

2017/18

POMOR Newsletter



Issue No 7,

February-March 2018

www.pomor.spbu.ru

Editorial

We're happy to start the second semester with a new, seventh issue of the POMOR Newsletter. The time lapse between the Newsletter #6 and the new one has been rather short, but a lot of things happened in the meantime.

First of all, we said goodbye to the seventh cohort of POMOR. They managed it very well, passed all the exams in Russia and in Germany and successfully defended their master theses. Read more about it on page 5. Furthermore, most of them have already found a job. This is always good news for the program. For more information, please see page 14.

In summer 2017, new students were chosen for the next POMOR group, the eighth one. After a very competitive procedure, 13 students from eight universities were selected by the Admission Committee. They have already completed their first semester, went all together to Moscow to participate in the Arctic Council simulation and after a short semester break (two weeks) started into the second semester, which will last till June. During this time, the field practice has to be planned, a university in Germany has to be chosen and of course a lot of new subjects within the three modules have to be learned. We are very happy that they are with us and we'll do our best to organize a fascinating practice experience for them and to prepare them well enough so that they can choose the right university for them.

We decided to design this Newsletter issue in a different way than the previous six and concentrate on graduates and students only. We'll present the eighth cohort to you (see page 7 ff.), report on the master thesis

defence (see page 5) and the master award of the group 2015-2017 (see page 6), follow up the graduates' progress with their doctoral studies (page 21) and with the support of 2017 give some first hints how to choose a university in Germany for the third POMOR term (page 17).

Furthermore, it's time for POMOR to take the next important step and to be reaccredited by ASIIN for the next five or seven years. The reaccreditation process is as extensive as the first accreditation in 2012. A lot of documents have to be prepared and submitted to the accreditation agency in April 2018, and the audit itself is planned for the summer of 2018 at the Hamburg University. A new accreditation is important for us in terms of education quality, other very attractive parameters for our students, lecturers and potential applicants and of course improvement of the study offer.

We're looking forward to the new semester at Saint Petersburg State University with the partly updated modules 4-6 and new invited lecturers and wish our students interesting lectures and seminars, thrilling places to be during the field practice and much fun in Germany. Hopefully there will be a lot to tell about in the next Newsletter issue.

Please keep your fingers crossed for our reaccreditation by ASIIN!

Nadezhda Kakhro

Content

NEWS AND FACTS 2017-2018	page 3
MASTER DEFENCE 2017	page 5
MASTER AWARD 2017	page 6
POMOR VIII (2017-2019): WHO IS WHO	page 7
POMOR GRADUATES 2017	page 14
YOUR SEMESTER IN GERMANY: HOW TO CHOOSE WHERE TO GO	page 17
PHD FOLLOW UP	page 21
IMPRESSUM	page 26

News and facts 2017

March 2017

- Exams at the German partner universities
- Application for POMOR VIII (2017-2019) is open
- POMOR Open Door Day at Saint Petersburg State University
- Return of the students from Germany to Russia. End of the WS 2016/17

April 2017

- Recognition of course achievements in Germany at Saint Petersburg State University

May 2017

- Dr. Kakhro presents POMOR during the kick-off meeting of the new Russian-German research project "The Changing Arctic Transpolar System" at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St. Petersburg
- POMOR Master thesis Meeting #2 at the Institute of Earth Sciences

June 2017

- Application procedure for POMOR VIII (2017-2019)

July 2017

- POMOR master thesis meeting #3
- Admission 2017: The first ranking lists are online

August 2017

- POMOR graduate 2013 Valeria Kirillova defends her PhD thesis at Bremen University

September 2017

- Welcoming of POMOR VIII. POMOR Orientation Days 2017
- Pre-defence and defence of the master theses 2017

October 2017

- POMOR VII Master Award
- Lectures by Professor Dr. Rüdiger Stein, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research
- Lectures by Professor Dr. Ulrich Bathmann, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende
- POMOR graduate 2011 Valeria Selyuzhenok defends her PhD thesis at the Jacobs University Bremen

November 2017

- Lectures by Professor Dr. Hans Burchard, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende
- Lectures by Dr. Robert Spielhagen, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
- Lectures by Professor Dr. Dieter Piepenburg, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research
- Dr. Kakhro presents POMOR at the 22nd Russian-German Bilateral Meeting within the Agreement on Cooperation in Polar and Marine Research between the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Germany) and the Ministry of Education and Science (Russian Federation) in Moscow

December 2017

- POMOR students participate in the Moscow Youth International Model Arctic Council (MAC-2017)
- Lectures by Dr. Heidemarie Kassens, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
- POMOR Brown Bag Seminar #1

January 2018

- Exam session. End of the winter semester 2017/18.
- Semester break
- POMOR graduate 2011 Ekaterina Kaparulina defends her PhD thesis at the Oulu University, Finland

February 2018

- Start of the summer semester 2018
- Lectures by Dr. Annette Rinke and Dr. Dörthe Handorf, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research
- Seminars by Dr. Heidemarie Kassens, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
- Lectures by Professor Dr. Eva-Maria Pfeiffer, Hamburg University
- Brown Bag Seminar #2

New lecturers in 2017-2018

Module 2:

Course 2.2 Atmosphere - Sea Ice - Ocean Interaction in Polar Regions (shared with Dr. B. Ivanov) – Dr. Annette Rinke and Dr. Dörthe Handorf (AWI)

Module 3:

Course 3.5. Geocology of Polar Regions and Impacts on Ecosystems – Dr. Petr Strelkov (SPbU)

You can download the complete Module Handbook here:

http://pomor.spbu.ru/assets/userfiles/POMOR_Modulhandbuch_20022018.pdf

and find lecturers' CVs here:

<http://pomor.spbu.ru/learning/academic-staff/>

Master theses defence 2017

The defence of the master theses for the seventh POMOR group took place on September 22, 2017. In preparation of this event, during the six month before the defence, the students had several seminars where they presented parts of their theses and their complete talks to their fellow students, supervisors and scientific advisors of the program during six months before the defence day. These seminars were also open for everyone. Traditionally, the defence of the POMOR master theses is held at Saint Petersburg State University.

