payment via PayPal, however you will be required to add the PayPal fees to the payment which is an extra 4.4%.- 5.4% depending on the country you are sending from. Please email us first if you wish to pay by this method.

## Cancellation Policy

If you need to cancel your residency, we must receive formal written/email notice of the cancellation.

***All cancellations incur a 75 euro administration fee.***

In addition to the administration fee, our cancellation policy is as follows:

- Cancellations received 90 days in advance of start date of residency will receive 100% refund.
- Cancellations received 60 days in advance of start date of residency will receive a 50% refund.
- Cancellations less than 60 days in advance of start date of residency will not receive a refund.

***Please note that all bank fees incurred by a refund payment, are borne by the beneficiary.***

## Rescheduling

NES is happy to reschedule placements if requested before the 3-month cancellation period and rescheduling must take place within two years of the original date of planned residency.

Once rescheduled, the residency fee is no longer refundable.

## Terms and Conditions

Artists must agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the residency as outlined on the NES website.

***Please note that residencies start and end according to your contract dates. NES cannot receive arrival of residents during weekends or late at night. Arrival must be during the weekdays and ideally before 17.00.***

## Liability

NES Listamiðstöð Ehf. holds no legal responsibility for artists. NES Listamiðstöð Ehf. does not insure artists or their artwork. All resident artists are required to sign a liability waiver upon acceptance of the offer of residency.

## Insurance

NES Artist Residency does not administer insurance to artists and does not assume any legal responsibility for the artist, their work, their guests, or their travels, or any other activities while attending the NES Artist Residency program. NES does not insure artists or their artworks. Please see our liability waiver in the contract.

The artist must make all insurance claims to their private insurance, travel insurance, or workplace insurance (or any other applicable insurances). Please organize your own insurance if required, before arriving to the residency. We strongly encourage artists to have travel insurance which covers emergency health and medical services.

We encourage artists to purchase liability and/or travel insurance in advance of their stay, especially if projects include the use of additional spaces outside of the studio or involve the participation of others. It is always a good idea to have insurance to cover costs in the case of an accident, emergency, or unexpected health issues.

## Visa Requirements

For certain countries, visas are required when visitors stay in Iceland for a period longer than 90 days. For detailed information about your home country's visa requirements in Iceland, see the Icelandic Directorate of Immigration. <https://island.is/en/do-you-need-a-visa>

## Passports and IDs

A valid passport is necessary for visitors to Iceland, except for citizens of the countries listed below:

1. **The Nordic Passport Union:** Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. *Citizens from these countries can currently travel and reside in Iceland without a passport or a residence permit.*
2. Members of the **Schengen Area:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

*Citizens from these countries can use national identity cards issued by the competent authorities in their countries of origin. ID cards must be valid for three months from the date of departure from Iceland.*

## Part II: Preparing For Your Trip To NES

### What to pack

Weather is very changeable in Iceland, and Skagaströnd is often windy, all year round. Regardless of the season, you should **always** pack the essentials: gloves, thermal underwear, warm hats (that cover your ears), scarf, waterproof/ windproof outerwear/coat/jacket and waterproof shoes or boots. In most months of the year, you must have a thick and warm waterproof parka/coat. Also, think through your footwear. Waterproof, windproof, and thick-soled shoes or hiking boots will do you well, in addition to a more comfortable pair for inside the studio and your home. If you are here in the winter, you can buy crampons/spikes, which slip over your shoes and help when walking on ice. There is no art supply or hardware store in town, so bring what you will need to do your work, or arrange to have supplies shipped to you. Ensure you bring any medication you need. Iceland uses European power outlets, so make sure you bring a power adaptor if needed.

### Arriving to Iceland

#### Via Reykjavik

The Reykjavik airport is in Keflavik (KEF), approx. 50 km from Reykjavik. Many airlines fly to Iceland including: Icelandair, EasyJet (summer), Delta Airlines (summer), Air Berlin and Germanwings.

#### Via Akureyri

Less airlines travel to Akureyri. It is the second largest city in Iceland and closer to Skagaströnd than Reykjavik (2-hours drive). Most flights to Akureyri are during the summer, and they fly from other Nordic countries. Check with your airline to see if flies into Akureyri.

### Airport Shuttle / Keflavik Airport To Reykjavik

Take the Flybus airport shuttle also known as Reyjavík Excursions, from Keflavík airport to the BSÍ bus terminal in Reykjavík (duration 45 minutes). You can let the driver or ticket collector know where you are going.

At the BSÍ terminal you can take a taxi to your accommodation, or you will be transferred to a smaller shuttle, to take you to your accommodation. Make sure you know they will go to your accommodation, as they have many hotels and guesthouses on their lists of drop offs.

