

03/2020

POMOR Newsletter

Magazine of the Russian-German Master Program for Polar and
Marine Sciences POMOR // Issue No. 8



www.pomor.spbu.ru

Editorial



2020 and the summer semester are in full swing*, and it's time for us to share our news with the POMOR community.

During the time passed since the last issue, POMOR had its daily routine with all not-routine activities, highlights, challenges and achievements, positive and less positive moments. We would like you to join us on a short journey through these moments of our POMOR life.

In 2018, POMOR was reaccredited by ASIIN e.V. at Hamburg University for the next seven years (see page 4). The first international accreditation ran out in 2017, and it took us a while to apply for reaccreditation. We consolidated our efforts with our partner program Integrated Climate System Sciences from Hamburg University and were successful. We thank all partners, lecturers, graduates and students for their great support!

The POMOR VIII students, who started in 2017, completed their two first semesters in Saint Petersburg and their field practice and spent one semester in Germany. They were lucky to have a broad variety of field practice places – expeditions aboard AKADEMIK TRYOSHNIKOV and POLARSTERN, internships at the AWI and GEOMAR, at the CSIR National Institute of Oceanography in Goa, at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam and an excursion to the Ötztal Alps, Vernagtferner glacier with Bremen University. This experience seems to be one of their most significant impressions during POMOR. In 2019, they successfully defended their master theses and graduated. On page 8 they answer our farewell questions and share their thoughts about their study time and afterwards.

Saint Petersburg State University doubled the number of available study places for POMOR so that the application season 2019 was quite hot for the Admission Committee (see page 12). Today, POMOR has a big group of highly motivated students and exchange students. They started in October 2019 and are completing their second semester at the moment. They introduce themselves on page 13.

As every two years in spring, we are planning the program for the POMOR field practice, looking for available places and contacting our partners to find fascinating field practice opportunities.

Furthermore, the upcoming semester in Germany requires appropriate preparation, from funding to the tiniest details such as the students' stays at the German partner universities.

There are some challenges we have to cope with, but we are happy that there is a lot to do for POMOR and we are looking forward to new semesters and new experiences.

Nadezhda Kakhro

**When I started working on this issue, Corona already started spreading in China, but common people like me living far away from the first affected region only listened to the terrible news, sympathizing deeply with the people in the affected areas, but our anxiety for our own health was still limited. Now, a couple of weeks later, business trips have been cancelled, borders have been closed temporarily. I'm working from home and planning with my colleagues how we can avoid chaos and help lecturers and students to be in touch even when at home and to establish ways of online communication. I thank all members of the POMOR community for their flexibility, patience, optimism and their great support.*

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News and facts 2018-2020

September 2018

- Reaccreditation by ASIIN e.V.

POMOR applied in spring 2018 for reaccreditation by the accreditation agency ASIIN e.V. at Hamburg University. The reaccreditation process for POMOR and the partner master program Integrated Climate System Sciences (ICSS) at Hamburg University started in April. The audit (so called on-site inspection) took place in Hamburg on September 5, 2018. An expert commission from the agency interviewed the program administrators, students, graduates, lecturers, visited relevant university facilities used by ICSS and POMOR and spoke to the university and faculty authorities in order to evaluate both master programs. POMOR was represented by its scientific advisors Prof. Dr. Eva-Maria Pfeiffer and Prof. Dr. Georgy Cherkashov, director of the Institute of Earth Sciences and leader of the 6th module Prof. Dr. Kirill Chistyakov, lecturer of the 1st module Prof. Dr. German Leitchenkov, coordinator of the M.Sc. Marine Geosciences at Kiel University Dr. Nina Keul and POMOR program coordinator Dr. Nadezhda Kakhro. Prof. Dr. Bodo von Bodungen, Prof. Dr. Hans Burchard and POMOR students and graduates took part in the interviews by the expert commission. The expert commission was satisfied by the progress achieved since the first accreditation in 2012.



1. POMOR representatives during the audit at Hamburg University

October 2018

- Semester start at the German partner universities. POMOR VIII students arrive in Germany

December 2018

- POMOR presentation at the 23rd Bilateral Working Meeting within the framework of the Russian-German Agreement on marine and polar research in Rostock

January 2019

- ASIIN e.V. issues accreditation certificates. POMOR is accredited until 30 September 2025

February 2019

- POMOR VIII take exams at the German partner universities

March 2019

- 5th POMOR student conference at GEOMAR

POMOR VIII met in Kiel at the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. The students presented the results of their field practice aboard RV AKADEMIK TRYOSHNIKOV (Expedition TRANSDRIFT XXIV, Russian-German research project The Changing Arctic Transpolar System CATS), RV POLARSTERN (Expedition PS 115/2) and at the following institutes: GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel (Russian-German research project CATS), Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research (Russian-German research projects CATS and QUARCCS) Bremerhaven and Potsdam, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, CSIR National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa, India, and at the Christian Albrechts



2. POMOR VIII at GEOMAR

University Kiel. POMOR VIII shared their experiences at the German partner universities, discussed the 4th term of the studies, the upcoming master's thesis, and went on a guided tour of GEOMAR.

- End of WS 2018/19. POMOR students return from Germany to Russia.
- Application call for POMOR IX (2019-2021) is open
- POMOR Open Door Day at Saint Petersburg State University

April 2019

- POMOR at the International Arctic Forum in Saint Petersburg

Dr. Heidemarie Kassens and Dr. Nadezhda Kakhro participated in the 5th International Arctic Forum held in Saint Petersburg on April 9-10, 2019. Dr. Kassens was invited speaker in the session "Arctic researcher's dialogue". In her talk, she presented the Russian-German research project The Changing Arctic Transpolar System (CATS), the Otto Schmidt Laboratory for Polar and Marine Research and the Master Program Polar and Marine Sciences POMOR.



3. Heidi Kassens at the IAF in Saint Petersburg

May 2019

- Open lecture by Prof. Dr. Jan Harff (University of Szczecin)

July 2019

- Cynthia Sassenroth (POMOR VIII) presents POMOR during the opening event for the "Russian-German Roadmap in Education, Science, Research and Innovation" in Berlin
- Signing of a new POMOR cooperation agreement between Hamburg University and Saint Petersburg State University

August 2019

- Pre-defence and defence of the master theses 2019

September 2019

- POMOR presentation at the 24th Bilateral Working Meeting Within the Framework of the Russian-German Agreement on Marine and Polar Research in Arkhangelsk



4. POMOR Master theses defence 2019

October 2019

- Semester start for POMOR IX (2019-2021). POMOR Orientation Days 2019
- POMOR Master Award 2019
- Lectures by Dr. Robert Spielhagen, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

November 2019

- Lectures by Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Stein, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research
- Lectures by Prof. Dr. Dieter Piepenburg, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research
- Lectures by Dr. Annette Rinke and Dr. Doerthe Handorf, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research
- Dr. Heidemarie Kassens presents POMOR at Berlin Science Week

December 2019

- POMOR was presented during the joint workshop of the Russian-German research projects “The Changing Arctic Transpolar System” (CATS) and “Quantifying Rapid Climate Change in the Arctic: Regional Feedbacks and Large-Scale Impacts” (QUARCCS) “Towards a New Arctic Climate System” held at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Saint Petersburg on December 2-6, 2019. Dr. Nadezhda Kakhro gave a keynote presentation about the interaction of POMOR VIII (2017-2019) and these two Russian-German research projects.
- Lectures by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bathmann, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende
- Lectures by Prof. Dr. Hans Burchard, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende

January 2020

- Examinations. End of the winter semester 2019/20.