According to the newest rules, the commission is made up of experts on the related field, preferably from third organizations, and of potential employers. Furthermore, the whole defence procedure has to be recorded in order to clarify possible conflicts or appeals. In 2017, the POMOR defence took place in an accordingly equipped auditorium at the Institute of Earth Sciences with much space so that all the supervisors, graduates, guests and students from related master programs who wanted to support POMOR VII and to see how a master defence is organized could be seated. All talks got positive grades. The average grade for the master thesis was “2.06” (“good”) in 2017.



Tatjana Smelova giving her talk. Photo by N. Kakhro



POMOR VII after the master thesis defence. Photo by N. Kakhro

Master Award 2017

The Master Award Ceremony is something very special for every graduate, but for POMORs it is even more special because they are awarded two degrees. We have the honour to organize this festive event in the Main Twelve Colleges Building of the Saint Petersburg State University. Since 2004, the historical Peter Hall, located on the first floor, has opened its doors for POMOR to testify the success of newly graduated students and to welcome their parents, friends and guests.



Professor Chistyakov, Director of the Institute of Earth Sciences, opens the Master Award Ceremony. Photo by Aleksey Rusakov, Saint Petersburg State University

In 2017, Consul Pietro Merlo, Head of the Department for Culture, Press and Communications of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Saint Petersburg, Professor Jörn Thiede from Saint Petersburg State University, Dr. Heidemarie Kassens, the German Director of the Otto Schmidt Laboratory from the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Professor Eva-Maria Pfeiffer, scientific advisor of POMOR at the Hamburg University, and Professor Georgy Cherkashov, scientific advisor of POMOR

at the Saint Petersburg State University, gave congratulation addresses. Beate Kohlberg, head of the Information Centre of the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD, Dirk Zierpka from the Department for Economics of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Vasily Povazhniy, the Russian Director of the Otto Schmidt Laboratory for Polar and Marine Research at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, POMOR lecturers and module supervisors attended the Master Award ceremony as well.



The newly graduates with their diplomas. Photo by Aleksey Rusakov, Saint Petersburg State University

It has become a wonderful tradition that POMOR alumni from different years and new POMOR students come to the Master Award Ceremony to congratulate the graduates and to see their lecturers. We were very happy to see Dr. Anna Nikulina and Natalia Markova from POMOR I, Dr. Evgenia Bazhenova, Ivan Ryzhov and Alexey Zhelesnov from POMOR III, and to receive congratulation messages from other alumni.



POMOR VIII, III and I Photo by Aleksey Rusakov, Saint Petersburg State University

POMOR VIII (2017-2019): Who is who

The first semester started for the new POMOR group in September 2017 after a strong competition at the SPbU.

Victoria Margieva made a short statistical overview about admission 2017:

Applicants:

27% male
73% female

from 24 regions of the Russian Federation, from Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, European and South American countries

from 22 universities,
30% from Saint Petersburg State University

Enrolled students:

77% male
23% female

from Russia, Germany and Peru

from 8 universities:

- ✓ California State University Long Beach
- ✓ Freie Universität Berlin
- ✓ Hamburg University of Applied Science
- ✓ Kazan Federal University
- ✓ Lomonosov Moscow State University
- ✓ Russian State Hydrometeorological University
- ✓ Saint Petersburg State University
- ✓ Southwest State University Kursk



Photo by Dmitry Pantiukhin



Photo by Dr. Robert Spielhagen

We're delighted to welcome the eighth POMOR group aboard – this time they are truly international! During the second term we have three exchange students from France as well – a very positive experience for the whole group. We're looking forward to spending the next year and a half with them. As the first term is already over and the second one has begun on February 12, 2018, it's time to introduce the new group.



Moin moin! I am **Marieke Junge** and I am from Hamburg. My fascination for the polar regions started some years ago when I was reading book after book about the exploration history of Antarctica. "Endurance" by Alfred Lansing about Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition is my favorite book of all times. I find the extreme weather conditions in polar regions captivating and hold a certain admiration for nature's indomitability. Due to climate change these regions could be destroyed irrecoverably, so I believe it should be one of the highest priorities for us humans today to preserve these fundamentally important ecosystems. To be able to take my share in protecting the polar regions, I applied to the POMOR program. So here I am now, looking forward to starting this adventure and possibly fulfilling my dream of standing on Antarctic ground one day."



My name is **Yana Kirichenko**. I graduated from Saint Petersburg State University, the

Department of Environmental Geology. The first time I heard about POMOR, I was just a first-year student, shy and hesitant. Although I had been keen on polar regions since my childhood, it seemed absolutely impossible for me to become a part of this program. It was one of the most successful decisions in my life to overcome my fear and try to apply for POMOR. In addition to be given a unique opportunity for international collaboration, this program lets people with different specializations implement their scientific interests.

I consider myself to be a rather friendly and peaceful person. I always get inspired by helping animals, they have a special place in my heart. I enjoy painting and reading in my spare time, adore walking outdoors and trips."



I'm **Inga Kitsing**. I grew up in a cultural Russian capital along the shores of the Neva river called Saint Petersburg. I am a recent graduate with a degree in Ecology and Nature Management from Saint Petersburg State University. My great-grandparents and grandparents used to live on Franz Josef Land, conducting research on this incredibly beautiful land. Growing up surrounded by breathtaking stories about the severe Arctic living conditions and its mysterious beauty, has ignited my passion for research in polar sciences. My hobbies include roller skating, video editing and watching movies where

nothing really happens. I also have a passion for travelling and cooking. I am excited about the upcoming POMOR years as well as developing together with classmates coming from different backgrounds.

