

Ilimmarfik

The capital of Greenland, Nuuk, is home to Greenland's own university. The characteristic wood-built buildings with odd angles include the university and institutes for academic education. In addition, the National Library, the National Archives, The Language Secretariat and Statistics Greenland have offices in the building. Next door to Ilimmarfik is Pinngortitaleriffik, The Greenland Institute of Natural Resources.

Ilimmarfik is the country's centre for a wide range of student programs and researchers. The building was completed in 2007 and now houses more than 300 staff and students.

But how does that however balance financially? Greenland has only approx. 56,000 inhabitants, of which not more than 42.000 are taxpayers. And then the self-governance affords a university? The Greenlandic people also own (via a publicly owned company) submarine

cables to North America and Iceland. Oh yes, the Greenlanders also are owners of a number of ocean-going container ships, hydro power stations, etc.

The explanation lies in the receipt of an annual block grant from the Danish government, amounting to 3.5 billion Danish kroner. This corresponds to 57 per cent of the total revenues of the Self-governance.

The university is an important tool to get young Greenlanders qualified to in the future continue fulfilling its administrative management and to teach future generations. Nonetheless, the modern buildings and the money for teaching and research are in sharp contrast to the fact that a very large proportion of the Greenlandic population is living in poor conditions. But this dilemma the researchers can use as issue in their research when they work in their offices in the beautiful university building.



The buildings of Ilimmarfik in front of the mountain Sermitsiaq, March 2008