February 2020

- Start of the summer semester 2020.

March 2020

- Lectures by Prof. Dr. Wolf-Christian Dullo, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

New team member in Saint Petersburg



We're happy to welcome a new member in our POMOR team, Aleksandra Shadrina. She is responsible for the POMOR secretariat at Saint Petersburg State University. Aleksandra graduated from the Institute of Earth Sciences (M.Sc. Cold Region Landscapes Integrated Sciences (CORELIS)), Saint Petersburg State University. She took part in several polar expeditions as a member of the hydrological team: to Antarctica (2018 - 2019), Svalbard Archipelago (2017), Lena River Delta (2017), Karelia (2016), Yakutia (2015) and Yamal Peninsula (2014). Aleksandra participated in different international conferences and she knows the polar science community. She is looking

forward to being a part of the POMOR community and we are very happy that this active early career scientist will lead the POMOR secretariat in Saint Petersburg. Welcome on board!

Changes in the curriculum WS 2019/21 & SS 2020

New lecturers

Module 2, course 2.1 Oceanographic measurements and data analysis – Dr. Roman Smagin (SPbU)

Module 6, course 6.4 Periglacial water bodies, river runoff and basic types of antropogenic influence on water bodies of polar land (shared with Dr. I. Fedorova, Dr. T. Potapova, and Prof. V. Vuglinsky) – Dr.

Lyudmila Lebedeva (<http://pomor.spbu.ru/learning/academic-staff/lyudmila-lebedeva.html>)

All lecturer´s CVs are published here: <http://pomor.spbu.ru/learning/academic-staff/>

You can download the complete Module handbook here:

http://pomor.spbu.ru/assets/userfiles/POMOR_Modulhandbuch_19072019.pdf

Courses postponed / cancelled

Core Module, Soft Skills by Dr. Heidemarie Kassens is shifted from March 2020 to May 2020

Module 3, course 4.5. Processing and analysis of geophysical data by Dr. Ali Dehghani is shifted from February to March 2020

Module 5, course 5.1. Statistical analysis of spatial data (Geostatistics) is cancelled and will be replaced

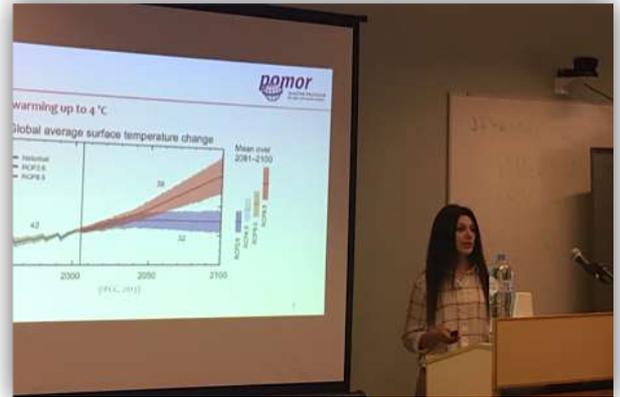
Module 6, course 6.1. Periglacial environment systems and climate change by G. Grosse is cancelled

Corona situation

Due to the worldwide pandemic situation, most lectures will be held online. We will keep you informed.

Master theses defence 2019

After 22 weeks and uncountable hours of working in the lab, reading literature, discussing with the supervisors, doing experiments and models, practicing the final talk in the lecture hall or in front of the screen via Internet conference, writing, formatting, printing out and binding they finally did it. The POMOR master defence took place at the Institute of Earth Sciences of Saint Petersburg State University on August 30, 2019. The examination committee consisted of experts from Hamburg University, Moscow State University, VNIIO, SEVMORGEO and IOW chaired by Dr. Vladimir V. Ivanov (Moscow State University). 11 students out of 12 presented their master theses, which covered diverse topics in natural sciences, economic and social sciences. The average grade for the master's thesis was "1.4" ("good") in 2019.



5. Daria giving her talk during the MT defence

Master award 2019

POMOR Master Award 2019 took place on October 16, 2019 in the Great Conference Hall of Saint Petersburg State University. Professor Kirill V. Chistyakov, Director of the Institute of Earth Sciences, and Professor Eva-Maria Pfeiffer, scientific advisor of the Master program POMOR at the Hamburg University and Director of the Institute of Soil Science, handed over the master diplomas to the graduates. Professor Georgy Cherkashov, scientific advisor of POMOR at Saint Petersburg State University, and Dr. Nadezhda Kakhro, POMOR coordinator from GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for



6. POMOR Master Award 2019

Ocean Research Kiel, gave congratulation addresses. Dr. Heidemarie Kassens (GEOMAR) and Dr. Vasily Povazniy (AARI), both directors of the Russian-German Otto Schmidt Laboratory for Polar and Marine Research sent their congratulation messages from aboard RV PROFESSOR MULTANOVSKY. Mrs. Ute Katzsch-Egli, Head of the Department for economics of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Saint Petersburg, Mrs. Beate Kohlberg, head of the Information Centre of the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD in Saint Petersburg, POMOR lecturers and module supervisors and POMOR alumni from different years and new POMOR students attended the Master Award ceremony as well. We wish our graduates 2019 all the best on their way after POMOR.

POMOR graduates 2019

They celebrated their graduation only a couple of months ago and most of them have already found a job. By the end of November we asked them to share with us their current job situation regarding their expectation and reality. The graduates 2019 had to choose one of three characteristics of their current employment situation:

- a) I have the job I dreamt of
- b) I have a good job, but I'm looking for my dream job
- c) I'm looking for my dream job

The results a/b/c are shown here:



One of the 5 who has chosen the answer **a** is Farida: *“I think I have found my dream job. I work in “VNIIOKEANGEOLOGIA”. I fell in love with this institute since our first excursion there during POMOR orientation weeks and wanted to work there after graduation. Finally, my dream came true and I work there under the guidance of my former scientific adviser”.*

Most graduates are working in academia and aiming at a PhD position, one has already a PhD position.

These are employers of POMOR VIII graduates:

- Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Saint Petersburg, Russia
- Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt / German Aerospace Center, Berlin, Germany
- ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- VNIIOkeangeologia, Saint Petersburg, Russia

We asked the graduates 2019 to answer five questions:

- (1) It has been almost 6 months since you graduated from POMOR. How does it feel?**
- (2) Your most impressive experience at POMOR?**
- (3) Your biggest personal achievement during or after your studies?**
- (4) How did you decide where to spend your semester in Germany? Have you ever regretted your choice? Why (not)?**
- (5) Looking backwards, which advice could have helped you to make more out of your POMOR time?**

Farida Mustafina:



(1) It has been almost 6 months since I graduated from POMOR, and I miss my university days so much! Now I am focused only on one topic at my work, whereas at POMOR we studied different things every day. Of course I have gained new experience and knowledge during these 6 months, I feel that I became more independent and grew up. However, I'm still looking for any opportunity to visit our POMOR office and spend time with the new POMOR students, coordinators and secretary. I even miss the classroom and the atmosphere over there. Yeah, I'm a perpetual student!

