



2C - Launching the International Permafrost Internship Service

Hanne H. Christiansen¹, A. Britta K. Sannel² & Robin B. Zweigel³

¹Arctic Geophysics Department, The University Centre in Svalbard, UNIS, Norway, ²Department of Physical Geography, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden, ³Department of Geoscience, Oslo University, Norway.

In a rapidly evolving society, the higher educational experience of a student must look beyond those of traditional educational experiences i.e. campus-based learning and theoretical-focussed knowledge. To secure the best-educated candidates for our future societal needs, there is a strong need to focus on the relevance of future working life. Importantly, this should occur as early as possible and during the university education of a student. One of the well-known tools for obtaining a closer connection between professional life and universities is through internships and student placements. Permafrost is a particular natural topic to start developing internships for, as an additional important part of higher education because there are a high number of direct applications in many scientific fields, and due to the ongoing climatic changes very related to permafrost.

In this session, we celebrate the launch of the first international online permafrost internship service available to all interested hosts, students and supervisors. We present the result based on a development process run in Norden as a UArctic network project, an area which so far has not had any tradition for internships in higher education except in engineering education. We invite all interested students, hosts and supervisors including permafrost communities to share their experiences with and wishes for internships in permafrost, to use this session to further develop and increase the number of opportunities for internships across the many different permafrost topics. We plan an open to all conference participants short sharing session at the end.

Keywords: Permafrost Internships, Working-Life Experience

Contact: Hanne Christiansen: hanne.christiansen@unis.no