

ECORD Training Course 2017: "Virtual Ship Experience" 6-10 March 2017, Bremen (Germany)

For the next generation of IODP scientists the MARUM (Center for Marine Environmental Sciences, University of Bremen), is an important hub. Located at the MARUM, the Bremen Core Repository (BCR), one of only three IODP repositories in the world, is where scientists can train, and enhance their abilities at an early stage in their career.

From 6 to 10 March 2017, the third ECORD Training Course was held at the BCR with 30 participants from 11 different countries, including non-ECORD IODP member countries (Australia, Brazil and USA).

This five-day course started with an introductory session on the structure and objectives of ECORD and IODP, and a general tour of the MARUM and BCR, before focussing on the IODP core-flow and typical expedition laboratory procedure practicals in smaller groups. These IODP-style lab exercises formed the foundation of the course, following the pattern of the unique "Virtual Ship" approach developed for the popular Bremen ECORD Summer Schools - <http://www.marum.de/en/>

[ECORD_Summer_Schools.html](http://www.marum.de/en/ECORD_Summer_Schools.html). The course was customised to prepare the participants for sailing on an IODP expedition, and to give them an appreciation of the high standards required for all kinds of coring projects. The detailed programme is posted on http://www.marum.de/en/ECORD_Training_Course_2017.html.

The course concluded with an IODP proposal writing exercise on the last day. The brainstorming in breakout groups was great fun and has already resulted in several promising new ideas that may evolve into pre-proposals in the future. The participants (*below and cover*) were exceptionally lively, taking part in practical exercises and contributing to discussions, gaining first-hand insights into the multidisciplinary team effort that is a crucial part of the success of any ocean drilling programme.

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<http://www.ecord.org/education/training-course/>*



Visual-core description in MARUM labs: 1, 2, sediments, 3, 4, hard rocks.

5: Pore-water acquisition and analysis

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