(2) The most impressive experience, related to POMOR, was my field practice - one unforgettable month in Goa. Before POMOR I never even thought about such an opportunity. I think, during this month I gained more practical experience than during the first year of POMOR in general. There I found my perfect topic of research, professional communications and trained my English skills intensively.

(3) When I was at school, I never dreamed of living and studying in Saint Petersburg, much less of studying abroad. However, I had the good fortune that I enrolled in POMOR, studied in Germany and in the end was awarded two Master degrees. People around me see how much I have achieved and changed over this time, even if I don't notice any of these changes. However, of course I feel that I've become a sought-after specialist and improved my English. I've never been an honors student in our POMOR group, sometimes I felt that I wouldn't be able to manage to finish the studies, that the studies are too hard for me, but after all I handled, could write and defend an excellent master's thesis with the help and support of my advisors, coordinators and groupmates. Besides, I've got a lot of new knowledge in different research areas and useful communications around the globe. The biggest and the most important

achievement after POMOR is that I've found the job that I wanted, which is exactly related to my research topic.

(4) Of course, the main criteria to choose the university in Germany was the study program. As my topic of research was not fully covered by any university, I tried to choose the one that would be most useful for my career in the future. For my thesis I needed to study economics and law, i.e., social sciences, and these were covered by the program "Integrated Climate System Sciences" at Hamburg University. Moreover, it was a good chance to learn something new for me, like sociology, climate communication, outreach, as well as technical disciplines, like GIS, programming, etc. During this semester in Hamburg I had some problems, of course, as I was living in a place new to me, but I've never regretted that I chose Hamburg University. Hamburg is a very big city, there is a lot of opportunities to spend your time and have fun. The education level in the university is really high. Besides, coordinators from the university always were glad to help us.

(5) I guess, I should have known my groupmates better and communicated more during our studies in POMOR. After the graduation we made even better friends with some people than during POMOR times. Besides, I should have participated in more conferences and other scientific activities. These could help to make up my portfolio. In general, I would like to advise the new POMOR generation to live these two years to the fullest.

Cynthia Sassenroth:



(1) POMOR was a great experience and I am glad that I had the chance to take part in such an interesting and future-oriented degree. Being a member of the POMOR family was a big part of my past two years. My educational path during my master was marked by new challenges and opportunities, new friends, and loads of newly gathered knowledge. I am certainly missing the quick forward-pushing pace of POMOR. But now, after I finished my degree I hope to be able to push science one day as quickly forward as POMOR pushed me during my degree!

(2) & (3) My greatest achievement and experience during my studies was to participate in the RV POLARSTERN expedition PS115/2. In a six-week-long expedition to the central Arctic Ocean I was able to get first-hand experience in taking and analyzing deep-sea sediment samples from one of the most remote, and therefore least researched areas of our planet. Although the work on deck was tough and often physically demanding, this unique experience has strengthened my resolve to follow my chosen career path in the future.

(4) After one year of studying in Saint Petersburg I chose to spend my third semester at Bremen University in the field of Marine Geosciences. The courses offered there gave me the opportunity to strengthen and advance my knowledge in marine geology even further. Furthermore, it gave me the chance to work closely with the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) in Bremerhaven and I even had the rare chance to get a glimpse of the core collections of the International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP) at MARUM, which are truly stunning! I enjoyed to participate in the courses I have chosen, as they have been very practice oriented.

(5) Looking back, I wish to have had more previous knowledge of the Russian language before I came to Russia. Certainly, this would have made a lot of trivial daily tasks, like going to the grocery store or filling "заявления" (request) forms from the study office more easy. But I will keep up with improving my Russian and I hope to get further opportunities to practice in international projects with Russian colleagues in the future.

Elena Popova:

(1) I cannot help but admit with a certain sadness that life during POMOR was more fun than it is now. The bar was raised high and it is no wonder that now everything is a little bit pale. With POMOR adventures were coming naturally while now you need an effort to create them, at least in my case. For the last couple of months I have been working at VNII Okeanologiya; lithological and mineralogical sediment data management is among my duties that I enjoy - it is still grain size studies which I became interested in already during my bachelor. Yet, I miss the creativity of individual research and hope to start as soon as possible. It seems like much initiative considering science is needed here. Of course, there are some advantages such as participating in expeditions, and now I am looking forward to the next one.

(2) The first thing that comes to my mind is the expedition to the Arctic Ocean. It was a unique experience, and I do not think it could have been possible without POMOR. I do not really know what was so special in it, probably just impressions I could not compare with anything that had happened to me before. I sincerely hope that it was not the last time I had a chance to participate in something so great. The problem is again to keep your life on that level, which is hard after such an experience.

(3) It is hard to choose one big achievement, I rather had several small ones, here are a couple of them. First, I can emphasize the improvement of my public presentation skills which we mastered during the whole year in Russia. It was hard for me, that is why I appreciated the intensive practice in that field. The second thing I am proud of is the successful master's thesis defence and excellent grades from my supervisors and reviewer: high evaluation by experienced and competent people makes you think that all this effort was worth it and you can make a real contribution to science eventually.

(4) For me it was very easy - the university came along with the supervisor I automatically was assigned to by participating in an expedition. It was very lucky and I was happy to have studied at the University of Bremen. Its program Marine Geosciences is deservedly popular for giving the knowledge necessary to every student interested in this field. I was more than satisfied by the course choice: there were not many to choose yet it was easy to pick a couple that fit my research interest perfectly. Moreover, I valued the possibility to perform the analysis for the thesis in laboratories of the well-equipped AWI only half an hour away from the city; and isn't it great to be so close to the people you cite? I really appreciate the German working atmosphere, attitude and order - and financing of science. The city of Bremen itself is a factor of attraction with its old city center, lines for bicycles (that is what I miss most in Saint Petersburg!) and developed transportation connection with other cities.

(5) I do not regret anything, but what I can recommend to the students is to be more communicable and take the most out of every possibility and person you meet during POMOR including your stay in Germany. Many (if not all) things people do now are based on cooperation, so you increase the chance of being involved with interesting projects simply by communicating with a larger amount of people.

Valentina Kubova:

(1) It feels like I have not yet found a way to apply my knowledge, experience and soft skills at their fullest.

(2) The field practice onboard RV AKADEMIK TRYOSHNIKOV was the most impressive part of the study process.

(3) I think, completing and defending a master's thesis feels like the biggest achievement.

(4) Based on the proposed subjects and availability of the program. I enjoyed the program in Kiel pretty much, but still sometimes wished I could have gone to Marine Geosciences in Bremen (where I could

not go as I did not have an agreement with any professor to take me into the program) as there were a few subjects that would suit my interests more.

(5) To learn some German (especially while in the native environment); in Kiel specifically not to miss the deadline to apply for the German language courses; not to take courses on more than 35-37 credits (which I still did out of pure panic); to buy a bike and enjoy the lifestyle.

Ksenia Simonova:



(1) Right after POMOR finished I was surprised how much spare time there is! But it didn't last long: almost right after graduation I was officially elected as a president of the European Geography Association for students and young geographers (see page 21). That was my plan for the upcoming year. I knew it would take a lot of time, so I didn't even plan to search for a job. However, I got an offer that I couldn't say "no" to: working in the field as an ecologist. While I was studying for my bachelor's degree I realized that this kind of job would be the only one I could do in the field of ecology, besides going into scientific research. And here it comes so surprisingly! So currently I don't have that much time, and I am extremely happy to be that busy right after the university!

