

POLAR ECOLOGY COURSE



2022

APPLICATION PROCESS



Read this brochure

Consider if the course is suitable for you and if you are up for it

Discuss it with your supervisor

Prepare your CV and motivation letter.

Obtain reference letter from your supervisor

Fill in the [online application](#)

Attach CV, motivation letter and supervisor reference letter in a pdf file named Last_First.pdf (e.g. Smith_John.pdf)

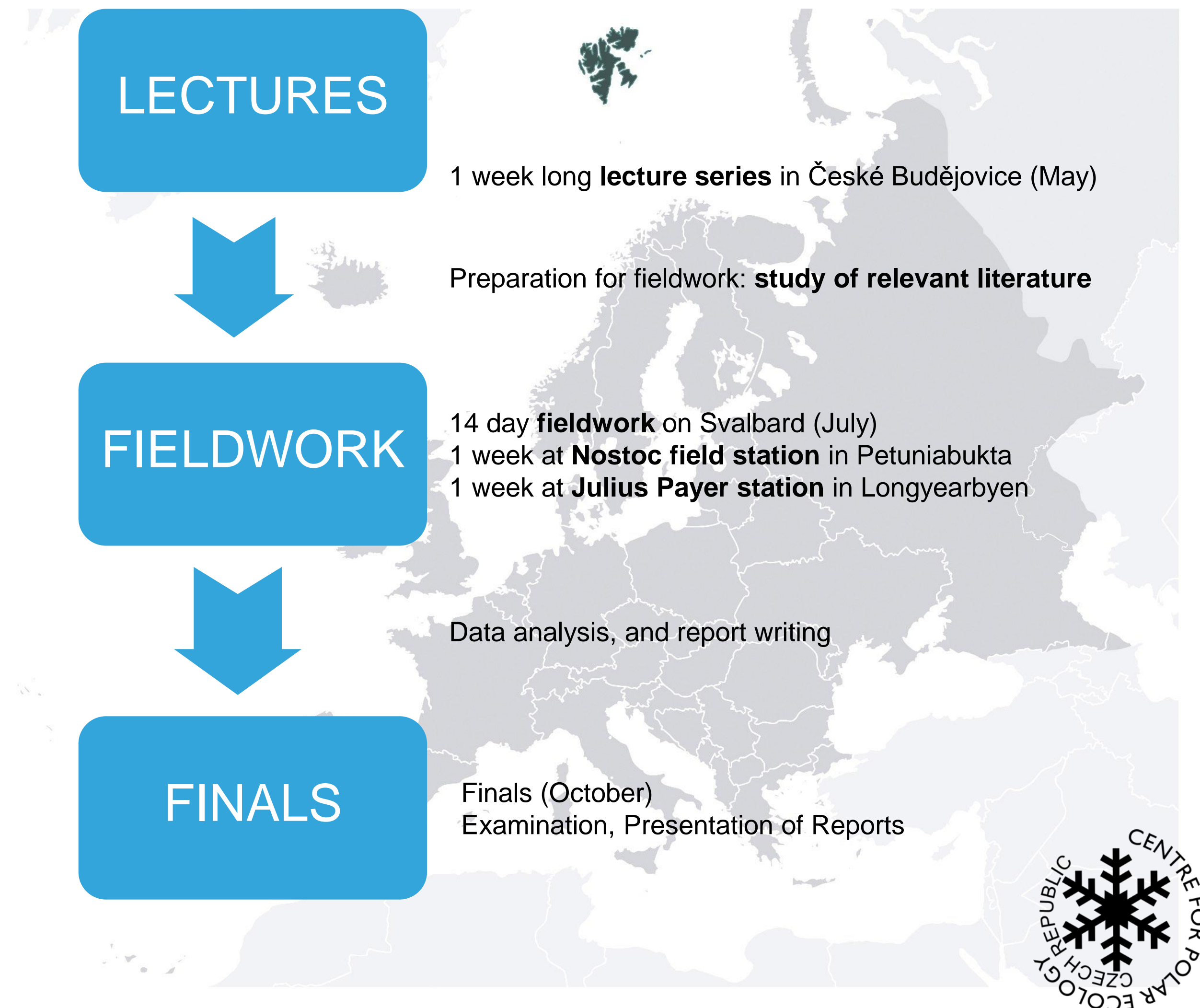
Submit all by 28 Feb 2022

We will let you know whether your application was accepted by **March 15th.**

WHAT IS POLAR ECOLOGY COURSE?