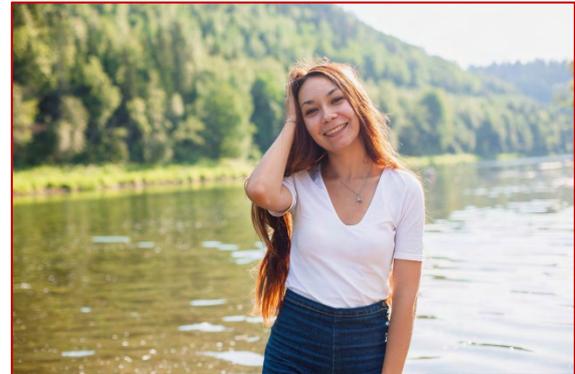


Hi! My name is **Alejandro Tiburcio**. Originally I'm from Lima, Peru, but have always loved adventures. At a very young age I moved to the US to get my higher education.

In 2009 I graduated from the department of Geological Sciences at California State University Long Beach (USA) with a B.Sc. in general Geology, and moved back to my native country to work in the mining industry. After some time I decided for the next adventure and found out about the POMOR master program.

I'm very happy to be part of POMOR because it offers insights into climate change, polar and marine environment and a combination of theory and practice that I consider is very valuable to develop the next generation of scientists. I like the multidisciplinary approach to studies that allows students from different educational backgrounds to expand their scientific knowledge, which in combination with the possibility of engaging in research on state-of-the-art facilities is something that highly

interests me to develop as a more well-rounded professional who can tackle today's environmental and climate challenges from different angles and approaches.



My name is **Farida Mustafina**. I am from Tatarstan. I graduated from Kazan Federal University, Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management with a B.Sc. degree in land management and cadastre. Besides the main study process, I studied in department of international relations and linguistics, and after 2 successful years became a translator.

My student life was always very active. I took part and also organized a lot of entertainment events for students, studied in a journalism school, worked as a head of press-centers and in PR and sponsorship spheres. It was a great time full of emotions and experience

Two years ago I decided to move to St Petersburg and searched for a good and interesting master program, because I wanted to change my sphere of activity. Then I found POMOR program, which renewed my love of natural sciences.

Now there are great amounts of new information for me, and the most difficult, but interesting things are ahead. I hope to stay strong and pass all exams and, what is more important, to find my own place in scientific community.



My name is **Valentina Kubova**. I have graduated from the SPbU, Department of Geoecology and Nature Management. The POMOR program was my dream ever since I enrolled at the SPbU for my bachelor degree. I am really interested in marine studies. In my bachelor years I studied the pollution of marine environments with a focus on bottom sediments, and now I am thrilled to widen my range of scientific interests and find something new, or apply my knowledge to the Arctic region. Being a passionate traveler I cannot underestimate possibilities to travel to very distant places for field practice and to study for a whole term in Germany. My hobbies in life are studying new languages and doing voluntary work at archeological campsites. I feel that the POMOR years will really be great and will change my life, but only for the better.



Hello! My name is **Dmitrii Pantiukhin**. I have graduated from Southwest State University in Kursk with a Bachelor degree in Ecology and Nature Management. I am

very grateful to my teachers who kindled a fire of knowledge in me. Science and especially natural science from my early years aroused my curiosity. Rushing through the thorns of meanings, I went from the natural philosophy to the theory of the noosphere, the beauty and harmony of which absorbed me.

I have chosen POMOR program because I have always been admired by marine explorers. Moreover, I am also very concerned about the changes taking place in the polar regions and how these changes can affect our planet. I'm very impressed with how we can predict the future based on mathematical models and I want to continue moving in this field. And I'm sure that POMOR will lead my path from the darkness to the light of knowledge.



I am **Elena Popova**. I've got a bachelor degree in geoecology in the Institute of Earth Science of Saint Petersburg State University in 2017. With the help of my scientific adviser I concentrated on studying bottom sediments in lakes and rivers and anthropogenic influence on them. Among skills which I used actively during preparation of my final paper I can name chemical and grain size analysis, working in GIS. In my opinion, the very natural way of continuing my education is expanding to marine sediments and other components of the whole marine system. Therefore, entering this program must be a

right step for me. Apart from that, I cannot help mentioning the stuff of the program: high-class specialists from both the Russian and German sides, an opportunity of working with whom one does not want to miss. Another factor that attracted me, of course, is a semester abroad which must be a good chance to get acquainted with the German education system and gain some knowledge in Earth sciences. Speaking about knowledge, we should not forget that lectures are not the only way to get them, field work is important as well. So, I'm looking forward to field work and hope that thanks to POMOR I will get a chance to participate in a real scientific marine expedition at least once.



I'm **Maria Pushkareva**. In 2017, I graduated from the department of Hydrometeorology (Climate Science) at SPbU. During the Bachelor study, I realized that undertaking research on local regions does not appeal to me. My interests lie in investigating climate change on the polar regions and how it affects the whole world. This is a vast area, which can consist of the history of climate to the current economic issues faced due to local disasters and human adaptation. This is why I decided to

apply for POMOR. Besides, the idea of being taught by both Russian and German professors is really exciting. Given the fact that Russia and Europe have vast differences in terms of the way they perceive climate change, it is a great opportunity to familiarize myself with both perspectives and draw my own conclusion from this. I truly believe that I will be able to find myself here at POMOR and apply all the skills necessary for my future career.



