



**UARctic**  
Thematic Networks

# Year In Review

## Thematic Network on Permafrost

YLVA SJÖBERG

April 2026

### Advancing Permafrost Research and Education Across the Arctic

The past 12 months have been busy for the UARctic Thematic Network on Permafrost (TNP). We have concluded two UARctic projects focusing on promoting international internships on permafrost, funded by the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science and the Memorial University and the University of the Arctic (UARctic) through the Global Arctic Leadership Initiative (GALI) – Indigenous and Northern Collaborative Research and Education Fund. We have also finalized the preparations of a new interdisciplinary MSc-level course “Permafrost in Arctic Societies” for which students are just now arriving in Sisimiut, Greenland. We look forward to another year of promoting permafrost training through internships, courses, and at conferences and meetings across the Arctic.

### Why It Matters

- In the past 12 months, seven internships focusing on permafrost were carried out with the support of TNP.
- We recruited and certified several new PermaIntern hosts and supervisors.
- We expanded our reach to potential users of the PermaIntern service in Arctic countries through the updated online platform.
- Permafrost internship had impact on students and supervisors, as exemplified by this quote: *“We talk a lot about equity, diversity, and inclusion in research in Canada. And this is a way to do that in the lab. We bring other ways of thinking, other cultures and then we share. So that was the good point of welcoming interns”* Daniel Fortier, certified PermaIntern supervisor.

### Looking Ahead: Upcoming Courses, Internships, and Engagement

The “Permafrost in Arctic Societies” course started on April 17 (photo) and we anticipate a great learning experience for both students and teachers, and plan for another permafrost course in 2027 or 2028.

We are planning for a continuation of our permafrost internships service ([permaintern.org](http://permaintern.org)), with a potential added focus on co-designed internships projects with Arctic communities.

The TNP is co-convening the session “Communicating Permafrost Science: Knowledge Transfer through Education, Outreach, and Participatory Research” at the 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost in July, 2026.

**Photo:** Break in the sun during course introduction of UARctic TNP’s “Permafrost in Arctic Societies” at Danish Technical University Arctic DTU campus in Sisimiut, Greenland. (Photo: Carina Ren)



### Key Activities and Milestones

- Planning of teaching content, format, and structure for the interdisciplinary “Permafrost in Arctic Societies” MSc level course, running April-May 2026 at DTU Arctic in Sisimiut, Greenland.
- Advertising, assessing, and accepting 20 students for the “Permafrost in Arctic Societies” course.
- Updating the [permaintern.org](http://permaintern.org) website with additional internships, resources on permafrost, and administrative guidance for international permafrost internships.
- Organizing three webinars for sharing outcomes and experiences from students, hosts, and supervisors of permafrost internships.
- Advertisement of the PermaIntern/SEDNA permafrost internship services at conferences and meetings in Canada, Norway, Germany, and Denmark.
- Conclusion of the UARctic TNP projects PermaIntern (December 2025) and SEDNA (April 2026), both focusing on strengthening permafrost training across the Arctic through internships.

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