

Anna Lukina



Hometown: Moscow, Russian Federation

Education: 2013-2017 – Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russian Federation

Bachelor Thesis: Correlation of early spring air temperatures to characteristics of winter water masses of the Baltic Sea

Specialization: Thermohydraulics of the ocean

Supervisor: Natalya Stepanova, PhD in Physico-mathematical sciences

Current Position: Master student of Aerophysics and Space Research Department



UNIS

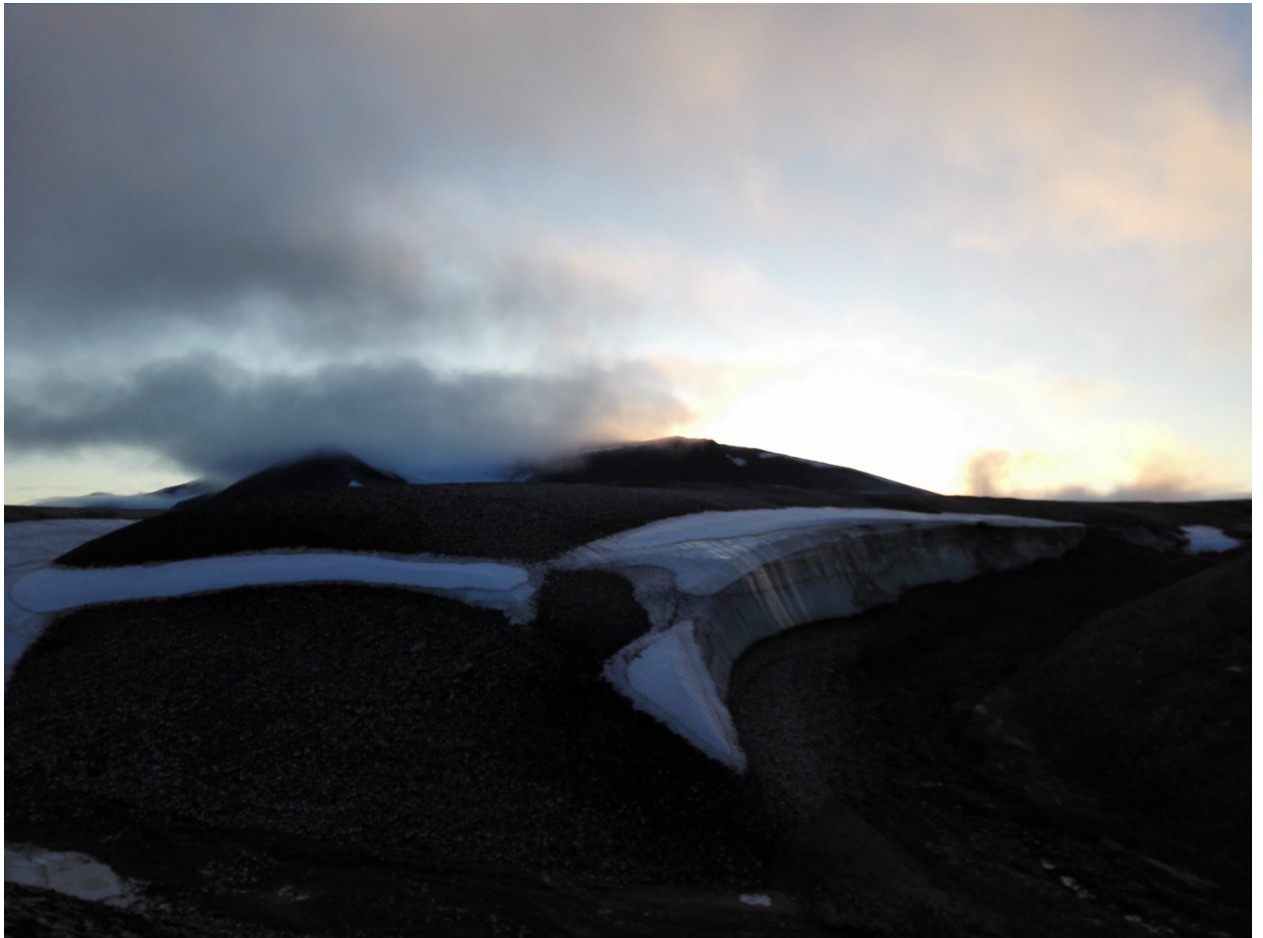
First time I heard of the opportunity to take this course from one of my professors. I never had any experience with ice but was very enthusiastic about learning because I am really interested in Arctic region and would like to connect my future career with the field related to it.

