



**UiT** Norges arktiske universitet

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

**Arctic Nature Guide 2024-25**

**60 credits**

**Longyearbyen, Svalbard**

Faculty of Health Sciences – School of Sport Science

August 2023



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| Study programme name  | 1-year Programme in Arctic Nature Guide. In Norwegian language the name is Arktisk naturguide.  |
| Target group  | <p>This international study program will provide candidates with the opportunity to experience Svalbard's nature and culture at close hand by combining arctic friluftsliv with a practical program in tourism and guiding.</p> <p>The target group are people who work, or who wish to educate themselves to work as nature guides, on Svalbard, in the Arctic region, or on the mainland of Norway. In addition, the study program is suitable for students who want to acquire such expertise for their Bachelor's degree, teacher training, etc.</p>  |
| Admission requirements, required prerequisite knowledge, recommended prerequisite knowledge | <p>Higher Education Entrance Qualification and certified language requirements in English.</p> <p>In addition, you must hold a driving licence, category B (passenger car, etc.) or category S (snowmobile) valid in Norway. For more information, see <a href="#">EEA Regulations</a>)</p> <p><b>Relevant practical experience requirements</b></p> <p>Relevant practical experience for admission to the Arctic Nature Guide program is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work experience as a nature guide, equivalent to a minimum 6 months full time/100 %</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work experience as an officer, outdoor leader or teacher, equivalent to a minimum 6 months full time/100 %</li> </ul> <p>Experience from active outdoor life (eg. volunteer as instructor in winter sport or outdoor life, participation in expeditions or organized outdoor activity, experience as glacier- or climbing instructor) or education in outdoor life can replace lack of work experience.</p> <p>All experience must be equivalent to a minimum 6 months full time/100% and must be documented with valid reference letter.</p> <p>All work experience, must be documented with a valid employment reference letter.</p> <p>Please note that the testimonial shall include the dates of starting and ending the employment/activity and the weekly hours of employment/activity.</p> <p>Limited number of places each fall.</p> |
| Academic content and description of the study programme                                     | <p>The study program is a full-time program comprising 60 ECTS credits.</p> <p>The study program is a given in cooperation with UNIS – The University Center in Svalbard.</p>   |

|  | <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Physical and mental surplus during long outdoor expeditions</p> <p>The course contains a large degree of activity and long outdoor expeditions. It is therefore required that the students are in good physical shape and able to carry equipment for a multiday expedition in the arctic. The candidates must be able to maintain a physical and mental surplus during long and cold outdoor excursions sleeping in tent and snow caves.</p> <p><b>Skiing skills</b></p> <p>Most of the field excursions involve cross-country skiing, so candidates must be experienced skiers and be physically fit for cross-country skiing over long distances.</p> <p><b>Equipment</b></p> <p>Candidates must have their own personal equipment in accordance with the individual equipment list.</p>                                 |  |                                    |  |            |           |            |      |        |        |  |            |                       |  |                                    |  |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|------------|-----------|------------|------|--------|--------|--|------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Table: programme structure             | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Semester</th> <th>20 credits</th> <th>20 credits</th> <th>15 credits</th> <th>5 credits</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Semester 1</td> <td>Safe</td> <td>Value-</td> <td>Arctic</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semester 2</td> <td>Guiding in the Arctic</td> <td>Based Guiding and Teaching Arctic Nature</td> <td>Arctic safety and field leadership</td> <td>The Stormy Sun and the Northern Lights</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>  | Semester                                 | 20 credits                         | 20 credits                             | 15 credits | 5 credits | Semester 1 | Safe | Value- | Arctic |  | Semester 2 | Guiding in the Arctic | Based Guiding and Teaching Arctic Nature | Arctic safety and field leadership | The Stormy Sun and the Northern Lights |
| Semester                               | 20 credits  | 20 credits                               | 15 credits                         | 5 credits                              |            |           |            |      |        |        |  |            |                       |  |                                    |  |
| Semester 1                             | Safe  | Value-                                   | Arctic                             |  |            |           |            |      |        |        |  |            |                       |  |                                    |  |
| Semester 2                             | Guiding in the Arctic   | Based Guiding and Teaching Arctic Nature | Arctic safety and field leadership | The Stormy Sun and the Northern Lights |            |           |            |      |        |        |  |            |                       |  |                                    |  |
| The study programme's Learning Outcome | <p><b>Knowledge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have broad theoretical knowledge of topics related to safe travel and stay in the Arctic nature.</li> <li>• Have theoretical knowledge about the leadership and hostmanship of groups in nature based on relevant research.</li> <li>• Have theoretical knowledge essential in nature-based tourism, experience production, friluftsliv and eco-philosophy.</li> <li>• Understand the nature, culture, history and the geopolitical conditions in the polar region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have skills, methods and routines for safe travel and stay in the Arctic nature. Have learned methods and through practice and guidance have achieved personal development aimed at being a host, mediator and leader of groups in</li> </ul> |  |                                    |  |            |           |            |      |        |        |  |            |                       |  |                                    |  |

