



Sensing the Artic Summer Field School – Deadline April 2, 2025

Sensory Acts: More Than Human Communication in the Circumpolar North

Funded travel for 6-credit educational experience in Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories + Yukon
May through August 2025, University of Regina

About SACTS and the Field School Course

The experience-based 6-credit Sensing the Artic Summer Field School will be held July-August in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Northwest Territories (NT) and Yukon (YT), Canada. The Field School is jointly organized by University of Regina (UR) faculty members Dr. Alex Oehler and Dr. Sarah Abbott in the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Film respectively, in association with their research project *Sensory Acts: More than Human Communication in the Circumpolar North* (SACTS, 2022-2027), co-led with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee of the Northwest Territories. SACTS is partially funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

SACTS incorporates sensory ethnography to consider embodiment, immersion, and other forms of experiential knowledge. We inquire how animals, plants and humans engage their senses to share meaning across species boundaries, investigating differences in perception of time and space and how these affect interspecies understanding, as well as communicative acts that Northerners have witnessed and engaged with wild and domestic nonhuman beings.

The four students selected to attend Sensing the Artic (StA) will have the unique opportunity to experience life on the ancestral lands of an Inuvialuit (western Arctic Inuit) community in the Mackenzie Delta and on the Beaufort Sea. Together, students will learn about Inuvialuit land-based values, ethics, protocols, and practice skills in sensory ways of knowing through ethnographic and arts-based practices, observation, recording, and reflection on interrelations with Land, water, weather, plants, and animals in historical, traditional, contemporary, and academic contexts. The field school is intended to enrich student development and career trajectories.

Eligibility

Applicants must be in their third or fourth year of undergraduate study, with at least 60 credit hours, by May 1, 2025, preferably with a declared major in Anthropology (Faculty of Arts) or a discipline in the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance (MAP) – Film, Creative Technologies and Design, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts. Students in other disciplines will be considered. Applicants must have a CGPA of 75% or higher. Preference may be given to candidates working on an honours thesis and/or preparing for graduate studies, and/or with previous land-based and/or Indigenous community experience. Students must indicate their willingness and ability to live, work and study in off-grid living conditions in remote hunting contexts where marine and terrestrial animals are being actively harvested, processed and consumed.

Approximate Course Plan, Course Credits, Dates, Expectations

StA will be held as two irregularly scheduled interdisciplinary MAP courses, at 300 and 400 level as per student needs. Successful applicants are encouraged to work with an adviser in their Faculty to explore how these two courses (six credits) may substitute requirements elsewhere in their program. For example, Anthropology students may be able to use the two MAP courses to substitute a 300-level requirement in the Anthropology program. The first part of StA will be held in Regina in May and June for introduction to the course, materials, initial assignments, and preparation for the field school in the Arctic. These meeting times will be arranged in accordance with student and faculty work/life schedules. Inclusive of travel, the field school will be approximately two weeks between late July and early/mid-August 2025. Students will return to Regina with approximately two weeks to complete final assignment work. The final StA class will be held in late August for sharing of assignment work and course reflections. StA students may be requested to apply to the UR's Centre for Experiential and Service Learning's EXPLORE Fund to help offset travel costs.

Course Costs

Students are responsible for tuition. SACTS will cover most student expenses for the field school: return travel (air, boat) between Regina and the field school location(s) in NT and YT, basic accommodations, and meals, including during travel. Students will pay for personal expenses beyond essential field school requirements, such as additional or alternative accommodations, flight changes, and food. Sleeping and travel gear are not covered by SACTS.

Application Process

Please submit the following materials as a single PDF to both Dr. Alex Oehler (alex.oehler@uregina.ca) and to Dr. Sarah Abbott (sarah.abbott@uregina.ca): contact information; CV; unofficial transcripts; 250-500-word essay on why this field school course is important to personal development and career goals; 250-500-word essay on how past experiences prepare you for experiential outdoor study in remote locations and in accordance with the field school description; one letter of reference from an academic or community member; anything else you'd like us to know. Please have the reference letter sent directly to Drs. Oehler and Abbott.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview by April 10, 2025. Interviews will be held on campus on April 14 to meet and discuss the course. Notice of acceptance to StA will be shared by April 25, 2025.

Deadline for applications is midnight April 2, 2025.

Further information

For more details, please contact Dr. Alex Oehler (Principal Investigator), Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, at alex.oehler@uregina.ca and/or Dr. Sarah Abbott (Co-Investigator), Department of Film, Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance, at sarah.abbott@uregina.ca.

Information on SACTS can be found at: www.sensoryacts.ca

