

INTERACT Transnational Access

-What you should know when applying for TA/RA?

Hannele Savela, INTERACT TA Coordinator
University of Oulu

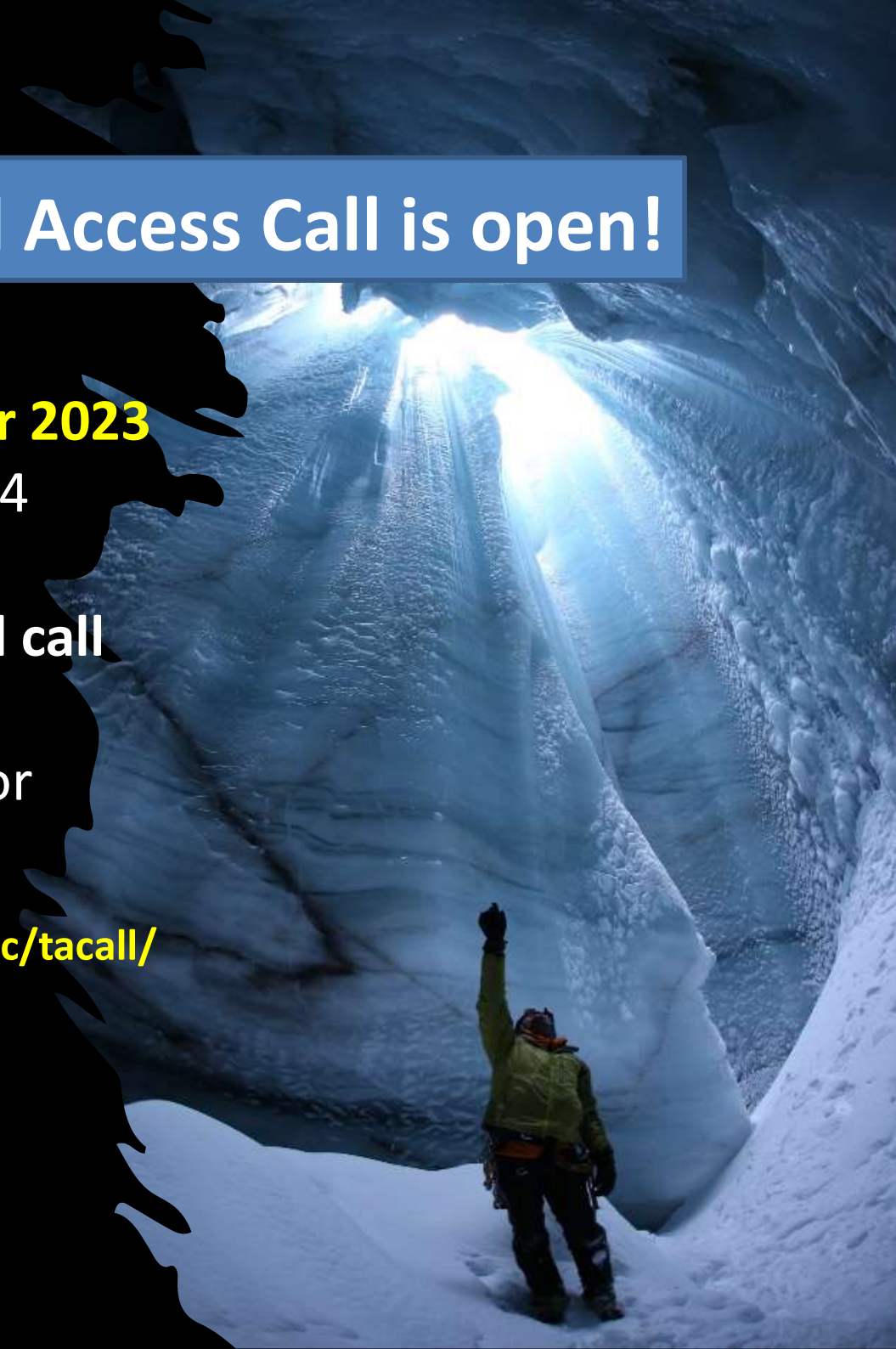
INTERACT Transnational Access Call is open!

