

## PermaIntern Program

### *Basin information:*

Name: Wesley Farnsworth  
Position: Researcher  
Affiliation/home University: Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Iceland

*Part B. Expertise and experience - Here we ask you to describe your expertise and experience in both permafrost and pedagogics related to internships. We also ask you to describe your pedagogical context (students and educational framework) and finally, to provide a reflection on how to effectively supervise students within the PermaIntern program. This information will be shared on our website and you can find the responses from our certified supervisors there, for inspiration.*

### *1. Describe your academic expertise, with special focus on your expertise in permafrost:*

I have gained academic experience related to permafrost and periglacial environments through my bachelor's thesis (2011; Bates College Geology), master's thesis (2013; UNIS & UiO) and my doctoral thesis (2018; UNIS & UiT). My Bachelors and MSc. have investigated the seasonal distribution of snow, its stability as well as its geomorphological/thermal impact in Svalbard. I have taken (2012), taught on (2013-2016) and lead (2019) the UNIS course *AG-330/830 Permafrost and Periglacial Environments*. My expertise related to permafrost is largely associated with geomorphology/landforms and slope processes. Furthermore, my research related to glacial history compliments investigations permafrost-glacier interactions as well as (past and present) permafrost as a palaeo-environmental indicator. On a practical side, I have been involved with different permafrost drilling campaigns in Svalbard (2011-2014 and 2019) and Greenland (2013 and 2014) using both hand-drill and mid-size drill-rig techniques (KOLIBRI Geo Services). These works have also been associated with permafrost sedimentology and borehole instrumentation.

### *2. Describe your experience as a supervisor and your formal pedagogical training:*

I have gained experience as a (co-)supervisor for several bachelor and master's students as well as a supervisor panel member for several PhD. candidates. While none of these studies have explicitly investigated permafrost in their projects this has allowed me to develop experience in formal supervision. I have completed the University Teaching and Learning Course held at UNIS (c. 60 hours; 2015-2016). Additionally, I have also taken part in the UNIS Learning Forums hosted by BioCEED (2015 and 2016).

### *3. Describe the students at your home institutions, including the academic programs and any teaching on permafrost:*

Students at the University of Iceland receive rudimentary introduction to permafrost and periglacial environments in a bachelor level (required) course in Glacial Geology (JAR626M). A similar introduction is included in the Introduction to the Geology of Iceland (JAR107M) taken by international/exchange students at the University of Iceland. Themes related to landslides, slope processes and rock glaciers are also discussed.

4. Describe how your home institution is currently working with internships (e.g. compulsory part of education, offered as courses, no internship opportunities offered, etc.). Please provide as much information as possible regarding the formal structure and possibilities for students:

It seems that internships at the University of Iceland can be incorporate into education plans if students wish to do so (following a request / application related to ECTs accreditation). Internships, however, are not required practice in the educational system within the University of Iceland.

5. Describe any mandatory parts of internships at you institution and how they may complement of overlap with the mandatory parts of the PermaIntern program (project plan, midway presentation, final project report)

I would assume the University of Iceland would find the mandatory parts of the PermaIntern program reasonable and valuable.

6. Provide a reflection on your role as a supervisor for interns in the PermaIntern program, in the context of your answers to questions 1-6 above:

I find value in supervising students and I believe this will be the same for interns within the PermaIntern program. I look forward to being able to contribute to the projects through guidance and support. I see this supporting role maybe different for each respective intern, but will likely encompass, scientific guidance, planning, feedback and structure.

7. Would you be interested to act as a supervisor also for students from other institutions? If so, please provide a reflection on how you could best provide such supervision:

I am happy to act as a supervisor for students from other institutions. I would feel most confident doing this on a theme where I have a stronger foundation (i.e. geomorphology, landforms, slope processes rather than ground temperature modeling).

*Part C. Internship administration - Here we ask you to provide some information regarding internship administration at your institution. Administration is often perceived as the biggest hurdle for students who want to do internships as part of their studies and as a supervisor you are likely to be asked for this information. You may want to bring this form to a study administrator at your institution.*

*1. Can students at your institution get credits for internships?*

Outgoing students (UI students) can get credits for internship with approval of their faculty at the UI. With Incoming students (not UI students), it is upon their home institution to approve credits for internship.

*2. Are students that do internships with external hosts through your institution allowed or required to be paid?*

Students are allowed to get paid but not required. It is however important that the positions is defined as a traineeship/internship and not full time employment.

*3. List any financial support available for international internships for students:*

Erasmus+

*4. Please describe the insurance situation for students at your institutions doing internships abroad. List any insurances that students are covered by and any needs for extra insurance when traveling abroad for internships:*

The Icelandic Health Insurance covers part or all of the cost of those insured for healthcare. (<https://island.is/en/life-events/getting-sick#health-insurance>). Additionally, credit cards may also have insurance.

*5. List the contact information for internship course enrollment and approval of credits:*

outgoing@hi.is

*6. List the contact information for insurance for international travel:*

sjukra.is / island.is