INTERNATIONAL OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAMME

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR

for IODP³ Expedition 507: Late Cenozoic Glaciers, Landscapes, Climates, and Ecosystems of the North Sea

Deadline: 21 August 2026

29 June 2026

Call for Participation for a Science Communicator

On behalf of the **International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP³)**, the **European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD)** invites applications for **Science Communicator/s** to participate in **IODP³ Expedition 507: Late Cenozoic Glaciers, Landscapes, Climates, and Ecosystems of the North Sea (GLACE-NS)**

The GLACE-NS expedition aims to investigate the late Pliocene and Pleistocene succession of the North Sea Basin and the environmental and ecological information it contains. The results will help elucidate how glaciers, landscapes, climates, and shallow-marine and coastal ecosystems evolved during a period of high climate variability.

The expedition is operated by the **ECORD Science Operator (ESO)**, which implements IODP³ Mission-Specific Platform (MSP) expeditions by contracting suitable research or commercial vessels and platforms adapted to the specific conditions of each expedition. MSP expeditions consist of two phases: an offshore phase on a drill platform or vessel, and an onshore phase at the Bremen Core Repository at MARUM, Center for Marine Environmental Sciences, University of Bremen, Germany.

Who Should Apply?

IODP³ Expedition 507 is of high societal importance – especially to nations neighbouring the North Sea – because it will recover direct geological evidence of how past ice sheets, environments, and seabed processes shaped this region. The expedition could not be more timely as the resulting advances in our understanding of North Sea environments will be crucial to policy makers, allowing them to make better-informed decisions on climate science responses, offshore development, and energy transition planning.

We therefore seek outstanding Science Communicators with the skills and experience needed to help us achieve the following objectives:

(i) to promote public understanding of this expedition, particularly within communities that may be affected by future, human-induced environmental change; and

(ii) to highlight the importance of our research in this field to policy makers at local to national levels.

Appointed Science Communicators will have the opportunity to be involved in the expedition from its earliest stages through to completion, including the offshore and onshore phases. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about communicating scientific research to diverse

audiences and bringing science closer to the general public and policy makers by developing original communication formats and outreach projects related to the expedition, including activities conducted on board a drilling platform in the North Sea (i.e. ship to shore events, content for social media and other outreach activities). Science communication specialists with a background in journalism and/or science communication are welcome to apply, including artists, videographers, media specialists, content creators, journalists etc. We are looking, for example, for skills in storytelling, infographics, photography, video production, documentary, podcasting, and other media. An existing outreach and media network and a clear vision for reaching and engaging our interaction groups are considered strong assets. Novel and experimental approaches to public and community engagement are especially encouraged.

Successful applicants will work and learn alongside a team of international scientists and technicians before, during, and in between offshore and/or onshore operations of the expedition. Science Communicators will need to be creative, flexible, friendly, and collaborative. They will operate under the Expedition Co-Chief Scientists, Expedition Project Managers and ECORD Science Operator/Communication Group staff. The outcomes of all science communication activities will be evaluated after completion of both expedition phases.

Application Requirements

Applicants should submit the following documents combined into a single PDF file:

- a two-page A4 draft Science Communication plan describing how they will help us achieve the objectives outlined above
- evidence of past achievements that demonstrate proficiency in the forms of science communication they intend to employ if selected
- a short letter outlining their motivation to be involved and passion for this subject
- a Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- a letter of recommendation, including contact information for references (optional)

In addition, applicants will be asked to prepare a brief 5-minute presentation of their proposed outreach plans, in a format of their choice, to be presented and discussed during a video interview.

Responsibilities

Science Communicators must comply with all rules and regulations as part of the expedition, including the IODP^3 code of conduct. They will work closely with the Expedition Science Team and report to the Expedition Co-Chief Scientists, Expedition Project Managers, and ECORD communication officers. Regular updates on project progress and milestones will be shared with these groups. Science Communicators are expected to provide a report at the conclusion of their

activities and to contribute to the writing of the Expedition Science Communications Summary. All materials produced and outcomes resulting from the science communication activities will remain under the copyright of ©ECORD_IODP³.

Funding

There is a budget to remunerate the science communicator's activities depending on the applicant's proposed plan.

ECORD will cover the full shipboard costs of the Science Communicators if they are able to attend offshore (meals, Personal Protective Equipment, specific training etc.).

Summaries of Expedition Scientific Objectives

Drilling in the North Sea Basin will let us read an archive of past environmental change that cannot be recovered on land. From that record we will address four specific objectives:

Objective 1: Glaciers – we will work out when ice sheets formed, how large they became, where they were centered, and how they advanced and retreated around the North Sea Basin.

Objective 2: Landscapes – we will reconstruct how the land surface and river systems around the North Sea changed through time, by tracking where sediments came from and how they were transported and deposited.

Objective 3: Climate – we will build a clear record of how northwest European climate changed through time, including the major shifts that influenced when ice could grow or melt.

Objective 4: Ecosystems – we will determine how marine and terrestrial ecosystems responded as climate changed, including when major changes in biodiversity occurred and whether there were tipping points during especially warm periods.

Together, these results will show how a whole region responded when the climate system shifted, and how quickly change cascaded from ice to landscapes, oceans, and ecosystems. That long view helps us test the models used to plan for the future, and it puts today's warming in context by revealing what northwest Europe's environment can do when it is pushed past key thresholds.

See also:
https://iodp3.org/expedition/507/

Schedule

The expedition will take place in two phases: Offshore and Onshore Operations.

Offshore operations are scheduled for Spring 2027, the duration is between 30 and 40 days.

Onshore Operations will take place at MARUM at the University of Bremen (Germany) later in 2027, the duration is max. 30 days.

Start of the expedition/Offshore Operations:
30 to 40 days in April/May (exact timeframe tbc)

Dates Onshore Operations:
max. 30 days in August/September (exact timeframe tbc)

Co-Chief Scientists:

Andrew Newton, Queen's University Belfast

Freek Busschers, TNO/ Geological Survey of the Netherlands

Ulysses Silas Ninnemann, University of Bergen

Expedition Project Managers:

Margaret Stewart

Raushan Arnhardt

Note: the expedition schedule is subject to change based on financial year budgetary situations and site conditions. Science Communicators are an integral part of the Expedition Science Team.

Submitting Your Application

Please email a single PDF containing all application documents to **nicole.beneventi@osupytheas.fr** by **21 August 2026 at 00:00 CEST (20 August 2026 at 22:00 GMT)**.

In your email, please indicate your availability for a brief video interview between **31 August 2026 and 11 September 2026 (inclusive)**. Please specify the times you are available on each day between **09:00 and 18:00 CEST (07:00 – 16:00 GMT)**.

The interview will provide an opportunity to deliver your pre-prepared five-minute presentation outlining your outreach plans, followed by an informal discussion with members of the expedition leadership team.

Applications will be evaluated based on creativity, originality, scope, alignment with the communication objectives, and overall feasibility.

The selection process follows the **IODP³ Expedition Staffing Procedures for Science Communicators**: **IODP3 Expedition Staffing Procedures**

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submissions by ECORD **no later than 30th of September 2026.**

- For enquiries about this call, please contact Nicole Beneventi, Outreach manager ECORD Managing Agency, **nicole.beneventi@osupytheas.fr**