Bus tickets are available in a few places: in the arrivals area after baggage claim, on the bus once your board, or on any Icelandair flight. Tickets are from 3,299 ISK to BSÍ, and if you are going to a hotel you will pay slightly more. You can find prices and schedules of the Flybus on their website: <http://flybus.is> click on 'destination', and use the scroll down menu to see if your accommodation is on the list.

### Bus Travel / Reykjavik To Skagaströnd

Stræto Bus Company is the name of the main public bus service in Iceland.

<https://www.straeto.is/en>

The information and booking phone number: (+354) 540 2700. Call this number if you have questions. They speak English.

*\*You must arrive to NES on the start of or during your contract dates, and ideally before 17.00.*

*\*If arriving by bus, you will catch the 9 am bus service and arrive to Skagaströnd around 13.30/45.*

Getting to Skagaströnd requires taking two buses. Reykjavík ® Blönduós ® Skagaströnd.

- 1) You will need to take the **Stræto bus #57** from the **Mjódd bus terminal in Reykjavik**. (It is en route to Akureyri). This bus departs every day at 09:00am. You can purchase your fare onboard or at the bus station with cash, credit or debit card. You can see fees at <https://straeto.is/media/2022/05/west-and-north-iceland.pdf>
- 2) You must book the Blönduós ® Skagaströnd shuttle (#84). Call Stræto (+354 540 2700) **2 or more hours in advance** to reserve your seat.
- 3) You will change from the #57 bus to the #84 shuttle/car at the N1 gas station in Blönduós. Show the driver your ticket and your house address in Skagaströnd. You will be emailed this address before you arrive in Iceland.

*\*You can locate the shuttle van (or car) by its red and yellow "S" sign in the windshield:*



*\* You do not need to pre-book your seat on the #57 Reykjavík ® Blönduós bus. Just show up before 09.00 at Mjódd bus terminal.*

*\*Please do not take the evening bus departing at 17:30 from Mjódd. NES cannot cater for late night check ins.*

*\*If you arrive on an early morning flight (06.00 – 06.30 am) you may be able to catch bus #3 from the BSÍ station to Mjódd station, but it may be a tight schedule to catch the #57 09.00am bus in time. You can taxi from BSÍ to Mjódd, and will cost around 4,300 ISK. (Note: there is no need to tip the driver). Please check with the driver first to make sure you will get to Mjódd in time.*

#### **OTHER NOTES:**

- The most central bus station in Reykjavik is called Hlemmur (your hostel or guesthouse may be closest to this one). To get from Hlemmur to Mjódd take bus #17 or #12.
- If you have a lot of heavy baggage, perhaps see if another artist is leaving the same morning and will split a cab with you to Mjódd.
- Mjódd is a city bus station and if the ticket booth is closed when you arrive you can buy the ticket on the bus with cash, debit or credit card.

### **Buses from Akureyri → Blönduós**

If you are travelling from Akureyri, you will catch bus #57 en route to Reykjavík, which leaves Akureyri 10.15 am and arrives 12.30 at the Blönduós N1 gas station. From there, catch the #84 shuttle to Skagaströnd.

For more information about Akureyri travel visit:

<https://www.visitakureyri.is/en>

**\*\*\*DURING WINTER (Oct-April/May): PLEASE NOTE: #57 Bus on Thursdays only operates one time.**

#### **TO AKUREYRI:**

This means that on a Thursday, there is no 9am bus from Reykjavík, only the evening bus leaving Reykjavík at 17.30 to head to Akureyri. If you are going to Akureyri from Skagaströnd, you will leave here at 21.15 on the #84 shuttle to Blönduós and arrive in Akureyri at midnight.

#### **TO REYKJAVÍK:**

The #57 bus will only run the day bus from Akureyri to Reykjavík, and this means you can leave Skagaströnd at midday going to Reykjavík, but will not be able to leave on an evening bus.

## **Reykjavík City Info**

### **Taxis in Reykjavik:**

You can get a cab around Reykjavik any time of day. Some of these companies have special offers for transport to and from Keflavik International Airport. All taxis have official mileage meters, and taxi fares are charged at standard rates. These are the main taxi companies and their phone numbers (if calling from Iceland you do not need to dial the international code +354)

**Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir:** 588 5522

**Borgarbílastöðin:** 552 2440

**B.S.H. taxis:** 555 0888

### **Accommodation in Reykjavik:**

**SÍM** is the Association for Icelandic Artists and they operate a guesthouse with 4 private rooms (shared kitchen and bathroom) in downtown Reykjavik. <https://www.sim.is/s%C3%ADm-guesthouse>

