



What's Happening in... Geography

Our 'cool' planet:

Research and teaching opportunities in glaciology at Lancaster University

Research and teaching at the Lancaster Environment Centre addresses the fascinating role of glaciers and ice sheets, in an integrated approach to studying planet Earth. You will learn about our 'cool' planet in the lecture theatre, the laboratory and in the field, alongside world-class researchers in glaciology.

Research at Lancaster

Our research takes place in icy environments all over the world. In Iceland, we work with volcanologists and the British Geological Survey, to understand how ice caps that sit on top of volcanoes influence the timing and style of volcanic eruptions. We use water chemistry as a fingerprint for volcanic processes occurring beneath the ice mass, time-lapse photography to tell us how fast the glaciers are moving, and atmospheric monitoring to inform about the rate of glacier thinning. In the icy wastes of the high Arctic we study how microbes can survive in sub-freezing temperatures and how pollutants can accumulate in snow and sea ice. We even go back to 650 million years before present and use the Svalbard ice caps to inform us how the planet was once completely shrouded in snow and ice – a concept known as Snowball Earth.

Teaching and fieldwork opportunities

We integrate our cutting edge research into undergraduate teaching, through a course design which builds throughout each year of study. Field courses are run in the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and in Iceland where you will be able to visit active research sites and witness for yourself the glacier-landscape interactions in operation. For those who wish to study glaciology as a part of their final year dissertation, travel destinations have included studying glaciers in Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and glacial landscapes in the UK. Or it can be done through remote sensing techniques and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) from the comfort of your own home!

Join us in the lecture theatre, the laboratory and the field and help us solve the mysteries of our ice-covered Earth.

For more details about the reports above or about Geography courses on offer at Lancaster University please contact the Geography Admissions Staff,

Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, LA1 4YQ, UK

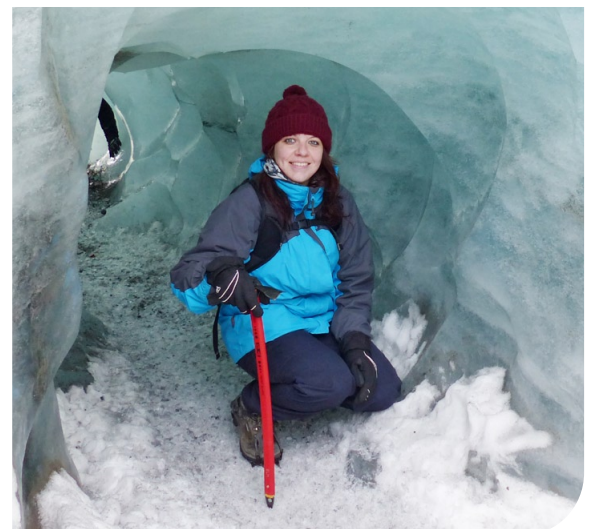
Email: lec.ug@lancaster.ac.uk or see our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec



Kangerdlugssuaq glacier, Greenland. Image courtesy of: USGS/ESA



Extracting ice cores to determine pollutant accumulation in the High Arctic



Glacier - Landscape Interactions: Iceland Field Course