DR MARC MACIAS-FAURIA
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OXFORD UNIVERSITY POLAR FORUM
www.polar.ox.ac.uk

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University of the Arctic International Secretariat
c/o University of Lapland
PO Box 122
96101 Rovaniemi FINLAND

24 February 2023

Dear University of the Arctic International Secretariat,

University of the Arctic Letter of Intent – Oxford University Polar Forum

I am writing as the chair of the ***Oxford University Polar Forum*** to support the Forum's application to join the University of the Arctic and to demonstrate our commitment to building new relationships and enhancing existing collaborations throughout the Arctic.

The ***Oxford University Polar Forum*** (OUPF) is a hub of researchers based at the *University of Oxford*, United Kingdom with interests in polar research. The ***OUPF*** facilitates knowledge-sharing and collaboration within the university and has an outwards-facing vision.

The *University of Oxford* is home to more than 60 researchers with interests in the polar regions, including over 30 Professors, Associate Professors and academic staff members. Oxford's expertise is distributed across the Humanities, the Natural and the Social Sciences, and includes researchers in history, politics, international relations, anthropology, biology, physics, geology, geography, oceanography, climate, and more.

Researchers at the *University of Oxford* have developed longstanding and solid partnerships with a diversity of Arctic researchers and institutions, with some of its members already engaged in University of the Arctic Thematic Networks. This diverse range of expertise is brought together by the ***OUPF*** to contribute to the creation of novel and much-needed solutions to the challenges posed in the rapidly changing polar regions.

Since its creation in 2013, the ***OUPF*** has actively worked to promote arctic research performed by researchers at the *University of Oxford*, within the University and beyond it. Amongst the activities we have organised, we highlight in here:

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Research seminars. We have organised seminar series with the participation of Arctic researchers from the *University of Oxford* and a broad range of research institutions worldwide – some of these were recorded and are available in our YouTube channel, such as the Spring 2021 Seminar Series focused on research in the Russian Arctic.

Early career. We have fostered early career researchers by holding *Early Career Polar Weeks*.

Arctic Horizon Scan 2022. In September 2022, the ***OUPF*** organised an international horizon scanning exercise in Oxford attended by more than 100 delegates from all over the Arctic and with a very prominent Arctic indigenous peoples' representation. The three-day workshop resulted in ongoing work to create a document on Arctic emerging priorities that will be sent for review to the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council. The workshop was sponsored by the UN Ocean Decade.

Outreach. During the last year, the ***OUPF*** has created, with the leadership of our secretary Dr Sam Cornish, a series of podcasts called "Polar Pod" and available in several platforms such as Spotify or Apple podcasts. "Polar Pod" explores the big themes in polar research today.

Going forward there is increasing interest from our side in further exploring Arctic links and opportunities for enhanced knowledge exchange in a very wide range of areas and to find ways in which our research can create impact where it matters. As an Arctic institution located out of the Arctic, joining the University of the Arctic is an opportunity for the ***OUPF*** to enhance and consolidate its project and to spearhead the engagement of the *University Oxford* with the large Arctic community. We also look forward to the opportunity for enhanced staff and student mobility across the region.

We are committed to meet the University of the Arctic member obligations as highlighted on the website. Please do get in contact should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Marc Macias-Fauria
Professor of Biogeosciences, School of Geography & the Environment
Oxford University Polar Forum
University of Oxford

2023 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: Oxford University Polar Forum

Country: United Kingdom

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: Other Institution

Profile Description:

The Oxford University Polar Forum is a hub of researchers based at the *University of Oxford* with interests in Polar research. The Polar Forum facilitates knowledge-sharing and collaboration within the University, and also has an outwards-facing vision. This is to advance the state of polar research more broadly (see Arctic Horizon Scan 2022) and inform and inspire public audiences about the polar regions and their importance (see *Polar Pod*).

The *University of Oxford* is currently home to more than 60 researchers with interests in the Polar Regions, including over 30 Professors, Associate Professors and academic staff members. Oxford's expertise is distributed across the Humanities, Natural and Social Sciences, and includes researchers in history, politics, international relations, anthropology, biology, physics, geology, geography, oceanography, climate, and more.

This diverse range of expertise is brought together by the Oxford Polar Forum to contribute to the creation of novel and much-needed solutions to the challenges posed by the rapidly changing Polar regions.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

The University of Oxford, of which the Oxford University Polar Forum is part, has a wide range of focus areas, which encompass the social sciences, humanities, and the natural sciences. Our focus encompasses:

- environmental change

- policy

- resource management

- oceanography

- climate change