



Program Schedule

Day One 15 May 2026

13:00-13:20	Registration and Coffee
13:20-13:30	Welcome Hólmfríður Sveinsdóttir, Rector, Hólar University Sveinn Ragnarsson, Professor, Equine Science, Hólar University
13:30-14:10	Animal-Assisted Services (AAS) Defined: Scope of Practice and Key Considerations Erika Berg, Associate Professor, Program Director for Bison Strides Equine Assisted Services, North Dakota State University, USA
14:10-15:10	Psychosocial Effects of AAS Nina Ekholm Fry, Director of Equine Programs at The Institute for Human-Animal Connection, University of Denver, USA
15:10-15:30	Coffee
15:30-16:20	Underlying Mechanisms of AAS Henri Julius, Professor Emeritus, University of Rostock, Psychology, Adjunct Professor Hólar University and Mozarteum University Salzburg
16:20-17:00	Physiotherapy with the Icelandic Horse: past, present and future Guðbjörg Eggertsdóttir, Pediatric Physiotherapist, Gló Æfingastöð
17:00-17:40	Practitioner Perspectives I Susanne Lintermann, Holistic Specialist, Hugarró Goats and Nature Sonja Gústafsdóttir, Occupational Therapist, University of Akureyri Nina Anna Dau, Special Education Teacher, Grunnskóli Vestmannaeyja
18:30-20:00	Dinner at Hólar University



HÁSKÓLINN
Á HÓLUM



Program Schedule

Day Two 16 May 2026

8:30-8:40	Welcome Back Sveinn Ragnarsson, Professor, Equine Science, Hólar University
8:40-9:20	Practitioner Perspectives II Guðbjörg Eggertsdóttir, Pediatric Physiotherapist, Gló Þorkatla Sigurðardóttir, Psychologist, Hlöðuloftið
9:20-10:10	From Trauma to Triumph: how horses inspired me and the path towards the paralympic dream Felicia Grimmenhag, Swedish Icelandic Horse Association
10:10-10:30	Coffee
10:30-11:15	What Makes a Good Animal Partner? Gunnhildur Jakobsdóttir, Head of Occupational Therapy, Gló Æfingastöð
11:15-12:15	Lunch
13:15-14:15	Nordic Panel: AAS in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden Nina Ekholm Fry, moderator
14:15-14:45	Proposed Hólar University Curriculum Erika Berg, Sveinn Ragnarsson, Henri Julius
14:45-15:05	Coffee
15:05-16:05	Roundtable Interest Groups
16:05-17:15	Exploring a Framework for an Icelandic Animal-Assisted Services Organization
17:15	Adjourn. Takk fyrir og góða ferð heim!

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