**Polar Ecology Course 2022**

**Course content:**

The course aims to provide students in biology with a comprehensive knowledge of processes and mechanisms in Arctic ecology. Theory sessions, held in České Budějovice for a week in mid-May, covering polar research from various perspectives, including climate, ecology, zoology or botany.

The practical part is held at the Czech Arctic research station on Svalbard. Students will be divided into two groups, four students each. Each group spends one week at the field station Nostoc and one week at the Julius Payer Research station in Longyearbyen.

The aim of the course is both educational and to gain practical field skills. Students will familiarise themselves with different Arctic environments of central Svalbard, including freshwater, terrestrial, marine, glacier and soil. Students will be required to participate in a joint project, study the relevant literature, undergo field and laboratory work, write scientific reports and present their findings. Participation in all activities is mandatory.

**Course goals**:

Students should learn:

- how Arctic ecosystems function on Svalbard

- understand the diversity and selective pressure in different habitats in the Arctic

- fauna and flora of the main habitats

- be up-to-date with the current literature and research in Arctic ecology

- field and laboratory techniques used in the Arctic

- how to prepare for fieldwork in remote areas of the Arctic

- investigate and be able to illustrate the interaction of Arctic organisms with each other and their living environment

- formulate problems, plan and carry out research in Arctic environments.

- conduct projects in the Arctic

- collaborate in a field team

- manage interdisciplinary projects and assignments

**Grading**

- Participation on all parts of the course (theoretical, practical, presentation (mini conference))

- Examination based on the presentation and scientific report

**Schedule**:

Course limit: 8 students

Theoretical part: May 16-21, 2022

Practical part: July: 4-17, 2022 (± 1-3 days according to the flight tickets)