Call is open until 15th December 2023

for access taking place in s/s 2024

Check the available stations and call instructions, and apply for INTERACT Transnational Access or Remote Access at:

<https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/tacall/>



Content

- INTERACT in a nutshell
- Transnational Access & Remote Access
- Infrastructures available in the call
- Eligibility of the applicant for TA/RA
 - Application process & INTERACCESS application system
 - Evaluation process & selection priorities
 - Typical weaknesses in applications
- What happens after the TA/RA decisions?
- Applicant's "To-do-list"
- Q&A

INTERACT –The international Network for Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

68 research stations >> 39 offering TA and 26 offering RA and VA



INTERACT III: 2020 – 2023 >> 1-yr prolongation for 2024

EU-H2020 Infrastructures (GA 871120, 10 M€)

Building capacity for monitoring, research and education throughout the Arctic

Transnational Access: support for world-class science

Station Managers' Forum: sharing best practices

International Networking: collaboration to build capacity

Joint Research Activities: extreme weather events, transport and communication, open data, improving education and awareness, documenting and reducing pollution, benefits and impacts of Arctic tourism

Outreach: sharing information and experiences



Infrastructures available in the ongoing call

<https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/infrastructures/>

The following stations are NOT available in the TA/RA Call for s/s 2022 and a/w 2022-23: BARC, ISTOMINO, NESS, SUDURNES, QAANAAQ.

As an exception, the access to Station Samoylov in the Russian Federation is available only for s/s 2023. Applicants to Station Samoylov, please contact [anne.morgenstern\(at\)awi.de](mailto:anne.morgenstern(at)awi.de) for details about the station's availability dates.

Short name	Station	Country	SM Contact	TA/RA contact	RA	TA	VA
ANS	Abisko Scientific Research Station	Sweden	Magnus Augner	Magnus Augner	x	x	x
AMUPS	Adam Mickiewicz University Polar Station "Petuniabukta"	Svalbard, Norway	Krzysztof Rymer	Krzysztof Rymer		x	
AKTRU	Aktru Research Station	Russia	Sergey Kirpotin Sergey Astakhov	Olga Morozova	x	x	x
ARCST	Arctic Station	Greenland	Morten Rasch	Aart Kroon		x	x
BARC	Barrow Arctic Research Center/Environmental Observatory	Alaska	Nagruk Harcharek		x	x	
CHARS	Canadian High Arctic Research Station CHARS	Canada	Scott Johnson	Adam Houben		x	x
CEN WK	CEN Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik Research Station	Canada	Mickaël Lemay	Mickaël Lemay		x	x
CHO	Chokurdakh Scientific Tundra Station	Russia	Trofim Maximov	Trofim Maximov		x	
CNSC	Churchill Northern Studies Centre	Canada	LeeAnn Fishback	Eleanor Edye	x	x	x
DIR-ITA	CNR Arctic Station "Dirigibile Italia"	Svalbard, Norway	Luigi D'Acqui	Luigi D'Acqui Angelo Pietro Viola	x	x	x
CARS-PETUNIA	Czech Arctic Research Station	Svalbard, Norway	Jan Pechar	Marek Brož	x	x	
ECN CAIRNGORM	ECN Cairngorms	Scotland	Christopher Andrews	Christopher Andrews	x	x	
ELG	Elgeei Scientific Forest Station	Russia	Trofim Maximov	Trofim Maximov		x	
FINI	Faroe Islands Nature Investigation	Faroe Islands	Lis Mortensen	Lis Mortensen	x	x	x
FINSE	Finse Alpine Research Centre	Norway	Jens Haga	Torbjørn Ergon		x	
GINR	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	Greenland	Katrine Raundrup	Katrine Raundrup	x	x	x
HYTTIALA	Hyttiälä Forestry Research Station (SMEAR II)	Finland	Jaana Bäck	Jaana Bäck	x	x	x
ISTOMINO	International Ecological Educational Center "Istomino"	Russia	Alexander Aurjanov	Alexander Aurjanov		x	
KFRS	Kainuu Fisheries Research Station	Finland	Pekka Hyvärinen	Pekka Hyvärinen	x	x	x
KAJ	Kajbasovo Research Station	Russia	Sergey Kirpotin	Olga Morozova	x	x	x
KEVO	Kevo Subarctic Research Station	Finland	Otso Suominen	Otso Suominen	x	x	x

38 stations offering TA

Czech Arctic Research Station not available for TA in 2024 .

