

Arctic floating university

This ship-based expedition offers prospective students the opportunity to enroll in one of several University-level field courses, and experience one of the most awe-inspiring places on Earth. We will use an interdisciplinary approach to explore the Arctic region and give the complex knowledge's about the flora and fauna of islands and seas of the higher north.

Once in Arctic waters, all students will make frequent field trips to the Arctic islands via Zodiac inflatables from the expedition vessel. These landings will be supplemented by lectures, presentations, seminars and lab exercises in dedicated space aboard our ship, the R/V Professor Molchanov.

The expedition will have approximately 35 participating students, and 20 university faculty, scientists, experts, policy makers and educators. Undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students from around the world and from any university can apply to participate.



Konstantin Bogolitsyn,
Advisor
to the Rector

This trip is work, not a pleasure. Those who went on last year's voyage will confirm. They sometimes had to work twenty-four hours for several days in a row.



Alexandra Yushkova,
Student of NArFU
Institute of Natural
Sciences
and Biomedicine

I have always been interested in science. The professor Molchanov offers a good scientific platform for us to learn, make discoveries and share knowledge.



Platon Kaplitsyn,
PhD student,
NArFU Institute
of Theoretical
and Applied
Chemistry

The Arctic Floating University project gives me an excellent opportunity to obtain research material for years ahead.



Birita I Dali,
master student
University
of Copenhagen

I feel privileged to be a student that attended Arctic Floating University 2014.

It was amazing that we actually studied arctic geopolitics and arctic law while at the same time sailing along the north east passage,

Seeing this part of the arctic region, this part of Russia with my own eyes, visiting indigenous people on small islands and old sovjetic shipping towns was a huge contribution to my knowledge on the Russian Arctic.

Three weeks onboard Arctic Floating University in the wild, unique and open hearted Arctic Russia we laid behind us many thousands sea miles and an ocean of experiences.

Contacts

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Alexandra Pochtovalova,
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The Floating University offers undergraduate and PhD students a good chance to work together with experienced experts, which may become crucial to career choice or selection of a line of research.



Maria Trofimova,
Student of NArFU
Institute of Natural
Sciences
and Biomedicine

Now that I have been to the Arctic I am absolutely sure I want to get into science. I plan to participate first in master's degree programme and then take up postgraduate studies. I take more and more interest in doing research work and am happy to admit that other people are interested in it too.



Max Karl August Eriksson,
PhD student
Umeo University

The expedition was a both fun and useful way to do some research. Also it enabled me to gain valuable first hand experience with the people living in the arctic region.



Ølheim Hedvig,
master student
Tromse University

I joined this expedition to learn more about the Arctic seen from the Russian perspective. It was very rewarding spending an intense 20 days travelling across vast distances and seeing very diverse places. The most interesting for me was to be in close contact with Russian students and scholars; and more so meeting people who have their work in the Arctic, like seamen and meteorologists, not to mention people who live their life in and have their history connected to this region.

The expedition gave the opportunity to compare the Russian attitude to their northern region, to the people who live there and the challenges connected to it, to that of Norwegians. It also gave insight in how the two countries share possibilities and challenges in the Arctic.

