

UArctic Annual Activity Report 2025



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In 2025, UArctic focused on putting plans in motion, encouraging collaboration around joint issues, broadening outreach and engagement, and strengthening its leadership capacity.

The 2025 meeting of **the UArctic Assembly** took place in Inari, Sápmi, Finland in early June, hosted by the Sámi Education Institute. Over 130 participants joined the annual members' meeting to make decisions on e.g. UArctic's membership, Thematic Networks, finances and bylaws, and leadership positions. [Full summary of the Assembly decisions](#)

The meeting was marked by the highest number of new members ever approved. The Assembly welcomed **21 new members** to the network, thirteen from Arctic and eight from non-Arctic countries: Antioch University New England (returning member); Carleton University; Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources, University of Manitoba (returning member); Department of Sociology, Northern Arizona University; Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS); Institute for Circumpolar Health Research (ICHR); National Institute of Occupational Health (STAMI); New York University; Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA); Norwegian Police University College; St. Francis Xavier University; University of Chicago; University of Ottawa; Arctic Reflections; Centre for Arctic Studies (CAS); Centre for Climate Repair, University of Cambridge; Institute of Polar Sciences – National Research Council of Italy; Millennium Institute Biodiversity of Antarctic and Subantarctic Ecosystems (BASE); Police Scotland International Academy; Taiwan Polar Institute; and Taiyuan University of Technology.

The Assembly approved the provisional establishment of three **new Thematic Networks**: Environmental Humanities; Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring; and Youth Network. Two Thematic Networks that had provisional status from 2024 were also given final approval: Nordic Snow Network (NordSnowNet), and Sustainable Strategies for Waste Removal and Restoration of Arctic Mine Waste Areas (RAMWA).

The Assembly also voted on **Board membership** for 2025–2028. Three new members were elected to the Board: Martin Fortier from Université Laval; Brad MacKay from University of St. Andrews; and Janne Näkkäläjärvi from Sámi Education Institute. The Assembly also elected Frederik Paulsen as Chair of the Board for his second three-year term, and the terms of Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn, Aaja Chemnitz, and Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson were renewed. Bárður Clementsen from Roskilde University was elected as the incoming Board student representative.

Coordinators and leadership of key UArctic programs and activities also convened for their own meetings in 2025. In October, the **UArctic Thematic Networks and Institutes leadership** met in Akureyri, Iceland where presentations and discussions included e.g. the new UArctic focus areas, the upcoming 5th International Polar Year, and the UArctic Impact Study. The international, national and institutional **coordinators of UArctic's north2north mobility program** also gathered in Fairbanks, Alaska, US in May with the aim to strengthen cooperation between the participating institutions and discuss and further develop processes.

The UArctic Board held four meetings in 2025: online in April and November, and in person in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, UK in April and in Nuuk, Greenland in September. Key issues on the meeting agendas included the UArctic budget and annual financial reports, recent developments in philanthropic fundraising, development of UArctic Regional Centres, and changes in UArctic leadership. The Board also approved UArctic's strategic Focus Areas and held an internal workshop on their implementation.

UArctic Focus Areas were established to strengthen activities and collaboration in key Arctic challenges. The Focus Areas bring together existing UArctic structures into four common frameworks: Communities, Climate, Oceans, and Green Transition. They aim to enhance strategic alignment, to support collaboration across activities, and to strengthen communication of UArctic's impact to funding bodies and other stakeholders. Over the year, Thematic Networks, Institutes, Fellows, and Chairs were encouraged to identify and develop activities within the four Focus Areas. The first call to establish a UArctic fundraising project library aligned with the Focus Areas was launched in December.

To strengthen member engagement and outreach, the **first UArctic Regional Centre in North America** was established in June. The INQ-UArctic Regional Centre for the Province of Québec, led by Institut nordique du Québec (INQ) at Université Laval, will support UArctic's mission and strengthen UArctic's presence across the province and beyond, as well as operate for the benefit of UArctic members in the province of Québec in Canada, supporting their participation and engagement in UArctic.

During **Climate Week NYC** in September, UArctic partnered with Dartmouth College and the Finnish Consulate in New York to host *Arctic Awakens: Driving Climate Justice, Circular Innovation, and Green Finance* at the Cornell Club. The two-panel event was dedicated to discussing innovation in the Arctic, and what equitable action could look like with Indigenous, economic, and business perspectives and input. Over the course of the year, UArctic also had a visible presence through speakers and promotional booths at **key Arctic conferences** such as the Arctic Science Summit Week in Boulder, Colorado, US; the Arctic Encounter Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska; and the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, Iceland.

