

United Kingdom Representatives, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

The NERC Arctic Office is seeking nominations for United Kingdom representatives on the International Arctic Science Committee's Atmosphere, Terrestrial, Social and Human, Cryosphere and Marine Working Groups. Self-nominations are welcome. The deadline for nomination is 21 February 2017.

IASC is the international scientific organisation that encourages and facilitates cooperation and supports significant Arctic research across the globe. 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 and appointing the United Kingdom's Delegate to the IASC Council, which sets priorities and guides the work of the organisation. The United Kingdom's IASC Council representative is the Head of the Arctic Office, supported as appropriate by the Working Group representatives and others.

The main functions of the IASC Working Groups are to 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 23 member countries. For further information on IASC and the individual Working Groups, please visit: <http://www.iasc.info/> and <http://iasc.info/working-groups>

Role of the United Kingdom IASC Working Group representatives

The representatives are expected to be active members of the Working Groups, representing British 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 British representatives will work alongside fellow Working Group members to:

- 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 meet the following criteria:

- Significant research expertise that aligns with the scientific scope of the Working Group 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 British representative on one of the Atmosphere, Terrestrial, Social and Human, Cryosphere and Marine 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). The next meetings are:

- 31 March-7 April 2017, Prague, Czech Republic (the Working Group meeting date is Saturday 1 April)
- 15-26 June 2018, Davos, Switzerland (Working Group meeting date to be agreed, but likely to be towards the start of the meeting)
- Dates tbc, 2019, Arkhangelsk, Russian Federation

Each IASC member country can nominate two members for each Working Group and the Arctic Office will look to appoint two representatives where possible. Whilst it is anticipated that the NERC Arctic Office will be able to provide some modest support to assist with travel and subsistence costs for the annual meeting, 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. It is expected that at least one representative from each Working Group will attend the next meeting in Prague in 2017.

Selection

All nominations for the Atmosphere, Terrestrial, Social and Human, Cryosphere and Marine 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.

Process and closing date for nominations

Self-nominations are welcome, as are nominations from early/mid-career researchers and nominations which reflect the breadth and diversity of the UK Arctic community. Applications, including the following information, should be sent to the NERC Arctic Office via arctic@bas.ac.uk by 21 February 2017:

- 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) 01223 221426.