UNIVERSITY
OF HULL

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Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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The Membership Committee
University of the Arctic Network
UArctic International Secretariat
University of Lapland, Finland

By email: secretariat@uarctic.org

Dear Members of the Committee

Expression of Interest for Membership of the University of the Arctic Network

I am writing on behalf of the University of Hull to formally express our interest in becoming a member of the University of the Arctic Network.

The University has a range of research and teaching, which we believe is highly relevant to Arctic concerns, and which have good synergy with other member universities. We are building important bilateral relationships with a number of existing members, and the UK government recognises the importance of teaching, research and knowledge exchange work in this region, and provides an additional supportive framework.

In this letter, I outline the contribution the University of Hull can make to the Network, and demonstrate strong alignment to the mission of the University of the Arctic.

Commitment to the UArctic's mission

We recognise that the world's most pressing challenges require global collaboration and multi-disciplinary approaches, because they cannot be resolved in isolation.

Our University Strategy 2030 has the twin pillars of sustainability and social justice at its core. These principles, and the way in which we realise them through our work, are fundamental to how we would work with partners in UArctic.

Our work in promoting viable communities and sustainable economies centres on adaptability to climate change, including through **supporting indigenous peoples** in our Treatied Spaces Research Group, ground-breaking work in **offshore wind** developments, and the management of **fisheries and marine** environments.

Coupled with this is the way in which we manage the 'greening' of our own campus, and the part we play in the **decarbonisation of the industrial port city** where the University is located.

We have a long history of work in supporting social justice, including a research institute focused on the history of slavery and the extent of **modern-day slavery**, named after the famous abolitionist and native of Hull, William Wilberforce.

Access to justice, education, and health are key themes of our teaching and research, across our four faculties (Science and Engineering; Business, Law and Politics; Health Sciences; and Arts, Cultures and Education).

The global partnerships we enjoy are focused on the academic synergies we have – an approach we would bring to new partnerships with UArctic members. We already have an excellent relationship with the **University of Tromsø**, in which we are developing teaching, student exchange, and research collaborative projects.

In all our work, we use the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to showcase progress that we have contributed to. The SDGs are all about sustainability and social justice, which are our key drivers.

As part of this, we host an annual **SDG Conference**. Our projects, and our keynote speakers (including the Rector of the University of Tromsø, and guests from Equinor) frequently highlight urgent topics of the Arctic region. We also have competitive SDG scholarships for international undergraduate students, whose programmes specifically address the SDGs.

Contribution to the development of UArctic's research

The University of Hull has a long-standing tradition of fostering research and education focused on the challenges and opportunities in northern regions. Our faculty and students are actively engaged in areas pertinent to Arctic studies, including climate change, marine and environmental sciences, logistics and supply, and migration and indigenous peoples.

The University of Hull focuses on research objectives that align with its mission to promote sustainable development and environmental conservation. These objectives include fostering collaborative research initiatives, enhancing understanding and responses to climate change, promoting sustainable practices, and contributing to the global discourse on global issues. The research undertaken at UoH aligns with the aim at advancing knowledge and finding solutions to the unique challenges faced by the Arctic and its inhabitants. Below are some examples:

- The University of Hull's Marine and Maritime Institute focuses on a wide range of marine and maritime-related subjects, including governance of oceans, and the effects of climate change on marine life – issues which are highly pertinent to the High North and Arctic.

- Additionally, the Department of Biological and Marine Sciences undertakes research in environmental fluid dynamics, hydrology, and studies on aquatic microplastic contamination in environments, especially in polar environments.

- The work of the Treatied Spaces Research Group exemplifies a strong commitment to indigenous communities. Its interdisciplinary research comprises environmental science, indigenous studies, law, and policy, and includes international partners from the Arctic. It fosters a comprehensive understanding of the complexities associated with education, policy, and public understanding of indigenous minorities. TSRG is committed to developing ethical research, respecting the values enshrined in key protocols, including, as exemplars, the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, 2020 and the Inuit-specific methodological approach known as Aajiiqatigiingniq, advocated by the Aqqiumavvik Society of Arviat, Nunavut. The group has also worked with indigenous peoples in Canada.

