



NERC Arctic Office Bulletin August 2020

Welcome to the August edition of the NERC Arctic Office Bulletin. Despite the difficult situation, what the NERC Arctic Office seeks to provide - support to UK-based Arctic researchers working in the High North; advice to policy and decision-makers; representation nationally and internationally; and creating new international research cooperation - remains very much at the core of our activity.

Please visit www.arctic.ac.uk and follow us on Twitter via @Arctic_Office for all the latest news and information. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome. If you have received this Bulletin via a colleague, why not register at www.arctic.ac.uk/subscribe-for-updates/ and receive it direct in future, along with other updates and important news items? We aim to keep all updates brief and focused.

UK-Canada Arctic Bursaries Programme 2020

It is very good to confirm that, with the financial support of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Bursaries Programme will now definitely go ahead this season. The successful applicants have been notified and details of all the projects, leaders and contact details can be found [here](#). Because of international coronavirus travel restrictions many of the projects have been reconfigured to accommodate different approaches, including increased collaboration with local and Indigenous researchers. Good luck to all the projects and we look forward to hearing about – and sharing – their success stories.

Arctic Change 2020

It's no surprise that the annual Arctic conference in Canada organised by ArcticNet will be exclusively online this year. Researchers based in the United Kingdom, including the Bursary recipients, have had good visibility at the event over the last four years or more. It would be great to continue this. Abstracts can be submitted until 8 September. Topical session NPD58 is specifically aimed at UK-based researchers, but there are many more good opportunities too. Details and abstract submission details [here](#).

NEW: IASC's State of Arctic Science Report

There are many powerful reports on the overall state of the Arctic and strong research presenting new findings in Arctic science. But the International Arctic Science Committee felt there was a gap in knowledge about the state of the science itself – where the opportunities are to do more, where there are missing links or systems, and persistent issues that need the intervention of policy and decision-makers. This [new report](#) was brought together through the contributions of the delegates to the IASC Working Groups. It represents a first go at bringing together these issues in one place, with IASC's endorsement. It can be an important tool in helping to think about the future direction of Arctic science.

NEW: UK representative on the IASC Terrestrial Working Group

Many congratulations to Dr Robert Baxter (Durham) who joins the IASC Terrestrial group as the UK's newest member. Thank you to Prof Philip Wookey (Stirling) for his fantastic service as a UK representative since the establishment of the group, and most recently as Chair. You can find out more about the work of this group [here](#), or by contacting Robert or Prof Mary Edwards (Southampton). Details of all the IASC Working Groups and their members [here](#).

NEW: 'Bogs, Fungi and Methane: Discovering the hidden treasures of Western Siberia'

Join the webinar on 14 September to hear directly from Yugra State University's leading researchers on their ongoing and future scientific projects linked to the Arctic and climate change.

Topics include: environmental monitoring, paleo-climate reconstruction, peatlands & wetlands and, carbon cycling. Discover the fantastic Mukhrino Research Station and hear about opportunities for fieldwork in West Siberia, and learn more about the region and what makes it a unique research environment. Organised jointly by the UK Science and Innovation Network in Russia and the NERC Arctic Office. Details and free registration link [here](#).

This webinar is the first in a new series looking at new opportunities for researchers based in the United Kingdom to work more closely with Russian researchers, institutions and infrastructure. We want to tailor the series to be useful as possible. All your suggestions and thoughts are very welcome through this [link](#).

NERC Arctic Station

This season, for the first time in its history, the UK's Arctic Station in Svalbard has sadly not been able to open its doors to researchers. A number of projects have been postponed, others are going ahead in different forms or are being supported by locally engaged staff. We are committed to opening the Station as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so and planning for next season is already underway. If you have ideas for how the Station can support your research, or would like to know more about the Station's capabilities there is much more information [here](#) and please do contact the Station Manager, Nick Cox (details below). All the research that was carried out at the Station last season is summarised [here](#), but we always welcome new thoughts and ideas, so please don't feel limited by what has gone before. We are greatly encouraged by NERC's continued support for the Station, with all the challenges this season, and their commitment to support research at the Station next season despite what may be challenging circumstances.

Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting

The [meeting](#) has now been rescheduled from November 2020 to May 2021. There will be a series of opportunities over the next months to get involved and to help shape the expectations and practical outcomes. We will share these as they come up.

MOSAiC

The final Leg of Polarstern's epic drift across the Arctic is now well underway. You can follow the ship and the science through this [link](#). Good luck to each of the four teams from universities across the UK whose researchers and science is represented in this last stage. Details on all the UK-funded MOSAiC programmes [here](#).

Arctic Office Blog

Are you interested in writing a Blog? As well as sections on research, the NERC Arctic Station, and resources, the NERC Arctic Office website hosts a Blog section. Recent highlights have included reporting from the [MOSAiC pre-deployment quarantine](#) and reflections on the [UK-Russia Arctic Research Connections Seminar](#). We very much welcome offers to contribute to this Blog with guest authors drawing on their research, visits or conferences or other interesting developments. They don't have to be long or technical and please get in contact if you have ideas – arctic@bas.ac.uk!



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