**Loft Hostel** – located on the main shopping street downtown, and has a lift, which is great if you have a lot of luggage. <http://www.lofthostel.is/>

**KEX** – a popular social hostel, known for its live music, with single and dorm rooms available.

<http://www.kexhostel.is>

Many other hotels or guesthouses can be found on sites such as booking.com or airbnb

## **Power Voltage in Iceland**

Iceland uses the standard European outlet. Remember to bring your adaptors! Please see the link for more information: <http://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/iceland/>



## **Phone and internet**

There is wifi in the artist apartments, in the main NES studio, Research Library for our writers, BioPol dance studio for our residents there, as well as the Tónlistaskóli (music school) for those



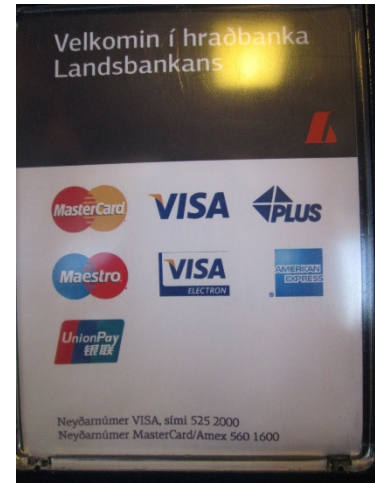
renting this space. There is a land-line in the NES studio, for local use, such as booking the bus or accommodation. ***We recommend that you buy a pre-paid Icelandic sim card to use in your mobile phone or have sufficient data loaded.*** You can buy sim cards from Keflavik airport or in Reykjavik at supermarkets. A pre-paid sim card costs 2,000-3,000 ISK and comes with 2,000 ISK phone credit which can also be used for data.

## Money and currency exchange

The currency in Iceland is Icelandic krona: ISK or kr. If you want to change money to Icelandic Krona (ISK) you can do it in Keflavik airport, or in Reykjavik. Most banks in Iceland do not charge an exchange fee, but the currency rate can be better if you withdraw cash from an ATM. Most places accept credit cards, so you will rarely need cash. You'll need to check with your bank to find out what the best deal is for you.

There is a bank in Skagaströnd near the studios called Landsbanki. Here, an ATM is available 24 hours a day. Accepted cards include MasterCard, Visa, Maestro, Visa Debit, American Express.

***Please contact your bank before you leave your home country to inform them of your international travel.***



## Skagaströnd and The Northwest Region of Iceland

### Skagaströnd

The town of Skagaströnd is a small, rural fishing village on the edge of the sea along the north-western coast line of Iceland. It has a population of approx. 470 people. It is a remote place, so please be prepared in mind and materials.

Nevertheless, the town is equipped with most things you need to get by on. There is a town grocery store, (Kjörbuðin), pharmacy (Lyfya), medical center, elderly home, kindergarten, grade school, church, sports hall and a well-equipped gym with stretch room and shower facilities, a pool, hairdresser, a museum of prophecies and fortune telling (Spákonuhof), restaurant (Harbour), a marine biology research laboratory (BioPol), a bank, mechanics, electrician, woodshop, fishnet makers, mayor's office, many farms), and of course the fishing harbour. It is possible to meet the fishing boats at the dock to ask for a fresh fish before they leave the harbour to be exported.

Skagaströnd is particularly well-equipped to deal with heavy snowfalls, storms, and life in the country. There are vast fields, mountains, and farmlands surrounding the town. The views are endless; you can look across the sea to the Westfjörds, for example. In good weather you can hike to the top of our mountain, 'Spákonufell', and see the area from a height. The hike up and down takes around 3-4 hours round trip. The region is well known for textiles and animal products like fish leather, eider duck down, sheep-skins, reindeer hides, and wool. There are local farms and factories where you can see how these are collected or made. The farm, *Hraun*, welcomes visitors to learn about the eider duck down, in which they collect from nests after the birds migrate.

For more information on Northern Iceland and Skagaströnd visit <https://www.skagastrond.is/> and <https://www.northiceland.is/en/what-to-see-do/towns/skagastrond>

**PLEASE NOTE: There is no art supply store or hardware store in town, so please** bring what you need. You can also order supplies from Litir og Föndur in Reykjavik and have art supplies mailed to you. <http://www.litirogfondur.is/>

It is best to Facebook them your order: Litir og Föndur.

If you are not on facebook you can call them on: 551-2242

or email: [litirogfondur@litirogfondur.is](mailto:litirogfondur@litirogfondur.is)

\*\*Lifland (a farming store in Blönduós, next to N1) has some basic hardware appliances available to purchase. There is a hardware store called Eyrí, which is in the town Sauðárkrókur.