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|   | <p>nature Be able to identify methods to facilitate and impart knowledge, values and good nature experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have acquired adequate skills to be able to convey arctic nature and culture to their guests.</li> </ul> <p><b>Competence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the requirements concerning the skills and competence they must possess as a nature guide in order to lead groups in a varied Arctic nature.</li> <li>• Be aware of the responsibility nature guides have when leading groups in a demanding arctic nature.</li> <li>• Have reflected on their own values in relation to experiencing nature, friluftsliv, nature guide role and commercial tourism.</li> <li>• Be aware of what role nature guides can play as ambassadors and friends of the vulnerable Arctic nature with regard to interaction with the guest.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>The study programme's relevance</p>    | <p>The study program may be included as part of tourism and friluftsliv degree programs at UiT), as well as other educational institutions in Norway.</p> <p>The study program is according to the industry standard defined by the Norwegian Nature Guide Association (NNGA). By fulfilling the study program and complete the required amount of nature guide work experience, the candidates are in a position of becoming members of NNGA and an approved Arctic Nature Guide and International Mountain Leader (UIMLA) by the Norwegian Nature Guide Association.</p> <p>Arctic Nature guides educated in this study program have work limitations according to these frames of nature; an Arctic Nature Guide do not have competence to work in nature where there is a particular risk of falls with serious consequences ( and terrain steeper than 30 degrees on layered winter snow.</p> <p>Future employment opportunities may be found primarily in guiding activities in the Arctic region. After completing the study programme, students will have gained expertise that will be relevant for employment on the mainland in outdoor recreation, tourism, education, culture and environmental hostmanship, as well as in voluntary organizations.</p> |
| <p>Work scope and learning activities</p> | <p>The study program is given on Svalbard. To reach the aims of learning, the students are expected to work with their study 40 hours a week as average.</p> <p>Student-centred learning activities with problem-based learning approaches, project work, group work, practical and methodical</p>   |

