



# Welcome!

## Welcome to the Arctic Ecosystems course, 15 ECTS

**01 September – 31 October 2025**

**Location: Abisko Scientific Research Station (ANS), Abisko.**

Welcome to Abisko for the 'Arctic Ecosystems' course. We really hope that all of you will have an exciting and inspiring time and that this course will give you an enhanced insight into the ecology of arctic ecosystems. During your free time, you will have the opportunity to discover the beautiful area around Abisko, Sweden.

### Important

**BEFORE 1 August (but preferably as soon as possible):** email [gesche.blume-werry@umu.se](mailto:gesche.blume-werry@umu.se) if you want to use the option of housing at the ANS station.

If you are not planning on attending the course, please decline the course at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se) as soon as possible, to make the course available for other applicants on the waiting list. If you have any questions regarding your course status, you are most welcome to contact the study counsellor (contact information at the end of this letter).

We wish you a warm welcome to the course and hope that you will enjoy your studies here in Abisko!



## Online registration for the course - the Student web and Canvas

You need to be registered for the course in the study documentation system (Student web) in order to keep your place and to have your results recorded during the course. It is important that you sign in and register during this time period, otherwise you risk losing your place at the course.



All information, literature and schedule updates will be provided via the course site in Canvas. Below is some info on how to get your user account to give you access to the course site.

**Canvas** is a collaboration and learning platform available for teachers, students, researchers and other staff at Umeå University. Canvas is commonly used as a virtual classroom for our web-based education but is also used as an administrative and pedagogic tool for many of our courses. In Canvas you will find course specific material and information.

## System and IT-services for students

In order to access the central IT systems (the Student web, Canvas) at Umeå University, **as a new student**, you need a [user account](#) (**Umu-id**). If you are not familiar with it yet, here is an explanation of the [Student web](#), as well as [Ladok](#), the study administration tool (registering for courses, exams, etc.).

In case you have a problem to log in to the Student web or have technical problems, you can contact the [Service desk](#).

If you encounter problems concerning online registration you should contact the study counsellor (contact information below in this letter). In the message, please state your name, Swedish personal number (if you have one, otherwise state your date of birth) and which course you are trying to register for. Note that you may also need to show documents that you fulfil the requirements for the course.

## Arrival information

You will have to arrange your own transportation to Abisko. The first day of the course, 1<sup>st</sup> of September, is the arrival day, lectures start the following day. The course will take place at the Abisko Scientific Research Station, which is a few minutes walking distance from the village, about 1 km north-west of the rail road station “Abisko Östra” (see maps at the end of this document). Once you pass through the road tunnel, the station is straight ahead (see map). There is a reception at ANS to get your key, if you arrive outside of their office hours there will be keys for you in a key box by the entrance. The key box has a code that you will be given before your arrival.

**Train arrivals:** The easiest way to travel is by train ([www.vy.se](http://www.vy.se)), which drops you off c. 500 m (10 min walk) from the research station. Please note that the train stop is “**Abisko Östra**” (there are two train stations in Abisko, and the other one is called “Abisko turiststation” which is much further away from the research station).

**Car arrival:** For those arriving with car, please park your car on the dedicated parking lot at the research station for the guests (there are signs to guide you) and then walk to the main entrance.



**Flight arrivals:** There are daily flights from Stockholm to Kiruna airport (SAS/Norwegian), from where you can travel to Abisko by bus (only one per day, so make sure to check the time) or local bus/taxi + train. In Kiruna, there is a free shuttle bus between the city centre (bus station) and the train station connecting to each train.

**Accommodation:** The whole course, all lectures, seminars, etc., takes place at the [Abisko Scientific Research Station](#). The station is run by the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat ('Polar') and attracts around 200 scientists every year from all over the world. The period with most research activity at the research station and where the numbers of visiting researchers are highest is commonly between June and September.

We will arrange accommodation for you at the Abisko Scientific Research Station, provided that there is space available. Please note that you will share a room (2 or 4 beds/room). You will have access to showers, internet, a TV-lounge, a kitchen and laundry facilities. All accommodation is self-cleaning and self-catering. The cost for accommodation is 100 SEK/night per student, i.e. about 6200 kr for two months.

**Please note, to arrange your accommodation, we need your confirmation for accommodation no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> via e-mail to Gesche Blume-Werry ([gesche.blume-werry@umu.se](mailto:gesche.blume-werry@umu.se)). After that date we can't guarantee that we can organize accommodation for you and you might have to arrange your accommodation yourself elsewhere.**

Once you let us know that you want to stay at the station, we will forward your name to the administrators at the research station. As the station can be very full, especially in the beginning of the course (September), you may not be able to stay in the same room for the whole course, and we cannot even guarantee that you will be able to stay at the research station for the full duration of the course. However, in that case, we will try to organize alternative accommodation in Abisko Östra, roughly 10 minutes by foot, and that is why we need your confirmation for accommodation as soon as possible.