Northern (Arctic) Federal University

ARCTIC FLOATING UNIVERSITY



The educational
adventure in Arctic



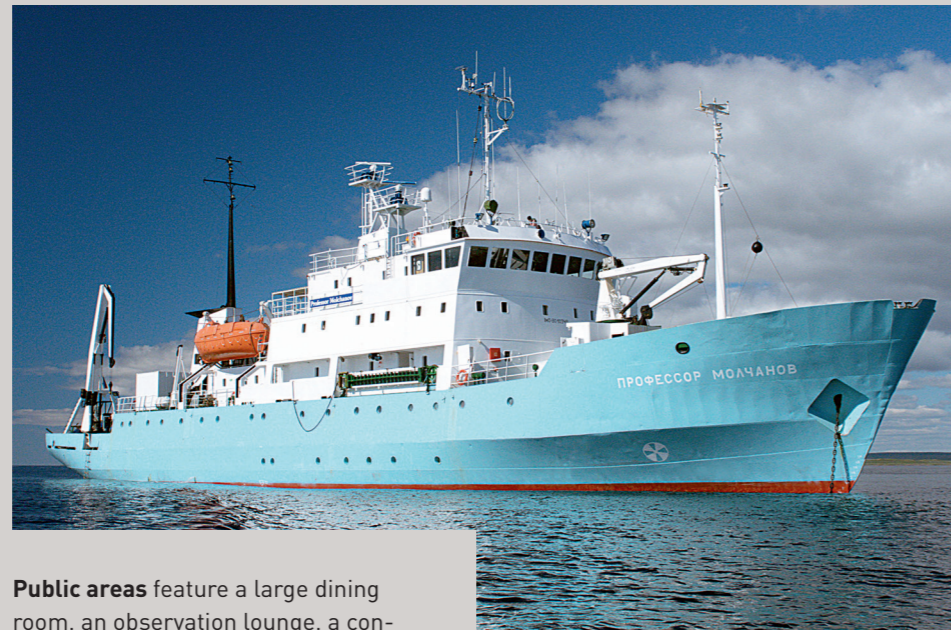
www.narfu.ru

Vessel

R/V — The motor vessel **Professor Molchanov** is a steel-hulled, ice-strengthened ship for Arctic supply and oceanographic research, completely refurbished to meet both passenger and oceanographic needs. The Professor Molchanov is ISM and IOPP Codes certified. The crew is committed to protecting the environment and the safety of passengers.

Originally built at 1982 for the Russian Hydro-Meteorological Service the R/V Professor Molchanov has been refurbished to accommodate a maximum of 80 passengers and staff.

The ice-strengthened polar vessel is very well appointed and provides ample deck space and an open bridge policy. The ship is extremely maneuverable and ideal for this type of expedition. The full complement of inflatable landing craft Zodiacs allow us to explore, conduct landings, field research, and wildlife viewing on the otherwise inaccessible coastline.



Public areas feature a large dining room, an observation lounge, a conference room with modern multimedia equipment, three laboratories, and a small infirmary with ship doctor. Professor Molchanov's chefs prepare excellent meals each day. The vessels expert captain, officers and crew are highly experienced in Arctic navigation and have a great love of Arctic ecosystems. Our expedition team of international experts, scientists and field staff will help to deliver the education program and are all passionate about the protection of the Arctic environment.

Our Arctic itinerary is always subject to change due to weather and ice conditions. It is rare that we ever follow an itinerary exactly as planned. One of the mottos of polar expedition travel is "Flexibility is the Key". We take advantage of all opportunities that present themselves, while at the same time respecting the power of the Arctic environment.



Safety

The safety of expedition members is our higher priority. The vessel is equipped with all necessary equipment for the organization of rescue and evacuation. Before trip the each member of the expedition attended the safety course, where he receives the knowledge on behavior on the ship, during the landing operations and on the Arctic territories. During landing on the islands the safety of participants is provided by professional rangers from the National Park "Russian Arctic".



Educational approach

Our approach to education weaves together elements of experiential, research, expeditionary learning. In starting with a very hands-on approach, active participation and critical thinking are important elements in the learning process. Through posing questions, experimenting and constructing meaning, the learning becomes personal, relational and exploratory in nature. Our expedition will become research-learning journey.

Students have the unique opportunity to gain theoretical knowledge on a wide range of subjects to become acquainted with research equipment, methods of scientific work in laboratories and to use this knowledge in the research field works.

We recognize that the journey will be unique for each student, as will the manner in which each student effects positive change in his/her individual life following the expedition.



Educational format and subjects

The educational process involves a combination of lectures with seminars, laboratory exercises and field work in one of the research units of the expedition under the guidance of leading scientific experts.

The educational unit includes 108 hours of classroom and practical training, and 3 ETS. Students have the opportunity to implement of its research-study program under the guidance of supervisors.

Educational and research program are including the following disciplines and research units:

- Geological, geopolitical, social and cultural history of the region to the present day;
- Terrestrial ecology (including flora and fauna);
- Marine biology (from micro-organisms to cetaceans);
- Glaciology, ice and the cryosphere;
- Oceanography and hydrology (including limnology);
- Meteorology;
- Ecology;
- Hydro chemistry;
- Seismology.

Credit courses

Undergraduate students and graduate students from Universities around the world may register in one of research units while they participate in the expedition.

Time on the ship will be divided between:

- (a) general lectures, presentations and activities that all students will undertake together to provide a general background to Arctic; and
- (b) specialized workshops, seminars, research and activities focused on the topics of research units outlined below, and led by the individual supervisors in charge of each course.



Education and research team

Staff for the AFU Arctic Floating University of 2014 will be announced in the December 2014.

Organizers of the program collaborate with leading research institutions of Russia. This ensures a high level of scientific and teaching staff of the expedition.

Lecturers and researchers of the expedition are the scientist and experts from:

- Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute;
- State Oceanographic Institute;
- All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography;
- Institute of Ecological Problems of the North, Ural Branch of Russian Academy of Science;
- Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography;
- Moscow State University;
- Northern (Arctic) Federal university.

The Education and Research Team's experience and enthusiasm on every expedition ensures that student participants will develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the Arctic. These inspiring staff work closely with students to ensure their expedition is an unforgettable educational adventure!