



## Arctic Palaeoclimate and its EXTremes (APEX)

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It is clear from existing research that the Arctic exerts a critical influence on Earth's climate and that it has been doing so for millions of years. The key environmental archives to study the Arctic's palaeoenvironment and climate history are the terrestrial and ocean sediments, and the past and present ice sheets, glaciers, and landforms. Only by integrating results from terrestrial and marine studies as well as across disciplines will it be possible to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Arctic's role in the global climate system. Therefore, it is necessary to establish an international scientific framework for the synthesis and integration of Arctic palaeoclimate research. Such a framework can provide an important possibility for the close co-operation between numerical modellers and field scientists as well as a means of coordinating field and laboratory research conducted by research groups in individual institutions and countries. To address these challenges, the research programme **APEX - the Arctic Palaeoclimate and its Extremes** has been initiated. APEX builds on the outstanding research legacy of the two previous European Science Foundation (ESF) programs PONAM (Polar North Atlantic Margins) and QUEEN (QUaternary Environments of the Eurasian North). APEX has been endorsed by the IPY Committee and identified as a one of the lead coordinating programmes for palaeoclimate research during the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007/2008. To date, our programme has attracted scientists from 15 European countries, Canada and USA and 30 individual research projects individually endorsed by the IPY Committee has expressed their interest to be included in our research network.