

Dear participant in the NOVA course “Microbial N transformations and NO/N₂O emissions” that will take place in Ås, Norway, 7-12 June 2009

June is approaching and we are now planning the course in detail. We are very happy to see that so many were interested, it seems that there will be at least 35 participants!

Please send an e-mail to Åsa Frostegård, e-mail asa.frostegard@umb.no **before Friday 24th April** containing the following:

- confirm that you are coming/or cancel your reservation.
- title for your oral presentation (see below)
- if you have special requirements concerning food (vegetarian, allergy)
- if you wish to stay an extra night before and/or after course (the preliminary price is 450 NOK/person for twin room, 600 NOK single room but we may be able to arrange this at a lower cost)

Those who don't send this before 24 April will be considered cancelled, and the place will be given to a person on the waiting list.

Below you find some general information. See also the course web site <http://www.helsinki.fi/soilsoc/courses/coursesSoilSoc/2009nitrogen.html> which is being updated regularly.

Arrival

Ås is situated about 30 km south of Oslo. If you arrive by airplane to Gardermoen airport you should take the express bus F11 to Korsegården (first stop, takes 1 hour). If you arrive by train to Oslo central station (Oslo S) you can take a local train to Ås. More information about “How to get here” will be posted on the course website (SoilSoc).

All course participants (except those affiliated to UMB) will be accommodated in student rooms at the university campus.

Day 1

An updated, but still preliminary, schedule can be found at

http://www.helsinki.fi/soilsoc/courses/coursesSoilSoc/2009nitrogen_schedule.pdf

Our activities will mainly be going on in two buildings on our university campus, and everybody will be accommodated in student rooms close by. You are expected to arrive in Ås during the afternoon the 7th June. We will start in the evening on the 7th with a course introduction, followed by a “getting together” where some food and drinks will be served.

Before the course – preparation

Literature

During the following week we will have a series of lectures by invited teachers and teachers from our own group. We have also planned laboratory exercises, and time for data analysis and mathematical modelling. To prepare yourselves for the lectures, you will receive a number of articles (pdf) that are relevant for the different lectures. These will be sent to you by e-mail around 1 May. Two “overview articles” that we think provide a good basis are:

- Schlesinger (2009) On the fate of anthropogenic nitrogen. PNAS 106: 203–208.
- Burgin & Hamilton (2007) Have we overemphasized... Front Ecol Environ 5: 89–96.

If you have some project money to spend, we also suggest that you buy a recent book that covers most aspects of the N cycle:

- Biology of the Nitrogen Cycle, Bothe H, Ferguson SJ, Newton WE (eds). pp 382-395 Elsevier (Amsterdam), ISBN-13: 978-0-444-53108-7.

Oral presentation of own research

During the evenings we will have short oral presentations of all course participants on their own thesis work (about 7 min + 3 min for questions). Please be well prepared (Power Point) for these presentations so that we keep the time schedule!

In addition to the oral presentations, we encourage all those who have a relevant poster (maybe a recent one presented elsewhere) to bring it, there will be boards to put them. This is optional, but it is a good way to let others know more about your activities, in addition to the oral presentations.

After the course - evaluation

All participants will get a written assignment that will be evaluated (pass/not pass). Preliminary deadline 15 August. More information about this will be given later.

Other practical information

We kindly ask you to send a mail to Åsa Frostegård when you know your arrival time so that we can help you install yourselves in the rooms.

A Facebook group will soon be started so that we can get to know each other a bit already before the course. All who want to participate is welcome. Please prepare your profile, with emphasis on your scientific work!

The costs for the course varies, unfortunately, for the different participants, depending on home university. For those who have to pay a fee, a special account will be set up, you will get information about this soon.

Course fee:

NOVA students (PhD and applicable MSc), and domestic MSc students - no fee.

Other Nordic students and BOVA students - accommodation costs 450 €

Other Baltic students and students from developing countries - 200 €NOVA standard course fee + accommodation costs 450 €

Students from other countries, research institutes and industry - full course fee 500 €+ accommodation costs 450 €

We look forward to seeing you here in Ås in June!
On behalf of all the teachers



Åsa Frostegård