Connaught Summer Institute Survey Results – Summary
The Connaught Summer Institute in Arctic Science:
Atmosphere, Cryosphere, and Climate
Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ontario, Canada
July 18-16, 2016

Summer Institute attendees:
1 undergraduate student
12 Master’s students
16 PhD students
4 PDFs

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

Average organization satisfaction **4.25/5**
Average format satisfaction **4.5/5**
Average networking satisfaction **4.5/5**
Average workshop satisfaction **4.1/5**
Average career panel satisfaction **4.1/5**
Average content satisfaction **4.5/5**
Average speaker satisfaction **4.6/5**
Average topic satisfaction **4.2/5**

Overall average Summer Institute satisfaction: **4.34/5**

What part of the Summer Institute did you find most beneficial?
(Ranked most beneficial to least beneficial)
1. Academic/scientific lectures
2. Informal discussions with other attendees and speakers
3. Networking opportunities
4. Poster session
5. Science writing workshop
6. Career panel
7. Non-academic lectures (e.g. Inuit archaeology and science journalism)
8. Resume assistance from Ray Clement
9. Other

Would you recommend this Summer Institute to other students?
27 Yes 1 Maybe 0 No

Are you likely to apply to attend the 2015 Connaught Summer Institute if held, assuming a different set of speakers and lecture topics will be offered?
19 Yes 1 Maybe 1 (2.9%) No
DETAILS OF RESULTS:

Organization-Related Questions

How satisfied are you:

a) with the application process? \(4.7/5\)
b) with notifications of deadlines and instructions for completing items (e.g. Jamboree slide, poster abstract, poster)? \(4.5/5\)
c) with the transportation to and from the venue? \(4.6/5\)
d) with the location (Alliston) of the Summer Institute? \(4.3/5\)
e) with the date of the Summer Institute (mid-July)? \(4.5/5\)

Average organization satisfaction \(4.25/5\)

Overall, students were very satisfied with the organization of the Summer Institute. They were satisfied with the notifications of deadlines, and instructions for completing items such as posters, abstracts, etc. The vast majority of students prefer a mid-July Summer Institute; however, one student suggested that perhaps the Institute should be later in the summer to allow those doing field research to attend.

Format-Related Questions

How satisfied are you:

a) with the overall format of the Summer Institute? \(4.5/5\)
b) with the amount of time dedicated to academic learning? \(4.6/5\)
c) with the amount of scheduled free time? \(4.4/5\)
d) with the duration of the Summer Institute (5 days)? \(4.5/5\)
e) with the inclusion of a poster session? \(4.6/5\)

Average format satisfaction \(4.52/5\)

Students were satisfied with the format of the Summer Institute. Some noted that the schedule was very busy, and some students suggested that that duration could be longer with more free time in the schedule, especially when the weather is nice.

Networking-Related Questions

How satisfied are you:

a) with the attendee introductory Jamboree? \(4.4/5\)
b) with the Welcoming “Icebreaker”? \(4.4/5\)
c) with the organized recreational activities? \(4.6/5\)
d) with the amount of time allotted for networking and sharing ideas with your peers? \(4.4/5\)
e) with the Summer Institute’s overall value in helping you improve your communication skills? \(4.4/5\)
f) that the Summer Institute was a motivational experience for you? \(4.5/4\)
Average networking satisfaction 4.48/5

On the whole students were satisfied with the networking opportunities at the Summer Institute. Many students enjoyed the bingo ice-breaker organized by TAC this year, and one student noted that it was a good way to learn everyone’s names and their research in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Most students appreciated the informal conversations during coffee breaks and recreational activities, and one student commented that they found themselves talking to an interesting person in almost every spare moment.

Workshop-Related Questions

Career Development Workshop
How satisfied are you:
a) with the format of the workshop? 4.1/5
b) with the breadth of information represented in the workshop? 4/5
c) with the workshop’s overall value in helping you begin a job search? 3.5/5
d) with the workshop’s overall value in providing new information on networking? 3.6/5

Science Writing Workshop
How satisfied are you:
e) with the format of the workshop? 4.4/5
f) with the breadth of information represented in the workshop? 4.4/5
g) with the workshop’s overall value in helping you write? 4.6/5

Students were mostly satisfied with the workshops offered this year. They liked the format of the career development workshop, as well as the breadth of information represented, however, they were less satisfied in the workshop’s value in helping to improve their networking skills and helping to begin a job search. A few students commented that it would have been more helpful if the workshop had been specifically aimed at science and research positions.