\*\*There is no liquor store in Skagaströnd. **Alcohol is not permitted in the studio, but you are welcome to have a drink at home.** In Iceland, you can only buy alcohol from the state-owned Vínbúðin (the nearest is in Blönduós). The duty free shop at Keflavik Airport also sells alcohol and can be as much as 50% cheaper.

## Sending Supplies or Mail To NES

There is no physical post office in Skagaströnd, however the post van will bring your package to the front door, you can either have your house address (Fellsbraut 2) or the studio address (Fjörubraut 8) but someone must be there to sign for the package. If there is a toll fee this must also be paid at the time of delivery and they accept cash, debit or credit card. The Blönduós Post Office is open Monday – Friday 10.00-16.00. If you are not at the house when parcel delivery is made it will be returned to the Blönduós Post Office. **You can call 580 1000 or send an e-mail to [blonduos@postur.is](mailto:blonduos@postur.is) and the post will deliver it the next morning.**

You can mail items to the residency before you get here and at any time throughout your stay.

**IMPORTANT: please write your own name (not c/o NES) and the NES studio address on the package to be sent to you.**

If the parcel arrives before you are in Iceland and can't be delivered – the parcel goes back to the post office in Blönduós and can stay there for 10 working days before any fees are added. And then another 30 days before it is returned to sender. If a parcel arrives and you are not in Iceland or at the residency, we can accept it and hold at the studio for you if there are no toll charges.

**NES will not pay any toll due on parcels.**

To try and avoid toll when sending supplies write: **“personal belongings, no commercial value – may be opened by customs”** on the parcel you send. If you don't mark your items as used or personal items with a \$/€0 value, they are prone to customs delays due to confusion over import taxes. If someone sends you items, be sure they tick **“gift”** or clearly declare they are sending items with no commercial value – personal belongings. Please note there is no guarantee that toll is not added

**Please be aware that newly purchased items sent, are subject to a tax you must pay before collection.** This import tax is very high. If you are ordering items from amazon.com or other online retailers you will be charged according to their attached invoice. This tax can sometimes be as high as 60%. We recommend you bring what you need, and order things online within Iceland. Locally purchased items from within Iceland are not subject to this import tax.

Delivery times can also be very variable. When ordering things from international online retailers, delivery times can vary between 1 week to 4 weeks. Amazon and ASOS are usually very good with their postal estimates and most items arrive within 2 weeks. We recommend checking with your postal service in your country for estimated times.

**NOTE:**

\*\*\*\*\* If you are sending luggage, boxes or anything via shipping, especially from Germany, please note that many NES artists have experienced delays in receiving their luggage/packages. It can take up to 4 weeks to send via ship from Germany to Iceland. Via air, it is usually 4-6 days.

Please consider the days/weeks shipping your goods from Europe can take, as you don't want to be without your materials here.

**NES studio address to send your package:**

(Write your own name)

Fjörubraut 8, Skagaströnd 545  
Iceland

## Trips and Sightseeing

Skagaströnd is a good base to explore the north of Iceland with many natural phenomena close by. Mývatn is a lake district with a lot of geothermal and volcanic activity. Many artists take road trips there.

*\*NES does not organize or facilitate sightseeing trips. We recommend renting a car with other resident artists, or catching a bus to nearby destinations like Sauðárkrókur or Akureyri.*

## Car Hire

An International Driver's License (IDL) is required if the renter's national driver's license is not in Roman alphabet (i.e. Arabic, Greek, Russian or Chinese). International driver's license must be accompanied by the original domestic license of the driver.

The interior of Iceland and some dangerous routes are closed for car travel during winter (September - April). Along open roads, all cars must, by law, have winter tires in winter months and icy conditions. To check the road conditions: <http://www.road.is/>

You can rent a car in Skagaströnd with **Hertz**. It is the only car rental company in town.

**Hertz**

**Strandgata 10**

**Skagaströnd, Iceland**

**Telephone: 522 4400**

To hire a car in Iceland you will also need a credit card. Debit cards or 'pre-paid' credit cards are generally not accepted. The Hertz in Skagaströnd cannot accept debit cards.

There are other car rental companies in Blönduós, Akureyri and Sauðárkrókur, but you have to reach them by bus.

**SADCARS Hire** has very reasonable rates and many artists use it especially if going to and from Reykjavik: <https://sadcars.com/>

Iceland Car Hire: <https://www.icelandcarrental.is/Booking/Period>

Europcar Rental website: Many artists use this company from Akureyri, which is around 2 hours drive from Skagaströnd: <http://www.holdur.is/en/rental-locations>

There is also a site for carpooling in Iceland: <http://samferda.is>

## Bus Travel During Your Residency

To travel during your residency you always need to take the shuttle bus to Blönduós and then you can go anywhere the bus connects to. In general, it's good to request the shuttle one day in advance. However, it is the only bus that you need to book.

