



Undergraduate Research in the Siberian Arctic

The Polaris Project is an innovative international collaboration among students, teachers, and scientists. Funded by the U. S. National Science Foundation since 2008, the Polaris Project trains future leaders in arctic research and informs the public about the Arctic and global climate change. During the annual month-long field expedition to the Siberian Arctic, undergraduate students conduct cutting-edge investigations that advance scientific understanding of the changing Arctic.

Undergraduate Application Instructions

Undergraduate students interested in participating in the Polaris Project Field Course during summer 2012 should complete their application by **January 15, 2012**. To be eligible to apply, you should currently be in your sophomore or junior year (in exceptional cases a senior may be accepted). Students from any college or university are eligible to apply. The 2012 expedition to the Siberian Arctic is scheduled for approximately **June 26 – July 26**.

Expenses associated with travel, room, and board will be covered by the project. We will also pay your Russian visa application fees, but each student will be responsible for having their own passport (valid until at least 2013). There are no tuition or fees associated with the field course, and each student will receive a \$1500 stipend.

We seek a diverse group of participants. Field experience is preferred. Therefore, your essay (~2 pages long) and letter of recommendation are critical elements of the application. We are interested in students who are planning to attend graduate school and are open to the possibility of focusing their graduate studies on the Arctic. Though the content of the essay is your choice, some questions that you might consider addressing are:

- Why are you interested in the Polaris Project?
- What are your goals for the future and how would participation in the Polaris Project field course help you to achieve them? Again, we are interested in students who plan to attend graduate school.
- Why would your participation enrich the experience of other course participants?

Remember, we seek a diverse, mature, synergistic, cooperative, and fun group – How will you help us achieve that goal?

If accepted to the program, you will be required to pass a thorough physical examination and provide a detailed medical history, and have the recommended vaccinations. You will also be required to read, understand, and sign our *Acknowledgement of Risk* and *Code of Conduct* documents.

To apply

- Download and fill out the application **Cover Sheet** (available at <http://www.thepolarisproject.org/participate>)
- Complete your application **Essay** as described above
- Please save both files with your last name and first initial as a prefix to the existing file name. For instance, if your name is Robert Crumb then the files would be named CrumbRNewCover.doc and CrumbREssay.docx
- Email your application cover sheet and essay to apps[at]thepolarisproject.org in an email with a subject heading 'New Student Application' plus your name. E.g., 'New Student Application CrumbR'
- The subject line and names of the files are important to get right.
- Arrange for a **Letter of Recommendation** to be sent to: letters[at]thepolarisproject.org. The letter should be written by somebody that knows your intellectual potential, ideally a faculty member.

All application materials, including the Letter of Recommendation, are due January 15, 2012.