- ▶ The course provide students in biology with a comprehensive knowledge of Arctic ecosystems
- ▶ As part of the course students will spend two weeks at the [Czech Arctic research station on Svalbard](#).
- ▶ Students will work and experience different Arctic environments of central Svalbard, including freshwater, terrestrial, marine, glacial and soil.

COURSE STRUCTURE



YOU WILL LEARN

- ▶ How Arctic ecosystems function on Svalbard
- ▶ Many field and laboratory techniques used in Arctic Ecology
- ▶ How to formulate problems and plan and carry out research in Arctic environments
- ▶ How to collaborate in a field team
- ▶ How to manage interdisciplinary projects and assignments





COURSE SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Application deadline: 28 Feb 2022

Theory: 16-20 May, 2022, CPE

Fieldwork: 4-17 July, 2022, Svalbard, Norway
(final dates can be shifted by 1-3 days
according to flight tickets)

Finals: October (one day mini conference), CPE



WHO CAN APPLY

► Requirements:

- **Student of Faculty of Science** at the summer and winter semester 2022
- Owns valid **passport**
- **English proficiency**, including writing reports and leading presentations
- **Good** physical and mental **health** to be able to participate in 14-day extended fieldwork in High Arctic
- **Financial contribution** to travel costs (5,000 CZK)
- **Completed vaccination** against COVID-19, including booster, by the end of June 2022
- Be able to **participate in ALL parts** of the course: theory, field excursion and miniconference
- Own sufficient **outdoor gear**

► Highly desirable:

- Completed bachelor's degree in biology is preferred, the course is primarily **aimed at MS or PhD students**
- Students with a **thesis topic relevant to the Arctic** or polar research will be given preference.
- **Experience** with fieldwork



WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU APPLY

- ▶ If the **timing** is right and you are at the stage of your studies where you can benefit the most from the course.
- ▶ Does your **supervisor support** your application?
- ▶ The course takes considerable amount of time. You will need to be **actively involved** in all its parts.
- ▶ Can you collect data or samples during the course that will be used for your **thesis**?
- ▶ If you are **healthy** enough to participate in an intense 14 day field course in High Arctic.
- ▶ You must **not be pregnant**. We can not guarantee your or your child's safety.

FIELDWORK JULIUS PAYER STATION



[website with further info](#)



FIELDWORK NOSTOC FIELD STATION



PRO TIPS FOR THE APPLICATION

- ▶ **Start early** and discuss your application with your supervisors and mentors.
- ▶ **CV:** Highlight skills and experience relevant to the course
- ▶ **Cover letter:** Put effort into writing your cover letter. Focus on your scientific strengths and what specifically will the course add to your scientific career. Try not to sound like a tourist or an adventure seeker. We are not particularly interested in your mountaineering skills and achievements



TESTIMONIES OF FORMER STUDENTS

- ▶ *"The polar ecology course was one of the most powerful experiences of my life. It was unbelievable to be able to study ecology beyond the Arctic Circle and to do scientific work under such conditions. If I could, I'll go right again! "*
- ▶ *"In two weeks you will experience unbelievable things, fun, adrenaline, you will gain lots of new knowledge, interesting science, just about anything one could wish for. But what's more, you will experience it all with great people! "*
- ▶ *Thanks to the Polar Ecology course, I not only deepened my theoretical knowledge about the polar regions, but above all I was able to experience first-hand what it's like to work in a an environment that is so different from the one at home. I recommend the course to everyone who wants to experience the beauty of the Arctic nature, spend time with a great group of people and who are not afraid to leave the comfort zone from time to time in return for an unforgettable experience. "*
- ▶ *"The course mainly showed me what the work of a field polar marine biologist looks like, what it all entails and how versatile a person in such parts away from civilisation has to be. And, of course, I was also thrilled by the landscape and the ecosystem in general, and the biota adaption to the harsh conditions prevailing in Svalbard. "*



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- ▶ Czech Arctic [research station](#)
- ▶ Station [rules](#)
- ▶ Topographic [map](#) of Svalbard
- ▶ [Birds](#) of Svalbard
- ▶ Svalbard [flora](#)
- ▶ [Weather](#) in Longyearbyen
- ▶ Guide to proper [clothing](#)

