

June 2017

Welcome to the June edition of the monthly Arctic Office Bulletin. With the Bulletin having taken a break over the General Election period, there's a lot to share this month, with news on confirmed UK engagement in the MOSAiC initiative; the last chance to submit abstracts for the UK Arctic Conference; the imminent start of the fieldwork for the NERC Changing Arctic Ocean Programme; and lots of plans for new events, including on engagement with Russia.

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.

Last Chance July deadline for abstracts, UK Arctic Science Conference

The 2017 Arctic Conference will be hosted by SAMS in Oban (19-21 September). This is the UK's foremost inter-disciplinary Arctic science conference and it only happens once every two years. It is a great opportunity to present your work and make an impact across the UK's research community.

The deadline for abstract submission is 31 July. Don't miss the chance to submit your proposals. All details on the conference, including abstract submission and registration can be found [here](#).

Abstracts are welcome under any of the five IASC science theme areas. Submissions highlighting inter-disciplinary connections will be particularly welcome, as will the participation of early career researchers. Please don't miss out on being part of this important event.

Conference registration is free and there are 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. This will be a great event and we look forward to seeing you in Oban in September.

NEW – MOSAiC Workshop, 17 July, Cambridge

With fantastic direct financial support from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the UK has recently become a full partner in the [Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate](#). Funding is available to facilitate UK-based

researchers to be on board the MV *Polarstern* during the drift across the Arctic Ocean in 2019-20.

A UK workshop will be held on Monday 17 July at the [Aurora Innovation Centre](#) in Cambridge. This will be a really important opportunity to hear about the latest developments in the implementation and science planning for the research initiative directly from one of the AWI co-coordinators, Prof. Klaus Dethloff. We also expect this to be an event at which the range of potential UK engagement can be drawn out and potential partnerships identified and facilitated.

Further details of the event are available [here](#). Please contact the NERC Arctic Office at arctic@bas.ac.uk as soon as possible to reserve your place at what is likely to be a popular event.

Parliamentary Update: Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry on Arctic Sustainability

The recent Dissolution of Parliament meant that the EAC Inquiry into how the UK Government was promoting environmental protections in the Arctic, was placed into abeyance.

The last action of the Committee was to publish all the evidence it had received. The evidence submitted by Research Council UK, coordinated by the NERC Arctic Office, is available alongside the other evidence that was submitted [here](#). Thank you to all the research centres, universities and many other people and organisations who also submitted evidence.

It will be up to Parliament to decide if the EAC is re-established and it will then be for the Committee to decide whether it wishes to restart the Inquiry. We will be ready to assist in whatever way we can and will share the latest updates here and via Twitter.



UK-Canada Arctic Partnership, 2017 Bursaries Programme: details

This 18 projects and teams from across the UK are now beginning to join their Canadian partners in the Arctic. We wish all the teams a successful season and we look forward to sharing their progress and results through the Bulletin and social media.

There was a very good spread of geographic areas, research topics and logistical assets across the successful applications. Brief details of all the supported projects can be found [here](#). At this stage we do not yet know whether there will be a second phase of the Bursary Programme, but we are working with our partners on this and will update colleagues as soon as possible.

NEW - Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation

The Foreign Ministers of the eight Arctic States signed an important new legally binding Agreement at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Fairbanks in May. Only the third such document in the 21 years of the Arctic Council's existence, the [Agreement](#) paves the way for more efficient and effective international collaboration across the Arctic. The provisions are particularly aimed at reducing and removing complex, and potentially unfair, visa, customs, permitting and other regulatory hurdles to international collaboration.

As an Observer to the Arctic Council the UK is not a formal party to the Agreement, but Article 17 makes it clear that the Parties can extend the benefits to researchers outside the Arctic States. We will continue to work closely with international partners and the Polar Regions Department in the FCO to make sure that as the practical implementation of the Agreement is taken forward, that the interests of UK-based researchers are fully considered.

We see this as an important development in facilitating ever closer relationships with prospective partners and in breaking down barriers to research in some of the most important regions across the Arctic.

Finland's Priorities for the Arctic Council

Finland has taken over the two-year Chair of the Arctic Council. Their four priorities are: environmental protection; e-connectivity;

meteorology; and education. Further detail on their specific initiatives and plans is available [here](#).

The start of the two-year term is a good opportunity for the UK and UK-based researchers to consider where best to target our involvement in the Arctic Council's [Working Groups](#). We will be consulting the community in the July Bulletin about that process.

UK engagement: Arctic Circle Assembly, 13-15 October

The UK has been successful in securing a number of breakout sessions at the next the next [Arctic Circle Assembly](#) in Reykjavik. There will be 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 if you will 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 interests.

Russia – science engagement

We are developing plans for a one-day workshop for UK-based researchers on strengthening Arctic connections in Russia. 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 aim for this to be the start of a process to develop a better UK in Russia Arctic engagement. Date and further details in the July Bulletin. In the meantime, please do let us know if you'd like to be involved in this event (arctic@bas.ac.uk).

The Week in Science is a weekly snapshot produced by 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



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subscribe or request a trial copy, please e-mail Tatiana Iakovleva, Senior Science & Innovation Adviser, tatiana.iakovleva@fco.gov.uk

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 straightforward presentation of the findings from the Programme and the policy implications for decision-makers.

We will launch the report at an event in Whitehall in September. The report will be available to everyone electronically and we hope will mark a significant development in connecting science to policy makers. Further details to follow in the July Bulletin.

UK Arctic Research Station, Ny-Ålesund

It is shaping up to be a busy summer season at the NERC UK Arctic Research Station this year. Teams from Aberystwyth, Bangor, BAS, Bristol, Lancaster and PML will be undertaking fieldwork in Ny-Ålesund looking across a range of science including terrestrial biology, marine biology, glaciology and space physics. A list of the projects has been posted on the Arctic Office website [here](#).

We look forward to highlighting some of their research in future bulletins later in the year so watch this space!

NERC Changing Arctic Ocean Programme: international call

As previewed in the March Bulletin, a 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.**

Members of the four projects funded in the first phase of the Programme will shortly be joining the RRS *James Clark Ross* for their cruises in the Barents Sea region. We wish everyone much success with this first season of their fieldwork. You can follow the progress of the projects through

@project_ARISE @Arctic_Seafloor @NERCscience @ScotMarineInst and @Arctic_Office.

For further details about the NERC Changing Arctic Ocean Programme, please contact the Science Coordinator, [Dr Kirsty Crocket](#).

Polar Prediction School 2018: Call for applications

The EU Horizon 2020-funded [APPLICATE](#) project, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organisation's Polar Prediction Project (PPP) in occasion of the [Year of Polar Prediction](#) (YOPP), the [Association of Polar Early Career Scientists](#) (APECS) and other partners are organising the second Polar Prediction School 2018 on weather and climate prediction in the polar regions from 17 - 27 April 2018 at Abisko Scientific Research Station in Sweden. The call is now open for applications and will close on 15th September 2017. Further information about the school and how to apply can be found on the Polar Prediction School 2018 [website](#).

Events

- [UK Arctic Science Conference](#) – Oban, 19-21 September
- [Arctic Circle Assembly](#) – Reykjavik, 13-15 October,
- [Arctic Change Conference](#) – Quebec City, 11-15 December
- [Polar Prediction School](#), Abisko, Sweden, 17-27 April 2018. Registration deadline is 15th September 2017.
- [Polar 2018 – A SCAR and IASC Conference](#), Davos, Switzerland, 15-26 June 2018

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