- We also have significant expertise in logistics and supply chain management, including discussion of how changes to polar ice will impact sea routes. This links with expertise in environmental and maritime law.

Contribution to the development of UArctic education programs

We are keen to establish joint education programmes with other UArctic members, bringing our respective expertise to bear on curriculum development and innovative delivery. We would offer dialogue on the development of joint degrees, co-supervisions, student exchange, collaborative online learning, summer schools, and short courses.

We have experience in all of these areas with international partners, and have a range of existing student exchange agreements with UArctic members. We would seek to expand this through the North2North scheme, giving opportunity to our own students, and welcoming students to Hull from across the Arctic region.

Our Teaching Excellence Academy works with all our academic schools on global competency, curriculum development, and an innovative approach to competency-based pedagogy.

In-kind support, services, or material resources

The University of Hull has a range of research facilities, equipment and capabilities that are of relevance to the priorities set out in the thematic networks and institutes of UArctic. Many of these are supported by core University funding that supports operational costs including maintenance, energy, technical services and support, representing a significant in-kind contribution to future collaborative research, innovation and knowledge exchange projects that we anticipate developing with UArctic partners:

- Positron Emission Topography Research Centre: A cutting-edge facility for medical imaging research, including early diagnosis of diseases like cancer and dementia.
- Total Environment Simulator (TES): Located at The Deep aquarium, this experimental facility is designed for modelling environmental fluid and sediment dynamics, capable of simulating a variety of environmental conditions.
- Viper High Performance Computing: One of the leading computing centres in the university sector, Viper supports a wide range of computational tasks, from single and multiple node tasks to high memory tasks and accelerated calculations.
- Hull Immersive Visualization Environment (HIVE): Offers advanced visualization, motion capture, and computer graphics technology, including a VR immersive cube and theatre, and gigapixel wall facilities.
- Rehabilitation and sports science: The University provides state-of-the-art sports injury rehabilitation, and facilities for elite sports performance and exercise.
- Allam Medical Building: simulated learning environments for healthcare training, including a hospital ward, operating theatre and more, which helps students transition effectively into clinical practice.
- Aura Innovation Centre is an innovation centre in a green business park, offering high-quality office and conference space, together with a range of technological workshop facilities. It is also home to our UK-government funded Doctoral Training Centre in Offshore Wind
- Hull Marine Laboratory: Provides high-quality marine data, support, and expertise to the University of Hull, external organizations, and businesses.
- Library and Archives include collections aligned with the research and teaching expertise outlined.
- The Hull History Centre has an online catalogue, a research service, research guides and special events relating to the history of the city. Given Hull's long history of North Sea trade and migration, we believe this will be a valuable resource for members of the Network.
- The Hull Maritime Museum is undergoing a major upgrade with substantial investment, which will make it a world-class facility for the study of the city's international trade and position as a port city. Its facilities will benefit members of the Network working in trade, logistics, and the history of the North Sea and Nordic nations.

Commitment to circumpolar educational cooperation

We would be pleased to bring expertise in particular disciplines to strong cooperation with partners in circumpolar education. Below are a few examples of innovative programmes and capabilities at Hull that may bring benefit to the Network.

We are developing a new undergraduate degree (available from 2025) in '**Climate Change and Sustainability**', an interdisciplinary programme covering geography, history, business and health.

We also offer an innovative MSc on **GIS and Environmental Modelling**, which has a focus on GIS and flooding, climate change and changes in marine habitats. The course uses ArcGIS, a geographic information system for working with maps and geographic information with open access for our students. We have also developed a strategic cluster of PhD students working on **Remote sensing, AI and Modelling**. The cluster is open to Marine Science PhDs.

