

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Leister Southeast Greenland Expedition 2023
August 2023



Cape Morris Jessup, Greenland. Photo: Morten Rasch.

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During recent years there has been an increased focus on carrying through field investigations in the more remote parts of Greenland to supplement the huge amount of investigations that have been carried out at the research stations by both long-term research programs, like Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring, and short-term research projects. This new focus on sampling in the more remote parts of Greenland is to fill the geographical gaps of data/knowledge between the research stations to allow for the more extensive research station based investigations to be up-scaled from a local to a regional perspective. Examples of projects focusing on upscaling based on investigations at many different sites are Greenland Integrated Observing System (SIOS) operated in cooperation between several institutions and the project Center for Permafrost (CENPERM) hosted by University of Copenhagen. In line with this, the Swiss foundation, Leister Foundation, has in 2021 and 2022 arranged expeditions to North Greenland with six to eight scientists and with short sampling stays at many different localities. Another purpose for the Leister Foundation with these expeditions is to facilitate cooperation between Swiss, Danish and Greenlandic scientists from ETH Domain (especially École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich,) Swiss Universities and University of Copenhagen, Technical University of Denmark, Aarhus University and Greenland Institute of Natural Resources.

In early August 2023, the foundation is planning a 14 days ship-based expedition along the quite inaccessible coast of South and Southeast Greenland, from Narsarsuaq to Ittoqqortormiit with purpose of facilitating sampling where it is otherwise difficult and with space for up to eight scientists. The ship, M/V Nansen Explorer (the 72 m long, Ice Class 1A), will be equipped with an AS-350 helicopter, a number of larger zodiacs and a winch to allow for investigations on land and at sea. The ship will sail slowly (< 10 knots) along the shore and provide the overall platform for the expedition. The helicopter and the small boats will be used to put participants on land for up to 24 hours and then afterwards catching up with the ship. The winch will allow for a long range of marine investigations including CTD-casting, water and net sampling, short piston/gravity coring etc. Two logisticians and the crewmembers of the ship will be available to help with sampling onboard the ship and with logistics and safety in relation to the activities on land.

Scientists being interested in participating in the expedition are encouraged to submit a short application, in English incl. (i) a project description of less than two pages, (ii) a list of localities/positions to be visited, and (iii) a CV and publication list for the PI of the project. It is prioritized to bring as many different projects as possible, and as a result it is expected that expedition participants help each other by acting as assistants on other participants projects. In general, we therefore expect only one representative from each project.

The application shall be received by Leister Stiftung no later than 1 August 2022. Please send your proposals and CV to the scientific coordinator Dr. Morten Rasch by email: mras@ign.ku.dk.

Successful applicants will be invited to participate in the expedition, free of charge and incl. full board. The Leister Foundation will further provide necessary insurances, relevant airline tickets and transport of scientific equipment to Narsarsuaq and back from Ittoqqortormiit (or Nelerit Inaat) for all expedition participants.

Dr. Morten Rasch (mras@ign.ku.dk, +45 23227109) from University of Copenhagen is the scientific coordinator of the expedition. In case you have any questions during the preparation of your application, you are most welcome to contact him either on practical or on scientific issues.

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