



Environmental Education Employment Opportunity Faculty Instructor

Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies, Summer 2017

A 16-credit college quarter hosted by [Wrangell Mountains Center](#)
and accredited through The Evergreen State College

Imagine guiding students through a rocky and glacier-laden landscape, mentoring them on timely scientific studies, and sharing your passion for wild land. The Evergreen State College seeks an intellectually engaged and enthusiastic educator with expertise in backcountry travel and earth science, alpine or boreal ecology, or environmental change. The educator will co-lead a summer-long, interdisciplinary, for-credit natural history field course for upper level undergraduate students in a trail-less, dynamic backcountry setting. Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies is hosted through Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC), a non-profit organization committed to connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in the Wrangell Mountains of Alaska. The field study operates out of the off-grid WMC campus in the rustic community of McCarthy.

Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies consists of seven weeks beginning approximately June 26, 2017 (to be confirmed soon). During the seven weeks, up to 16 enrolled students spend a total of four weeks backpacking through the trail-less mountain wilderness, learning about the ecological, geological, artistic, and human history of the landscape. During the latter part of the course students carry out independent research or artistic investigation, entirely while in the backcountry. At the conclusion of the course, students present their research findings to peers, local management agency representatives, and members of the local McCarthy community. With glaciers flowing from 16,000-foot peaks, canyons deeper than Yosemite, and spruce-forested valleys, this study area is in the middle of the world's largest international complex of protected wilderness lands. Glaciation, volcanism, erosion and ecological succession are exposed and active, making it an ideal natural laboratory in which to study Alaska's landscape of extremes. This is also an opportunity to explore how national park gateway citizens and environmental professionals grapple with sustaining the Alaskan bush lifestyle in the face of increasing tourism.

The **Faculty Instructor** should be proficient at teaching through lectures, informal discussion, and mentorship of student research groups on topics such as: a) the tectonic history of Alaska and glacier change, b) successional changes in the fluctuating glacier-edge environment and ecological characteristics in the alpine habitat of Dall sheep, brown bear, and other mammals c) adaptations of plants and animals to the stresses of sub-arctic existence, and/or d) the effects of climate change on the landscape.

Primary responsibilities:

- Maintain contact with the lead faculty member, Dr. Alette Frank, for approximately five half-days prior to the field study (beginning April) in order to suggest readings for the course reader, and help plan the course schedule
- Work with other faculty to integrate an interdisciplinary curriculum during the backpacking trips
- Arrive in McCarthy three days in advance of the quarter to help prepare for the course
- Work with the lead faculty member to lead backcountry travel, coordinate daily camp life, and make decisions regarding participant safety during the backpacking trips
- Work with other faculty to oversee and help students carry out research projects
- Promote the WMC culture of collaborative living and sustainable practices

Minimum Qualifications:

- M.S. in relevant discipline
- Experience teaching interdisciplinary field courses
- Ability to lead backcountry travel groups
- Current Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience traveling in Alaskan wilderness
- Experience guiding backcountry travel groups
- Familiarity or past experience with WMC

For more information on Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies please visit www.wrangells.org/fieldstudies, or direct questions to Dr. Alette Frank (aliette@wrangells.org).

Compensation is approximately \$6,000 as well as food, and while in McCarthy, rustic accommodations.

Interested candidates should send a Letter of Interest, professional CV including backcountry leadership skills, evidence of professional or community contribution in the field of study, and contact information for three references to Dr. Alette Frank, Member of the Faculty, The Evergreen State College (aliette@wrangells.org). Review of applications will begin February 12th.

