

Welcome to the combined July and August edition of the Arctic Office Bulletin. There's plenty to share, despite the summer break, with news on the results of the MOSAiC initiative workshop; the deadline for registration for the UK Arctic Conference; further details of a new event to boost research engagement with Russia in the Arctic and much more, including details of new funding opportunities.

Please visit www.arctic.ac.uk and follow us on Twitter @Arctic_Office for all the latest news and information. As always, your feedback and suggestions on the Bulletin and its contents, as well as the work of the NERC Arctic Office, is welcome.

UK Arctic Science Conference, Oban (19 - 21 September)

Although the deadline for abstract submission is now closed, (free) registration will be open until **Friday 1 September**. With over 70 abstracts already submitted and over 100 people confirmed, there will be a full and engaging science programme. Don't miss the chance to be part of this important event. Registration details [here](#). There are still good opportunities to sort out great value travel and accommodation. There will be a strong social element to the conference programme with evening events and public outreach events with interesting speakers. We look forward to seeing you in Oban in September...!

MOSAiC UK-Workshop and next steps

A workshop attended by 25 researchers from across the UK was held on 17 July at the [Aurora Innovation Centre](#) in Cambridge to hear about the latest developments in the implementation and science planning for the [Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate](#), which is a flagship activity of the Year of Polar Prediction.

A note of the workshop and copies of the two presentations (Prof. Klaus Dethloff, AWI & Henry Burgess, NERC Arctic Office) are available [here](#). The workshop highlighted the strong level of interest from across the UK community, the good options to get involved in the programme, and the practical arrangements for access to the vessel. Up to £500,000 is available, thanks to direct support from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for berth fees for UK-based researchers. The workshop also explored options for science funding to match the berth fees, with a number of promising routes identified. Further information on this science funding will be shared

as soon as possible. MOSAiC presents fantastic opportunities for UK-based researchers across a broad range of disciplines. The MOSAiC coordinators will be hosting the next science implementation meeting in St Petersburg (13-16 November), and further details are now available on the [MOSAiC website](#).

New event: Research and Cooperation in the Russian Arctic: identifying priorities; opportunities; and next steps for UK researchers (5 December)

As previewed in the last Bulletin, the NERC Arctic Office and the Science and Innovation Network team at the British Embassy in Moscow will host a one day conference at the Aurora Innovation Centre, Cambridge on **Tuesday 5 December**. Some limited travel support will be available.

The event will look at prioritising key research areas on which UK researchers wish to focus; sharing good practice in working in Russia and in developing partnerships; identifying real and potential barriers to better engagement; and proposing practical solutions. We will be working hard to ensure this is the start of a process of developing stronger and more mutually successful engagement between UK-based and Russian researchers.

The event is aimed at [UK-based](#) early career researchers, and other [UK-based](#) researchers with experience of working in Russia or aspirations to do so, as well as policy makers. Although focusing on Arctic research, the event will be useful to those coming from non-Arctic backgrounds, but with an interest in research in the high north. Please register your interest in attending this event (no registration fee) and, if applicable, your interest in travel support via an email to arctic@bas.ac.uk



Further details, including an outline agenda to follow by mid-September.

Russia - *The Week in Science*

This is a weekly snapshot produced by the UK Science and Innovation Network across our Embassy and Consulates in Russia for the UK science community. Concise and informative, it gives updates on upcoming events, policy news and developments in Russian science across a range of topics: from the Arctic to Space to Healthcare. To subscribe or request a trial copy, please e-mail Tatiana Iakovleva, Senior Science & Innovation Adviser, tatiana.iakovleva@fco.gov.uk

British Council – Researcher Links Workshops, UK/Russia

Researcher Links Workshops bring together early-career researchers from the UK and a partner country to make international connections that can improve the quality of their research. There will be nine awards in total under this call – five awards for workshops in Russia, and four for workshops in the UK. All workshops must be held in 2018. Each proposal must have one Principal Applicant from the UK and one Principal Applicant from Russia. Further information here:

https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/2_july_2017_researcher_links_russia_workshop_guidelines_for_applicants_v0.3.pdf

The submission deadline is 19 September 2017. It would be great to know if you submit an application, so that we can help build up the best possible picture of who is working, and interested in working, in Russia.

NERC Changing Arctic Ocean Programme: Update on the Barents Sea Cruise

Some 20 investigators from the NERC Changing Arctic Ocean programme are currently on board the RRS *James Clark Ross*, carrying out sample collection and measurements. This first cruise of the programme has been in the Barents Sea since 7 July and will return to Tromsø on 8 August. Only since 2 August have internet communications returned to the ship, and those on the JCR are now broadcasting updates on Twitter. It seems sightings of polar bears are a big favourite.

So far progress to visit all 18 key stations is going well. The core measurements at each of these stations include nutrients, dissolved oxygen,

plankton, zooplankton and microbial community analysis. Primary production experiments have also been carried out. At five of the stations, the seafloor has been sampled for sediment and pore water geochemistry, community structure, biodiversity and reproductive state of the benthic fauna, nitrogen cycling within the sediments, and the role of bioturbation.

A series of hydrographic transects across the shelf edge to the north and west of Svalbard and across the Polar Front have been completed to provide additional hydrographic context. A glider was successfully deployed and recovered that measured the temperature, salinity, light and chlorophyll in the water column.

