The Juneau Icefield Research Program (JIRP) provides an expeditionary learning experience for upper level high school, undergraduate and graduate students. During the 8-week expedition, students traverse the 75-mile distance across the Juneau Icefield participating in long-running surveys of glacier dynamics and mass balance, state-of-the-art scientific research, academic lectures, and independent research projects.

Earn college credits and build valuable field research experience while learning in this incredible outdoor classroom. JIRP features a diverse academic curriculum in Earth System Science taught by leading researchers in the fields of glaciology, geology, climatology, meteorology, environmental sciences, ecology, biology, and other disciplines. Since 1946, over 1,400 students have participated.

JIRP has a long history of research in glacier dynamics and mass balance, geology, and alpine ecology. JIRP has maintained one of the longest-running glaciological research programs in the world, making it an ideal location to document the impacts of climate change on alpine and glacial environments. Student participants have gone on to become leading researchers in a wide range of fields, including glaciology, geology, biology, space science, and medicine. Participants have also become artists, photographers, adventurers, writers, and teachers.

Tuition costs (see website) include all transportation, food, lodging, and instruction following arrival in Juneau, Alaska. Participants are responsible for transportation to and from Juneau. Some scholarships are available. For more information, please contact fger.jirp@gmail.com.

Experience the Outdoor Classroom

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Kickstart Your Career

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Apply Today!

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“I’d always wanted to be an explorer when I grew up...JIRP essentially taught me how. It’s not about being the first person to plant flags and leave footprints somewhere. It’s about mapping the world in new ways, and in the process, discovering untrammeled territory in yourself.”

Kate Harris (JIRP 2004)

Named one of Canada’s Top 10 Adventurers by Explore Magazine

Juneau Icefield Research Program operations and facilities are within the Tongass National Forest and Atlin Provincial Park under special use permits.