



## **UARctic Rectors' Forum 2017 Declaration**

The University of the Arctic (UARctic) is one of the largest university networks in the world with 188 member institutions. It facilitates collaboration, resource sharing and capacity building among institutions interested in the Arctic. UARctic members are committed to the production and sharing of knowledge. The circumpolar network is the only one of its kind, fostering sustainable development and knowledge exchange in the Arctic for the benefit of the North and the whole world.

We, the assembled leads of UARctic member institutions, meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland on Aug 24-25, 2017, declare the following:

1. Higher education, science, scholarship and shared knowledge are keys to building human capacity among northerners, strengthening their ability to determine their own futures and build a sustainable Arctic, and fostering northern and indigenous leaders;
2. Our partners outside the Arctic also play a key role in supporting circumpolar science and higher education;
3. The international community must continue efforts to reduce barriers to collaboration in science and higher education and ensure academic freedom across the North and beyond. The Arctic states must ratify the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation;
4. UARctic and its international partners (IASC, IASSA, APECS, Arctic Council permanent participants and working groups) should produce shared principles and guidelines that support the development of inclusive, ethical and quality multidisciplinary research, including the possibility of UARctic endorsement of projects;
5. Our members encourage and promote world-class, high quality research on Arctic issues.
6. UARctic should expand access to educational opportunities among members by sharing online platforms and courses, and facilitating the seamless transferability of credit;
7. Together with Arctic communities our researchers must respond to the challenges facing the North, including the multiple pressures of global climate change, and socio-economic, cultural and political shifts;
8. UARctic members should encourage more effective integration of indigenous and local knowledge by engaging northern communities as full partners in research, and in the dissemination of findings. We also encourage our members to prioritize the education of indigenous scholars;
9. UARctic should analyze publicly available research data to identify broad trends, gaps, and potential synergies in Arctic science;
10. We welcome UARctic's increased collaboration with the Arctic Council, in particular in the plans for the upcoming UARctic Congress 2018 and the Finnish chairmanship's focus on education;
11. UARctic should continue efforts to secure centralized funding for its Thematic Networks and other activities through collaboration with funding agencies, private foundations and corporations;
12. We welcome the Declaration of the 2017 Student Forum.