UNIS

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S

ARCTIC EXPERTS

THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN SVALBARD

GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

IN THE ARCTIC

RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARCTIC EXPERTS

Svalbard is the northernmost location on Earth that can easily be visited at any time of the year. As the only higher education institution in the High Arctic, UNIS can offer students from all over the world an excellent opportunity to study the Arctic – in the Arctic!

- Nearly all courses have field activities for students
- Close cooperation between professor and fellow students
- Unique access to the Arctic laboratory
- Opportunities for involvement in Arctic research
- A unique experience of living in the High Arctic
- International faculty and student body

Arctic Technology students doing fieldwork above Longyearbyen.
Photo: Jan Otto Larsen/UNIS

FACTS ABOUT UNIS

Established: 1993
Location: ..... Longyearbyen, Svalbard (78°N)
Owner: ..... The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research

FOUR DEPARTMENTS

Arctic Biology
Arctic Geology
Arctic Geophysics
Arctic Technology

SCIENTIFIC STAFF AND STUDENTS

The UNIS scientific staff consists of professors and associate professors, adjunct professors and guest lecturers who specialize in Arctic topics. UNIS researchers collaborate with Norwegian and foreign research institutions and are involved in a large number of joint research projects. Around 600 students attend courses at UNIS every year. Of these, about half are international students. All instruction is in English.

THE UNIS CAMPUS

UNIS is the core institution of the Svalbard Science Centre, an international centre of expertise in Arctic research and education. UNIS can offer modern lab facilities, classrooms, PC labs, library, wireless network, and equipment needed for year-round fieldwork in the Arctic.

STUDIES AND RESEARCH AT

UNIS

ARCTIC BIOLOGY (AB)

ARCTIC GEOLOGY (AG)

ARCTIC GEOPHYSICS (AGF)

ARCTIC TECHNOLOGY (AT)

SEMESTER STUDIES ARE AVAILABLE AT BACHELOR LEVEL (ALL FOUR DISCIPLINES), COMPRISING OF TWO COURSES OF 15 ECTS EACH.
AT MASTER AND PHD LEVEL, UNIS OFFERS 3–15 ECTS COURSES LASTING FROM A FEW WEEKS TO A FULL SEMESTER.

Svalbard Science Centre in February light.
Photo: Eva Therese Jenssen/UNIS

UNIS COURSES

GENERAL COURSES

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AS-101	Arctic Survival and Safety Course	**(3 ECTS)**
SH-201	The History of Svalbard	**(6 ECTS)**
AGF-216	The Stormy Sun and the Northern Lights	**(5 ECTS)**

ARCTIC BIOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN SVALBARD

DESPITE THE APPARENT HARSHNESS OF THE HIGH ARCTIC, MANY ORGANISMS INHABIT THIS ENVIRONMENT. THE FAUNA AND FLORA OF SVALBARD INCLUDE MORE THAN 1,800 MARINE INVERTEBRATE SPECIES, 1,200 TERRESTRIAL OR FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATE SPECIES AND OVER 170 HIGHER PLANT SPECIES IN ADDITION TO THE 21 MAMMAL AND 28 BIRD SPECIES.

UNIS emphasizes the biological studies (taxonomy, diversity, ecology, physiology) of the fauna and flora of Svalbard related to the physical and chemical environment. Easy access to key habitats provides students and staff at UNIS with a unique opportunity to identify and quantify environmental threats in addition to basic knowledge of the Arctic.

Field activities are undertaken year-round in combination with classroom activities and laboratory exercises. This integrated approach provides students with a first-hand experience of the biological processes and the natural history of the terrestrial, limnic and marine flora and fauna in an Arctic environment.

The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) has awarded UNIS, together with the University of Bergen and the Institute of Marine Research, a Centre of Excellence in Higher Education (SFU), named BioCEED. SFU is a national Norwegian prestige programme to promote standards in higher education, and implies a focused and long-term commitment to stimulate the teaching and learning methods at bachelor, master, and PhD level.