My name is **Cynthia Sassenroth**. I am a passionate sailor and a prospective young scientist in the disciplines of polar and marine research. I absolved my bachelor degree in geography at the Freie Universität Berlin, where I already focused my studies on physical geography, glaciology and marine research. After I obtained my degree, I extended my scientific knowledge by working on projects led by the Federal Institute for Material Research and Testing (BAM), Ulster University and the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

The heterogeneity of tasks and problems I faced while I was working at these different institutions were as challenging as the complexity of issues academia need to address and solve when it comes to the

understanding of high latitude environments and their management under the threats and opportunities of climate change. POMOR is addressing these pressing issues in a worldwide unique master program with an interdisciplinary approach and in close collaboration with world leading institutes of the Russian Federation and Germany. I am dedicated to contribute to the professional scientific process of understanding environmental conditions and ongoing trends in the Arctic and Antarctica. I am convinced that POMOR will give me new insights, skills and extensive interdisciplinary knowledge about the function and interaction of fast-changing polar marine environments which will be useful for my career as a scientist.



Hello! My name is **Ksenia Simonova**, I have graduated from Russian State Hydrometeorological University in 2017 and right after this applied for POMOR program. For me the choice was obvious, but I was afraid that I would not make it here.

My life so far was pretty random: all the time I'm making fast and sudden decisions. For example, this was with the choice of bachelor program. I just wanted to pass an exam which won't make me suffer, but enjoy the process of studying - geography. And this is what I did. Unfortunately, during my bachelors on ecology I got much

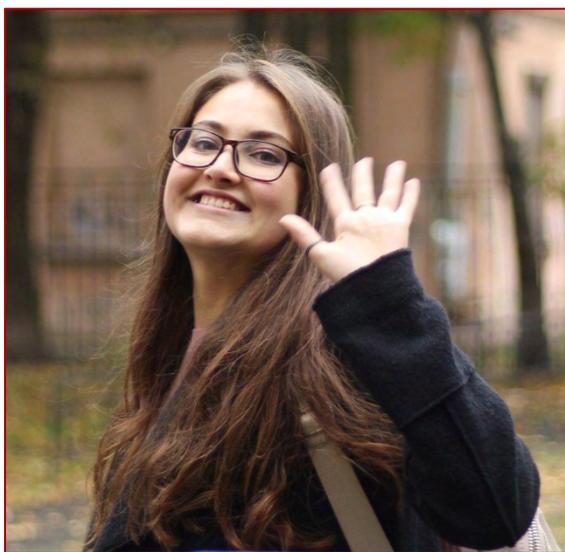
less geography than I expected, but the good point was that I realized that my field is Earth (natural) studies. To fill the hole that made geography absence in my life I joined EGEA (European Geography Association) in RSHU, and it was a great decision - I'm still very active there and feel like this is my second family.

Why POMOR? First of all, this is about natural science! Sometimes I really wonder how my life could lead me to this choice, but I'm extremely happy about it! Secondly - it is taught in English. Nowadays everybody willing to do scientific work needs to know English better, because scientific base is international - this is very important. Thirdly - polar areas. Of course I understood that being an ecologist is too uncertain unless you want to work in office for the rest part of your life. So my choice was the polar areas - so fragile, distant and mysterious. Of course the list of purposes can be endless, but I would stop here not to be too boring:)



Hello everyone! I'm **Daria Tatsii**. I graduated from Russian State Hydrometeorological University, the Department of Applied Hydrometeorology. My bachelor thesis was devoted to the remote sensing of the Arctic weather conditions. That's why my knowledge

about this pristine region refers to the atmospheric issues only. However, the POMOR master program allows me to completely immerse myself into a thorough study of the polar regions. Here I've gained so much substantial info about oceanography, ecology, glaciology and others, that is indeed interesting. I hope to be involved into a group of researchers about the Arctic and Antarctic climate change, since nowadays it is one of the most controversial subjects in scientific environment. Furthermore, the prospects to take part in expeditions and even to become friends with polar bears seem to be an attractive thing. It's a kind of a fabulous adventure, that, I guess, will make me a mature scientist. To be a discoverer is what I've always dreamed about. Hobbies: history, astronomy, drawing, Chinese language, skiing.



Hello everyone! My name is **Nadezhda Zakharova**. I graduated from Moscow State University, Faculty of Soil Science, Department of Soil Biology. In high school I was interested in natural sciences and studied biology, chemistry and ecology in special biological class. My research experience began when I took part in the Olympiad on Ecology and was associated with plant biochemistry and atmospheric

pollution. In the university I studied ecology and environment management. During the work for my Bachelor's thesis I developed interest in unique organisms – Slime molds and their relationships with microorganisms. I chose POMOR master program to expand my abilities as a researcher, improve my English skills and absorb the knowledge of the two best universities in our country. In addition I am interested to continue the study of slime molds in the Arctic region.

VISITING STUDENTS FROM FRANCE



My name is **Nathan BLISCAUX**, 22 and I'm a French student from the engineering school Unilasalle in France, more precisely in Beauvais (North from Paris). I'm very interested in Geology and Geosciences all overall. I'd like to work in the petroleum industry but nevertheless I remain very curious and chose the POMOR master to broaden my horizons and learn more about subjects such as glaciology, oceanography and climatology. Furthermore, the Arctic area is a zone of interest with the climate change and I judged very wise to learn more about it.

Russia is also a country I wanted to explore and the fact that the master has an international character aroused my interest even more. As I lived near Germany all my

childhood and master this language a bit, I knew that the German educational system was performing and it gave me a guarantee of quality regarding this master.



My name is **Chloé Noël**, I'm a 21 year-old student from the university UniLaSalle in Beauvais, in France. I'm currently studying geology and I'm specialized in Geotechnics and Natural Risks. I've applied for the POMOR master because I would like to specialize myself in offshore Geotechnics. In my opinion, this program will provide me knowledge in many subjects, which is necessary to achieve my professional project.