|                                   | <p>work with guidance are used throughout the study program, in addition to lectures, discussions and the use of ICT. In other words, this involves a lot of self-directed and practical work indoors and outdoors for students. A large part of the study program takes place in nature and includes practical exercises and the development of experience. Guide role experience will be obtained through a practical training period. This period will be carried out as interval sessions in the autumn semester and in a longer period in the spring semester. The period should consist of about 150 hours in total. The candidate will formulate a plan for the period, which must be approved by the teacher. The criteria for the period are given in a separate document, which candidates will receive at the start of the studies.</p>  |  |             |   |   |           |  |   |           |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|-------------|---|---|-----------|--|---|-----------|---|
| <p>Examination and assessment</p> | <p>Individual practical - oral exam in the course Safe Guiding in the Arctic. The candidate should demonstrate knowledge of the course based on a given practical assignment. The assignment will emphasise both safety and adventure aspects of being a professional guide. During the presentation there will be an oral dialogue between the student, teacher and examiner. The candidate will also be questioned and examined on other parts of the course.</p> <p>An individual home exam over five days will be given in the spring semester on the course, Value-Based Guiding and Teaching Arctic Nature.</p> <p>Project assignment in the course Arctic safety and field leadership. Students do individually make a plan and risk assessment for a field excursion. The assignment is presented in the beginning of the study year and will be delivered by at the end of the course.</p> <p>Written exam in the course The History of Svalbard, consisting of a multiple choice and an essay part. The essay accounts for ca. 2/3 of the final grade. Both parts must be passed.</p> <p><b>Grading scale</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="513 1585 1367 1937"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="513 1585 624 1675">Symbol</th> <th data-bbox="624 1585 783 1675">Description</th> <th data-bbox="783 1585 1367 1675">General, (not program specific) description of valuation criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 1675 624 1809">A</td> <td data-bbox="624 1675 783 1809">Excellent</td> <td data-bbox="783 1675 1367 1809">An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="513 1809 624 1937">B</td> <td data-bbox="624 1809 783 1937">Very good</td> <td data-bbox="783 1809 1367 1937">A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a very good degree of independent thinking.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Symbol   | Description | General, (not program specific) description of valuation criteria | A | Excellent | An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking. | B | Very good | A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a very good degree of independent thinking. |
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| A                                 | Excellent   | An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking. |             |   |   |           |  |   |           |   |
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| C | Good         | A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgement and independent thinking in the most important areas. |
| D | Satisfactory | A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.   |
| E | Sufficient   | A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgement and independent thinking. |
| F | Fail         | A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The candidate demonstrates an absence of both judgement and independent thinking.   |

The following requirements must be approved before the candidate may be allowed to take the exam:

- One hundred percent participation in all excursions, including preparation and follow-up work, and implementation of safety and rescue techniques on glaciers, sea and mountains.
- Reports and any type of follow-up work (eg. Photo and video presentations, group work, etc.) after each trip. The teams will decide what type of work and preparation will be carried out in relation to each trip.
- Individual written home assignment, which must be submitted and receive a passing mark.
- Assignment on the theme of Arctic nature and ecology which must be submitted and receive a passing mark.
- Pass the test in to recognizing arctic plants, birds and animals.
- Approved participation on the polar bear safety course and pass the polar bear safety and shooting test
- Approved participation on Arctic first aid and pass first aid test.
- Approved participation on the glacier course and pass the companion rescue and glacier guide test.
- Approved participation on the multiday hiking excursion and pass the trip planning and navigation test.
- Approved participation on the arctic intro winter excursion and pass the GPS navigation and snow bivouac test.
- Approved participation on the international mountain leader (IML) technic course in summer and winter and pass the test on IML technic.
- Approved participation on the avalanche course and pass the test on avalanche awareness and companion rescue.
- Approved participation on the sea ice course
- Approved participation on the arctic winter skiing excursion

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summer ski trip will be carried out as a concluding activity of the academic year. Candidates working together will be responsible for the entire execution of the trip and will receive various assignments related to the role of guide; they will be evaluated as pass / fail by the teacher.</li> </ul>  |
| Language of instruction and examination                   | The language of teaching and exams is English. Students will receive the syllabus reading list at the start of the studies; all the syllabus texts are in English.  |
| Internationalisation and student exchange                 | The study program is international, and the language of teaching is English.  |
| Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility | The School of Sport Sciences at the Faculty of Health Sciences is administrative responsible for the programme. The study leader and the coordinator of the programme are academic responsible.   |
| Quality assurance   | The quality of the programme is assured through a process among the academic staff, leading to discussions and final description by the academic heads at the departement. The programme is run according to the guidelines for evaluation at UiT the Arctic university of Norway and the Faculty of Health Sciences.   |
| Other regulations   | <p>At the start of the studies, candidates must be able to document accident and travel insurance that is valid for the study program's field activities. Candidates must also present a declaration of health that is in accordance with UiT requirements.</p> <p>Candidates must meet the costs of transport and snow scooter rentals in connection with field trips and excursions.</p> <p>Equipment requirements: Candidates must have their own personal equipment in accordance with the individual equipment list.</p> |