NARI
Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland

University of the Arctic
University of Lapland
Rovaniemi
FINLAND

Galway, January 27th

RE: Letter of Intent to join the UArctic Network

Dear UArctic International Secretariat,

At the Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland (NARI), we have been following UArctic for some time and are happy that this year we are in a position to apply for membership. By joining UArctic, we believe NARI members would have excellent opportunities to extend their networks to include the wider Arctic research community, benefit from UArctic educational programs, and engage with outreach opportunities.

NARI's main objectives are to support an informal all-island Irish-based network of Arctic researchers to facilitate collaboration, sharing, and coordination of scientific activities linked to the Arctic, and to provide independent scientific advice to the public and policymakers. Our members are active in Arctic research notably in climate change, indigenous languages, human health, and marine safety. Furthermore, the network strives to promote and involve the next generation of scientists working in the Arctic and seeks polar cooperation through interaction with other relevant science organizations. We therefore perceive the UArctic as a like-minded organisation that, like NARI, embraces collaborative research opportunities, which provide direct benefits to the environment and society.

We have outlined some key areas that we believe NARI's members could benefit from by joining UArctic:

1. **The News Section:** NARI's members publish and present to an international and national audience but would be privileged to gain a potential new avenue to promote their research through the UArctic news section.

2. **Thematic Networks:** NARI's members would gain further opportunities to encourage collaboration, research development and further research excellence through joining and creating thematic networks.

3. **UArctic Events:** Through supporting international networking opportunities through various events hosted by UArctic including the Assembly of the UArctic, NARI's members would get the opportunity to develop new contacts which may lead to valuable projects and

collaborations in the future. In addition, these events are a great opportunity to keep NARI's members up to date on important Arctic topics.

4. **Research Infrastructure Catalogue**: The Research Infrastructure Catalogue is a fantastic opportunity to develop future exchanges between Ireland and the global Arctic community. The University of Galway, where NARI is housed, has a strong research infrastructure for laboratory and field work in climate, ocean and geophysical studies and also has a growing research focus on minority language preservation.

5. **Letters of support:** It would be beneficial for members to apply for endorsement for any projects that they create with Arctic partners to boost grant applications.

Over the past four years, NARI has built a small but supportive community that aims for excellence in Arctic research. We believe that UArctic offers a unique opportunity for Irish Arctic researchers to disseminate their research and will provide exciting new avenues for networking and collaboration.

As president of NARI, I endorse this application to join UArctic. Furthermore, this application is supported by our policy partners at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland, and the Marine Institute of Ireland.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Audrey Morely

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Director, BSc Programme in Geography and Geosystems
Deputy Director, iCRAG: The Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences
President, Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland

2024 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: Network of Arctic Researchers, Ireland (NARI)

Country: Ireland

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: Other Institution

Profile Description:

NARI is a platform for Irish based researchers to enhance their interdisciplinary collaborative efforts at a national and international level and promote their scientific activities linked to the Arctic. The network provides objective and independent scientific advice on issues of science in the Arctic and communicates scientific information to the public and policy. Furthermore, the network strives to promote and involve the next generation of scientists working in the Arctic and seeks polar cooperation through interaction with other relevant science organizations.

The activities by members is showcased within three main working groups structured around Marine, Terrestrial, and Humanities & Social Sciences research agendas that share the main objectives of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee. This will facilitate national and international collaborative efforts and provide thematic platforms for policy makers and the public to contact relevant experts.

As of 2024 NARI is composed of over 60 members from over 10 Universities across Ireland including University College Cork, Trinity College Dublin and the University of Galway. Our members produce valuable Arctic relevant research on diverse topics including the broad categories of oceanography, climate modelling, ecology, geology, political science and anthropology. Through providing a platform for collaboration, NARI aims to act as a bridge between quality scientific research and policy on important topics contained within Arctic research.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

Thematic focus areas of NARI are organized via three main working groups structured around Marine, Terrestrial, and Humanities & Social Sciences

1. **Marine Sciences:** To address the emerging environmental and social pressures of the Arctic Region and to facilitate international collaborative efforts in research, the Marine Sciences Working group has adopted the Scientific Foci of the International Arctic Science Committee as their main scientific goals:

- Predicting and understanding rapid changes to the Ocean system
- Understanding biological and ecosystem processes in the Arctic and sub-arctic seas

- Understanding sea ice structure dynamics and the Arctic system
- Understanding geochemical processes in the Arctic and sub-arctic seas
- Enhancing and improving access to the paleo record of the Arctic Ocean

1. **Terrestrial Sciences**: Arctic landmasses and the diverse range of habitats, ecosystems, and populations they support are among the fastest warming environments on Earth. To foster impactful research into the causes, manifestations, and impact of Arctic change, the Terrestrial Science Working Group will focus on the following priority areas.

- Establishing via observational and palaeo data the full capacity of the Arctic environment for change
- Resolving the impact of permafrost thawing on Arctic hydrology
- Assessing ecological resilience of Arctic ecosystems in the face of modern and projected climate change
- Understand terrestrial carbon sinks and sources and their linkages with Arctic climate
- Projecting impacts of rising temperatures on land-based transport links and infrastructure

1. **Humanities and Social Science:** There are four key aims of the Humanities and Social Sciences Working Group

- To support current and future research of Irish Arctic and Northern Studies across multiple disciplines spanning the humanities, and social sciences through providing information, reading lists, academic papers and other resources on the NARI website
- To encourage collaboration on the creation of academic papers, research projects and educational events/workshops amongst working group members and associate members
- To organise meetings and research activities for working group members