26 stations offering RA

Transnational Access

> **INTERACT III:** altogether 39 research stations, 6495 person-days of access 2020-2024.

> **Maximum TA per user group:** 90 days in 2020-2024

> **What is included?** Free access to station facilities, support for travel and logistic costs

> **What is NOT included?** Salary, daily allowances, insurance, etc.

> **What is realistic in terms of applied TA:** 1-3 persons, 1-3 stations, 500 EUR – 15 000 EUR

Eligibility of TA applicants:

Trans-national = scientists are not eligible to their "national infrastructures", i.e. stations that are located in or operated by the same country where the scientist is working and residing

TA to User Groups, where majority of users are not from EU Member state or associated state is limited to 20% on the consortium level



Photo: Kari Mäenpää

Remote Access

- Modality of Transnational Access
- Station staff collects the samples according to your research plan
- 26 stations, 670 staff-days in 2020-2024
- Logistic costs reimbursed
- Same application and evaluation process with TA
- Reduced environmental footprint
- Suitable for multi-station and comparative approach, but requires simple set-up



Photo: Jan Kavan

Eligibility for TA

Scientists are not eligible for TA to their
"national infrastructures"

- Scientists working and residing in Denmark > not eligible to Greenlandic stations operated by Danish institutions
- Scientists working and residing in Czech Republic > not eligible to Czech Arctic Research Station in Svalbard
- Scientists working and residing in UK > not eligible to NERC Arctic Research Station in Svalbard
- Scientists working and residing in Poland > not eligible to Polish Polar Station in Hornsund in Svalbard

Application Process



Photo: Arctic Live Team / NERC UK AS

- **Call is open until 15th Dec 2023** for access taking place between April– Oct 2024
- Call announcement and guidelines at <https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/tacall/>
- INTERACCESS on-line application system www.eu-interaccess.org
- What happens after the call closes?
 - Eligibility check
 - Scientific evaluation
 - TA recommendations
 - TA decisions
- Access decisions announced in March 2024

INTERACCESS on-line application system

- Prepare and submit your application in INTERACCESS
- Includes the whole TA application, evaluation and reporting process
- Available at <https://eu-interaccess.org>
- Read the "Information for Applicants" and "Application Manual"

INTERACCESS
LOGIN OR REGISTER

Available Calls

Available Calls

INTERACT Transnational Access and Remote Access call for April - August 2020

expire in a month
[status open](#)

The call is for INTERACT Transnational Access (TA) to 43 stations and Remote Access (RA) to 18 stations. Stations offering TA or RA are located across the Arctic and northern alpine and forest areas in Europe, Russia and North-America. The sites represent a variety of glacier, mountain, tundra, boreal forest, peatland and freshwater ecosystems, providing opportunities for researchers from natural sciences to human dimension. Note: applicants are not eligible for TA to their national infrastructures, i.e. stations that are located in the same country or operated by institutions located in the same country in which the applicant is working/residing. For example, scientists working in Finland are not eligible for TA to Finnish research stations, scientists working in UK are not eligible for TA to UK Arctic Research Station in Svalbard, scientists working in Denmark are not eligible for TA to research stations in Greenland, operated by Danish institutions.

Open on August 12, 2019 close on October 8, 2019

Available stations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kajbasovo Research Station (Russia) Cairngorms (Scotland, UK) Rif Field Station (Iceland) Villum Research Station (VRS) (Greenland/Denmark) Sermitik Research Station (Greenland/Denmark) Arctic Station (Greenland/Denmark) Western Arctic Research Centre (WARC) (Canada) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khanymei Research Station (Russia) Faroe Islands Nature Investigation (FINI) (Faroe Islands) Sudurnes Science and Learning Center (Iceland) Zackenberg Research Station (Greenland/Denmark) Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR) (Greenland) CEN Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik Research Station (Canada) Kluane Lake Research Station (Canada)
--	---

IMPORTANT: Justification for the applied access

- In the application form, you are asked to **provide justification why your research cannot be conducted at your national infrastructure**
 - Pay attention to provide a sound justification based on science, unique facilities of the station, etc.
 - Justifications based purely on geographical location are necessarily not sufficient, e.g. concerning the national infrastructures in Svalbard

Scientific Evaluation: Criteria

- Each application is graded for several evaluation criteria:
1) Scientific quality of the planned research, 2) Scientific merits of the TA User Group leader, 3) Relevance of the planned research for [INTERACT goals](#), and 4) Value for money.
- Each criteria is scored from 1-5, where 1=poor, 2=satisfactory, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent.
- Ranking of applications for TA Board discussion and access recommendations is based on the total scores (max. 20).
- TA Board recommends user groups for TA to the research stations
- Stations make the TA decisions based on the recommendations, feasibility of the projects at the station, station strategy and focus areas etc.