At the Arctic Circle Assembly, the fifth **Frederik Paulsen Arctic Academic Action Award** was awarded to Sharon Snowshoe, Arlyn Charlie and Kristi Benson from Gwich'in Tribal Council, and Trevor Lantz and Tracey Proverbs from University of Victoria. Their project, Nan guk'anàatii ejuk t'igwinjik (The land we are taking care of is changing), aims to integrate Gwich'in ecological classifications with climate and geospatial data to assess and adapt to landscape change across the Gwich'in Settlement Region. The award is a collaboration between UArctic and the Arctic Circle.

In 2025 UArctic welcomed three new individuals to its **leadership**. Jouko Niinimäki started his work as UArctic Executive Vice-President in April, serving as the President's deputy and providing strategic leadership for all UArctic's academic activities in education, research, and regional development. Larry Hinzman from the University of Alaska Fairbanks joined the leadership as UArctic Vice-President International Polar Year, a position in which he will be promoting UArctic engagement in IPY planning. Keith Larson from Umeå University was appointed as Associate Vice-President for Polar Research Analytics, with focus on strategic

leadership for UArctic's research analytics-related activities, including reports on bibliometrics and research funding.

In December, UArctic also lost one of its key individuals when Board member **Anne Husebekk** passed away. Husebekk served on the UArctic Board since 2018 and was on her third term. She served as the Board Vice-Chair in 2022–2025, and from 2020 she was also the Chair of UArctic's Philanthropic Fundraising Advisory Group, Týr.

Already looking forward to the year ahead, in 2025 the work to build **the UArctic Congress 2026** began in earnest in close collaboration between UArctic, the event hosts and committees, and partner organizations. The call for session proposals was opened in May, resulting in an impressive total of 219 submissions, and the call for abstract proposals followed in November. The Ocean Connectivity Conference, an international conference dedicated to Sub Arctic and High Arctic connectivity, is also embedded in the 2026 Congress. It is part of the official program of the Kingdom of Denmark's Chairship of the Arctic Council, and organized by the Kingdom of Denmark's Chairship of the Arctic Council in partnership with UArctic and the University of the Faroe Islands.

The UArctic Congress 2026 will take place from May 26 to 29, 2026 in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. The event is hosted by the University of the Faroe Islands, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture, and the Faroe Marine Research Institute. The 2026 Congress themes align with the Kingdom of Denmark's Arctic Council Chairship priorities. Learn more: www.uarcticcongress.fo

2025 in numbers

MEMBERSHIP

- 204 members
 - 139 Arctic, 65 Non-Arctic
 - 146 Higher Education, 58 Other
- 2,501,076 students
- 509,670 staff

DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS

- 45 in Canada
- 17 in Finland
- 9 in Iceland
- 14 in Kingdom of Denmark
- 19 in Norway
- 7 in Sweden
- 28 in United States
- 65 in non-Arctic countries, of which 26 in Asia, 37 in Europe, 1 in Oceania, 1 in South America
- (55 in Russia; paused)

REGIONAL CENTRES

- UArctic Regional Centre in the Nordic Arctic / Arctic Six
- UArctic Regional Centre in Scotland / Scottish Arctic Network (ScAN)
- UArctic Regional Centre Continental Europe
- INQ-UArctic Regional Centre for the Province of Québec

REPORTED ACTIVITIES

681 Thematic Networks and Institutes activities

- 133 events (20% of total)
- 212 outreach activities (30% of total)
- 123 publications (18% of total)
- 87 education activities (13% of total)
- 80 research activities (12% of total)
- 46 mobility activities (7% of total)

255 Chairs activities

- 42 events (16% of total)
- 79 outreach activities (31% of total)
- 54 publications (21% of total)
- 20 education activities (8% of total)
- 45 research activities (18% of total)
- 15 mobility activities (6% of total)

ONLINE PRESENCE

- 307,000 website visitors
- 732,000 page views
- 597 news stories
- 9,012 social media followers
- 1,944 newsletter subscribers

THEMATIC NETWORKS AND INSTITUTES

- 64 Thematic Networks and Institutes
- 132 participating member institutions
- 1,314 participating individuals

CHAIRS AND FELLOWS

- 25 Chairs (6 in Mimir)
- 3 Indigenous Fellows
- 5 UArctic x Lloyd's Register Foundation Research Fellows

