

16 July 2019

United Kingdom & Russia Arctic Bursaries Programme

Summary

An opportunity for researchers based in the United Kingdom to apply for bursaries of up to £7000 to support new active engagement with Russia-based researchers in the Russian Arctic and High North before the end of March 2020.

Background

In specific recognition of the speed of change in the Arctic, the need for strengthened observation and monitoring and the importance of supporting an ever closer research relationship between the two countries, the United Kingdom's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), working with the UK Science and Innovation Network in Russia (SIN Russia) in the British Embassy, Moscow and the NERC Arctic Office, is funding a bursaries programme to support UK-based researchers to actively engage with Russian researchers in 2019-2020.

The outcomes of the bursaries programme are expected to support and further develop medium to long term research and collaboration links between UK-based and Russian researchers; and to provide access opportunities for UK-based researchers in the Russian Arctic and High North, including access to infrastructure, data sets and new collaborators.

The programme is part of a dedicated approach to strengthen Arctic research ties between the two countries, given the speed of environmental change in the Arctic and the importance of establishing new international observational partnerships. The programme forms part of the UK's practical commitment to supporting the successful implementation of the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Collaboration, signed by the eight Arctic States in 2017.

Bursary details

This programme is open to UK-based researchers in Arctic fields. Applications will be particularly welcomed from both early and career and established researchers. It is expected that applicants will normally be employed in permanent positions within UK institutions. The programme is not available to support PhD students' research.

The programme is intended to foster new UK-Russia research engagement. The expectation is that this could include:

- establishing connections with new potential research partners; identifying suitable new field sites and not widely-accessible field stations; developing the potential for new UK-Russia researcher groups;
- visiting university and other research centre-operated facilities for the purpose of building connections, establishing access and mutual confidence building.
- exchanging information and learning about Arctic research processes, techniques and approaches in both countries with a clear view to future research collaboration.
- practical fieldwork and associated research, including small-scale laboratory work as required, including gathering of samples/data;

The programme will not generally be available to support existing UK-Russia joint research projects, but will focus on new collaborations. Researchers who are already in receipt of funding for such collaborations should clearly identify this in their application and the reasons why their Bursary application provides additional value and develops new partnerships.

Eligible costs can include: travel in Russia and the UK, accommodation and subsistence, visa applications and related costs, purchasing/hire/use of special equipment, logistics and shipping costs, specific training and permit/access costs. All salary costs and associated costs, such as allowances and insurance, will not be eligible. Conference costs are unlikely to be eligible unless there are specific and dedicated links.. Proposals will normally be for one or two UK-based researchers, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Applications should not exceed £7,000 in total. Applications for smaller amounts than the maximum are welcome and encouraged. All costs will be funded at 100 per cent.

Applications must be accompanied by a letter from a Russian researcher confirming their agreement to participate in the outlined programme, as well as their ability and experience in supporting visa applications, in particular by providing official visa invitations. In the event of a successful application it will be the responsibility of the applicant to obtain all necessary written and specific permissions for the UK-based researcher/s to partner with Russian research colleagues, together with confirmation of all appropriate permits and access provisions.

It is expected that the Bursary will cover travel for up to two UK-based researchers to Russia, and for return travel (as needed) for Russian-based researchers to the United Kingdom. Successful applicants will be expected to handle the logistics of these return visits themselves and within their institutions.

Applications are welcomed from across the full range of Arctic research themes, including: Cryosphere, Atmosphere, Social and Human, Marine, and Terrestrial research. Applications demonstrating clear links to known and demonstrated areas of priority Arctic research, including those identified as part of the ICARP III process <http://icarp.iasc.info/> and the IASC Strategic Plan <https://iasc.info/strategic-plan> and which show potential for medium-long term collaboration will be particularly welcomed.

All bursary activity should be completed by the end of the 2019-20 financial year. Data handling and storage practices, where applicable, should be in line with overall UK Research

and Innovation principles of data management. A short final report will be required, in addition to responses to ad hoc requests.

Russian research partners

Eligible Russian research partners include those in universities, local and national research centres, and, where appropriate, state institutions. It is not expected that private sector researchers will normally be eligible to be included within the Bursary application.

Application and assessment process

You are strongly encouraged to contact the NERC Arctic Office to discuss your proposal and eligibility at an early stage before submitting an application.

Applications must not exceed three pages A4 (12 point text). They must be submitted electronically to the NERC Arctic Office arctic@bas.ac.uk by **1600 on Friday 27 September 2019** in pdf format.

Supporting documentation such as CVs and confirmation letters can be in addition to the three page limit.

The application must include:

- An executive summary (200 words maximum)
- A description of the work to be undertaken by the UK applicant, including details of the role and responsibilities of the UK researcher
- A description of expected outputs and outcomes/impact
- Details of the Russian project/partners/researchers with which the UK project will link
- A full breakdown of expected costs, including those for any return visits by Russian researchers
- A confirmation letter from an appropriate Russian researcher with their agreement to participate, including where specified, to host UK-based researchers at their facilities in Russia and their ability to travel to the UK.
- Evidence of where the proposed work can lead to further medium-long term UK-Russia Arctic research collaboration
- Confirmation of the UK employment status of the intended recipient of the bursary. Self-declaration is sufficient.
- A two-page (max.) CV containing full contact details of the applicant, including e-mail and telephone details

The review of applications will be undertaken by a small team, led by the NERC Arctic Office. The criteria used will include the assessment of all evidence provided, and will include:

- The overall importance of the proposed research question or theme in Arctic science, as demonstrated by the applicant and with appropriate reference to the relevant Research Councils' remits
- The practical feasibility of the proposed work within the budget and timescale outlined
- The anticipated outcome and impact
- The level of support and integration with the Russian host institution/partners
- The extent to which the proposal delivers or offers the future potential for delivery of new collaboration in an important topic area

Timescales

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Applications must be submitted electronically to the NERC Arctic Office arctic@bas.ac.uk by **1600 on Friday 27 September 2019**. Confirmation of receipt will be via e-mail. You must contact the Arctic Office if you do not receive confirmation of receipt.

Applicants will receive written confirmation of the outcome by e-mail on or before **Friday 25 October 2019 and earlier if possible**.

All Bursary activities, including visits to and from Russia, must be completed by the end of the 2019-20 financial year (31 March 2020).

Further details

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