Stræto Timetables and information for taking buses to and from Blönduós and further, are kept in the studios or you can view timetables and plan your trip at <http://www.straeto.is/en>.

Neighboring towns to Skagaströnd are Blönduós (20 minutes drive) and Sauðárkrúkur (45 minutes drive).

## Bus Hire For Group Bookings

Iceland Bus Company SBA Norðurleið has coaches that can be hired out to large groups for day excursions and trips: Phone - 550 0700; Web - <https://www.sba.is/>

## Weather

Weather in Iceland can be remarkably beautiful, puzzling, dramatic, intense, and downright dangerous. It's a commonly held belief that Icelanders' favorite pastime is the weather. If you plan to do any traveling during your stay, it is essential to check weather and road conditions before you go. Always remember, 'safety first' in Iceland!

+ [www.road.is](http://www.road.is)

+ <http://en.vedur.is/>

+ <http://safetravel.is/>

*(A smart phone app is available for Iceland's emergency services.)*

## Spring (March, April, May)

Spring is a transitional season, so we experience the flux between winter and summer; bringing snow, an occasional storm, often strong winds, clear skies, and sometimes the Northern Lights early in the season. Snow melting off mountains cause waterfalls and fill rivers. It is important to prepare for both climates: you may experience summer days one week and winter days the next week. You will need a warm parka, hat, gloves, scarf, and probably a neck gaiter to pull up over your face in strong windy/snowy conditions. Layers will help you prepare each day for the weather as it comes. You must come prepared for strong wind!

## Summer (June, July, August)

Complete accessibility! The landscape invites you to have picnics and barbecues. The wind lulls and grows calm, there is usually no snow and the sun brings a little warmth. Daylight is long lasting, with the skies becoming bright 24 hours a day and the midnight sun in June, when the sun does not set, it simply dips the horizon with the longest day on June 21. This is the time of year Icelanders embrace trips and travels. Make sure you bring sunscreen. Often it's t-shirt weather but it is still necessary to bring warm clothes: closed shoes, and bring a cardigan or sweater and a

good lightweight jacket. If you are going on a boat, camping, or a trip in the outdoors you will need a windproof and warm jacket plus your gloves and hat.

### Autumn (September, October, November)

The transitional season of autumn brings magnificent sunsets, and snow and frost. November brings heavier winter weather and a dramatic shift compared to the other months of Autumn. This a great time of year to see the best of both worlds. You will need to pack for warmer and cooler weather. A wool coat or heavy sweater, a waterproof outer jacket/parka, wool socks, gloves, scarf, and good shoes are essential. Thermals are also needed, especially when outside in the evening (between dinners and the northern lights). The middle of the day may also surprise you with occasional warmth, so layers are a good idea.

### Winter (November, December, January, February, March)

The weather can be intermittently harsh and stormy, intervened by the relief of still clear sunny days. Often the roads are covered in ice and the snow plow will clear the road when the snow falls. There are occasions when people will be snowed in or prevented from going outside due to a blizzard. We encourage artists to embrace the winter and treat it as an adventure. You will need warm, waterproof boots, and crampons this time of year, as well as the essentials listed above. Waterproof trousers are a good idea if you will be walking outside. If you are prone to seasonal discomfort, or if you need light to wake up, it may be advisable to bring a dawn simulating light as there can be as little as two hours of daylight in December. Daylight lengthens dramatically during February and March. If you want to experience snow, ice, darkness, breathtaking skies, everlasting sunrises/sunsets and unique light, this is a good time to visit.

### Local Event Calendar

**February:** “Porrablót” – the community gathers for a feast and entertainment. This is an old Viking tradition to celebrate the mid-winter month of Þorri (mid-January – mid-February). The feast includes traditional Icelandic food, like dried fish, fermented shark, sheep-heads, haggis, and pickled rams testicles. This is washed down with Brennivín schnapps – aka Black Death.

**April:** The third Thursday of the month is the first day of summer - “sumardagurinn fyrsti.” This is often held in a last snowstorm, just to remind us that winter will be here again next year.

**May-June:** The last Saturday of May or first Saturday of June is “Fisherman's day” in Iceland. In Skagaströnd it is a major event with festivities and competitions in rowing and tug-of-war. All fishing boats in Iceland dock on this day.

**June:** Our independence day is June 17th with festivities. The summer solstice is on June 21st, marking the longest day of the year.

**September:** The sheep and horse roundups are not something to be missed as farmers and locals bring sheep and horses back down from the mountains for winter. There are often country balls, or parties after the round up.