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PROJECTS

- Kingdom of Denmark: 6 projects funded with a total of 400,374 EUR / 2,990,100 DKK
- Norway: 9 projects funded with a total of 216,250 EUR / 2.5 million NOK
- Canada: 8 projects funded with a total of 74,500 EUR / 120,000 CAD

NORTH2NORTH MOBILITY

205 student exchanges

- Canada: 48 in, 60 out
- Denmark: 5 in, 31 out
- Faroe Islands: 2 in, 0 out
- Finland: 16 in, 26 out
- Greenland: 24 in, 0 out
- Iceland: 6 in, 2 out
- Norway: 66 in, 41 out
- Sweden: 6 in, 12 out
- United Kingdom: 16 in, 5 out
- USA: 8 in, 18 out
- France: 0 in, 7 out
- Australia: 10 in, 1 out

99 staff exchanges

- Canada: 21 in, 15 out
- Denmark: 4 in, 12 out
- Faroe Islands: 4 in, 3 out
- Finland: 9 in, 0 out

- Greenland: 11 in, 10 out
- Iceland: 9 in, 0 out
- Norway: 11 in, 55 out
- Sweden: 0 in, 1 out
- United Kingdom: 14 in, 0 out
- USA: 13 in, 0 out
- France: 1 in, 0 out
- Australia: 2 in, 0 out

UArctic members in 2025

CANADA

- Algoma University
- Arctic Athabaskan Council
- Arctic Institute of North America
- Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
- Aurora College
- Carleton University
- Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, University of Manitoba
- College Nordique
- Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
- Dechinta Bush University Centre for Research and Learning
- Global Health, McMaster University
- Gwich'in Council International
- Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS)
- Institute for Circumpolar Health Research (ICHR)
- Keyano College
- Lakehead University
- McGill University
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Mount Royal University
- Nipissing University
- Nunavut Arctic College
- Nunavut Sivuniksavut
- Ontario Tech University
- Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR)
- Polar Libraries Colloquy
- Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre
- Royal Military College of Canada
- Royal Roads University
- Saint Mary's University
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- St. Francis Xavier University
- Trent University
- Université de Sherbrooke
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- Université du Québec à Rimouski
- Université Laval
- University College of the North
- University of Alberta
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of Ottawa
- University of Prince Edward Island
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Toronto
- Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute
- Yukon University

DENMARK

- Aalborg University
- Aarhus University
- Department of Management, Society and Communication - Copenhagen Business School
- Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
- Nordisk Fond for Miljø og Udvikling
- Roskilde University
- Technical University of Denmark
- University College Copenhagen
- University of Copenhagen
- University of Southern Denmark

GREENLAND

- Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland
- Perorsaanermik Ilinniartarfik / College of Social Education

FAROE ISLANDS

- University of the Faroe Islands

FINLAND

- Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
- Finnish Meteorological Institute
- Kajaani University of Applied Sciences
- Karelia University of Applied Sciences
- Lapland University of Applied Sciences
- Laurea University of Applied Sciences
- Oulu University of Applied Sciences
- Sámi Education Institute
- Savonia University of Applied Sciences
- Tampere University
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Helsinki
- University of Jyväskylä
- University of Lapland
- University of Oulu
- University of Turku

ICELAND

- Agricultural University of Iceland
- Arctic Portal
- Bifröst University
- Hólar University
- Iceland University of the Arts
- Reykjavik University
- University Centre of the Westfjords
- University of Akureyri
- University of Iceland

NORWAY

- Faculty of Science and Technology - University of Stavanger
- GRID-Arendal
- International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
- Molde University College

- Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center
- National Institute of Occupational Health (STAMI)
- Nord University
- Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)
- Norwegian Police University College
- Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences
- Oslo School of Architecture and Design
- Sámi High School and Reindeer Husbandry School
- Sámi University of Applied Sciences
- UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- University Centre in Svalbard
- University of Agder
- University of Bergen
- University of Oslo

SWEDEN

- KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- Luleå University of Technology
- Lund University
- Mid Sweden University
- Stockholm University
- Umeå University
- World Maritime University

UNITED STATES

- Alaska Pacific University
- Aleut International Association
- Anchorage Museum
- Antioch University New England
- Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School
- Arctic Research Consortium of the United States
- ARCTICenter - University of Northern Iowa
- Battelle Memorial Institute
- Climate Change Institute - University of Maine
- Cold Climate Housing Research Center
- Dartmouth College
- Department of Sociology, Northern Arizona University
- Ilisagvik College
- Institute of the North
- New York University
- Scandinavian Seminar Group
- Science Diplomacy Center
- The Yellow Tulip Project
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Alaska Southeast
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado
- University of New England
- University of New Hampshire
- University of North Dakota
- University of Southern Maine
- University of Washington
- Wilson Center - Polar Institute