(2) Of course, the years at POMOR were outstanding, I was enjoying every day of the studies. However, the one memory for my entire life would be participation in the expedition ARCTIC 2018 to the East Siberian and Laptev seas. It was amazing to feel the Arctic, the place we had been studying for 1 year already, and be a part of a team of scientists, explore different studies in practice and simply be right there, on the icebreaker, with great people!

(3) One of the best memories for me is working closely with scientists of the Alfred Wegener Institute during my semester in Potsdam, Germany. It was a great opportunity to get more knowledge about GIS and Arctic plants, but the most important was to see how German scientific institutes operate and hear all the opportunities one could take in the scientific world.

(4) I was choosing between only two universities: Hamburg and Potsdam. I wanted to focus on permafrost and apply my GIS knowledge to the studies. The best opportunities for that were in Potsdam, where I went eventually. However, I didn't manage to do research on permafrost (the course was in German that year): most of my courses were dedicated to GIS, and I did my student project (Arctic vegetation dependence on snow cover) at the AWI which later turned out to be my master's thesis. I have never regretted it even though there were no other POMOR students there. It was a great time, and also a nice reason to travel and meet POMOR friends in all the other cities!

(5) Always ask questions, this is always beneficial to you! And another important one: enjoy the time you spend with POMOR, this is going to be a special chapter of your life!

Yana Kirichenko:



(1) Time flew by so quickly. This period was very productive and eventful for me. I enjoyed a new chapter of my life and feel genuine gratitude for the opportunities I was offered due to POMOR.

(2) Apparently, my answer is not unique. The field practice was the most impressive experience for me. We got a chance to participate in the expedition "ARCTIC 2018" and spent over a month on board RV AKADEMIK TRYOSHNIKOV.

(3) Fortunately, I managed to find a particular field of study that fascinates and inspires me to immerse myself completely into my research. I truly consider this to be my key personal achievement. I always remember the immeasurable contribution of the people who taught and supported me. But it was my choice of discipline which was made independently and helped me to move persistently towards my

aims.

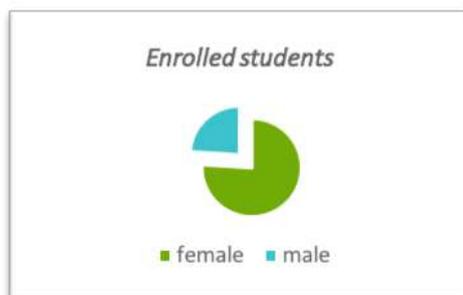
(4) I chose Kiel for my semester abroad based on the offered study program that perfectly matched my scientific interests. I have never regretted my choice since Kiel University and GEOMAR enabled me to implement all my plans and to obtain extensive knowledge and skills in my specific area.

(5) I am highly satisfied with my POMOR time, and I would not change anything. I can just give some advice that might be useful for new students: follow your own path even if a goal seems unattainable, believe in yourself, and never forget to have fun and enjoy your time. Good luck!

Application call 2019

The POMOR application call 2019 took place in the spring and summer of 2019 according to the rules and regulations by Saint Petersburg State University.

Some things were new for POMOR: Saint Petersburg State University increased the number of state funded study places for POMOR from 10 in 2017 to 20 in 2019 and opened the call with 20 state funded study places and 5 study places with tuition fee. According to the statistics made by the Admission committee, over 100 bachelor holders from 32 regions of the Russian Federation, from India, Spain, Canada, Germany, China, Ukraine, UK and Pakistan from more than 40 universities applied. After a written entry exam and a strong portfolio competition, 25 students were elected for POMOR.



From 11 universities:

Guangzhou Maritime University
 Lomonosov Moscow State University
 Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology
 Philipps-Universität Marburg
 Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration
 Russian State Hydrometeorological University
 Saint Petersburg State University
 Tomsk State University of Control Systems and Radioelectronics
 University of Barcelona
 University of Guelph
 University of Tehran

and from six countries (Canada, China, Hongkong/UK, Iran, Russia and Spain).

We are very happy to welcome the new, ninth POMOR group on board and wish them success and fun!



7. POMOR IX during lectures by Robert Spielhagen

Please meet the ninth group and exchange students joining them on the next pages.

POMOR IX (2019-2021): who is who

Anastasiia Frolova

My name is Anastasiia Frolova and when I was a child I fell in love with the ocean. Because of that I graduated from Saint Petersburg University, Institute of Earth Science, with a bachelor degree in Oceanology. I'm interested in physical oceanography and remote sensing. The theme of my bachelor's thesis was "Antarctic circumpolar current as a waveguide for Rossby waves". In the department of oceanology, we have a really active and interesting life. During my studies I took part in a project of RFFI, participated in different conferences and summer schools. Due to my field practice I have worked at the Marine Hydrophysical Institute in Sevastopol, scientific base "Belomorskaya" in the White sea. Moreover, I participated in the Halmer Hanssen cruise with the scientific group of the University of Tromsø and visited Svalbard. All this has made me understand that I want to continue to study the World Ocean and Pplar regions. So now I'm here.



Liubov Krainova



I am a molecular biologist. I wrote my bachelor's thesis at the Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences under the guidance of Professor Alexander Rodionov. We investigated the origin of several polyploid oat species based on the data obtained by NGS sequencing methods. The North is a source of inspiration for me. I am interested in researching the biodiversity of the Arctic phyto- and zooplankton and how their communities are affected by current climate changes. In my leisure time I play Go, Chinese chess.

Vadim Zinchenko

Hi there!

My name is Vadim and I'm from Saint Petersburg. When I graduated from the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (Department of Oceanology), I realized that doing modeling of ocean processes isn't enough for me and I wanted to get a greater understanding of Earth System processes. Thus, I found POMOR as a program which provides knowledge from different fields of Geoscience. After the master program I would like to make the next step in my science career and to apply for a PhD in climate modeling. All my spare time I like to spend with my friends, travel, play some music or just sit alone and code some hundreds lines of code. If you have any questions or have ideas to share, feel free to send me an e-mail!



Ekaterina Zotova



I researched the microclimatology of Svalbard during my work at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in the Department of interaction between ocean and atmosphere. Furthermore, I took part in the expedition TRANSARCTICA 2019 aboard RV PROFESSOR MOLCHANOV as a meteorologist.

Leili Shehretovna Tivaldyeva

My name is Leili Tilvaldyeva, I'm currently enrolled in the Marine and Polar Sciences (POMOR). Prior to starting my master studies, I completed my bachelor in geography at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. I would say that I am a very outgoing and charismatic individual. I believe that I have a purpose to discover something great and/or contribute something incredible to the scientific community. Until I do so, I am very enthusiastic to work with and learn from brilliant minds, to further broaden and strengthen my education. In my spare time, I enjoy catching up on international issues and events that touch on subjects such as economy, environment, sustainability, and development. This past summer I volunteered with the Riverwood Conservancy in Toronto. I believe that giving back to the community is an important aspect of growth and development of an individual. Outside of my studies I'm an avid swimmer, I've competed nationally for Canada and was a member of the University of Guelph's Varsity Swim Team. Swimming has given me the opportunity to travel the world and meet new people. By travelling, I was able to develop a sense of wonder on the world's different environments and ecosystems. Travelling has given me the opportunity to be aware of my surroundings and be part of a process of discovery. Learning and being part of the natural environment develops an important connection to and appreciation of the natural world. The most exciting aspects of learning and being part of nature are the unexpected research results that may occur. Apart from my interests in learning, swimming and travelling, I enjoy hiking, puzzles, riding my bike, dancing and drawing. My favourite food is pasta and my favourite dessert is cake. Last but not least, I believe that there is always time for a good cup of coffee.