The science writing workshop was also well received, one student commented that it was helpful to have a journalist’s point of view.

Students in the future would like to see workshops specific to the field of science, such as applying to grants, data visualization, how to organise methodology, and research group collaboration. Others suggested broader workshop topics, such as public speaking, poster presentation and preparation, and time management.

Career Panel-Related Questions

How satisfied are you:
a) with the breadth of careers represented on the panel? 4.0/5
b) with the chairing of the panel? 4.5/5
c) with the responses and advice from the career panellists? 4.2/5
d) with the career panel’s overall value in helping you identify potential career paths? 3.8/5
Average career panel satisfaction 4.13/5

Did you use the question submission box?
5 Yes
20 No

Should a career panel be included in next year’s Summer Institute?
22 Yes
1 No

The majority of students enjoyed the career panel and felt that it was very well chaired, though they though there were many comments regarding the panelists’ career trajectories being too narrow. One student suggested that the panels should also tackle gender/race issues when applying for a job in STEM.

Content-Related Questions

How satisfied are you:
a) with the amount of useful knowledge you have gained from attending this Summer Institute? 4.6/5
b) with the scope of topics presented? 4.4/5
c) with the usefulness of the information? 4.4/5

How would you rate the level of the lectures? 3.2/5 (3.0 = just right)

Average content satisfaction 4.47/5

Overall, students thought the Summer Institute was a very worthwhile experience. They felt it provided a broad scope of topics and useful information. Most students appreciated how lecturers were started the week with introductory/ background lectures and gradually became more in-depth. Almost all students indicated that the level of difficulty of the lectures was just right, though a couple of students commented that the very technical lectures were difficult for non-experts in the field.

Speaker-Related Questions

How satisfied are you:
a) with the quality of the speakers? 4.5/5
b) with the variety of speaker expertise? 4.7/5
c) with the speakers’ responses to student questions? 4.4/5
d) that the speakers explained concepts clearly? 4.4/5
e) with the opportunities to interact with speakers informally? 4.8/5

Average speaker satisfaction 4.55/5 (87.0%)

Students agreed that a great range of topics were covered by this year’s speakers. Overall, students thought it was nice to speak with speakers informally during, coffee breaks, and meals, and during recreational activities.
Individual scores for speakers ranged from 3.0 to 4.7/5. Average satisfaction with speakers 4.6/5.

Planning-Related Questions:
The majority of students attending the Summer Institute were encouraged by their supervisor to attend.

Where did you initially hear about this Summer Institute? (Some chose more than one option)
1- CREATE Summer Schools in Arctic Atmospheric Science (2011-2013)
3- The 2014 Connaught Summer Institute in Arctic Science
18- Supervisor
2- CREATE website
2- NETCARE website
1- CanSISE website
3- CREATE trainee email announcement
2- CANDAC/CREATE Co-Investigator
0- NETCARE Co-Investigator
0- APECS website or email announcement
0- ARCUS website or email announcement
0- IRWG email list
0- ArcticNet student network email list
0- ArcticNet training opportunities webpage
4- University of Toronto Department of Physics website
0- University of the Arctic website
0- Facebook
0- Twitter
4- Colleague or peer
0- Connaught Summer Institute poster
1- Other (please specify) - email from department

Do you recommend any other locations or email lists etc. for advertising next year?
• - ESCER centre at UQAM

What influenced you to attend our Summer Institute? (Please check all that apply)
25- My supervisor encouraged me to attend
14- Topics to be covered are relevant to my research
10- On-site food and accommodation included
9- My peers were also attending
5- Confirmed speakers
5- Location and/or venue of Summer Institute
2- Career panel
2- Other (please specify) – good experience for former attendees
- being able to interact and network with a diverse group of experts from industry, gov, and academia