Part of the motivation for BioCEED Centre of Excellence in Biology Education is to further develop the integration of field-based activities and the link to ongoing research in our education.

www.bioceed.no

bioCEED

Purple saxifrage and pale withlow grass.
Photo: Elise Strømseng/UNIS

Limnology studies on an ice covered lake Linnévatnet.
Photo: Kirsten Christoffersen/UNIS

COURSES NOT OFFERED IN 2016–2017, TO BE RUN NEXT TIME IN 2017–2018:

AB-321/821	Ecology of Arctic Marine Benthos	**10 ECTS**	Autumn 2017
AB-326/826	Arctic Plant Ecology	**10 ECTS**	Summer 2017
AB-323/823	Light Climate and Primary Productivity in the Arctic	**10 ECTS**	Spring 2018
AB-330/830	Ecosystems in Ice Covered Waters	**10 ECTS**	Spring 2018

UNIS COURSES

ARCTIC BIOLOGY 2016–2017

BACHELOR LEVEL

SUMMER/AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AB-201	Terrestrial Arctic Biology	**15 ECTS**	Jul–Dec
AB-204	Arctic Ecology and Population Biology	**15 ECTS**	Jul–Dec
AB-206	Introduction to Svalbard's Terrestrial Flora and Fauna*	**5 ECTS**	July

** Preparatory course recommended for students admitted into AB-201*

FOR THE AUTUMN SEMESTER, BACHELOR STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE BOTH AB-201 AND AB-204

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AB-202	Arctic Marine Biology	**15 ECTS**	Jan–May
AB-203	Arctic Environmental Management	**15 ECTS**	Jan–May

MASTER/PhD LEVEL

SUMMER/AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AB-320/820	Arctic Marine Zooplankton	**10 ECTS**	Sep–Oct
AB-322/822	Flux of Matter and Energy from Sea to Land	**10 ECTS**	Jun–Jul
AB-327/827	Arctic Microbiology	**10 ECTS**	Jun–Jul
AB-332/832	Arctic Marine Molecular Ecology	**10 ECTS**	Oct–Nov
AB-335/835	Ecosystem-based management of Arctic Marine Systems	**10 ECTS**	Aug–Sep
AB-336/836	Arctic Mycology	**10 ECTS**	Jul–Aug

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AB-325/825	Biotelemetric Methods	**10 ECTS**	Apr–May
AB-329/829	Arctic Winter Ecology	**10 ECTS**	Feb–Mar
AB-333/833	Arctic Winter Limnology	**10 ECTS**	Feb–Mar
AB-334/834	Underwater Robotics and Polar Night Biology	**10 ECTS**	Jan–Feb
AB-338/838	Life History Adaptations to Seasonality	**10 ECTS**	May–Jun

FOR DETAILS ON ALL ARCTIC BIOLOGY COURSES, PLEASE VISIT **WWW.UNIS.NO/STUDIES/BIOLOGY**

ARCTIC GEOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN SVALBARD

THE UNIQUE GEOLOGY OF SVALBARD AND ITS CRYOSPHERE (GLACIERS, SNOW, ICE, AND PERMAFROST) PROVIDE SUPERB OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY GEOSCIENCE. THE ARCTIC GEOLOGY COURSES AT UNIS ARE THEREFORE BUILT TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF HAVING A HIGH ARCTIC FIELD SETTING ON THE DOORSTEP.

Hands-on field activities are closely integrated with high-quality classroom education and, during your stay, you will become part of an exciting international geology and physical geography community.

The geological evolution of Svalbard is recorded in spectacular geological sequences spanning from the Precambrian to the Cenozoic, and overlain by Quaternary glacial and interglacial deposits. Easily accessible outcrops make it possible to demonstrate the interplay of continental drift with tectonic, glacial, periglacial, coastal, fluvial and marine sedimentary processes.

There is, for instance, a long history of past climate variations in Svalbard's geological record. There are pre-Cambrian glacial tills that formed when Svalbard was located on the Southern Hemisphere, organic rich Mesozoic rocks that were deposited at equatorial latitudes, and Quaternary glacial and interglacial marine and terrestrial deposits from its recent Arctic situation. Glaciers currently cover large parts of the archipelago, and there is continuous permafrost within ice-free areas, and even below some of the glaciers. The close proximity of present-day geological, glacial, periglacial, marine and terrestrial processes provides an exciting field laboratory as the basis for study.