Our Department of Geology works collaboratively with others using **UAV sensing**. UAV-based learning can be extended to agriculture, remote sensing, environmental law, oil and gas production, cultural resilience of fishing economies, tax permissions, and geopolitical tensions.

Our School of Law has expertise in Law of the Sea and Marine Law. We can contribute with teaching mobility, COIL, and academic provision around environmental law and arbitration.

The Treatied Spaces Research Group works proactively in activities helping museum and heritage sites to enhance the interpretation and contextualization of indigenous materials in their collections. This informs our teaching in the School of Humanities.

Links to other major UArctic constituencies

The University of Hull has an important relationship with the **University of Tromsø**, Norway. This is centred around discussions of research synergy, including marine science, renewable energy, adapting to climate change, environmental law, indigenous peoples and migration, and supply chains and logistics. We also have student exchange agreements in several disciplinary areas.

We have a connection with the **University of Bergen** through our shared membership of the Utrecht Network. This includes researcher and student mobility, and young researcher opportunities, and discussions around the management of research. University of Hull academics have also co-authored publications with the following institutions:

Institution	Type	Country	# of publications
Finnish Institute of Occupational Health	government	Finland	18
Reykjavík University	academic	Iceland	13
University of Oulu	academic	Finland	9
University of Jyväskylä	academic	Finland	5
Luleå University of Technology	academic	Sweden	3
Nord University	academic	Norway	3
University of Iceland	academic	Iceland	3
University of Eastern Finland	academic	Finland	2

We co-ordinate the work of the Treatied Spaces Research Group, which brings together scholars from across the world, notably in **Scandinavia, Canada, and the UK**. The focus is on treaties and rights of indigenous peoples.

All of this takes place in a supportive research environment. The UK is an observer in the Arctic Council, and the UK government co-operates deeply with Arctic nations on sustainable energy, conservation, and maritime safety. The UK government has stated the strategic importance of the Arctic region, and has a number of bilateral agreements with Arctic states for scientific collaboration, facilitating projects, data sharing and exchange programmes for scientists. UK Research and Innovation recently signed an agreement with the Research Council of Norway to reduce barriers to cross-border collaboration. This history of collaboration and the UK's commitment to the region will assist the University of Hull in becoming a full and active member of the University of the Arctic.

We are excited about the potential synergies and collaborative opportunities that UArctic membership will bring. The University of Hull is fully committed to actively contributing to the development of UArctic and its joint programmes, and to playing a significant role in advancing Arctic research and education.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss our application further and to contribute to the UArctic network.

Yours sincerely

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2024 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: University of Hull

Country: United Kingdom

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: HEI

Profile Description:

The University of Hull is a public research university that was formed in 1927, making it the 14th oldest university in England. It is located in Kingston-Upon-Hull, a city in the East Riding of Yorkshire, north-east England.

The main campus is located in a residential district of north Hull on Cottingham Road. It occupies a single, clearly defined site that includes 4 faculties, 11 schools, a Maritime Historical Studies Centre, the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation, and the Energy and Environment Institute.

The University of Hull research is built on a set of shared values and principles that seek social and educational change to enhance fairness, equity and social justice. The University has particular research expertise in social justice, environmental technologies and maritime history. Our work in healthcare, 3D visualization and nanotechnology are also widely respected. In research terms, the University is perhaps best known for developing liquid-crystal technology.

In 2023 University of Hull was recognised with a Gold rating* in the latest Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), the highest award possible for student experience and student outcomes, and a clear signal of excellence.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

Research, teaching and knowledge exchange which is highly connected to the University's location, including;

- Coastal and marine science
- law of the sea
- estuary management
- flood risk management
- renewable energy, especially offshore wind
- decarbonisation of industry and supply chains

Commitment to the twin pillars of social justice and environmental sustainability, including:

- The rights of indigenous peoples
- Access to healthcare
- Modern-day slavery
- International security

Food, water and energy security