My intent on joining the Saint Petersburg State University POMOR Master's program is to better understand the impacts and implications of interdependent interactions between humans and nature on the environmental systems of the polar regions. These systems are fragile and sensitive, and therefore require a network of scientists to collaborate in ensuring the conservation, health and resilience of our polar regions. The POMOR program is the ideal learning environment for this.

Arina Sashanova



Hello! My name is Arina! I've graduated from the Russian Presidential Academy of Natural Economy and Public Administration with a B. Sc. in International Relations. I have many reasons why I chose POMOR.

First of all, during my undergraduate years, I have developed a strong interest in the Arctic. Subsequently, I decided to write my bachelor's thesis about the cooperation of non-Arctic states with the Russian Federation in the Arctic. After this research experience, I was able to conclude that I would benefit from obtaining more knowledge about this region in order to enrich my professional skills in this area.

Altogether, I am convinced that the POMOR Master Program is a unique and thus crucial link between the experience I have gained during my undergraduate years and the research I am planning on doing in the future.

Yulia Kazachkova

My name is Yuliya Kazachkova. I graduated from Saint Petersburg State University and got a Bachelor degree in Hydrometeorology, my area of specialization is climatology and meteorology. At the university I acquired great knowledge in the field of physics and dynamics of the atmosphere, climatology and oceanology. The topic of my graduation project is "Meteorological support of sustainable operation of wind turbines in Russia". During these four years I was interested in analyzing the prospects of wind turbines development.



I am from Murmansk originally. It is a small Russian city beyond the Arctic Circle. I think that fact was one of the things that pushed me to enter POMOR to acquire knowledge in the field of polar research. I believe POMOR provides me with the opportunity to acquire new skills and to study abroad.

Now, I am not sure about my future career, but I have a strong motivation to solve environmental and energy issues in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Changjia Li



Hello everyone!

I am 2019 POMOR student Li Changjia. I'm from China. I am a ship engineer graduated from Guangzhou Maritime University. I wanted to change my field so I chose to study at POMOR. I was born in the north and I like the cold. What's more, I would like to challenge myself to be a scientist in the field of 'How species can survive and thrive in cold environments'. I believe that it will be good for us to better understand this and know how we can survive in space. So that's why I have chosen POMOR. I want to learn biology and ecology in the future. I love a lot of things, music, art, science, new technologies and so on. I hope everyone can achieve his wishes!

Natalia Alekseevna Tebenkova

I love mountains and glaciers. It comes from my hobbies – rock climbing, mountain tourism. From the age of 12 I've spend almost every weekend in nature. So I fell in love with geography. During my 2nd year at Saint Petersburg University I got interested in glaciology and since my 3rd year I have been working with my supervisor Alexey Ekaykin from AARI. I'm studying snow accumulation in Central Antarctica at Vostok station and other properties of snow. For example, my final project was about densification of snow. In addition, I'm a trainee in the Climate and Environmental Laboratory (CERL) at the AARI. My duties in the lab include measurements of isotopic composition in water, snow and ice samples collected in various regions of Russia, the Arctic and Antarctica, on the Picarro laser analyzer. I also love music, sing and play the guitar, to design clothes and help organize events. Nice to meet you!



Wilson (Wai Yin) Cheung



Greeting from the polar regions!! My name is Wilson (Wai-Yin) Cheung from Hong Kong. Since 2011, I have been working as a polar expedition leader in extreme remote areas for over 1000 field days. Besides, I am the director of Polar Research and Expedition Consultancy (PERcon, <https://www.preconsultancy.com/>) to service as a professional consultancy agency for polar exploration. Within POMOR, extremely distinguished members and partnerships operate on world-class research infrastructures in both the Arctic and Antarctica. I feel that this program will make me uniquely suited for polar geosciences from a highly academic and interdisciplinary perspective. To further my career aspirations, I would like to dedicate myself to scientific exploration by joining international polar research projects after this program. By achieving a better understanding of the relevance of the polar system, I also hope to bring more awareness for the conservation work of the poles, by educating the public and encouraging conversation on exploring the unknown at the poles as well as other planets.

Anastasia Gavrilova

I was born in the small town of Tynda in the Amur region where the normal temperature in winter is -50°C, that is why I decided to connect my life with the North and polar regions. Why geology and geomorphology? What else? I defended my bachelor's work at the SPBU in the Department of geomorphology and paleogeography. In the POMOR program I would like to study paleogeography, marine sediments, river systems in polar rivers. In my spare time, I'm really interested in rock climbing and trekking (especially in the autumn and winter seasons, I love it dirty and cold)) and read as many books as I can.



Kseniia Saikovich

Cheerful, kind, active and purposeful – it is all about me. I am fond of hiking, kayaking and cycling. I love my friends and songs around the campfire. I chose POMOR to study the seas and oceans and to learn to speak fluent English. But I'm freezing, so I'd like to move in a southern direction.



Anna Kil



Hello! My name is Anna Kil'. I'm from Irkutsk. I graduated from the Russian State Hydrometeorological University. I am an ecologist and I want to develop further in the field of polar and marine research. I am also on distance learning at Nord University in the direction of «The Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies». In addition to science, I am interested in music, used to sing in the choir and now sometimes play the guitar. I am also interested in cinema and like to read fiction. I have many scientific interests and I truly believe that I will be able to find myself at POMOR.

Alena Sakovich

Hello! My name is Alena, and I am a POMOR IX student.

I am from Russia, recently I graduated from Saint Petersburg State University as a bachelor in Environmental sciences. I have chosen POMOR as a continuation of my academic path because this is a great master program for ecologists who want to work on urgent environmental problems of polar and marine ecosystems. Now I have opportunities to investigate different issues related to climate change, and to go deeper into marine biology. I am extending my knowledge and skills from my previous education, and I am very excited about this! I hope that POMOR will be a good start for me as a scientist in marine ecology and biology, as well as allow me to be close to the nature of beautiful places on Earth during field practices.



Saeed Ebrahimnezhad Darzi



Salam (= hello, in the Persian language)

I am Saeed Ebrahimnezhad, coming from Iran, a country in the southern part of the Caspian Sea. I think I was so lucky for finding POMOR, a unique program that gives you whatever you need to launch your postgraduate studies with high quality and an international perspective. This program will provide you a comprehensive and at the same time up-to-date scientific background in marine science with an emphasis on polar regions, which has been presented by outstanding Russian and German researchers. I selected it because I am interested in understanding the nature of life and marine ecosystems in high-

latitudes of our ever-changing Earth. My priority in research is the biodiversity and dynamics of marine benthic communities. I hope to apply my knowledge in basic research to unravel some aspects of the mysterious pattern of life in cold waters of this globe. In my free time, I enjoy reading scientific books, and running and swimming are the two most interesting activities.