Tunabreen and Ultunafjella.
Photo: Heïdi Sevestre/UNIS

Arctic marine geology students examining a sediment core.
Photo: Riko Noormets/UNIS

UNIS COURSES

ARCTIC GEOLOGY 2016–2017

BACHELOR LEVEL

SUMMER/AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AG-210	The Quaternary History of Svalbard	**15 ECTS**	Aug–Dec
AG-211	Arctic Marine Geology	**15 ECTS**	Aug–Dec
AG-218	International Bachelor Permafrost Summer Field School	**10 ECTS**	Jun–Jul
AG-220	Environmental Change in the High Arctic Landscape of Svalbard	**10 ECTS**	Jul–Aug

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AG-204	The Physical Geography of Svalbard	**15 ECTS**	Jan–Jun
AG-209	The Tectonic and Sedimentary History of Svalbard	**15 ECTS**	Jan–Jun

APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR A FULL SEMESTER (30 ECTS) ARE GIVEN PRIORITY. STUDENTS SHOULD THEREFORE CHOOSE TWO BACHELOR COURSES.

MASTER/PhD LEVEL

SUMMER/AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AG-323/823	Sequence Stratigraphy; a Tool for Basin Analysis	**10 ECTS**	Aug
AG-326/826	Quaternary Glacial and Climate History of the Arctic	**10 ECTS**	Sep–Oct
AG-334/834	Arctic Basins and Petroleum Provinces	**10 ECTS**	Jun–Jul
AG-336/836	Rift basin reservoirs: From outcrop to model	**10 ECTS**	Sep
AG-338/838	Sedimentology Field course – from Depositional Systems to Sedimentary Architecture	**10 ECTS**	Jun–Jul
AG-340	Arctic Glaciers and Melt Season Dynamics	**10 ECTS**	Jul–Aug
AG-347/847	Glaciers and Glaciation	**10 ECTS**	Sep
AG-348/848	Arctic Late Quaternary Glacial and Marine Environmental History	**10 ECTS**	Jul–Aug
AG-349/849	Geological constraints on CO_2 storage capacity and injectivity	**5 ECTS**	Jun–Jul

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AG-322/822	Fold and Thrust Belts and Foreland Basin Systems	**10 ECTS**	Mar–Apr
AG-325/825	Glaciology	**10 ECTS**	Feb–Mar
AG-330/830	Permafrost and Periglacial Environments	**10 ECTS**	Mar–Apr
AG-335/835	Arctic Seismic Exploration	**10 ECTS**	Feb–Mar
AG-342/842	Marine Cryosphere and its Cenozoic History	**10 ECTS**	Apr–May
AG-346	Snow and Avalanche Dynamics	**10 ECTS**	Apr–May

FOR DETAILS ON ALL ARCTIC GEOLOGY COURSES, PLEASE VISIT **WWW.UNIS.NO/STUDIES/GEOLOGY**

ARCTIC GEOPHYSICS

THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN SVALBARD

THE ARCTIC GEOPHYSICS STUDENTS AT UNIS HAVE THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE AND UNDERSTAND PHYSICAL PROCESSES IN THE POLAR REGIONS THAT CONTROL THE GLOBAL CLIMATE SYSTEM AND HOW EARTH IS COUPLED TO SPACE.

UNIS seeks to introduce students to the entire vertical column, from the deep of the oceans up to the outermost boundary of the atmosphere, as a dynamic system with a large variety of ongoing processes inside each layer as well as interactions between them.

This department offers courses that are also relevant for students in e.g. geoscience.

SPECIFIC FIELDS OF STUDY:

OCEANOGRAPHY: In Svalbard, you are in an excellent position to study the air-ice-sea interaction processes during fieldwork on sea ice and from scientific cruises on research vessels. Both sea ice freezing and melting processes are studied in Svalbard's own laboratory.

