

Information about possible internship placements for AB208

UNIS, Arctic Biology, Technical staff (1 place)

The UNIS Arctic Biology Department has active research programmes within both marine and terrestrial biology/ecology following the general strategy and scientific focus at UNIS, where functional mechanisms and processes in the Arctic are emphasized and co-operation across traditional disciplines is encouraged. Marine research involves ecological studies of ice-associated (sympagic), pelagic and benthic communities with focus on taxonomy, population dynamics, distribution patterns, trophic interactions and energy flow. Terrestrial studies concentrate on a variety of zoological, botanical and microbiological projects related to the Arctic. Current research includes plant population and community processes, genetic variation in plants, climate impact and plant-animal interactions, as well as general ecology, dispersal and cold tolerance in invertebrates, and studies on the Svalbard reindeer. The department has currently 9 permanent staff members and 5 PhD candidates.

Potential work tasks:

The internship within the department of Arctic Biology is as technical personnel. The intern will work closely together with the department technician. The intern will for example be taught and expected to perform several laboratory techniques, maintenance of laboratory equipment and help preparing course-activities (field-equipment and laboratory).

Link: <https://www.unis.no/research/arctic-biology/>

Additional requirements: none

Longyearbyen School (1 place)

Longyearbyen school is a primary and secondary school (1st to 10th grade), with a department offering 3 more years of high school education. Organised activities after class in the early afternoon are offered for younger children. The culture school has its activities in the school building as well. 50 people are employed by the school including teacher, assistants and economical staff. In 2017/18, a total of 269 pupils attended school in Longyearbyen. Since Longyearbyen has a high turnover and people move to and from town, this is also reflected in both student and staff at school.

Potential work tasks:

The intern will assist during preparation of classes as well as during classes. Depending on the intern, he/she might get some teaching responsibilities as well. Through observation and own experience combined with guidance through experienced teachers, the intern will gain teaching experience and competence and get to know the daily work at school. Teamwork with other teachers, students and the rest of the school personnel will be an important part of the daily work.

Additional requirements: fluency in Norwegian & certificate of good conduct

Link: <http://www.lybskole.no/om-skolen.274296.no.html>

Polar Permaculture (2 places)

Polar Permaculture Solutions AS uses permaculture principles and ecological design to produce food in Longyearbyen. It was founded in 2015 and has the ambition to make Longyearbyen more sustainable, using circular economy where food is produced and organic waste is processed. At the moment, they compost food waste using earth worms and use modern indoor-farming systems for the production of microgreens sold to hotels and restaurants. Polar Permaculture tries to keep the environmental impact small by using local resources where possible. They also started hatching quails and selling quail eggs. At the moment, Polar Permaculture also plans to produce biogas, which is released during the decomposing-process of local food waste. The biogas can then further be used for both heating and energy production for the green house and the decomposed plant material can serve as valuable fertilizer.

Potential work tasks:

Polar Permaculture would like to involve the interns in many stages of the project. This will include help with the daily activities of indoor farming at high latitude, as well as involving them in the further developing process the circular economy system (both agricultural and composting systems and idea development).

Additional requirements: none

Link: <https://www.polarpermaculture.com/about/>

SIOS – Svalbard Integrated Arctic Observation System (1 place)

The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) is an international effort to develop and maintain a regional observational system for long term measurements in and around Svalbard, addressing Earth System Science (ESS) questions related to Global Change. The observing system and research facilities offered by SIOS build on the extensive observation capacity and diverse world-class research infrastructure provided by many institutions already established in Svalbard.

The SIOS Knowledge Centre (SIOS-KC) is the central hub of SIOS. It is located in the Svalbard Science Centre in Longyearbyen and offers coordinated services for the international research community. The SIOS-KC has currently six staff members. The SIOS-KC has established a number of services that are available to the SIOS community: the SIOS Data Management Service, the SIOS Remote Sensing Service, the SIOS Research Infrastructure Access and Logistics Service, the SIOS Training Service, and the SIOS Communication Service. All services work towards the ultimate goal of SIOS to optimise the research infrastructure and thus Earth System Science in and around Svalbard.

Potential work tasks:

The internship will be participating in the daily duties of the Knowledge Centre and contribute to several of our services. This can for example include work with our data portal (e.g. assisting in data management activity with a focus on data produced by the biology community within SIOS), contributing to the access programme, organising of our annual meeting Polar Night Week, working with our website and other communication tasks.

Link: <https://sios-svalbard.org/ObservingSystem>