Shad va salamt bashid (=wish happiness and health for you, in Persian)

Anastasiia Ovchinnikova

My name is Anastasiia Ovchinnikova. I graduated from the Department of Geomorphology, Institute of Earth Sciences, Saint Petersburg State University. My diploma work was about the geological and geomorphological factors that affect the accident rate of pipelines in the northern states of the USA. Now my scientific interests include marine geology and sustainable exploitation of mineral and hydrocarbon resources in the Arctic region. That is why I have chosen the POMOR program. I also like to travel and explore the world, therefore I am strongly involved in



projects of the Russian Geographical Society such as the archaeological and geographical expedition in the Tuva Republic and the environmental education camp in the National Park 'Losiny Ostrov'. In addition, I enjoy photography and reading classic literature. I hope that during my studies at POMOR I will be able to participate in scientific expeditions, to develop my professional (especially practical) skills and to make friends!

Julia Kudryakova

I graduated from Tomsk State University in 2019, in Ecology and Nature Management. I studied water quality, made up environmental programs for a company, and also studied global warming. I love life and everything interesting! If I'm interested in something, then I completely immerse myself in this topic. Lately, I got interested in the warming of the Arctic. I hope I will get in touch with the ice!



Nil Rodés i Llorens



I am a committed and enthusiastic student from Barcelona. I have a BSc in Marine Science from the University of Barcelona, and I am embracing extra-curricular university activities in support of the marine sciences. I have a lot of interest in the polar regions and its fast changes due to the climate change. I also love field work, and this is why I also participated in a course on the environmental change of the high Arctic landscape at the University Centre in Svalbard. I am eager to continue learning and to absorb as much knowledge as possible in the pursuance of the goal to become a polar marine scientist, and I believe that the Master Program in Polar and Marine Sciences at Saint

Petersburg State University is the best way to start.

Polina Tselykh

I graduated from the Faculty of Soil Science, Lomonosov Moscow State University, specialty ecology and environmental management, Department of Soil Geography. After graduation, I worked in the company Ecostandard group as a logistics administrator of the department which is engaged in the ecological expertise of real estate (as B2B as B2C). There was a lot of work. I was engaged in the selection of equipment for the technical task under the contract, monitored the condition of the equipment, was engaged in the transfer of equipment, coordination of equipment with B2B customers and preparation of business trips of specialists, preparation of documents (technical conditions, passes to all objects, necessary certificates, documents for equipment, etc.) and other issues. Besides this, we all helped and replaced each other if it was necessary, so I have valuable experience in telephone conversations with clients, communication with different colleagues, multitasking, and teamwork in stressful conditions. I am interested in the popularization of science. I also love mountains, the ocean and wildlife. Until now, I have been actively working with friends in the project Russian travel geek (see page 19). I really love listening to music (very different styles, I can choose a playlist for any situation and mood). I decided to join POMOR because I am interested in developing in natural science, especially in the international environment. I love extreme environments and oceans, and this program brings it all together. I also believe that the vast scale of the ocean and its relatively small degree of research provides great prospects for interesting and effective scientific work. And I really want to get the experience of studying abroad.



Alexandra Krikunova

Hello, my name is Alexandra Krikunova, I am from the island of Sakhalin, which is located in the Far East of Russia. I have received my bachelor's degree in geomorphology in the Institute of Earth Science of Saint Petersburg State University. With the help of my scientific adviser, I focused on climate and vegetation reconstruction in the polar regions during the Late Pleistocene-Holocene. I collected and studied the buried soil on the Onega-Ladoga Isthmus and the bottom sediments of Kamenistoe Lake (Kola Peninsula) with methods



of pollen analysis, loss on ignition and radiocarbon dating. During this two-year program I hope to extend my knowledge in methods of climate reconstruction, improve my English, build valuable connections and make a lot of friends. Furthermore, I have an incredible passion for travelling and thus far I have journeyed to fifty-five countries. I hope to increase that number during my studies in POMOR.

Anastasiia Pashovkina



The subject of my scientific interest is coloured dissolved organic matter (CDOM) in the Arctic water objects. During the time I was getting my bachelor's degree, I wrote several articles as co-author and took part in some scientific conferences, which was a great start for me in the scientific field. Generally, I always try my best to know something new in different spheres of science and life, broaden my mind, get useful experience and meet new people. In my free time, I enjoy reading fiction books and sometimes writing short stories of my own. Also, I like traveling a lot. Talking about sport activities, I am really fond of visiting Zumba and dancing classes.

Exchange students

Ching-Fu Pan

I'm from Taiwan and I'm an exchange student. I will study at POMOR program for 1 semester. I'm interested in polar research and the polar ecosystems.



André Semadeni



I'm André, a 23-year old exchange student from Zurich, Switzerland. Nature with all its beauty and complexity fascinates me. And as humans, we are part of it, therefore, protecting it is also protecting us.

Amélie Pinson

My name is Amélie PINSON, I'm a French student from UniLasalle. I am currently doing a master in earth sciences with specialization in mines and quarries. I decided to joined POMOR summer semester 2020 to learn more about arctic regions and to discover a new field of study. I wish to learn a lot and perhaps discover a new personal subject of interest.



Léon Foucault



My name is Léon Foucault and I am french. I am doing a POMOR spring semester at SPbU as an exchange semester within my 5 years studies in geosciences, UniLaSalle Beauvais, France. I love geology and cold environments such as those from high altitudes, that I already know, or those from high latitudes, that I want to discover, this is why I am doing this semester. Better understanding the arctic through its natural processes, ecosystems and resources will help for a better management in the context of climate change. My professional project is to specialize in mineral resources and maybe in polar regions. For me, this semester allows me to study interesting things with big issues for our future.

Mohamad Hossein Shavandi

My name is Mohamad Hossein Shavandi, I am from Iran, and I study in the last semester of my bachelor degree at the University of Tehran on Water resources management. I am working as an environmentalist and climatologist at my university and am really interested in doing research about climate change and its simulation models and also its impact on glacier melting.



Russian Travel Geek: sciences and travel by Polina Tselykh



8. Temperature measurement before sampling. RTG expedition to Kamchatka 2016.



9. Lecture in the RTG expedition 2018



10. Crossing the river on one of the expedition days in 2017

Russian Travel Geek is a symbiosis of science and travel. The founder of the project is Artyom Akshentsev, ecologist and hydrobiologist. He wanted to do research in a way that allowed him free access to the object of research, and shared his scientific knowledge with interested people.

A team of young scientists (ecologists, geologists, ornithologists, entomologists), employees of nature reserves and popularizers of science organizes events and expeditions. Tourists who join expedition groups finance them. There are different expedition types:

- You can join a research expedition and help the scientist with sampling, thus solving the issue of financing his fieldwork
- You can go on a popular science expedition led by science popularizers and scientists and get to know what the scientific view of the world is (lectures and courses are offered). You will gain new competencies and get access to the most interesting places on the planet
- You also have the opportunity to choose a job in a reserve and help the employees of protected areas in their important and difficult tasks (of course, there is no escape from lectures)
- You can take part in one of the RTG camps and festivals, getting all the things that our club is known for in a concentrated form.