**December through January:** Christmas is celebrated by all, with lights on houses and in the streets, lighting up the dark winter days. Instead of Santa Claus, Iceland has 13 Yule Lads. Christmas lights decorate the houses and streets as families get together for celebrations. On 23 December, Icelanders eat putrefied skata (or skate, a fish similar to shark), known for its distinctive smell. New Years eve will have bonfires lit and fireworks.

## Part III: Your Residency at NES

### Residency structure

NES is structured to enable artists to have the time and space to focus on their work. For this reason, we're a self-directed residency. However, every month artists are given the opportunity to engage in at least 2 programmed monthly events:

- **Artist talks** gives you the opportunity to share your process and projects with fellow NES artists. This happens usually during the 1st week of your arrival and is an informal event. Artists present for up to 10 minutes, and we have a projector and speakers available for you to show images, video, website or presentation of any kind.
- **Open Studio / Opið Hús** takes place towards the end of the month. During this informal exhibition, you can show your work and present your work in whatever way you wish.

### Mentorship Program

NES is interested in creating links between artists and the community. If there is an interested student in the village, you may be able to volunteer as an artist mentor. Note on your application that you are willing to volunteer as a mentor. The mentorship allows you to engage local youth in the arts, to share knowledge, techniques, industry experience, or help the student better understand and explore his or her interest in art for a minimum of 1 session per week for 1 or 2 months. Each mentoring session can be organized between the artist and student. All artists are volunteering their time; it is free for students. Students must be 13 or over.

You may also be able to organize workshops or classes at the local school once you have settled into NES. This depends on the time of year, the current subjects being studied by students, the suitability of the workshop offered and the approval of the principal.

**Additional Exhibitions With NES:** NES typically does not curate or facilitate exhibitions or performances. With that said, artists are encouraged to organize their own solo or group exhibitions, performances or events. There are a number of small businesses in town that are eager to collaborate with NES and offer their space for events and/or pop-up exhibitions.

*\*Artists are responsible for any costs these additional events might incur (ie. flyer printing costs).*

### Accommodation

The NES house/apartments are located in the town of Skagaströnd. They are each shared, fully furnished homes with a full kitchen, furniture, laundry, and heating. Artists each have a private bedroom, and share the kitchen and bathroom. Bedroom doors do not have locks. Your residency fee includes all bills (electricity, water, heating, garbage removal). NES provides linen for beds, including duvet and pillow and sheets, tea-towels/drying cloths for dishes, bathroom mats and hand-towels, and towels for showering. NES also provides toilet paper and dishwashing liquid for all the houses, and the studio. Artists must purchase their own laundry powder.

## House Addresses:

**Fellsbraut 2:** 2 double rooms, 4 single rooms, 1 single guest room. This is a 2-storey house that can accommodate up to 8 artists. Usually it accommodates 6.

**Fellsbraut 2-Basement:** 1 double room, 2 single rooms. (houses 3-4 people).

The **NES studio** is located at **Fjörubraut 8**, about 2 minutes' walk from Fellsbraut 2 and 2-B as well as close proximity to the Music School. To get to the **BioPol Dance Studio and the Research Library** it is only about a 10minute walk from the Fellsbraut house. On a windy day it may take 20minutes!

## House Rules

Artists are responsible for cleaning up after themselves: doing dishes, keeping all surfaces clean, cleaning out the fridge, disposing of old or unused foods, putting out the rubbish and recycling regularly. **You must leave your house as clean as you found it.**

## Environmental Awareness

Please turn off lights if you are not using them, and use heating only as you need it. Keep the radiators turned to around '3' in the winter, and around '1' or '2' in the summer. Please make sure to turn the heaters all the way down before you leave the house (in the summer) or away on a trip. Please open the kitchen windows to let the steam out when cooking, otherwise mold will build up from the moisture. If you are leaving the house for a trip, make sure ALL windows are closed, as you don't know if the weather will change and bring a storm unexpectedly.

## Garbage

There are 2 bins outside your apartment and the studio— a bin with a green lid for recycling, and a bin with a black lid for general waste. These are collected every 2 weeks. Put all tin/metal, plastic and paper recycling together in the green-lid bin, it can be put straight into the bin without a bag. DO NOT RECYCLE GLASS. Glass must go into the non-recyclable everyday garbage bin. This garbage needs to be in bags, and you can get corn bags from the supermarket here. Please empty your household bins regularly, and make sure the outside bins are accessible. Garbage collectors will take them from outside your house, but they need access. You do not have to put the bins out on the street for collection.

## Smoking

There is no smoking or vaping inside the apartments or NES studios. You must smoke outside and dispose of cigarette butts accordingly. Please do not throw them onto the grass or street – or down drains. The drains outside the studio go straight into the sea.