Furthermore, as I've already lived during three years in Russia, the destination really motivated me to apply for this master. This semester is the occasion for me to improve my skills in Russian, and to learn some aspects of Russia that I've not heard about, such as the economic and social issues that go with the exploitation of natural resources.

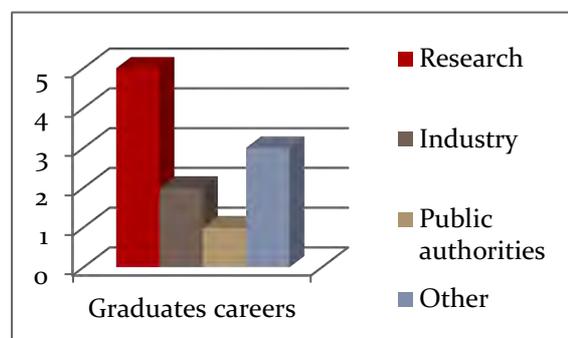
Victoire Lucas

University: Institut Polytechnique Unilasalle Beauvais
 Program: Master in Earth, Geology and Environmental Sciences
 Courses: Specialization in petroleum systems and energy resources
 Fields of interest: Marine Geology, sedimentology, petrology, petroleum systems, research and also the Russian language.

POMOR graduates 2017

Where are they and what are they doing

Usually, the POMOR graduates need from one month to one year and half to find their dream job after graduating from POMOR. We start with the regular survey on what they are doing one year after their graduation. After the master defence and degree award, there is always a very interesting and fascinating time for them – because they're still excited by their success and by the fact that they have the world at their feet – and for us – because we're anxious to know which way they choose to go, and on the other hand, it sets our nerves on edge for the same reason: How long will it take them to find a job? Are they going into science? Did we succeed infecting them with our passion? We're very glad to hear good news from them. This time, three months after their graduation, we asked the 7th cohort how everything is going and we know that for some of them the situation might change, but we're very proud that at the moment it looks like this:



Here are the institutes and companies graduates 2017 are working for (in alphabetical order):

- Deloitte
- Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center
- North-West Institute of Management, branch of The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration
- P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- ROSMORPORT
- Saint Petersburg State University
- Schlumberger
- The Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht

The column “Other” means that the graduates are looking for a PhD position and have a temporary job at the moment.

One graduate is going for one year to military service and he wants to continue in science afterwards.

Some graduates 2017 would like to share their experience after POMOR with us:

Eduard Khachatrian

Hello everyone, my name is Eduard Khachatrian and I have graduated from POMOR VII. Currently I am working in the “Nansen International Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre” as a Junior Scientist in the MetOcean Group.



Photo by Eduard Khachatrian

I had the opportunity to participate in a small scientific trip to Bergen, Norway. I took part in a meteorological project in the Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen. The main goal of this trip was working with Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) outputs to identify the connection between several variables (SST, SIC, AMOC). I spent a month and a half in Bergen, so I had a plenty of time to enjoy the beauty of this city and surely I did not forget about the work and tried to learn as much as possible.

Unfortunately, Bergen is an even more gloomy city than St. Petersburg and Hamburg, but at the same time it is incredibly beautiful with some kind of extraordinary spirit. I hope, next time I will have a scientific trip somewhere with the warmer climate.

Aleksandr Volynets

I graduated from POMOR in 2017. Surely I can say that my life changed, because I am no longer a POMOR student. Despite of master study finishing I haven't yet broken relationships with my alma mater. I am still staying in St. Petersburg and currently I am 3^d year postgraduate student of the St. Petersburg State University. The topic of my study is closely connected with my previous studies and of course my POMOR master thesis. Precisely it is an interdisciplinary research, which includes a junction of GIS, remote sensing, polar hydrology and periglacial landscapes studies.

Additionally to my postgraduate studies I am working in the IT sphere connected with German Telecommunication systems. But for the near future I am intensively looking for PhD positions in the field of geosciences. The scope of my interests is

broad. It envelops landscapes studies using GIS and remote sensing methods.

Vladislav Onopko



Selfie and photo by Vladislav Onopko

I have accepted a job offer from Schlumberger, the department well-services cementation. In my first year, I'll be located in Nefteyugansk. The location should change every year or every two years. Initially I follow a fixed-step training program which lasts three years. I'm supposed to work first as trainee, then as an independent engineer and by the end of the third year I have to defend my own project. At the moment, I'm finishing my fifth introductory course (safety regulations, first aid and resuscitation techniques, IT safety) and am having my first meetings with my supervisor and my manager. The introductory course is held at the Siberian Training Centre in Tyumen.

There are many career possibilities in the company after completing this program.

Mikhail Vladimirov

I decided to go for international relations in science, the international marine law and scientific diplomacy. I'm working at the North-West Institute of Management, branch of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). I deal with the Arctic region. I'm also cooperating with a working group on estuarial regions of the Russian rivers as expert in international law in the framework of a joint project between the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) and RANEPA. The project leader offered me a PhD position as well. I'm writing on my first papers. I'm also invited to hold lectures on international marine law at the AARI.

Kirill Galustov - In the Army now!

I would like to share with you what I am doing now. Unfortunately, or fortunately - I still do not fully understand - I'm in the army, in the navy.



Photo by Kirill Galustov

Firstly, I was shaved and I certainly do not like this hair style. Nevertheless, there is a very interesting positive thing: In my

military document is written that my military specialization is Polar and Marine researcher. It's still strange to be here, knowing that I got such a good education and several diplomas. However, I am sure that all this will not be in vain and I could have some time to think about my further scientific direction. I hope the time will pass quickly and I will learn something new for myself. Good luck to all of you in 2018!

