

Call for proposals

“Access Abisko 2020-22: Global Change and Sustainability”

“Access Abisko” is a new thematic program of the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (www.polar.se) aimed at providing enhanced opportunities for researchers to interact within and between disciplines, at the Abisko Scientific Research Station (<https://polar.se/en/research-in-abisko/>). The Access Abisko program is expected to be recurrent on a 3 year basis, each time with a new theme.

The Secretariat now calls for proposals to conduct integrated research on the theme “Global Change and Sustainability” in the Abisko region of northern Sweden. Access to the research station will be provided by the Secretariat, including travel and accommodation (food is not included), as well as technical-logistical support¹. The proposed research is expected to use innovative approaches that integrate at least two of the following fields: social sciences, humanities, arts, health, natural sciences, and engineering. The research should be relevant to societal issues at the local, regional and/or larger scales. Projects that focus on nature’s contributions to people (ecosystem services) and feedbacks between humans and socio-ecological systems are encouraged. Where appropriate, it is desirable that projects incorporate local co-design and co-production. Such proposals should describe how local community engagement will be incorporated in the project.

Up to 6 projects with 3-7 people engaged in each will be granted access for 2-3 years – depending on needs – to conduct research and will benefit from opportunities for synergies and collaboration across projects. The program will start with a planning workshop for the principal investigators (PIs) in the autumn of 2019. This will be followed by 2-3 “field seasons”, each ending with a workshop to present achievements and to plan for the next season. At the end of the program the PIs are expected to complete a common report. This report may take the form of a scientific article that is to be published, a policy paper, or similar.

Swedish and international researchers are eligible to apply. We encourage the participation of early career scientists. Proposals should include the following elements:

1. A research plan for 2-3 years (5 pages maximum; excluding references) describing background, objectives, methods, and expected results, as well as how integration across disciplines will be innovative.
2. A plan for communication and dissemination of results
3. A plan addressing possible risks, as well as a description of how ethical and permit requirements will be met.
4. A statement of financial feasibility describing how the research will be funded (either existing funding or pending) over the 2-3 years, other than the logistical/operational support provided by the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat.
5. Short CVs (2 pages) of all applicants, including work history and a list of up to ten relevant contributions.

¹ Support from the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat is never given in the form of direct financial aid to the research group. Nor is support provided for research costs, such as salaries, research instruments, analysis costs, etc. This type of support must be sought from research funding agencies. Having secured research funding is a requirement to obtain operational support.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Integration of disciplines
- Novelty and innovation
- Societal relevance
- Feasibility (e.g. funding, risks, permits)
- Excellence of researchers

Applications should be written in English, and must consist of a single PDF. Email the (complete) application to office@polar.se by February 1, 2019. The application should have "Access Abisko 2020-22" as the subject.

The first evaluation will be made by the Scientific Advisory Group for the Abisko Research Station (SAGA) together with the Station manager, and is expected to be completed by February 28, 2019. Successful applicants will be invited to participate in a planning workshop in mid-September 2019, with the aim of creating the overall "Scope of Work". Projects that have pending research funding at the time of the planning workshop will receive a final decision of participation in December 2019. The length of the program (2 or 3 years) will be based on the needs of the participating projects, and will be decided at the planning workshop.

If you have any questions, please contact Station manager Magnus Augner (magnus.augner@polar.se).