UNIVERSITY of STIRLING

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27 February 2023

Letter of Intent – UArctic network.

Dear UArctic Membership Committee,

Re: Application for membership from University of Stirling

We present our application for membership of UArctic for your review and consideration by the membership committee and, if nominated, the Assembly of UArctic in May.

The University of Stirling is an international university with a global reputation for high-quality teaching and research. Our teaching and research activities are organised across five faculties, each of which comprises multiple departments, institutes, and centres. From within our diverse portfolio, we have identified some clear synergies with the UArctic Thematic Networks and Institutes to which our colleagues could contribute:

- Ageing and Gender in the Arctic
- Arctic Geology
- Arctic Plastic Pollution
- Arctic WASH
- Climate Justice in the Arctic
- Geopolitics and Security
- Health and Well-being in the Arctic
- Ocean Food Systems
- Social Work

In particular, we would like to highlight some existing connections that we have with Arctic research and members of UArctic:

- Professor Phil Wookey, Professor of Ecosystem Science. Professor Wookey's research areas of interest include air pollution effects on plants and soils, and global change biology and Arctic ecosystems. He has held various positions on the Boards of ITEX, Arctic Centre (Rovaniemi), EU INTERACT, IASC and Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, and has received research funding from NERC, EU and IASC.
- Dr Clare Bird, Molecular Biologist. Dr Bird works in collaboration with marine geologist Dr Helen Coxall at Stockholm University on a project to reconstruct past sea-ice retreat in the ocean north of Greenland.

The University of Stirling is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC 011159.

BE THE DIFFERENCE

- Dr Tom Bradwell, Geoscientist. Dr Bradwell is working on NERC / NSF funded projects to investigate marine-influenced ice-sheet instability and glacier change in Greenland and Iceland.
- Professor Holger Nehring, Chair in Contemporary European History. Professor Nehring holds a fellowship funded by the British Academy that includes a component on sub national / regional diplomacy in the North Sea (mainly Scotland, Denmark, Norway). In addition, he is the lead investigator on an AHRC funded project 'Materialising the Cold War' that includes project partners in the Norwegian Aviation Museum in Bodø, and, in collaboration with NIKU (Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage) and colleagues from Arctic University Tromsø, will hold a workshop in Stirling in autumn 2024.

The University of Stirling is also host to Scotland's International Environment Centre, through which an innovation community will be created in the local Forth Valley region, driving the creation of a net zero regional economy, with the intention to become a global exemplar of low-carbon growth. The Centre and in particular the lead researchers, Professor Andrew Tyler, Professor Jens-Arne Subke and Dr Evangelos Spyrakos, will provide opportunities to collaborate with UArctic members on a range of projects to help tackle and mitigate climate change, support the transition to a net zero economy, and to protect our natural environmental assets.

In summary, I support our application for membership of UArctic and confirm that we are committed to promoting UArctic within the University of Stirling and to extend this promotion to our wider community both local and global.

Yours sincerely

Professor Sir Gerry McCormac FRSE, FSA, FRSA, FHEA
Principal & Vice-Chancellor

2023 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: University of Stirling

Country: United Kingdom

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: HEI

Profile Description:

The University of Stirling is an international university with a global reputation for high-quality teaching and research. By striving for success, our teaching and research makes a real and demonstrable impact on the economy, environment and society, in Scotland and beyond.

Our vision is to be recognised across the world as a university that addresses the needs of society through innovative and interdisciplinary research; learning and teaching of the highest quality; and by sharing our knowledge with the world.

Our mission is to develop people and help society through the pursuit and understanding of knowledge; transform the lives of our students and staff by giving them opportunities to reach their full potential intellectually and emotionally; and to create global citizens, working in partnership with governments, business and industry, public and third sectors, and colleagues in other institutions, to identify and meet the changing needs of society.

Our actions are underpinned by our values of excellence, openness and ambition.

Our current Strategic Plan (2016 - 2023) set ambitious targets, underpinning a vision to be recognised across the world as a university that addresses the needs of society through innovative interdisciplinary research, learning and teaching of the highest quality and by sharing our knowledge with the world.

https://www.stir.ac.uk/about/our-vision/our-strategy/

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

- Accounting and Finance
- Aquaculture
- Biology
- Business and Management
- Computer Science and Software Engineering
- Criminology
- Data Science and Data Analytics
- Economics

- English and Literature
- Environmental Science
- Film and Media Studies
- Geography
- Health and Allied Subjects
- History
- Journalism and Publishing
- Languages and TESOL
- Law
- Marketing and Public Relations (PR)
- Mathematics
- Nursing
- Philosophy and Religion
- Politics
- Social Studies
- Sport
- Teaching and Education

Dear Natalia,

Many thanks for your email. Here is some additional information for the membership panel:

- Research
  - Existing research activities – as detailed in our letter of intent, we have active research projects relating to Arctic and northern issues, including on ice / glacier retreat, marine biology, arctic biodiversity and ecosystem change.
  - Applications in pipeline – we are currently involved in a Horizon Europe application focussed on Arctic (Blue Carbon) which includes UArctic member Aarhus University amongst other consortium members.
  - Thematic Networks - in our letter of intent we gave examples of where our research activities are directly relevant to some of the Thematic Networks run by the UArctic membership. Our researchers will engage with activities run by the Thematic Networks as appropriate.
- Networks – Stirling is a member of the network YERUN, which includes partners in Norway, Denmark and Finland. Through YERUN we will encourage and support researcher mobility between our partner institutions and develop stronger collaborative research connections.
- Scottish Government have offered to connect Stirling with the Scottish Arctic Network, which will become a UArctic regional centre through which we can collaborate and share information with other Scottish members of UArctic.
- Internal communications – we will use our MS Teams platform to share information about the network with our researchers and will provide the opportunity for those interested in issues relating to the Arctic to come together to share ideas and connections.

Best wishes,

Dr Susan Alexander

Head of Research Development

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Susan