UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

UArctic Membership Committee
UArctic International Secretariat
University of Lapland,
Rovaniemi, Finland

By email: secretariat@uarctic.org

Dear UArctic Membership Committee

Letter of Intent in support of UTAS' application to join the UArctic Network

I am delighted to write this Letter of Intent on behalf of the University of Tasmania to confirm the support of the University leadership for our application to the UArctic Network for admission as a non-Arctic member.

Founded more than 130 years ago, the University of Tasmania strives through academic excellence to make Tasmania and the world a better place. Ranked as the number one university in the world for climate action according to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, we lead in environmental, medical, agricultural and social research through our four colleges (Sciences and Engineering, Health and Medicine, Business and Economics, and Arts, Law and Education) and our institutes, key of which for the purposes of this application is the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).

Located at the gateway to the Southern Ocean and Antarctica, IMAS is an internationally-recognised centre of excellence for marine and Antarctic research. With collaborative partners across the globe, they deliver their research to government, industry, institutions and communities. Its researchers have authored more than 2500 publications since the Institute's inception in 2010. These have included peer-reviewed papers, contract reports, edited books, book chapters and conference abstracts, which have received more than 18,500 citations in other scientific publications worldwide.

The location of our University in Tasmania, as part of the archipelago to the south of the Australian mainland, and 'gateway' to Antarctica has provided our island state and the University in particular, a unique opportunity to play a key role in the Antarctic sector. We do this in collaboration with a number of other national and international Tasmanian based organisations focused on Antarctic research and conservation, including the Australian Antarctic Division, and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

The University's International Strategy 2022-2035 reflects our University's commitment to build connections and share knowledge and experiences with other island and high latitude places by building partnerships, research collaborations, academic exchange and through international student exchange. Through the work of IMAS in particular, we have active research partnerships with many of the current members of the UArctic Network. Additionally, we have more than a dozen active Student Exchange and Study Abroad Agreements with universities in the Arctic region (Norway, Finland and Sweden) and are in the process of progressing further international student exchange agreements in this region.

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Whilst our interest in the Antarctic is most directly reflected through IMAS and its world leading research, the University made a commitment a number of years ago to give 'mission integration' status to two key areas, being Antarctica and Southern Oceans and Sustainability, with the objective of making these two areas core business to be integrated across our institution. As a result, Antarctic research now spans the whole institution.

In light of our deep and sustained interest in Marine and Antarctic Studies, we see it as a natural progression for our University to now seek to formalise our interest in the Arctic region through membership of the UArctic Network. We see important parallels and opportunities for shared learning from issues of climate, geo-politics, conservation, resource management, and while we don't have first peoples in the Antarctic there are the first peoples of the Arctic from whom there is much to learn. We are very excited about the further opportunities for collaboration that this would open up, including comparative polar research.

I am very pleased on behalf of the University of Tasmania to convey my very strong support for this application for non-Arctic membership of the UArctic Network.

Yours sincerely

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

24 February 2023

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2023 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: University of Tasmania

Country: Australia

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: HEI

Profile Description:

The University of Tasmania is based in an archipelago to the south of the Australian mainland, at the far southern end of the world. Our students are immersed in a vibrant campus lifestyle filled with hands-on learning and adventure. We have campuses in the distinct regions of Tasmania: Hobart in the South, Launceston in the North, and Burnie in the North-West. We also have a specialized Nursing campus in Sydney. Our campuses make the most of each region's strengths. We currently have close to 51,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students studying with us, 5,100 of whom are international. Our research strengths take advantage of Tasmania's unique characteristics, including its natural environment and geographical location. Over ninety-five per cent of our research rates at or above world standards; we are among the Top 10 Australian universities based on research income; and we are a recognised leader in industry-driven collaborative research.

Located in one of five recognised 'gateways' to the South Polar region, the University plays a key role in the Antarctic sector. The palawa people have known the far southern regions since time immemorial, through the wind, weather, ocean, migrating animals and atmospheric phenomena. Hobart boasts several internationally significant Antarctic institutions, including the federal government's Australian Antarctic Division, and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The harbour and airport are the arrival and departure point for numerous Antarctic ships and planes, and the city hosts the biennial Australian Antarctic Festival. The University's Antarctic research spans the whole institution, from science and engineering, through medicine and psychology, to tourism and the arts, with a concentration of researchers in the internationally renowned Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. With collaborative partners across the globe, we deliver our Antarctic and related research to users across multiple governments, industries, institutions, and communities.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

- -'Oceans and Cryosphere Interactions'
- -'Resilient and Regenerative Ecosystems'
- -'Human Engagements with Antarctica'
- -'Polar Workforce' and
- - 'Antarctic, Remote and Maritime Medicine'