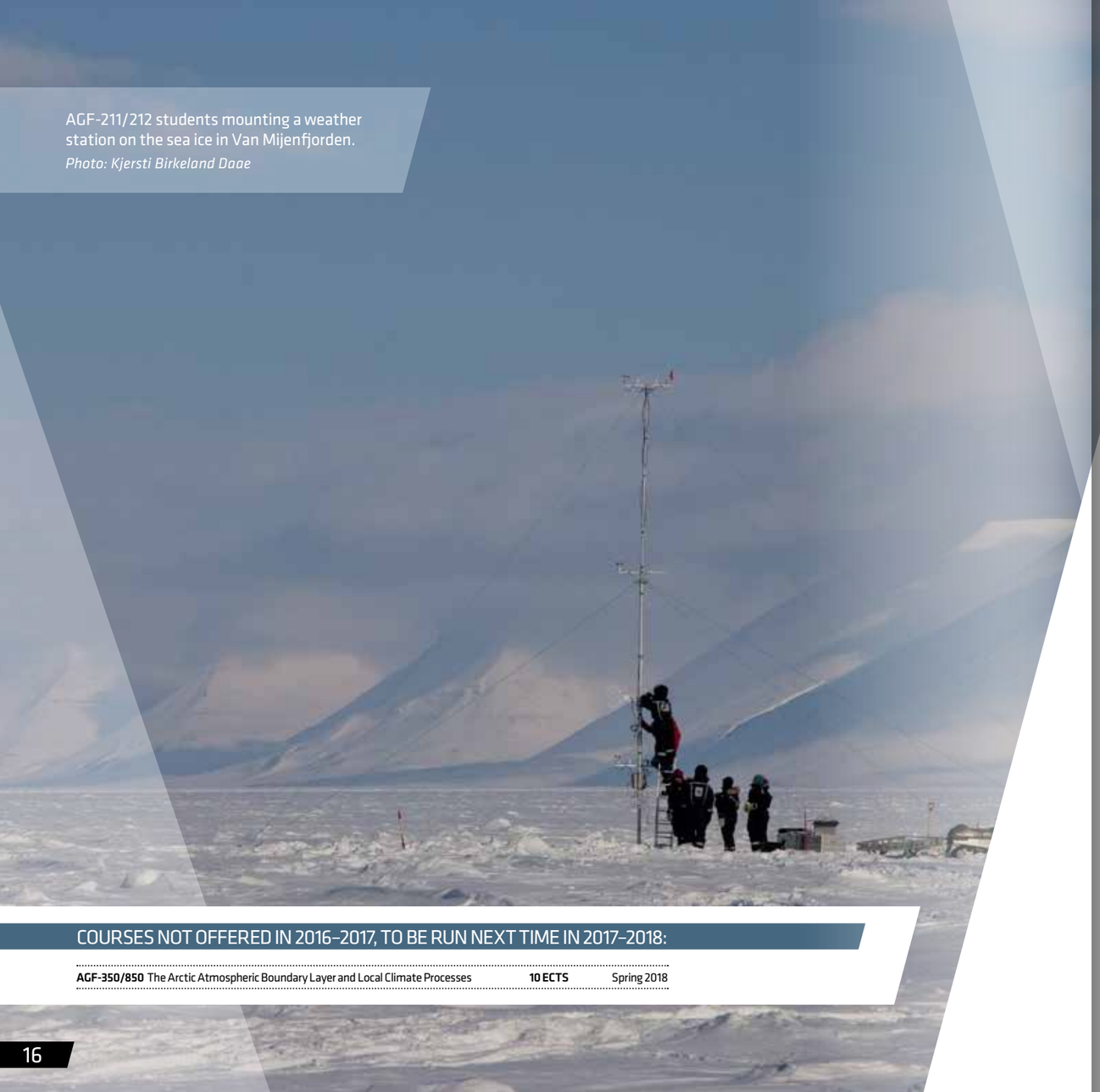
METEOROLOGY: Study the processes related to very stable boundary layers and the contrast between cold ice/snow surfaces and a relatively warm sea that leads to atmospheric phenomena that can only be observed in polar regions.

CRYOSPHERE: A distinct feature of the Arctic is the cryosphere. The high Arctic setting in combination with frequent occurrence of warm spells coming from the south makes Svalbard a unique place for studying the dynamics of snow and ice in a changing climate.

THE MIDDLE POLAR ATMOSPHERE: Study the unique phenomena of polar stratospheric clouds, noctilucent clouds, abnormal radar reflections, the polar mesospheric summer echoes, and the presence of large quantities of sub visual dust.