My story

My story with the RTG began far away, on Kamchatka. I had always dreamed of the land of volcanoes and in 2016 I joined an expedition organized by the Russian Travel Geek to Kamchatka. I was studying at the Moscow State University, Faculty of Soil Science, and I was interested in the ecosystems of extreme conditions. During the expedition, I started taking samples with the hope that one day I would

continue my scientific studies of Kamchatka's thermal springs. In this expedition, I found a lot of friends and a community that I like. The expedition guides, one of whom was the founder of RTG, appreciated

my interest in science and hiking skills (I have been hiking since childhood) and also saw me as a friend and invited me to lead an expedition to Kamchatka in 2017. So I became a part of the RTG and continued to study ecosystems of extreme conditions in Kamchatka. Now, I have walked hundreds of kilometers with the RTG, four field seasons in Kamchatka, Sayan mountains and a couple of sea crossings in the Mediterranean sea and the Atlantic, a B.Sc. thesis on "Formation of soil-like bodies (soloids) in the thermal springs influence area on the example of the Apapelian springs (Kamchatka peninsula)" on the basis of samples which I collected during the expeditions with the Russian Travel Geek. For me, working in the RTG team is not a full-time job, but a lifestyle and a serious hobby. Now I am studying Polar and Marine Sciences at Saint Petersburg State University. I want to do science and marine research, but at the same time, it is very important for me to share knowledge. In the future, I plan to create scientific-popular tours to the polar regions, talk about amazing and unique ecosystems, develop eco-tourism and cooperate with specially protected natural areas.

How to become a guide of the RTG? This is a question you often expect to hear from young promising and energetic scientists. You need to have experience in hiking and a good physical condition, ideas for research or popularization of science on the tours, interesting popular science lectures, be an organizer and just feel comfortable in our community. For more information you can visit our website <https://russiantravelgeek.com>.

EUROFLEETS 2020 by Nil Rodes

From 19 to 25 February 2020, I participated in the EUROFLEETS+ Floating University in Cork, on the South Coast of Ireland.

The course named "Mapping the Ocean Floor: An Introduction to Practical Aspects of Hydrographic Surveying" held at the University College of Cork (UCC) and onboard RV CELTIC VOYAGER, provided us with a direct approach to the methods and procedures that are needed to develop a hydrographic survey. The course consisted of a two-day workshop at the UCC where we were taught some basics of marine geology and geophysics. With these basics we were able to go and work on the vessel and plan a survey for seabed mapping.

After that, we spent three intensive days working onboard RV CELTIC VOYAGER in the port of Cork, the second largest natural port in the world. There we acquired bathymetric data, multiple sound velocity profiles and CTD for the proper calibration of the data, and sediment and fish samples for groundtruthing.

At the end of the course, we went back to the UCC where we processed the data acquired with specialized software to make proper data visualizations.

During this week, we got the opportunity to get to know Cork and its surroundings, taste its gastronomy, enjoy the Irish pubs and learn a little about the history of the South of Ireland. All in all, it has been a fantastic experience that has helped me to improve my bathymetric survey skills.



11. RV CELTIC VOYAGER in Cork's port before starting a new working day



12. Concentration faces while trying to process the bathymetric data acquired during the survey. Sitting in the campaign laboratory onboard RV CELTIC VOYAGER

I want to thank all the passionate professors from INFOMAR (Marine Institute and Geological Survey Ireland), the course coordinators, the other students and the RV CELTIC VOYAGER crew party for making this fantastic week possible. Also, I would like to acknowledge the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme for giving funds for organizing the course.

Ekaterina Ponomarenko from POMOR VI also participated in a EUROFLEET expedition in June 2014 within her field practice. She was a member of the marine geology group and was responsible for Boxcorer Subsamples cutting, sewing and drying, Calypso piston core subsamples sewing and drying, Boxcorer upper 2 cm layer sampling and planktic/benthic foraminifera ratio counting.

On the top of EGEA

An interview with Kseniia Simonova



13. Management team of EGEA

Ksenia graduated from POMOR 2019 and became President of the European Geography Association for students and young geographers (EGEA) at the same time. During her POMOR studies, she completed a field practice aboard RV AKADEMIK TRYOSHNIKOV under supervision of Dr. Heidi Kassens and wrote a master thesis on the “Effects of snowmelt on vegetation dynamics in the Lena Delta for 2000-2018 using remote sensing (Landsat, Sentinel 2, MODIS)” with Prof. Ulrike Herzs Schuh, Dr. Birgit Heim and Dr. Irina Fedorova

as her supervisors.

NK: You are now President of EGEA. What does your daily routine look like? Do you have an office?

KS: No, I am working remotely in a small team of four people from Czechia, Germany, Belgium and Estonia as Board of the whole Association. So my office is at home in Saint Petersburg, and from time to time we all meet to plan current plans and the future development of the Association. Daily president life is mostly replying to multiple emails each day, dealing with grant application and reporting, making sure the team of the Board are working well and performing their duties on time, as well as dealing with other tasks.

NK: Your 100 days are already over. Which challenges have you faced and which positive things have you experienced?

KS: I am not a pure extrovert, so for me setting up communication was a bit tricky. But after trying several ways of handling it, we came up with the best option now. For me it is quite tricky to keep in touch closely without seeing people for such a long time. But now it seems like everything works great! For now the most exciting thing was hosting a meeting of the Board in Saint Petersburg. I really like showing people around my city, cooking traditional dishes and just sharing highlights of life in Russia! But the more time passes, the more exciting our meetings are. In April I am preparing to go to an EGEA congress in Romania, where we all will meet again.

NK: Which possibilities does your organization offer to students of Geosciences?

KS: Each year there are five scientific congresses where people can lead a workshop or participate in one of them. Personally, I prefer participating in them - you can study such fields of geography you have never studied. However, leading workshops is a great experience as well: during my POMOR studies I decided to apply as a workshop leader for a congress organised by EGEA Malta. It was dedicated to geomorphology of the islands and marine area management. Besides that, there are multiple opportunities to get to know different cultures by attending 3-7 day-long exchanges, thematic events and other activities.

For those who would like to develop soft skills and other personal qualities there are plenty of opportunities as well: trainings, symposiums, administrative work, event organisation... Moreover, there are no restrictions about starting up new projects - everything is possible here.

All in all, EGEA is a nice place for people with a passion for geography: sharing knowledge, making friends all around Europe and getting more overview information about what one can do within the field of studies are the highlights for me!

NK: Do you still have time for another job, connected to science?

KS: Yes, I do! I am working as an ecologist in a company performing various kinds of investigations. My tasks include going to the fields to examine soils, plants and landscape, writing reports on these investigations and making maps. This job takes most of my time, to be honest, but then I simply plan less time for sleeping and everything is done on time eventually:)

NK: During your study time, you participated in a number of conferences and events. How did you manage to combine a quite stressful POMOR schedule with these other activities?

KS: I have become used to travelling a lot for almost five years already. I am always prepared to do extra work before and after my absence from the university. In most cases professors do not mind if I skip a lecture. The secret is to keep the travels short - in this case it is was easier to study everything you have missed. And the other important thing is having great people in a group, who could always help if you do not understand something by studying on your own!