## Household Supplies

If you happen to break anything in the house, please inform NES so it can be replaced. Should you need a light bulb, or any other appliance, please let us know. ***If you take bowls, dishes, or kitchen items to another house or studio, please remember to return them accordingly.***

## Having Guests at NES

If you are having your partner and /or guests visit you at NES, you **MUST advise NES beforehand as we can only accommodate them if there is room.** If there are no spare rooms or beds

available, you may not be able to host a guest. The fee for guests at NES is 40 Euro per night. **Guest fees are to be paid before the guest leaves** at the bank in town with cash.

## Living Expenses

All living expenses are covered by artists. Artists are responsible for all food, perishables and consumables. The average living cost for food per week is between 15,000 – 20.000 ISK, depending on your budget and food intake and dietary requirements. The local supermarket Kjörbuðin, has many alternative food needs for vegan and gluten free diets. Lactose free milk and yoghurt is also available. Regular fruit and vegetable produce and meats, frozen and packeted foods, tin and boxed food is readily available.

It is a good idea to budget extra costs for car hire, bus fare, or outings to pools and visiting other places in the area.

## The NES Studio

The NES studio is a renovated fishing factory. It is an open-plan studio (one large shared space) that enables artists to work alongside each other, relate to each other's work if desired, and collaborate with greater ease. The studio includes an old freezer room that can be used as a performance and presentation space. It is a closed room, very useful for screening videos/films. This room has a video projector and good sound speakers that all can use. As a shared space, courtesy and consideration for others is important. Please be respectful of noise level and personal space. The studios are accessible 24-7. Please use the main front door with your key to enter and exit the studio. The Wifi is free in the studios. Network and password are indicated on the wall above the communal computer. The Internet in the studio is there as a resource for artists, however please be mindful of the amount of downloading you do, such as large image files, films, albums etc.

## Communal Spaces

Artists are responsible for tidying the communal spaces in the studio. Please empty the garbage regularly and place recyclables out into the recycle bin. Tools are available in a storage room in the studio. Please put back tools on the shelves when you have finished with them. There is also a scanner, a PC computer and a black and white printer in the studios available for use. Note: NES does not own a color printer for photography.

## Individual Workspaces in The Studio

Every artist is given their own table and shelving. If you want to paint straight onto the concrete wall, please bring white paint to return it to its original state after you leave.



## Art Materials

NES does not provide artists with art materials of any kind, beyond what can be found in the studio's communal storage room. We recommend that you bring all the materials that you need for your artwork as there is no art supply store in town. We receive most supplies from other towns: Sauðárkrúkur, Reykjavík or Akureyri. You can order most things online and if it is being sent from within Iceland, postage is usually within 2 business days.

You can also order supplies from **Litur og Fondur** in Reykjavík and have it posted to NES:

[www.litirogfondur.is](http://www.litirogfondur.is)

Email : [litirogfondur@litirogfondur.is](mailto:litirogfondur@litirogfondur.is).

Phone: 551-2242 or 552-1412

<https://artsupplies.is/> has a range of art materials including printmaking supplies. They also offer a 15% discount to artists, use the code NES15 at checkout when you visit their page.

A home improvement paint shop also stock a good range of art materials, paints, canvases mediums brushes, inks etc. They are situated in Reykjavík and Akureyri

<https://slippfelagid.is/myndlistarvorur/>

There is a hardware store in Sauðárkrúkur and options for recycled materials in Skagaströnd including a recycling centre/dump, and a woodshop and metal shop in town that you can sometimes buy materials and scraps from. Also in Sauðárkrúkur the KS supermarket stock some basic artist supplies such as paints, pencils etc as well as small stretched canvasses.

## Printing, Photos, Posters, or Copies

The studio laser printer may be used for **black and white only**. Larger printing jobs must be outsourced. There is a printing store in both Blönduós and Sauðárkrúkur. **Nýprent** in Sauðárkrúkur can print glossy posters and post your order to NES: [nyprent@nyprent.is](mailto:nyprent@nyprent.is) or phone: 455 71 71.

For analogue, art prints, and high-quality custom prints we recommend:

**Custom Photo Lab**, Reykjavík

Phone 551 7900 or [www.customphotolab.is/](http://www.customphotolab.is/)

There is also a local printing shop in Sauðárkrúkur: **Myndun**

Phone 867 5007 / Email: [myndun@myndun.is](mailto:myndun@myndun.is)

For general photography, you can upload the images online with **Ljósmyndavörur**. They will develop your pictures to standard sizes and ship: <http://framkollun.ljosmyndavorur.is>

Another is Pixel <https://pixel.is/>

You can also see 'Printing In Iceland' company Umslag:

<https://umslag.is/printing-in-iceland/>

## Emergency Services, Medical Assistance and Pharmacy

We hope you do not need to use the following information during your residency at NES, but in case of emergency, please see the list below for the contact details of various health and emergency facilities:

### IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 112

(This is the equivalent to dialing 000 in Australia, or 911 in the USA.)

