Calling students wanting to contact the polar regions 2025/2026.

The UK Polar Network (UKPN) and the French Association of Early Polar Career Researchers (APECS) have come together to produce a “Language Polar Pen Pals Scheme”.

Aim: For students to write individual/joint letters to French researchers in French.

Who are you writing to?
French researchers who are working in research related to the polar regions. Their fields span a range of disciplines such as biology, oceanography, chemistry, geography, geology, meteorology, space weather and more.

Where do they work?
Some researchers work/ have worked with universities, science institutes or in collaboration with “L’institut Polaire Français” (the French Polar Institute) which operates across Antarctic research stations such as “Durmont D’Urville”, “Concordia” or sub-Antarctic stations such as “Crozet”, “Kerguelen”, “Amsterdam” or the Arctic Station“AWIPEV”. Researchers could also be working on French polar research ships such as “Tara” and “L’Astrolabe” or processing samples from Polar institutes other than the French one.

Who can participate?

- Final year of primary school - 10-11 years old.
- Secondary school pupils from 11 years old - 18 years old.
- French language students.

How to write your letter:

- Maximum 1 page, either typed or handwritten.
- Scan the letter.
- Email the scanned attachment to: education@polarnetwork.org.
- Option to add any art work (maximum of 5 pieces per class please).

What to expect:

- To receive a scanned letter with a response from a French polar researcher to your emails/ school’s email, (response time will vary but we hope they will not take longer than a month!).
- A great opportunity to practice your French skills.

Looking for more?

- You will get a personal response from a polar researcher. If you wish, you can continue contact with them personally.

We look forward to your letters!

UK POLAR NETWORK

APECS FRANCE