UPPER POLAR ATMOSPHERE: Svalbard is at daytime located underneath the polar cusp opening towards the interplanetary space. The polar cusp region is where the solar-terrestrial coupling is most direct and strongest. The two months of darkness mid-winter make Svalbard one of the most ideal places for ground-based observations of daytime Aurora Borealis.

Aurora Borealis over Nybyen in Longyearbyen.
Photo: Aki Vähä



AGF-211/212 students mounting a weather station on the sea ice in Van Mijenfjorden.
Photo: Kjersti Birkeland Daae

COURSES NOT OFFERED IN 2016–2017, TO BE RUN NEXT TIME IN 2017–2018:

AGF-350/850	The Arctic Atmospheric Boundary Layer and Local Climate Processes	**10 ECTS**	Spring 2018

UNIS COURSES

ARCTIC GEOPHYSICS 2016–2017

BACHELOR LEVEL

AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AGF-210	The Middle Polar Atmosphere	**15 ECTS**	Aug–Dec
AGF-213	Polar Meteorology and Climate	**15 ECTS**	Aug–Dec
AGF-214	Polar Ocean Climate	**15 ECTS**	Aug–Dec
AGF-217	Shipping in the Arctic*	**5 ECTS**	Sep–Oct

**Interdisciplinary course*

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AGF-211	Air-Ice-Sea Interaction I	**15 ECTS**	Jan–Jun
AGF-212	Snow and Ice Processes	**15 ECTS**	Jan–Jun
AGF-216	The Stormy Sun and the Northern Lights*	**5 ECTS**	Feb

APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR A FULL SEMESTER (30 ECTS) ARE GIVEN PRIORITY. STUDENTS SHOULD THEREFORE CHOOSE TWO BACHELOR COURSES.

MASTER/PhD LEVEL

AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AGF-311/811	Air-Ice-Sea Interaction II	**10 ECTS**	Oct–Dec
AGF-345/845	Polar Magnetospheric Substorms	**10 ECTS**	Oct–Dec

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AGF-301/801	The Upper Polar Atmosphere	**15 ECTS**	Jan–May
AGF-304/804	Radar Diagnostics of Space Plasma	**15 ECTS**	Jan–May
AGF-312	Remote Sensing of the Cryosphere	**10 ECTS**	Mar–Apr
AGF-352/852	Chemical Oceanography in the Arctic	**10 ECTS**	Apr–Jun

FOR DETAILS ON ALL ARCTIC GEOPHYSICS COURSES, PLEASE VISIT **WWW.UNIS.NO/STUDIES/GEOPHYSICS**

ARCTIC TECHNOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN SVALBARD

THE COURSES OFFERED AT UNIS ARE ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR TODAY'S ARCTIC TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES INCLUDING PRIORITY ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AS THE COURSES HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING TAUGHT IN AN ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT WHERE THIS TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN APPLIED FOR MANY DECADES.

At UNIS, students conduct field activities implemented in actual research projects.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN FIELDS OF STUDY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT:

ARCTIC ENGINEERING: Knowledge of Arctic engineering technology is essential to provide sound design and construction recommendations both offshore and onshore in the Arctic. UNIS students can participate in infrastructure projects in Svalbard, as well as field studies of sea-ice properties in the adjacent seas. Studies on avalanches and landslides, as well as hydrology, are integrated into the Arctic Technology course portfolio. Field investigations together with laboratory testing and numerical analysis create the basis for understanding thermo-mechanical properties and processes in snow, permafrost and ice. At UNIS, students will have an excellent opportunity to investigate, design and perform mitigation measures for infrastructures under a changing climate.

ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY: Present levels of pollutants, degradation processes, spreading mechanisms and environmental effects need to be well understood when designing efficient response strategies with the aim to reduce the environmental impacts. The department is specialized in various topics in environmental pollution, such as toxicology, fate and long-range transport of persistent organic pollutants and environmental risk assessment and modelling.

THE ARCTIC TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OFFERS COURSES THAT ARE ALSO RELEVANT FOR STUDENTS IN BIOLOGY, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS.

