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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express SRUC's interest in becoming a member of the University of the Arctic (UArctic). Our desire to join this network stems from our commitment to research, education and knowledge exchange in the Arctic region (and beyond), which is well aligned with the values and objectives of UArctic.

Our initial discussions, initiated by SRUC Rural Policy Centre and Hill and Mountain Research Centre representatives in a meeting with Professor Outi Snellman and the Head of the Scottish Government's Nordic and Arctic Unit, have brought to light the compelling relevance of UArctic membership to our work. We recognise the potential for collaboration on issues such as agriculture in challenging contexts, just transitions, climate and environmental concerns, and rural communities and related policies. UArctic's emphasis on networking, cooperation and partnership-working to enhance human capital and promote viable communities and sustainable economies resonates deeply with SRUC's values, emphasising cooperation in education, research, and outreach. We are drawn to the network's commitment to sustainable development principles and its alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Becoming a member of UArctic holds significant appeal for SRUC, offering several compelling benefits including knowledge exchange, educational and research synergy, global networking opportunities, partnership-working, as well as opportunities for engagement in the thematic groups. The prospect of engaging with over 200



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institutions, both Arctic and non-Arctic, presents exciting opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in education and research. Membership will not only bolster SRUC's mission but also amplify our capacity to make a meaningful global impact on the natural economy, in collaboration with others. This objective resonates with our overarching aim of fostering the mobilisation of knowledge and talent. It will provide opportunities for strengthening existing collaborations (for example the Rural Policy Centre's recent Arctic Connections-funded project on the contribution of female entrepreneurs to net zero goals across the Arctic) as well as building new research and education partnerships with institutions, thereby contributing to and expanding the topics of expertise within UArctic. Furthermore, our membership aligns with the Scottish Government's Arctic Policy, emphasising Scotland's commitment to sustainable development, educational and research collaboration, and environmental stewardship in the Arctic region. It is our firm belief that our participation in UArctic will contribute to the realization of these shared goals.

We are aware of the membership details, including the annual fee and the application process, and are prepared to fulfil the necessary requirements. We see this as an exciting opportunity to build connections, share knowledge, and explore new educational opportunities.

We look forward to the prospect of contributing to and learning from the rich expertise within the UArctic network.

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Jamie Newbold
Provost and Deputy Principal
Scotland's Rural College

2024 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

**Applicant:** Scotland's Rural College

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Membership Category:** Non-Arctic

**Membership Type:** Higher Education Institution

**Profile Description:**

- Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), a prominent institution established in 2012, emerged from the amalgamation of the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) with Barony, Elmwood, and Oatridge Colleges, weaving together a rich heritage dating back over a century.
- SRUC embodies a distinctive vision – to serve as Scotland's enterprise university, positioned at the core of a sustainable natural economy.
- The institution's mission revolves around the creation and mobilisation of knowledge and talent, fostering partnerships locally and globally to advance Scotland's natural economy.
- Education, research, and consultancy, facilitated through SAC Consulting, form the triad of pillars driving SRUC's commitment to cultivating the natural economy responsibly. This entails judicious utilisation of the world's natural resources, encompassing people, land, energy, water, animals, and plants.
- SRUC's collaborative approach extends to addressing formidable global challenges, prominently those related to climate change, biodiversity, and the imperative provision of nutritious food and clean water.
- In aligning its efforts with the principles of a sustainable natural economy, SRUC aspires to be at the forefront of effecting positive change, striving to deliver economic, social, and environmental benefits not only for Scotland but also for the broader global community.
- As an institution deeply rooted in history yet forward-looking in its vision, SRUC emerges as a beacon dedicated to tackling the intricate issues facing the planet through its steadfast commitment to sustainable practices and holistic solutions.

**Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:**

- Food and nutrition security
- Climate change and natural resources
- Changing agricultural systems (including animal/plant health and welfare, farm management and biosecurity, etc.)
- Resilient rural and island businesses and communities