Professor Tim Jones
Vice-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellor's Office
The Foundation Building
Liverpool
L69 7ZX

Telephone +44 (0)151 794 2003
T.S.Jones2@liverpool.ac.uk

26 February 2024

Dear UArctic Membership Committee

University of the Arctic

On behalf of the University of Liverpool, I am delighted to give my full support to this application for affiliation to the University of the Arctic.

The University of Liverpool looks forward to building and empowering both collaboration and teaching between its members, given our longstanding strength in Arctic research and education. The School of Environmental Sciences has much expertise in this area which includes our glaciologists working on important local and global research problems relating to changing ice masses in Scandinavia, Iceland, Greenland and Nunavut; our SEGUL group of ecologists advancing the understanding of the behaviour and conservation of Arctic seabirds and wider food webs; and our oceanographers transforming global understanding of the physical, biogeochemical and biological role of the polar oceans in the global climate system.

We are seeking affiliation to the University of the Arctic as part of our new strategic plan to enhance the University of Liverpool's global engagement and partnerships with institutions outside the UK. In doing so, this affiliation would be an outstanding opportunity to contribute and collaborate in areas of research and education in which we have substantial strength. UArctic's thematic networks will undoubtedly lead to new mutually beneficial opportunities which will help to simultaneously support and build the profiles of the University of the Arctic, University of Liverpool and the wider community of member institutions.

Other specific areas of interest where there would opportunities for us to co-create mutually beneficial research and teaching collaborations with members include (but are not limited to): resilience of coastal infrastructure; urban and rural planning; public health; and geographic data science; in addition to our strengths in the environmental sciences.

Liverpool has enjoyed substantial links to the Arctic and its people, and we see this as an opportunity to both continue and broaden the city's ties. Historically, Liverpool has been linked to the Arctic through trade with Fennoscandia and North America, fishing, naval collaboration and the European exploration of both Greenland and Arctic Canada. These cultural links are particularly strong with Scandinavia, with many local dialect words loaned from Scandinavian languages and the "Scouser" nickname of Liverpool's inhabitants being derived from the Norwegian sailors' dish of lopskaus.

Across the city, the University of Liverpool enjoys links to maritime facing industries with strong connections and interests in the Arctic that could be of benefit to UArctic members, while the UK's new polar research vessel – the RRS Sir David Attenborough – was built at the Cammel Laird shipyards just across the river from the city. The University hosts the National Oceanography Centre on campus, which is home to the longest continuous record of sea level change in the world that allows us to track sea level contributions from the Arctic's dwindling glaciers.

As an institution based in a non-Arctic nation, we recognise that the Arctic, its people, and its environment, are pivotal to building a better world. The oft-quoted line of "what happens in the Arctic does not stay in the Arctic" is unequivocally true, as it is positioned on the front-line of climate change that will have global repercussions for climate, oceans, and environments.

We recognise that the changes the Arctic is experiencing has led to its indigenous peoples and local communities experiencing unprecedented economic and societal challenges driven by international trade, local and global demands for energy and resources, and rapid changes to both marine and terrestrial biodiversity. As a member of the University of the Arctic we would be committed to positively contribute to understanding and addressing these challenges. We would strive to achieve this through equitable engagement with members and all those who call the Arctic region their home.

We thank you for considering our application and look forward to the opportunity to become an enthusiastic and engaged member of the University of the Arctic.

Yours faithfully

Professor Tim Jones
Vice-Chancellor

2024 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: University of Liverpool

Country: United Kingdom

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: HEI

Profile Description:

For advancement of learning and ennoblement of life' has been our mission since the University was founded in 1881. To this day, these values focus our efforts as we strive to achieve our ambitions and tackle the grand challenges of the age.

Our aim as an inspirational centre of learning is to support our students as they become highly employable, creative, and culturally rich graduates, with the capacity to find employment that will enable them to be agents for change in a connected world.

We’re proud to be rated Gold for educational excellence in the UK Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). As part of this the TEF panel rated elements of the University's provision as outstanding, including course teaching, learning resources and progression rates.

Associated with nine Nobel Laureates, the University is recognised for its high-quality teaching and research. Our research collaborations extend worldwide and address many of the grand challenges facing mankind today.

The University is driving the city’s knowledge economy through close collaboration with fellow universities, industry and the NHS, helping the Liverpool City Region compete in the global business world.

The University is a globally-focused institution with partnerships throughout the world, including research institutes, universities, governments and industrial organisations.

The University is working in partnerships both locally and globally to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals, harnessing our strengths in research and education to drive forward the solutions and cultural change needed to move to a sustainable future.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

Advanced materials

Climate Futures

Digital

Starting well, living well, ageing well

Heritage

Personalised health

Infectious diseases