AT-209 students measure water levels in a river near Pyramiden.
Photo: Nils Roar Sælthun/UNIS

Sea ice fieldwork during an Arctic technology scientific cruise.
Photo: Aleksey Marchenko/UNIS

UNIS COURSES

ARCTIC TECHNOLOGY 2016–2017

BACHELOR LEVEL

AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AT-209	Arctic Hydrology and Climate Change*	**15 ECTS**	Aug–Dec
AT-210	Arctic Environmental Pollution*	**15 ECTS**	Aug–Dec

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AT-205	Frozen Ground Engineering for Arctic Infrastructure	**15 ECTS**	Jan–Jun
AT-211	Ice Mechanics, Loads on Structures and Instrumentation	**15 ECTS**	Jan–Jun
AT-212	Rock Mechanics and Engineering Geology	**15 ECTS**	Jan–Jun

**Interdisciplinary course*

APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR A FULL SEMESTER (30 ECTS) ARE GIVEN PRIORITY. STUDENTS SHOULD THEREFORE CHOOSE TWO BACHELOR COURSES.

MASTER/PhD LEVEL

AUTUMN SEMESTER COURSES 2016

AT-301/801	Infrastructures in a Changing Climate	**10 ECTS**	Aug–Sep
AT-314/814	Advanced Rock Mechanics and Engineering Geology	**10 ECTS**	Oct–Dec
AT-327/827	Arctic Offshore Engineering	**10 ECTS**	Oct
AT-332/832	Physical Environmental Loads on Structures Arctic Coastal and Offshore	**10 ECTS**	Sep–Nov
AT-333/833	Arctic Petroleum Sciences: From Exploration and Exploitation to Environmental Impacts and Ecosafe Operations	**10 ECTS**	Aug–Sep
AT-334	Arctic Marine Measurements Techniques, Operations and Transport	**10 ECTS**	Aug–Sep

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES 2017

AT-307F/807	FArctic Offshore Engineering – Fieldwork	**3 ECTS**	Mar
AT-324/824	Techniques for the Detection of Organo-Chemical Pollutants in the Arctic Environment	**10 ECTS**	Jan–Feb
AT-329	Cold Regions Field Investigations	**10 ECTS**	Jan–Feb
AT-330/830	Arctic Environmental Toxicology	**10 ECTS**	Mar–Apr
AT-331/831	Arctic Environmental Pollution: Atmospheric Distribution and Processes	**10 ECTS**	Apr–May

In addition, the course AB-334/834 Underwater Robotics and Polar Night Biology might be relevant to Arctic Technology students.

FOR DETAILS ON ALL ARCTIC TECHNOLOGY COURSES, PLEASE VISIT **WWW.UNIS.NO/STUDIES/TECHNOLOGY**

ADMISSION AND APPLICATION

ADMISSION

Admission to courses at UNIS requires that the applicant is enrolled at bachelor, master or PhD level at a Norwegian institution of higher education, or an accredited international institution of higher education.

BACHELOR LEVEL (200-LEVEL COURSES)

Applicants applying for a full semester, 30 ECTS, are given priority. Students should therefore choose two bachelor courses.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

- Department of Arctic Biology: 60 ECTS within general natural science, of which 30 ECTS within the fields of biology.
- Department of Arctic Geology: 60 ECTS within general natural science, of which 30 ECTS within the field of geology/geosciences.
- Department of Arctic Geophysics: 60 ECTS in mathematics and physics or a related discipline.
- Department of Arctic Technology: 60 ECTS within the fields of mathematics, physics, mechanics or chemistry.

MASTER AND PhD LEVEL (300- AND 800-LEVEL COURSES)

Applicants must be enrolled in a master or PhD programme at their home institution.
Course specific requirements will apply as presented in the current course description.
Note: You might find relevant master and PhD courses within all four UNIS departments.

DOING PARTS OF A MASTER/PhD DEGREE AT UNIS

A student who has been accepted as a master or PhD student at his/her home institution may carry out parts of the master or PhD at UNIS.
This requires a separate application and an academic contact person at UNIS.
Guidelines are found at www.unis.no/studies.

