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/](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@dlr.de for details about the station’s availability status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short name</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>SM Contact</th>
<th>TA/RA contact</th>
<th>RA</th>
<th>TA</th>
<th>YA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANS</td>
<td>Abisko Scientific Research Station</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Magnus Auger</td>
<td>Magnus Auger</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMUPS</td>
<td>Adam Mickiewicz University Polar Station “Petrunia”</td>
<td>Svalbard, Norway</td>
<td>Kryzystof Rymer</td>
<td>Kryzystof Rymer</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKTRU</td>
<td>Astana Research Station</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Sergey Kropotkin</td>
<td>Olga Mansurova</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCST</td>
<td>Arctic Station</td>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>Morten Rasmussen</td>
<td>Arent Kroon</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARC</td>
<td>Barrow Arctic Research Area</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Naphuli Harshana</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAIRS</td>
<td>Canadian High Arctic Research Station CHAIRS</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Scott Johnson</td>
<td>Adam Houdsen</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEN NOK</td>
<td>CEN Wapamagodp-Kiukasaaq Research Station</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Michal Lemay</td>
<td>Michal Lemay</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHO</td>
<td>Churchill Scientific Tundra Station</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Trofin Maximov</td>
<td>Trofin Maximov</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNRC</td>
<td>Churchill Northern Studies Centre</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Leslie Fishlock</td>
<td>Dean Edye</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIR-ITA</td>
<td>CNR Arctic Station “Direzione Italia”</td>
<td>Svalbard, Norway</td>
<td>Luigi D’Acquasparta</td>
<td>Luigi D’Acquasparta</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARP-FETURIA</td>
<td>Czech Arctic Research Station</td>
<td>Svalbard, Norway</td>
<td>Jan Pechar</td>
<td>Marek Brol</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECN CAIGNORM</td>
<td>ECN Caignorm</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Christopher Andrews</td>
<td>Christopher Andrews</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELG</td>
<td>Epsilon Scientific Forest Station</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Trofin Maximov</td>
<td>Trofin Maximov</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINI</td>
<td>Faroe Islands Nature Investigation</td>
<td>Faroe Islands</td>
<td>Lis Montensen</td>
<td>Lis Montensen</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINSE</td>
<td>Finse Alpine Research Centre</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Jens Haga</td>
<td>Torbaen Ergon</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GINR</td>
<td>Greenland Institute of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>Katrine Raundrup</td>
<td>Katrine Raundrup</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYDIALA</td>
<td>Hyvtila Forestry Research Station (SHEAR II)</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Jaana Black</td>
<td>Jaana Black</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTOMINO</td>
<td>International Ecological Educational Center “Istomino”</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Alexander Aviater</td>
<td>Alexander Aviater</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KITRS</td>
<td>Kainuu Fisheries Research Station</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Pekka Hyvinkainen</td>
<td>Pekka Hyvinkainen</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAI</td>
<td>Kolbaasova Research Station</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Sergey Kropotkin</td>
<td>Olga Mansurova</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEVO</td>
<td>Kevo Subarctic Research Station</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Otto Suominen</td>
<td>Otto Suominen</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38 stations offering TA

Czech Arctic Research Station not available for TA in 2024.

26 stations offering RA
> **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
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

- **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/](https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/tacall/)
- **INTERACCESS** on-line application system [www.eu-interaccess.org](http://www.eu-interaccess.org)
- What happens after the call closes?
  - Eligibility check
  - Scientific evaluation
  - TA recommendations
  - TA decisions
- Access decisions announced in March 2024
• 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”
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.
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)
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/infrastructures/)

>> [https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/info-user-groups/](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.
1) **Visit TA/RA Call pages** at [https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/tacall/](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/](https://eu-interact.org/field-sites/)
   b) [https://eu-interact.org/accessing-the-arctic/infrastructures/](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/](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/](https://dataportal.eu-interact.org/)
Thanks for your attention!

INTERACT TA Coordination office

TA Project Assistant:
Vanessa Spadetto
vanessa.spadetto@eu4pm.it

TA Coordinator:
Hannele Savela
hannele.savela@oulu.fi

www.eu-interact.org