NON-ARCTIC: ASIA

- Arctic Studies Center - Liaocheng University
- Centre for Arctic Studies (CAS)
- Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences
- Dalian Maritime University
- First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources
- Fudan University
- Harbin Engineering University
- Harbin Institute of Technology
- Hokkaido University

- Indian Maritime University
- International Centre for Polar Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University
- Jilin University
- Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies
- Korea Maritime Institute
- Korea Polar Research Institute
- Mongolian National University of Education
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research
- National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center
- Ocean University of China
- Polar and Marine Research Institute, Jimei University
- Rashtriya Raksha University
- Southern University of Science and Technology - Department of Ocean Science and Engineering
- Taiwan Polar Institute
- Taiyuan University of Technology
- Wuhan University
- Xiamen University

NON-ARCTIC: EUROPE

- Aix-Marseille Université
- Alfred Wegener Institute
- Arctic Basecamp Foundation
- Arctic Centre - University of Groningen
- Arctic Reflections
- Austrian Polar Research Institute
- Centre for Climate Repair, University of Cambridge
- Centre for Polar Ecology - University of South Bohemia
- Durham University
- Glasgow School of Art
- Halpin Research Centre
- Heriot-Watt University
- Institute of Polar Sciences - National Research Council of Italy
- International Polar Foundation
- Italian Society for International Organization
- Leeds Beckett University
- Network of Arctic Researchers, Ireland (NARI)
- Oxford University Polar Forum
- Police Scotland International Academy
- Robert Gordon University
- Royal College of Art
- Scotland's Rural College
- Scott Polar Research Institute
- Trinity Centre for the Environment
- Université de Bretagne Occidentale
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Dundee
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- University of Hull
- University of Liverpool
- University of St Andrews
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde
- University of the Highlands and Islands
- University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
- University of Westminster

NON-ARCTIC: OCEANIA

- University of Tasmania

NON-ARCTIC: SOUTH AMERICA

- Millennium Institute Biodiversity of Antarctic and Subantarctic Ecosystems (BASE)

UArctic Thematic Networks and Institutes in 2025

- Ageing and Gender in the Arctic
- Arctic and Northern Governance
- Arctic Boreal Hub
- Arctic Cultures and History (ARCH)
- Arctic Extractive Industries
- Arctic Geology
- Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic
- Arctic Indigenous Film
- Arctic Law
- Arctic Marine Biodiversity
- Arctic Migration
- Arctic Plastic Pollution
- Arctic Safety and Security
- Arctic Space Hub
- Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design
- Arctic Sustainable Resources and Social Responsibility
- Arctic Telecommunications and networking
- Arctic Transport and Logistics
- Arctic Urban Planning and Design
- Arctic WASH
- Blue Economy and the Arctic (BlueArctic)
- Children of the Arctic
- Circular Economy
- Circumpolar Archives, Folklore and Ethnography (CAFE)
- Climate Justice in the Arctic
- Collaborative Online International Learning and Biodiversity Education across the Arctic Circle (COIL@UArctic)
- Collaborative Resource Management
- Communicating Arctic Research
- Critical Arctic Studies
- Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM)
- Digital North: Three-Dimensional Technologies and Arctic Education
- Disasters and Natural Hazards
- EALÁT Institute
- Environmental Humanities
- Frozen Arctic Conservation
- Gender in the Arctic Knowledge Production
- Geopolitics and Security
- Health and Well-being in the Arctic
- Herbivory
- High Latitude Dust
- Institute for Arctic Policy

- Local-Scale Planning, Climate Change and Resilience
- Læra Institute for Circumpolar Studies
- Managing Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the Arctic
- Model Arctic Council
- Nordic Snow Network (NordSnowNet)
- Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research
- Northern Nursing Education
- Northern Tourism
- Ocean Food Systems
- Permafrost
- Polar Research Analytics
- POPs and Chemicals of Emerging Concern in the Asian Arctic
- Renewable Energy
- Science Diplomacy
- Smart Societies in the High North (SmartNorth)
- Social Work
- Sustainable Strategies for Waste Removal and Restorations of Arctic Mine Waste Areas (RAMWA)
- Teacher Education for Social Justice and Diversity in Education
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring
- UArctic World Ensemble
- Verdde Indigenous Education
- Working in the Arctic
- Youth Network

Statistics and lists based on 2025 end-of-year data

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