**Access to accommodation at ANS:** For those staying at ANS; keys for your rooms will be put into a key box to the left on the inside of the first door at the main entrance. The key box has a code that you will be given before your arrival.

## Course information

The [Arctic Ecosystems course](#) involves both practical and theoretical elements (see also the detailed [Syllabus](#) for expected learning outcomes), including a project where you test a research question in the field. You will spend a lot of time in the field, so be prepared for outdoor activities. Below are some suggestions on what is good to bring:



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- Indoor shoes
- Good sturdy waterproof shoes (preferably hiking boots)
- Rain gear (jacket and trousers)
- Warm clothes (including long underwear, gloves and hats, as it will snow)
- Backpack for day-trips
- Compass, map (hiking poles)
- Thermos, water bottle, food containers, foam pad to sit on (for field trips)
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Laptop
- Towel for sauna and lake bathing

**IMPORTANT:** if you plan on hiking, backpacking or camping during your free time, you must bring your own equipment, e.g. sleeping bag, sleeping mattress, tent, larger backpack, etc. Some equipment can be rented at the [Abisko Tourist Station](#).

**Literature and schedule:** The course literature consists of scientific papers that will be distributed to you via the course Canvas page. A (preliminary) schedule is posted there too. Any updates to the schedule will be provided via the course Canvas-site, which you will have access to once you are registered for the course. The course language is English.

The final written exam will be on 30th October, but the last course date is the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Please be aware that you will need that time for cleaning your rooms and the shared facilities before you depart.

**Laptop:** You will need a laptop during the course. You will have **internet** access at the research station.

## About Abisko

Abisko is a small village (approximately 130 people) situated on the shoreline of Lake Torneträsk. There are connections to Kiruna (100 km), Narvik (80 km), Riksgränsen (40 km) and Björkliden (10 km) via train (two per day), bus (one per day during the tourist season) or car. There is a supermarket, petrol station, and a few hotels/guest houses and restaurants in the village. Please note that there is no cash machine (ATM) available in the village but credit cards are accepted everywhere. The nearest medical care/hospitals and pharmacies are in Kiruna and Narvik. Bring an appropriate health insurance certificate with you if you are not a Swedish citizen (e.g. European Health Insurance Card). The surroundings offer excellent opportunities for outdoor activities, e.g. trekking, fishing, photography and/or just relaxing on a mountain slope. You might also get the opportunity to see northern lights.

See below for FAQ's.



We look forward to seeing you at the end of August!

Gesche Blume-Werry (course coordinator)

and Valentin Kriegel and Leah Kirchhoff

### **Contact us**

You are most welcome to contact us if you have any questions regarding the course.

### **Course coordinator:**

Gesche Blume-Werry

e-mail: [gesche.blume-werry@umu.se](mailto:gesche.blume-werry@umu.se)

### **Study counsellor:**

Sandra Straumdal

e-mail: [sandra.straumdal@umu.se](mailto:sandra.straumdal@umu.se)

Phone: +46 90-786 72 80

### **FAQ's**

#### **What does the accommodation at the research station cost and what does it include?**

The price for the duration of the course will be around 6200 SEK (100 SEK/night). This includes electricity, water, internet, bedlinen, towels (only for showering, bring your own for sauna or bathing in the lake), etc. There are thus no additional costs for your stay, though you have to take care of your food yourself and you will be responsible to keep your room and the other shared areas clean. You will get a bill at the end of your stay.

#### **What does the accommodation look like? Do I have to share a room?**

Accommodation is in shared rooms (2 or 4 beds). All rooms have central heating, duvets and pillows. Shared bathrooms (separated by gender) and shared kitchen are in the corridor. You will also have to prepare your own meals.

#### **I want to share a room with my friend who also takes the course, is that possible?**

We are not in charge of housing, that is the Abisko Scientific Research Station, so we cannot help you with roommate preferences or changing rooms. You are welcome to contact the station directly for these kinds of requests.

#### **I will get a visitor during my time in Abisko. Can they stay with me?**

No, accommodation at the station is only for researchers and students. You are also not allowed to camp outside the station, as it is a nature reserve. However, there are several hostel, hotel, and camping options available in the village and at the STF tourist station in Abisko.

**Will it be cold?**

Rooms are heated, you will not freeze indoors, but it will get cold outdoors – especially towards the end of the course, so bring hat and gloves etc.

**I want to arrive earlier, is that possible?**

We reserve accommodation for the duration of the course. If you arrive earlier or stay longer, you have to take care of accommodation yourself. The start date of the course is arrival day, no lectures or similar planned for that day. Introduction starts the day after.

**I want to get letters or packages, what is the address of the station?**

*Your name*

Abisko Scientific Research Station  
Vetenskapens Väg 38  
981 07 Abisko  
Sweden

**I will arrive outside of office hours at the research station, what shall I do?**

No problem. There will be a key for you in a key locker, for which you will get the code.

**There do not seem to be any train tickets available.**

Train tickets can only be booked a certain time in advance, often 2-3 months. Contact vy customer service if you are unsure.





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