Tatiana Sitnikova

I'm looking for a PhD position. I will take different possibilities into account, from geology and geophysical studies of sediment basins to modeling of Antarctic subglacial relief.

Vitalii Sharmar

I've got a PhD position at the P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, at the Sea-Air Interaction and Climate Laboratory. My doctoral studies in Moscow are not so time consuming as my studies at POMOR. I have only 8 hours per weeks, technical translation from Russian into English and vice versa, and philosophy. Concerning the lifestyle, I don't see any differences between Saint Petersburg and Moscow. As for public transportation, the metro is open from 5 am to 2 am in Moscow. In the past 1,5 months I mastered the WaveWatch III model and apply it for Caribbean-Mexican region. In November 2017 I took part in several conferences in Moscow and in Sevastopol.

Vitalii Samoilenko

I looked for a PhD position and meanwhile have received another job offer. I'm working as a senior specialist at the Federal state unitary enterprise "Rosmorport", department for navigation situation. I'm dealing with monitoring of navigation

equipment: buoys, navigation signs etc. in the Vyborg and Vysotsk waters. So my POMOR is rather marine than polar. My office is located in Vyborg. So I'm living and working in Vyborg.

Alina Karpova

I'm not going to apply for any PhD position at the moment, because I'm completing a project called "Polar Travel Guides" together with the Scientific Information Centre Polyarnaya Initsiativa (Polar Initiative) where I'm working as an expert. Afterwards I'm going to promote and to develop this project and to broaden it to other Russian Arctic cities and even more. At the same time, I'm consulting an illustrator who is painting a thematic map of Spitsbergen Archipelago. So I'm working in temporary projects and looking for a permanent position in the field of my scientific interests. In my future job, I would like to combine natural sciences with the Arctic social geography.

POMOR semester in Germany: How to choose the university

POMOR VII for POMOR VIII

The third term of POMOR is traditionally held in Germany at the German partner universities:

Hamburg University, M.Sc. Integrated Climate System Sciences (max. 8 places)

Bremen University, M.Sc. Marine Biology (only 2-3 places), M.Sc. Marine Geosciences (upon request)

Kiel University, Marine Geosciences

Potsdam, Geosciences/Geology

In contrast to the two first semesters, the third term consists irrespective of the chosen university* of three blocks:

Seminar

• 3 CP

Study Project

• 15 CP

Additional

• 12 CP

and every student is responsible for his/her own personal courses timetable. We offer consulting seminars before the semester starts (usually in March and in May) and advisory service as well. We'll guide you through all the application process, organize visa support, help you with accommodation in Germany etc. For this issue, we've asked our graduates 2017 to share their experience and to answer the key question: How to choose a German university?

*Kiel University offers another structure, please check the Module handbook.

Eduard, spent his third semester at Hamburg University

Hamburg University is clearly suitable for those who are not fully certain about their future scientific direction, because it is not as specialised in comparison with the universities listed. At Hamburg University, there are many interesting courses connected to soil science, meteorology and climatology. Please keep in mind that you can choose courses only from the list which

will be provided. I would not advise you to choose a huge range of courses. Count your powers wisely. It is also better for you to understand in advance that your coordinator is your best friend in Germany and you do not need to hesitate to ask her about everything related to educational issues or even household. I hope you will spend a successful, useful and interesting semester in Germany.

Alina Karpova, spent her third term at Potsdam University

Dear POMOR VIII! I hope these small life hacks will help you to choose your university for the third term. I'll give you an overview about Potsdam University:

1) Periglacial areas

Potsdam University is a really good chance for those who are interested in Geology, Permafrost and also ArcGIS software.

2) Buddy Programme

I recommend you to participate in the Buddy Programme. You will appreciate the help and friendship from your mentor during your stay, especially during the first days. He is your "lifesaver"! He can help you with all the documents!

3) Choosing a course

First of all, you will choose your courses on the website of the university. Hurry up, the number of places is limited, and the registration for courses can be closed very quickly. If you're not sure - ask! And be ready that sometimes your emails will be answered 2-7 days later.

4) AWI Potsdam

The Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research in Potsdam is a perfect place to study

periglacial areas. There you can get an internship if you choose the course "Project Practical. Internship at the AWI". Don't forget to start with it as early as you can. If you're interested in it, begin to choose a laboratory or scientific adviser from the AWI before your arrival in Potsdam.

5) ERASMUS

I suggest you should try to participate in events by ERASMUS exchange program as much as possible. You can join sightseeing, meet a lot of interesting people there and learn languages. Subscribe to their newsletter and choose what you like!

6) The charming Potsdam

Potsdam is an extremely beautiful small city, surrounded by lakes and forests with a big concentration of culture. Visit all palaces and use all routes in Sanssouci Park and Babelsberg park, too.

7) Apartments

If you need additional furniture for your room, you can ask the administrator of the dorm and he can give it to you for free.

PS: Keep in mind all deadlines! And please, don't forget to read e-mails on your personal email for students. Good luck!

Vladislav, spent his third semester in Bremen

Choose your university for the third semester according to your interests. My decision went quasi automatically, because I found a potential supervisor for my master thesis during the first semester and it was obvious that I'll go to Bremen University. Afterwards I understood that it was definitely the right choice. In general, if you want to study Geosciences, go to Bremen or to Kiel.

I would recommend to apply for a summer internship at Schlumberger where I'm working now. They offer internships for one or two months and they are interested in finding new staff. Such an internship is a good opportunity to find a job there after graduation.

Vitaly, spent his third term at Kiel University

It's very important to start thinking about your master thesis during or even before the third semester. So you can choose a university close to your future supervisor. Our group thought for some reason that they can find their supervisors only in Hamburg which is not the case. Ask POMOR graduates and they will tell you that Bremen, Potsdam and especially Kiel where I studied offer great opportunities.

