

9 November 2018

United Kingdom Representatives, International Arctic Science Committee Social and Human Working Group

The NERC Arctic Office is seeking nominations for two United Kingdom representatives on the International Arctic Science Committee's (IASC) Social and Human Working Group. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday 11 January 2019.

IASC is the international scientific organisation that encourages and facilitates cooperation and supports significant Arctic research connections across the globe. Earlier this year it produced its Strategic Plan setting out priorities and actions for the next five years: <https://iasc.info/strategic-plan>

IASC Working Groups encourage and support science-led international programmes by offering important opportunities for planning and coordination, and by facilitating communication and access to infrastructure. Each of the five IASC Working Groups is comprised of representatives from IASC's member countries. Further information on IASC and individual Working Groups: <http://www.iasc.info/> and <http://iasc.info/working-groups>

As the United Kingdom's adhering body to IASC, the NERC Arctic Office is responsible for appointing representatives to each of IASC's five Working Groups. The United Kingdom's IASC Council representative is the Head of the Arctic Office, supported as appropriate by the Working Group representatives and others.

Role of Working Group representatives

Representatives are expected to be active members of the Working Groups, representing United Kingdom science interests and promoting increased international collaboration. This will involve working closely with other members of the Working Group and with members of the other four IASC Working Groups. It is expected that the representatives will:

- Identify areas where current research is lacking, with particular attention to areas where interdisciplinary action should be undertaken;
- Encourage and facilitate international research programmes and initiate conferences, workshops and educational events, including interdisciplinary events, to assist in addressing key research gaps, especially those which can benefit from international collaboration;
- Encourage the exchange and dissemination of research-related information, including with relevant international, regional and national Arctic science organisations;
- Encourage the initiation and maintenance of observational systems and associated data and coordination with other long-term observational programmes of relevance to the Arctic;
- Provide scientific advice to the IASC Council and other international and United Kingdom organisations as required, including the NERC Arctic Office;
- Work closely with the NERC Arctic Office in disseminating the work of the Working Groups and Council to the UK Arctic research community; and
- Develop and nurture strong links with the corresponding thematic UK research community to ensure that their interests, ideas and suggestions are reflected in the representative's input to the Working Group, and that there is a strong two-way flow of information.

Eligibility

To be eligible a nominee should be based in the United Kingdom and be able to demonstrate how they meet the following criteria:

- Significant research interests and expertise that align with the scientific scope of the Social and Human Working Group; the IASC Strategic Plan; and with the priorities outlined in the IASC report *Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)* http://icarp.iasc.info/images/articles/downloads/ICARPIII_Final_Report.pdf
- Active involvement with the United Kingdom Arctic science research community;
- Experience of representing their thematic science interests in a national or international setting; and
- Evidence of a strong commitment to interdisciplinary working; and the ability to build and sustain positive and influential networks.

In order to fulfil the duties as the United Kingdom representative on the Social and Human Working Groups, it is important that the representative be present at the annual IASC Working Group meetings, which normally take place during the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). Subject to final confirmation of dates, the meetings for the next three years will be:

- ASSW 2019: 22-30 May, Arkhangelsk, Russian Federation
- ASSW 2020: 27 March – 2 April, Akureyri, Iceland
- ASSW 2021: 19-26 March, Lisbon, Portugal

The NERC Arctic Office is usually able to provide some support to assist with travel and subsistence costs for the annual meeting, but it may not be possible to fully support two members to attend each meeting. So where candidates have the means to attend the annual IASC Working Group meetings in person, through financial support from his or her affiliated institution or other sources, it will be helpful to identify this within the application.

Selection

All nominations for the Social and Human Working Groups will be reviewed by the Head of the NERC Arctic Office, supported by a small advisory group from the UK Arctic and Antarctic Partnership Steering Committee. The final decision rests with the NERC Arctic Office. Terms will be for up to four years, with the possibility of a single renewal, following a review after the first term. Shorter terms may be offered to ensure appropriate continuity on the Working Group between representatives through overlapping terms.

Self-nominations are welcome, as are nominations from early/mid-career researchers and nominations which reflect the breadth and diversity of the UK Arctic research community. Nominations from researchers working in the United Kingdom, but who are not British citizens, are also welcome.

Applications, including the following information, should be sent to the NERC Arctic Office via arctic@bas.ac.uk by **11 January 2019**:

- A short nomination or self-nomination letter (two pages A4 maximum) which lists the candidate's name, organisation, areas of expertise and knowledge, and how the candidate meets the eligibility requirements. Confirmation of ability to attend IASC Working Group meetings is required. Where financial means may be available to support this attendance this information should be included.
- A short CV which provides evidence of the candidate's Arctic science-related achievements, including research or policy-related activities, publications, memberships, awards and distinctions.

Receipt of applications will be confirmed by e-mail. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Henry Burgess, NERC Arctic Office (henry.burgess@bas.ac.uk)