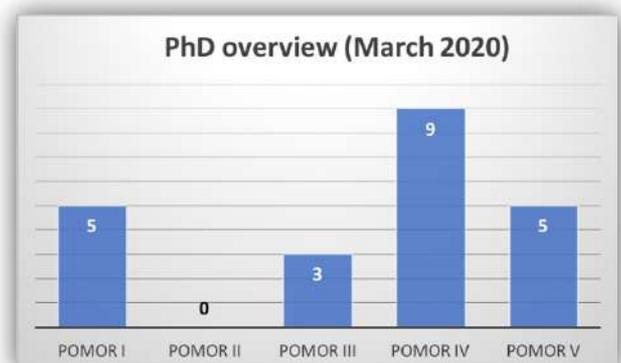
NK: What would you wish the current POMOR group?

KS: Looking back, I understand that university is a very important stage of life. But something that is also important - to get knowledge from every opportunity in your life. If you hear about a conference that you would like to join - don't say "no" to it just because you will have studies in university. Just save the dates and don't look back, use this opportunity while you are a student. Maybe you will share the knowledge from that conference once you are back? Maybe you can find a dream job there? You never know what happens tomorrow and what role it plays in your life: bring diversity and take everything you can from your life!

POMOR PhD degrees: a follow-up

In December 2019 and January/February 2020 we updated the POMOR alumni data base and monitored the career development of the graduates, and among other things, the situation with their doctoral theses.

All in all, 22 out of 111 graduates 2004-2019 have achieved a PhD degree – in Germany, Russia, Norway, Finland and Australia. From the POMOR groups I – V, the graduates of the group IV (2009-2011) achieved more PhD degrees. In comparison with POMOR III and V, it was a rather bigger group as well (21 students in POMOR IV, 10 in POMOR V and 13 in POMOR III).



In 2020/2021 a new wave of submissions of PhD theses is expected from the groups V (two candidates) and VI (6 candidates). We keep our fingers crossed that everything goes smoothly and in time!

The 2017 and 2019 graduates need some more time for their doctoral studies. Five 2017 graduates (POMOR VII, 2015-2017) out of 13 are PhD students in Russia, Germany and in Norway. They have at

least one year left until planned submission. The 2019 graduates (POMOR VIII) are on the best way to doctoral studies – some of them do already have a PhD position, some are looking for one. We will keep you informed.

In alphabetical order:

Anna Akimova (POMOR I, 2002-2004)

Thesis topic: Understanding the spatiotemporal recruitment dynamics of commercially important fish species in the North Sea

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Myron Peck, Prof. Dr. Marc Hufnagl

Institution: Hamburg University

Submitted and defended in January 2018

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

Submitted and defended in September 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, Prof. Dr. Susan Ivy-Ochs, LIP, ETH Zurich, Prof. Dr. Markus Egli, University of Zurich,

Institution: University of Zurich

Submitted and defended in January 2019

Alexey Buiniy (POMOR VI, 2013-2015)

Thesis topic: Impacts of fronts on detachment of waters from the boundary current and consequences for their lateral spreading within the subpolar gyre of the North Atlantic

Supervisors: Dr. Dagmar Kieke, IUP / MARUM, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany

Prof. Dr. Paul G. Myers, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Institution: Bremen University

Expected submission: 2020/2021

Daria Elkina (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Alexey Piskarev-Vasiliev

Institution: Saint Petersburg State University, Institute of Earth Sciences

Expected submission: 2020

Veronica Emetc (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: A statistical calving model for Antarctic ice shelves

Supervisors: Dr. Paul Tregoning

Institution: Australian National University

Submitted and defended in 2018

Evgeny Ivanov (POMOR VI, 2013-2015)

Thesis topic: Numerical modelling of the hydrodynamics and sediment transport in the Southern Night of the North Sea

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Marilaure Grégoire & Dr. Arthur Capet



14. Anna Akimova with Prof. Marc Hufnagl, Prof. Myron Peck and PD Dr. Thomas Pohlmann

Institution: University of Liège
 Expected submission: 2020

Liliya Khatmullina (POMOR VI, 2013-2015)

Thesis topic: Microplastic particles in sea water
 Supervisor: Prof. Irina Tchubarenko, Atlantic branch of Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS
 Institution: Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS
 Expected submission: May 2020

Olga Kovaleva (POMOR V, 2011-2013)

Thesis topic: Evolution of the coastal zone of the Eastern part of the Finnish Golf during Holocene, in Russian
 Supervisor: Dr. Darya Ryabchuk, A.P.Karpinsky Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI)
 Expected submission: 2020/2021

Anna Kudriavtseva (POMOR VI, 2013-2015)

Thesis topic: Interactions between erosion, deposition and deformation in the Issyk Kul basin, Kyrgyzstan
 Supervisor: Prof. Edward Sobel (Potsdam University) and Dr. Alexandru Codilean (University of Wollongong)
 Institution: Potsdam University
 Expected submission: 2020

Mariia Petrova (POMOR VI, 2013-2015)

Thesis topic: Sources and processes governing mercury cycling in a changing Arctic Ocean
 Supervisors: Dr. Lars-Eric Heimbürger, Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography, Dr. Cédric Garnier, PROTEE laboratory.
 Expected submission: May 2020

Ekaterina Ponomarenko (POMOR VI, 2013-2015)

Thesis topic: Reconstructions of environment changes in Baltic Sea sub-basins in Holocene conditioned by Northern Sea waters based on benthos foraminifera data
 Supervisor: Dr. Leyla D. Bashirova, Atlantic branch of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology RAS
 Expected submission: 2020

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
 Submitted and defended in 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 Kiel
 Submitted and defended in 2018



15. Anastasia with the Annette Barthelt Prize certificate

For her doctoral thesis, Anastasia was awarded the Prize for Marine Research of the Annette Barthelet Foundation. The Prize is awarded in the memory of victims of the terrorist attack in 1987 in Djibouti, East Africa and rewards outstanding work of young marine researchers. In her doctoral thesis, Dr. Zhuravleva used marine sediment archives to investigate climatic conditions during the last warm period with temperatures higher than today. The obtained knowledge deepens our understanding of future climate development and can also be used to test numerical climate models. Dr. Zhuravleva is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Academy of Sciences and Literature in Mainz.

List of photographs

Cover photo by Nil Rodes

1. POMOR representatives (left Prof. Lars Kutzbach, Hamburg University, Prof. Kirill Chistyakov, Saint Petersburg State University, Dr. Nadezhda Kakhro, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Prof. Hans Burchard, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende, Prof. Georgi Cherkashov, Saint Petersburg State University, Prof. Eva-Maria Pfeiffer, Hamburg University, Prof. German Leitchenkov, Saint Petersburg State University) during the audit by ASIIN e.V. at Hamburg University. Photo by Nadezhda Kakhro
2. POMOR VIII at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. Photo by Heidi Kassens
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12. Concentration faces while trying to process the bathymetric data acquired during the survey. Sitting in the campaign laboratory onboard RV CELTIC VOYAGER. Photo by John Boyd
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15. Dr. Anastasia Zhuravleva, Miriam Seifert (AWI) and Prof. Dr. Christian Dullo (GEOMAR). Photo from Anastasia's family archive

All portrait photos were provided by pictured persons

Funding and partner organizations

Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany
Ministry of Education and Research of Russian Federation

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

Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research
 Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute
 GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
 Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde
 Otto Schmidt Laboratory for Polar and Marine Research
 All-Russia Scientific Research Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean named after I.S. Gramberg

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
GEOMAR	GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre 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 Nil Rodes

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