**Police:** 455 2666, Hnjúkabyggð 33, 540 Blönduós

**Doctor:** 452 2717, Ægisgrund 16, Skagaströnd, [skagatrond@lyfja.is](mailto:skagatrond@lyfja.is)

*The doctor visits Skagaströnd every Thursday. You can make an appointment in person or by calling ahead. The doctor's/nurses station is located on the street just past the grocery store, on your right if heading toward the harbor. It's the last building on your right with the big green cross that says LYFJA. You can get many basic medical services attended to at the nurses station here in Skagaströnd, including blood tests done or stiches out.*

**In the event of a non-emergency medical issue, call 1700 to be connected directly to the doctor in Blönduós.** Urgent Doctors Visits: 432 4100, Flúðabakka 2 | 540 Blönduós, E: [hsn@hsn.is](mailto:hsn@hsn.is)

*If you require a doctor outside of local visits, there is a hospital in Blönduós with a doctor's surgery. Call ahead to make an appointment. To get to the hospital, catch the bus to Blönduós. As you look from the N1 gas station towards the river, you will see a big building on the left after the bridge (this is the hospital.) Enter from the carpark around the back (not the side of the main road). It is a 5 min. walk from the gas station.*

**General Health Care Info:** The Health Care Institution of North Iceland operates eighteen health clinics, four hospitals and three nursing homes in the Northern part of Iceland. The health care clinics offer various medical and nursing services, general medical service, general nursing care, infant and maternity service, school nursing, vaccinations for adults, home care service etc. The health clinics' activities are directed towards neighborhood services and are expected to serve inhabitants of particular parts of the area.

### Primary Health Care Clinics

A map which you can click on to find the nearest health care clinic, these lists addresses, opening hours and contact numbers <https://www.heilsuvera.is/en/map/>

*If your situation is serious and you require immediate urgent medical attention you must ring the emergency number **112** for an ambulance. Otherwise, dial **1700** to be connected to a doctor in Blönduós.*

**EEA citizens** must bring the European Health Insurance Card EHIC for use in Iceland. They must present the EHIC, personal identification papers and documents proving their citizenship (i.e. passport). A fee, to be paid for each consultation, and other services, is fixed by a regulation.

**Non-EEA citizens** Those who are not covered by the EEA regulations can obtain medical assistance but must pay in full. They can then seek reimbursement from their own insurance in their country of origin or from their private insurance, according to rules and regulations applicable in their insurance country. More information can be found at <https://www.sjukra.is/english> We encourage all artists to have travel insurance, especially those outside the EEA, in case of an emergency. **NES Artist Residency is not responsible for any costs incurred by artists for medical or rescue services.**

## Part IV: The End of Your Residency

**Sending Artwork Home From NES:** NES does not acquire or store artworks. You can send your artwork home but must register the parcel online at <https://posturinn.is/en/> and then call Andrés the Postman on 8472115, he will meet up with you wherever you want in Skagaströnd and he will pick up the parcel and you can pay him with card or cash.

For very large shipments, you can see the freight company (sea travel) 'Eimskip'. Please check first if this company ships to your country.

**Website:** <https://www.eimskip.is/>

**Phone:** 5257000

**The Studios:** Please make sure you sweep the floor of your studio before you go, clear all belongings from the space, the fridge, and wipe down all surfaces. If you have art materials you aren't going to take with you, find a suitable place in the communal supply room to leave them.

**Your Apartment:** Make sure your room is cleaned out and you have washed your bed sheets and towels and hung them up to dry the morning you leave. Make the bed with clean bedding. Please do not leave any perishable food behind in the houses. *\*A more detailed departure checklist is located in each bedroom.*

**Leaving Skagaströnd:** You must leave NES no later than the final day of your contract. Artists depart on the bus which leaves 11.59am from Skagaströnd's gas station. We recommend staying a night in Reykjavík before your flight, as it will be difficult to get from Skagaströnd to Keflavik in the same day (especially if there's bad weather.) Book the #84 shuttle bus from Skagaströnd to Blönduós, and connect on the #57 bus going to Reykjavík or Akureyri.

**Keys:** Please remember to return your keys (house + studio, dance studio, library, music school) before you go, either in your room on the desk/table, or if the studio is your last place of call, give to the NES director or leave on her desk in the office.

*Thank you for staying with NES.*

*Takk Fyrir! 😊*