PhD POSITIONS

UNIS offers PhD positions in cooperation with the Norwegian mainland universities.
These positions are announced on the UNIS web page and www.jobbnorge.no.

Field excursions in summer and autumn often involve an open boat experience.
Photo: Nils Roar Sælthun/UNIS

HOW TO APPLY

You apply for admission to UNIS courses online at **www.unis.no.** All students must, regardless of possible nomination processes, exchange agreements or other matters, apply directly to UNIS.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Summer courses: ..... 15 February
Autumn courses: ..... 15 April
Spring courses: ..... 15 October

UNIS COURSES AS PART OF YOUR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

We recommend all our students to get their UNIS courses approved by their home institution in advance.

TRANSCRIPTS AND CERTIFICATES

UNIS is a university centre, not a university, and therefore not accredited to offer programmes or degrees, or to issue official transcripts of records. Upon request, a transcript can be issued by the Norwegian university where the student is registered.

PRACTICAL

INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN SVALBARD

ACADEMIC EXPENSES

There is no tuition fee at UNIS. An administrative semester fee of NOK 500 apply, in accordance with the Norwegian universities. Exemptions are made for students on some exchange programmes, or PhD students at Norwegian universities. A daily rate of NOK 200 for overnight scientific cruises, fieldwork and excursions apply. More detailed information about course costs is included in the course descriptions.

ACCOMMODATION

The student housing facilities in Longyearbyen are owned and administered by the Norwegian Arctic Student Welfare Organization. There are two student house campuses, one in Nybyen, about 3 km from the UNIS campus, the other one right next to UNIS. Students must apply for housing directly to the Student Welfare Organization after being accepted to a UNIS course. Information regarding accommodation can be found at **www.unis.no/studies.**

FINANCING

UNIS students are themselves responsible for financing their studies. UNIS offers no financial aid or scholarships. UNIS does not help students with applying for financial assistance neither within nor outside of Norway. The cost of living on Svalbard is approximately the same as in mainland Norway. Stipulated costs for accommodation and food is ca. NOK 10 000 per month. Norwegian students can apply for support from Statens Lånekasse.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Information regarding how to get to Svalbard, what to bring in terms of clothing and equipment, and general information about Svalbard and Longyearbyen can be found at **www.unis.no/studies** under "**Student life**". In addition, you will receive necessary practical information in your admission letter and by e-mail.

Fieldwork is carried out in all types of weather conditions!
Photo: Anatoly Sinitsyn/UNIS

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

SAFETY & INSURANCE

All UNIS students must participate in compulsory safety training prior to course start, preparing them for the field activity relevant for the course(s) they are participating in. All UNIS students are insured during UNIS field activities, when properly registered in the field log before leaving the UNIS campus.

UNIS students are not insured during leisure time or while in the Svalbard Science Centre (UNIS building) taking classes or studying.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have private insurance coverage, and that you have the appropriate types of insurance. This applies to travel, accident and health insurance. We recommend that you take out a personal liability insurance during your stay in Svalbard, to cover up for unforeseen eventualities.

FACTS ABOUT SVALBARD

FACTS IN SHORT

LOCATION:
Archipelago located between 74° and 81°N and 10° and 35°E

AREA:
63 000 km², 60% covered by glaciers

LARGEST ISLANDS:
Spitsbergen, Nordaustlandet, Edgeøya, Barentsøya and Prins Karls Forland

ADMINISTRATION:
Norwegian sovereignty, regulated by the Svalbard Treaty (1920)

SETTLEMENTS:
Longyearbyen (Norwegian): 2100 inhabitants and Barentsburg (Russian): 450 inhabitants

SMALLER SETTLEMENTS:
Ny-Ålesund, Svea and Hornsund

CLIMATE:
Relatively mild Arctic climate (winter average: -14° C; summer average: +6°C).
Annual precipitation of 200–300 mm. (Arctic semi-desert)

MIDNIGHT SUN:
19 April–24 August (Longyearbyen)

POLAR NIGHT:
14 November–29 January (Longyearbyen)

More information: visitsvalbard.com

Longyearbyen seen from Platåberget in November.
Photo: Njál Gulbrandsen

UNIS

THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN SVALBARD

CONTACT INFORMATION

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