



Continued Research in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, AK

Funded by the U. S. National Science Foundation since 2008, the Polaris Project trains future leaders in Arctic research and informs the public about the Arctic and global climate change. During the annual field expedition to the Yukon Kuskokwim (YK) Delta, Alaska, undergraduate students conduct cutting-edge investigations that advance scientific understanding of the ecological impacts of climate change on tundra ecosystems.

Returning Student Application Instructions

Students interested in participating as a Returning Student in the Polaris Project expedition during summer 2023 should complete their application by **January 9, 2023**. Returning students are expected to conduct publishable research, ideally expanding on previous work, and assist with mentoring new undergraduate students during the expedition.

The **2023 expedition is scheduled for approximately July 1 - August 1** and will include two weeks of intensive fieldwork in the YK Delta. **Participants are required to attend a field safety course at Woodwell on April 8-9, 2023** (all travel expenses will be covered for travel within the United States) **and to participate in bi-weekly or monthly online meetings before the field expedition**. Returning students are expected to prepare a research plan, read relevant scientific papers that will be provided before the field expedition and are encouraged to attend the American Geophysical Union meeting in December 2023. Additionally, returning students are expected to share responsibility with expedition leadership for ensuring a productive and rewarding research experience for new students. This responsibility entails being accessible to give advice and provide feedback, collectively create and maintain a socially supportive environment, and to facilitate discussion and reflection. All participants are required to get a physical examination, to provide a detailed medical history prior to the expedition, and to have received all recommended vaccines & boosters for COVID-19.

Expenses associated with travel, room, and board will be covered by the project. There are no tuition or fees, and each student will receive a \$3750 stipend. A portion of this stipend (\$750) will be provided before the field expedition for students to purchase required field gear; the remainder will be provided upon completion of the expedition.

To apply, prepare a two-page essay describing your research plan including your overarching questions/objectives and your general approach. How will another research expedition to the YK Delta contribute to your academic and long-term research goals? Are there any unique resources you would need to accomplish your research goals? Please also briefly describe your experience and/or interest in mentoring new Polaris students.

Once accepted into the program, Returning Students will be expected to work with Polaris faculty to refine research proposals and develop mentoring strategies.

To apply:

- Complete the online **Application Form** here
 - Note: Returning students do not need to answer the essays on the Application Form and do not need reference letters. The Application Form essays are for new students only. Instead of answering, fill in the words "Returning Student", and email your essay as instructed below.
 - Attach your Resume/CV into the online application form in PDF format.
- Answer the Essay Question listed above.
- Save your essay with your last name and first initial. For instance, if your name is Alice Jones, then the file would be named JonesAEssay.doc
- Email your application essay to polaris@woodwellclimate.org in an email with a subject heading 'Returning Student Application' plus your name. E.g., 'Returning Student Application JonesA'

All application materials are due January 23, 2023.