Arkitektur- og designhøgskolen i Oslo
The Oslo School of Architecture and Design

UArctic International Secretariat
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Letter of intent

The Oslo School of Architecture and Design hereby expresses interest in joining the University of the Arctic network. For many years, we have engaged actively in developing Arctic communities and settlements through our educational and research activities. Our Master in Landscape Architecture is a five-year joined-degree programme that is operated in conjunction with UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Benefitting from this context, the programme has a unique profile among international schools of landscape architecture that we are eager to develop further. Other educational programmes at AHO in Design and Architecture also have a history of engagement with communities in Arctic regions.

AHO also has a history of research in the Arctic Studies field through researchers from the Institute of Urbanism and Landscape. This has involved externally funded research and collaboration with various research institutions within Arctic Studies and the architecture and design fields.

While focussing on Norwegian communities and landscape, our interest and activities extend to a broader Arctic context through existing networks with partners in the Nordic countries, Canada etc. Through membership in UArctic, we seek to deepen partnerships with relevant institutions across the region, enable student and faculty mobility, and engage in shared research and knowledge-building activities.

Irene Alma Lønne
Rector
Oslo School of Architecture and Design

2024 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: Oslo School of Architecture and Design

Country: Norway

Membership Category: Arctic

Membership Type: HEI

Profile Description:

The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO) offers a unique research-based education of international standing. Established in 1945, today it has built a solid national funding base and is prominently ranked internationally. AHO awards three Master's degrees in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Design and a PhD programme. AHO is located in the centre of Oslo, in a revitalised industrial area near the Akerselva River. An innovative, creative and cultural part of the city.

AHO offers Master's degree programmes that equip students to enter directly into professional practice or academia. Within the Master's programmes, students may specialise in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture and urbanism, industrial design, interaction design, service and systems-oriented design. The school also offers Executive Master's courses in urban studies, architectural conservation and systems-oriented design. AHO offers a single type of doctoral degree, the Doctor of Philosophy. The PhD programme is organized as a separate academic and administrative unit. The programme includes approximately 50 PhD candidates who, along with AHO's established academic staff, do research on artistic and academic problems.

The school has approximately 800 students. As an international school, AHO's Master's programmes are taught in English. International students constitute 25% of the Master's students and 50% of the PhD candidates. The international faculty consists of academics and practising professionals who provide the necessary breadth needed for contemporary architecture, landscape architecture and design education.

The school follows a studio-based educational model with a high faculty-to-student ratio that encourages individual development and collaboration. Three institutes—Institute of Architecture, Institute of Urbanism and Landscape, and Institute of Design—organise the education. Each Institute has its own research that informs and inspires teaching and practice. The school boasts three unique wood, plastic and metal workshops, a full-scale construction hall, Rapid manufacturing labs, libraries, and the most current IT resources. Studios, data labs, and unstaffed workshops are open to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

- Innovation and creativity within design and architectural thinking and practice
- Multidisciplinary and design-based approaches to societal challenges: migration, digitalization, urbanization and democracy
- Experimental solutions to environmental challenges: climate change, biodiversity, circularity