See more of the cruise updates on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/ScotMarineInst/lists/changing_arcticocean

In the meantime, a reminder that the second, international call has been announced as part of the Changing Arctic Ocean Programme. The call is jointly with Germany and details are available [here](#). **The deadline for applications is 14 September.** *(With thanks to the Programme's Science Coordinator, Dr Kirsty Crocket, SAMS)*

UK-Canada Arctic Partnership, 2017 Bursaries Programme: details

Many of the 18 projects and teams from across the UK have now joined their Canadian partners in the Arctic. Brief details of all the supported projects can be found [here](#). We are working hard with our partners to secure a second phase of the Bursary Programme, but this is not guaranteed. We will let everyone know the outcome as soon as possible.

In combination with the High Commission in Ottawa we will be sharing and promoting the work of the teams being funded by the Bursaries through social media and other routes. Further details to follow, and right now you can follow @AnneDJungblut as she carries out her terrestrial microbial fieldwork in the vicinity of the Cambridge Bay High Arctic Research station in the Canadian north.

In the last Bulletin we provided advance notice of the Arctic Change conference (11-15 December) in Quebec City. The conference is now open for Abstract submission (deadline 22 September). There is a dedicated session on the UK-Canada Bursaries Programme to which all Bursary recipients are invited to submit material, plus a fantastically wide range of other sessions. For those



interested in working in the Canadian Arctic or with Canadian researchers more generally, this event is an invaluable opportunity to show what you do, to find new research partners and explore new research horizons. Further details are available <http://www.arcticnetmeetings.ca/ac2017/pages/abstracts.php>

Job opportunity – Director of SIOS

The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) is seeking a Director. Based at UNIS in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, this is a great opportunity to lead the SIOS consortium to *'...coordinate state-of-the-art research infrastructure and observing capacity, owned by the members, in order to foster excellent environmental and climate change research in the Svalbard region'*. The position is open to UK citizens and others.

The deadline for applications is 1 September and further information and the online application form can be found at:

https://www.sios-svalbard.org/News_20170616

National Geographic Society – funding opportunities

The NGS is promoting a range of funding opportunities for:

i) early career grants (normally pre-PhD), with the link here:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/grants/how-to-apply/>

ii) standard grants.

We understand that the standard grants are larger than normal (up to \$150k), and also allow overheads. There is a specific request for proposals in the 'Changing Polar Systems' theme. More information is available here:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/grants/rfp/changing-polar-systems/>

Researchers should select 'Changing Planet' for Lens, "Standard" for Grant Type, and select "Changing Polar Systems" in the RFP dropdown menu.

NERC Arctic Research Station, Ny-Ålesund – Parliamentary visit

We are very pleased to be hosting a visit of MPs and Peers from the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Polar Regions to the NERC station between 29-31 August. The visit will enable the Parliamentarians to see the UK's Arctic facility in

action; to learn more about the breadth and depth of the UK's engagement in Arctic research more widely, and the partnerships with others, such as UNIS; and to see the environmental impact of the changing Arctic climate in one of the most rapidly altering places in the region. Technology permitting we hope to share details during the visit itself, with a fuller write-up in a link from a subsequent Bulletin.

Arctic Circle Assembly, 13-15 October

Researchers from across the United Kingdom will have a strong presence at the coming Arctic Circle Assembly event in Reykjavik, with UK sessions on science, innovation and international connections; on AUVs; and on renewables and low-carbon transition, amongst others.

The Assembly has quickly become one of the most important Arctic gatherings and is the biggest meeting place for scientists, policy makers, businesses and many others. It has become a market for good ideas and contacts.

The Arctic Office will be represented at the Assembly and we will have exhibition/promotional space for the use of the UK-based community. Please let us know (arctic@bas.ac.uk) if you will be running or participating in a breakout session, or will be attending the Assembly. We look forward to being able to support and promote a range of UK science interests. Further details, including registration, here: <http://www.arcticcircle.org/>

NERC Arctic Research Programme – Policy Report

As one of the final products from the communication phase of the NERC Arctic Research Programme, we have been working closely with the Public Policy team at the University of Southampton to develop a dedicated report for policy makers. The report will be a straightforward presentation of the findings from the Programme and the policy implications for decision-makers.

The report will be launched at a joint event with the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology in central London on 14 September. The report will be available to everyone electronically and we hope will mark a significant development in connecting Arctic science to policy makers. There are a small number places left for this event. Please contact arctic@bas.ac.uk if you would like to attend or to receive a copy of the report.



Events

- **UK Arctic Science Conference** – Oban, 19-21 September
- **Arctic Circle Assembly** – Reykjavik, 13-15 October,
- **UK & Russia event** – Cambridge, 5 December
- **[Arctic Change Conference](#)** – Quebec City, 11-15 December
- **[Polar Prediction School 2018](#)** – Abisko, Sweden, 17 – 27 April

Contacts

Henry Burgess, Head, NERC Arctic Office

Tel: 01223 221426, henry.burgess@bas.ac.uk

Nicola Munro, NERC Arctic Office

Tel: 01223 221468, nalm@bas.ac.uk

Nick Cox, NERC Arctic Research Station manager

Tel: 01223 221503, nc@bas.ac.uk