Tatjana, Kiel University

When I faced this problem to which university to go to in Germany at year two of POMOR studies, I possessed nearly no doubts. There were reasons for my strong assurance. Firstly, I had already understood that I want to focus on marine environments, on marine geology to be precise. Secondly, Kiel University was recommended by alumni as the exact place to go with my interests. I spent my third, German semester in Kiel. I could say frankly it was a challenging time. Subjects were not as general as the first year's subjects at SPbU, when we had an overview on polar zones. If you choose to go to Kiel, be prepared to dive in marine geology subjects. Expect marine biogeochemistry, marine isotope systems, petrology, and coastal geology subjects. You will need to take quite a significant number of modules as you will need credit points. Also be prepared to have rather a lot of exams in a short period of time. However, despite all

of these difficulties I have never regretted that I chose to study in Kiel. I found a great scientific advisor there and the subject I worked on really interested me.

There are a few recommendations I could share from my side now:

- Think of what you want to do, which particular area attracts you most
- Check university offers, which subjects you could do in each of them
- If you approximately know or have an idea on your master thesis topic, think where are the best facilities for implementation of your plan
- If you met German lecturers and think you could possibly work with them on your master thesis, check which university they are coming from
- Do a little research about each university to have an impression on them

Don't hesitate to contact POMOR alumni with your questions on universities. Even with questions like where to live and what to do in German towns.

Aleksandr Volynets, Potsdam University

If somebody wish to get knowledge in specific subject, that can be gained only in one single university there is no matter. If not, this is not a simple issue. I suppose that primarily a choice of the university is determined by the scientific interest. Thus, first of all I would recommend to ask lecturer/professor, who teaches the most interesting subject for you (if there is such one), or can be your possible scientific supervisor about the German semester. Anyway, POMOR partner universities in Germany have some specification, for example orientation on the terrestrial or

marine geography and geology, or they offer special opportunities, which could help you to meet a right choice.

I chose the University of Potsdam, and I think that it was right decision due to several points. The university offers challenging courses in the field of periglacial environment, paleoclimate, terrestrial and extraterrestrial geology. Additionally, there is a useful possibility to make an internship and master project in the leading German institutes situated in Potsdam. As for me I took this opportunity and started to prepare my master thesis at the Alfred Wegener Institute. A comprehensive introduction program for the international students was also especially useful.

Of course, there are several extra items, that influenced on my choice. Firstly, the possibility for the further language learning. University of Potsdam offers many language courses for free. Secondly there is a long list of sport activities in Potsdam but you should to be agile, to choose the best one for you. Thirdly there is no critical issue (in comparison with other cities) with inexpensive dorms situated not far from very modern university campus of natural science. Honestly, Potsdam is cheaper than other proposed cities

The last but not the least is the location of the university. Potsdam, situated just southwest of Berlin (30 minutes by the train from the center), is very nice small and quite city, but at the same time the capital of Brandenburg and the former summer residence of Prussian monarchs. You can find there many delightful parks and palaces, interesting museums. Finally, the student card allows to get Berlin or Poland for free.

Tatiana Sitnikova, spent her third semester in Potsdam

I would like to share my study experience from the semester in Germany. Probably it will be helpful for the future POMOR generations.

1. It was said that the most difficult and intensive studies with lots of math are in Hamburg University.

This is not fully correct, at least in terms of the programs offered. In Hamburg the CLiSAP program is adopted for the international students with different background. In Potsdam University all the students (with very rare exceptions) are from Germany and in vast majority of cases they continue exactly in the same field they study before during 3-4 years.

Geoscience division in Potsdam University belongs to the mathematical faculty, and majority of courses imply very strong knowledge of math and physics. It is better to be prepared if students go there.

2. Students are also expected to have good knowledge of GIS and to have knowledge of MATLAB and Linux. All German students in our groups used this software before.

3. 12 credit points for the internship at the AWI can be obtained not only for the practical work at the AWI, but also at the GFZ or work at the University of Potsdam. I highly recommend to arrange the internship in advance if possible. To arrange/find an internship is a full responsibility of the student.

The quality of education was great and I'm glad and thankful for the opportunity to study at Potsdam University and the POMOR program.

PhD degrees: a follow-up

Status: Winter 2018

To continue the monitoring of the PhD defence development among POMOR graduates in POMOR Newsletter issues #5 and #6, we're very glad to inform you that another two PhD theses were defended in 2017 and one in 2018. Besides, we learned that Anastasia Poliakova, POMOR IV (2009-2011), successfully defended her PhD thesis in autumn 2015 at the University of Göttingen (topic: The late Holocene history of vegetation, climate, fire dynamics and human impacts in Java and Southern Kalimantan. Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hermann Behling, Albrecht von Haller Institute for Plant Sciences, Department of Palynology and Climate Dynamics, University of Göttingen). That means that 15 POMOR graduates hold a PhD degree. Meanwhile, we expect a new wave of PhD submissions in 2018, mainly from POMOR V (2011-2013) and partly from the previous POMOR groups. Please find below an overview about the current status.

Defended in 2017-2018:

January 2017

Sofya Antonova (POMOR IV, 2009-2011)

Thesis topic: Using high temporal resolution X-band radar imagery time series for the permafrost monitoring with ground truths observations in the Lena Delta, Siberia

Supervisors: PD Dr. Julia Boike, Dr. Birgit Heim, AWI Potsdam

Institution: Heidelberg University

See POMOR Newsletter #6

August 2017

Valeria Kirillova (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: Late-Pleistocene - Holocene deglaciation history in the Baffin Bay from radiogenic isotope provenance studies.