Selection Priorities

The evaluation of user groups is based on the evaluation criteria, but taking into account that priority should be given to user groups who...

- Have not previously used the installation (station)
- Are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exists >> justification asked in application form
- Apply working at more than one location for generating comparative studies
- To early career scientists (≤ 5 years from a PhD degree)

Typical weaknesses in applications

- The application **instructions have not been read/followed** in terms of e.g. eligibility, budgeting, length and form of the required appendices
- **Justification for the applied access** is not sufficient
- Applicant has not done his/her homework on **what has already been done on the topic at the station/region**
- The **importance/novelty of the research** is not clearly provided
- The **feasibility of the study at the station** has not been checked
 - Travel and logistic arrangements
 - Amount of access days needed
 - Required facilities at station
 - Local conditions (phenology, species etc)
 - You can contact the station to ask for the feasibility beforehand!!!
 - >> <https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/infrastructures/>
 - >> <https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/info-user-groups/>

What happens after the TA/RA decisions?


- TA/RA decisions are sent to applicants via INTERACCESS
 - Granted person-days of TA/RA
 - Granted travel and logistic costs
- Applicants Accept/Reject the granted access in INTERACCESS
- Before the TA visit
 - TA users arrange their travel, freight, licenses, permits, insurances, visa etc. themselves, but in consultation with stations and TA Coordination
- After the TA visit
 - Project report submitted in INTERACCESS
 - Travel and logistic costs are **reimbursed after the visit by the stations**, based on actual direct costs (important to store receipts, invoices etc. for verification)
- Membership in the INTERACT TA User Community
 - Webinars for information
 - TA User Group Facebook group for discussions and practical questions
 - TA User community meetings on-line and during congresses etc.

Applicant's "to-do-list"

- 1) **Visit TA/RA Call pages** at <https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/tacall/> > Read call information and instructions carefully
- 2) **Register to INTERACCESS** > Read Information for Applicants and Application Manual > Prepare and submit TA application
- 3) **Find out information about the station**, where you are applying to
 - a) <https://eu-interact.org/field-sites/>
 - b) <https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/infrastructures/>
 - c) Contact the station manager to ask about feasibility and possibly required permitting etc. <https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/info-user-groups/>
- 4) **Check your eligibility** for TA to the station(s) where you plan to apply
- 5) **Learn what has already been done** on the topic at the station/region and build your planned research on that
- 6) **Provide clear justification** why your research cannot be conducted at your national infrastructure (not only geographical)
- 7) Clearly **justify the importance/novelty of the applied research** and the **relevance of your study** for [INTERACT goals](#).
- 8) **Check your budget** > read budgeting info from "Information for Applicants"

Don't forget Virtual Access!!!

INTERACT Data Portal <https://dataportal.eu-interact.org/>

INTERACT Data Portal 

DATASETS ORGANIZATIONS STATIONS COLLABORATORS TOPICS ABOUT

INTER = ACT Virtual Access Single Entry point

Search from 1741 datasets

905
Keywords

25
Stations

26
Organizations

1.7k
Datasets

Recent Datasets

EXPLORE DATASETS



Water Temperature in Lake Kivesjärvi

0 recent views on 08-09-2023

Station: Kainuu Fisheries Research Station



Point measurements of winter mass balance of Fr...

0 recent views on 28-11-2022

Station: Sonnblick Observatory



Point measurements of annual mass balance of Fr...

0 recent views on 28-11-2022

Station: Sonnblick Observatory

Thanks for your attention!



www.eu-interact.org

INTERACT TA Coordination office

TA Project Assistant:

Vanessa Spadetto
vanessa.spadetto@eu4pm.it

TA Coordinator:

Hannele Savela
hannele.savela@oulu.fi