

30 October 2019

United Kingdom & Canada Arctic Partnership: Fourth Year of the Bursaries Programme (2020)

Summary

An opportunity for United Kingdom-based researchers to apply for bursaries ranging from around £5,000 to a maximum of £20,000 to support new active participation in funded Canadian-led Arctic research in the Canadian Arctic and High North in the 2020 season.

Background

Researchers in the United Kingdom and Canada have strong and growing links in polar science. In specific recognition of the speed of change in the Arctic, the need for strengthened observation and monitoring and the ever closer research relationship between the two countries, the United Kingdom's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), working with the British High Commission in Ottawa and the NERC Arctic Office, is funding a fourth year of the bursaries programme. This will support UK-based researchers in actively engaging with Canadian-funded projects in the 2020 field season.

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 Canadian researchers, and to provide access opportunities for UK-based researchers to the Canadian Arctic and High North. The programme is part of a long-term and systematic approach to strengthen research ties between the two countries.

Bursary details

This programme is open to UK-based researchers in a broad range of Arctic fields. Applications will be particularly welcomed from early career scientists. It is expected that applicants will normally be employed in permanent positions within UK institutions.

The programme is intended to foster new UK research engagement in already-funded Canadian Arctic research programmes. The expectation is that this will be for practical fieldwork and associated research, including laboratory work as required, undertaken in 2020.

The projects to be joined will be Canadian-led and with the expectation of a Canada-based Principal Investigator. The programme will not generally be available to support existing UK-Canada joint research projects, but will focus on new or significantly extended collaborations.

Researchers who were successful in their applications in the first year, second year or third years of this Bursary programme are eligible to apply in this fourth round, but must clearly identify the additional value and the new aspects of the collaboration in their new application.

Eligible costs can include: travel, accommodation and subsistence, purchasing/hire/use of special equipment, logistics and shipping costs, specific training and permit/access costs. Salary costs and associated costs, such as insurance, will not be eligible. Conference costs are unlikely to be eligible unless there are specific and focused links to the research programme, and a field project forms the major part of the proposal. Proposals should normally be for a single researcher but could be for a small number of UK researchers working collaboratively, but should not exceed £20,000 in total. Applications for smaller sums are welcome. All costs will be funded at 100 per cent.

It will be the responsibility of the applicant to obtain written and specific permission for the UK-based researcher to join the Canadian-led project, together with confirmation of all appropriate permits and access provisions. This letter or permission must come from the Canada-based Principal Investigator.

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 during the 2020-21 financial year (April 2020 to March 2021). Data handling and storage practices 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.

Canadian projects

Details on Canadian projects with which potential applicants may wish to investigate partnership opportunities can be found through a variety of sources. These include, but are not limited, to:

Polar Knowledge Canada

A new online portal for researchers planning on working in the Canadian Arctic and High North, with helpful resources and links is now available: <https://www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge/online-portal-for-researchers.html>

A list of recent POLAR-funded projects taking place across the Canadian North is available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge/fundingforresearchers/projects-funded-2017-2019.html>

Polar Continental Shelf Program

Canadian researchers have now submitted applications for 2020 field support, with initial decisions expected by mid-December and final contracts to follow early in 2020. However, a list of supported projects for the 2019 season is available and there is likely to be a significant degree of continuity between both seasons: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/science-data/science-research/arctic-science/polar-continental-shelf-program/current-projects/10009>

ArcticNet

ArcticNet's multidisciplinary research effort is focused on addressing the challenges and opportunities facing the coastal Canadian Arctic, with the objective of filling identified knowledge gaps to help the formulation and implementation of policies and adaptation strategies. The list of current ArcticNet projects is available here:

<http://arcticnet.ulaval.ca/current-research-project-2019-2022>

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 five pages A4 (12 point text). They must be submitted electronically to the NERC Arctic Office arctic@bas.ac.uk by 1600 on **Friday 10 January 2020** in pdf format.

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

The application must include:

- A proposal title and executive summary (200 words maximum)
- A description of the research to be undertaken by the UK applicant, including details of the role and responsibilities of the UK researcher
- A description of the expected scientific outputs and outcomes/impact of the UK project
- Details of the Canadian project with which the UK project will link
- Evidence of confirmed funding for the Canadian project
- A full breakdown of expected costs for the UK project
- A confirmation letter from the Canada-based Principal Investigator demonstrating their agreement to partner with, and provide support for, the UK component
- Evidence of where the proposed work could lead to further medium-long term UK-Canada Arctic research collaboration
- Confirmation of the UK employment status of the intended recipient of the bursary
- 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 joint UK-Canada Review Team. The criteria used will include the assessment of all evidence provided, and will include:

- The overall importance of the proposed research question in Arctic science, as demonstrated by the applicant and with appropriate reference to the Research Councils' remits
- The practical feasibility of the proposed work within the budget and timescale outlined
- The anticipated scientific outcome and impact
- The level of support and integration within the Canadian host project
- The extent to which the proposal is a new collaboration in an important topic area
- Evidence of medium-long term follow-up research opportunities which will deliver closer UK-Canada research impact

Timescales

Applications must be submitted by **1600 on Friday 10 January 2020**. Confirmation of receipt will be via e-mail. You must contact the NERC Arctic Office - arctic@bas.ac.uk - if you do not receive confirmation of receipt by Wednesday 15th January.

Applicants should receive written confirmation of the outcome of their application by e-mail on or before **Friday 14 February 2020**.

All Bursary activities should be completed during the 2020-21 financial year (April 2020 to March 2021).

Further details

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