Supervisors: Simone A. Kasemann (MARUM), Friedrich Lucassen (MARUM), Claude Hillaire-Marcel (UQAM, Montreal)

Institution: Bremen University

October 2017

Valeria Selyuzhenok (POMOR IV, 2009-2011)

Thesis topic: Laptev Sea and East Siberian Sea Fast Ice distribution and variability

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ruediger Gerdes, AWI

Institution: Jacobs University Bremen

Valeria lives in Saint Petersburg and works at the Nansen International Environmental and Remote Sensing Center. Moreover, she got a job offer at the Department of Cartography of the Institute of Earth Sciences at the Saint Petersburg State University immediately after her PhD defence. In the upcoming semester, she will hold seminars on GIS there.

January 2018

Ekaterina Kaparulina (POMOR IV, 2009-2011)

Thesis topic: Eurasian Arctic ice sheets in transitions - consequences for climate, environment and ocean circulation.

Supervisors: Prof. Kari Strand, University of Oulu, Prof. Juha Pekka Lunkka, Oulu Mining School, University of Oulu

Institution: Oulu Mining School, University of Oulu, Finland.



Valeria Kirillova after her successful defence with her doctoral cap. Photo by Valeria Kirillova



Valeriia Selyuzhenok (l) as a Dr. rer.nat. with her fellow student from POMOR Sofya Antonova (r) Photo by Sofya Antonova



Ekaterina Kaparulina with her supervisor after the defence. Photo by Ekaterina Kaparulina

Expected submissions in 2018 (in alphabetical order)

Kseniia Ashastina (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: The end of the Pleistocene tundra steppe - interactions between vegetation, climate and large herbivores in Beringia

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Christine Roemermann

Institution: Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Expected submission: Spring 2018

Max Boxleitner (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: Lateglacial and Holocene glacier development and landscape evolution in Central Switzerland

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Max Maisch, University of Zurich, CH, Prof. Dr. Susan Ivy-Ochs, LIP, ETH Zurich, CH, Prof. Dr. Markus Egli, University of Zurich, CH

Institution: University of Zurich

Expected submission: 2018

Daria Elkina (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Alexey Piskarev-Vasiliev

Institution: Saint Petersburg State University, Institute of Earth Sciences

Expected submission: 2018

Veronica Emetc (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: A statistical calving model for Antarctic ice shelves

Supervisors: Dr. Paul Tregoning

Institution: Australian National University

Expected defence: Summer 2018

Olga Kovaleva (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: Эволюция береговой зоны восточной части Финского залива в голоцене (Evolution of the coastal zone of the Eastern part of the Finnish Gulf during Holocene, in Russian)

Supervisor: Dr. Darya Ryabchuk, A.P.Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI)

Expected submission: End of 2018

Irina Kryukova (POMOR IV, 2009-2011)

Thesis topic: Phytoplankton of the Laptev Sea in autumnal seasons 2008-2014: composition, distribution and environmental forcing

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Yelena Polyakova, Moscow State University (MSU)

Institution: MSU

Expected submission: Not specified yet

Mikhail Mednik (POMOR IV, 2009-2011)

Thesis topic: Estimating total phosphorus concentration in surface coastal waters in the Gulf of Finland using Landsat satellite imagery

Supervisors: Dr. Marina A. Kustikova, Saint Petersburg National Research University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics (ITMO University), Elena Kunaeva, A.F. Mojaiskiy Military and Space Academy

Institution: ITMO University

Expected submission: Not specified yet

Tamara Trofimova (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: Annually resolved reconstructions of the variability of the Norwegian Atlantic Current based on growth chronologies of bivalves

Supervisors: Dr. Carin Andersson Dahl, Uni Research, Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, Prof. Dr. Audrey Geffen, Bergen University, Dr. Michael Carroll, Akvaplan-niva, FRAM- High North Research Centre for Climate and the Environment, Prof. Dr. Alan Wanamaker, Iowa State University

Institution: Bergen University

Expected submission: End of 2018

Anastasia Zhuravleva (POMOR IV, 2009-2011)

Thesis topic: Meridional temperature gradients between the polar and tropical North Atlantic during the Last Interglacial cycle

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Martin Frank, GEOMAR, Dr. Henning Bauch, AWI

Institution: CAU

Expected submission: 2018

Funding and partner organizations:

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Saint Petersburg State University
Hamburg University
Bremen University
Christian Albrechts University Kiel
Potsdam University
Hamburg University of Technology

Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute
Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre
for Polar and Marine Research
GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean
Research Kiel
Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research
Warnemünde
Otto Schmidt Laboratory for Polar and
Marine Research

Abbreviations

AARI	Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute
AWI	Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research
BMBF	Federal Ministry of Education and Research
CAU	Christian Albrechts University Kiel
EGU	European Geosciences Union
FU Berlin	Freie Universität Berlin
GEOMAR	GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean Research Kiel
IOW	Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde
Minobrnauki	Ministry of Education and Research of Russian Federation
NIERSC	Nansen International Environmental and Remote Sensing Center
OSL	Otto Schmidt Laboratory for Polar and Marine Research
RAS	Russian Academy of Science
SPbU	Saint Petersburg State University
TUHH	Hamburg University of Technology
U HB	Bremen University
U Potsdam	Potsdam University
UHH	Hamburg University
VNIIO	All-Russia Scientific Research Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean named after I.S. Gramberg
VSEGEI	A.P. Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute

Impressum

Editor-in-chief: Nadezhda Kakhro nkakhro@geomar.de

Proofreaders: Karen Volkmann-Lark, Christian Horn

Cover photo by Tatjana Smelova

www.pomor.spbu.ru

GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Wischhofstr. 1-3 24148 Kiel, Germany

Everybody is invited to join Editorial Board and/or to be independent author. Please send your ideas, criticism etc. to Nadezhda Kakhro