Then Alexey Marchenko came to our university in 2016 and gave us more information about the course and how to get into the program. I was even more determined to apply after that meeting. I am really grateful for SITRA project for the support and given opportunity and Nataly Marchenko for all the help she provided.



First study day

I was excited to learn a lot of new things, try out studying in English for the first time in my life, find out how European education system differs from Russian and befriend a lot of interesting people from different cultures with diverse scientific interests and life goals. This course gave me the opportunity to meet every expectation I had.



On the plateau

The course is really concentrated and consists of three sections: Hydrodynamics, Ice Mechanics and Probability theory, applied to the interaction of sea ice and offshore structures. First two parts had theoretical lectures and laboratory work for researching the Stokes drift and properties of sea ice.

Apart from Alexey Marchenko, three other lecturers taught us all that was needed to know: Jean Rabault, Thorodd Nord and Dmitry Onishchenko. All of them were obviously passionate about science and research, lectures were informative and interesting.

Hydrodynamics part was a lot easier for me than other parts, since my specialization is oceanology and I had almost three years to study waves. However, we never had laboratory works and this experience was quite new and useful.

My education in area of ice mechanics was lacking though. We don't have ice courses and solid mechanics is limited to one semester which wasn't really helpful to me in this course but at least gave me idea about most used terms.

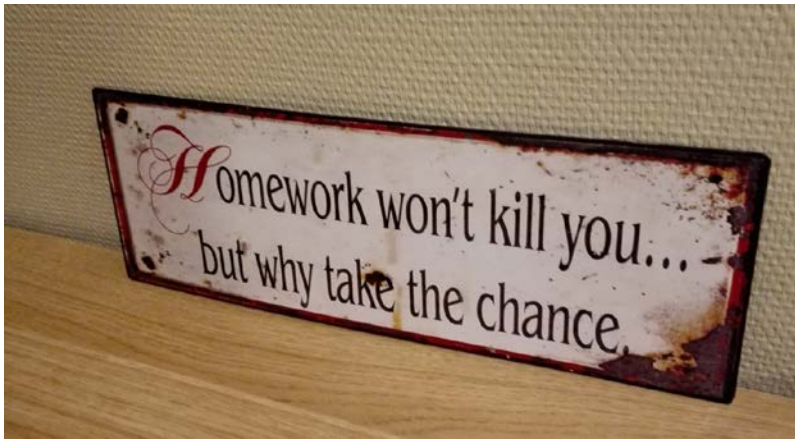
Besides that, the field work on the freshwater mountain lake was included in the course.



Field work on the lake (by Amanda Ryan)

It was very interesting for me, how much the result of the whole work of the group dependent on the communication and the teamwork. It was the interesting experience since in my university most of the tasks you have to do yourself.

Because reports had to be written in groups of eight or four people it is possible to divide work according to education of included students (since all eight participants of the course had different education). So people from engineering specialty are able to adapt and analyze data obtained in experiment students with theoretical specialization to suggest reasons for received result, make a conclusion and edit report to the official view.



Some motivation for studying in dormitory ☺

Two months in multinational dormitory gave me a lot of time to find out about other cultures and meet new people. We spent free time together, played board games, went hiking, took boat tours to Pyramiden and Barentsburg. It was a really nice way to find new friends that have the different view of the world but still share my interest in science.

I decided to choose the dormitory 3 km far from UNIS called Nybyen. I liked taking long walks before lectures thought walks back home were not so nice. If you choose this option you have to consider that you won't have opportunity to have a quick walk to your room to fetch things you forgot in the morning when you were in a hurry because you overslept. And you won't have option to have a lunch in dormitory too (it takes more than an hour to get to it and back).

Even with all this cons I still don't regret this choice. Nybyen is obviously older then Sjøskrenten but feels more comfortable and homey. You always have to share the bathroom with neighbors but, thought the kitchen is smaller than in Sjøskrenten, there are more than two times less people you have to share it with.



Home sweet home



Boat tour (By Paola Fresia)

This course gave me completely new experience. I wasn't sure that I can make it, life on Svalbard is completely different from my life in Moscow. But these two months changed me for the better, gave me more confidence in myself and showed me that the road I follow now is the one that makes me happy. And if I will have a chance to come back in future, I will take it.



Longyearbyen