



UArctic Chairs – Terms of Reference

(March 2024)

Chairs

1. UArctic Chairs are individuals capable of being central actors of the agenda of Arctic knowledge development and sharing. As highly qualified scientists, researchers, academics, educators, and experts, UArctic Chairs serve as drivers in content areas of relevance to the Arctic.
2. UArctic also seek to have UArctic Chairs from Indigenous communities, highlighting expertise in aspects of Indigenous knowledge. This may be an Indigenous person with academic background or an Elder whose merits are based on traditional means of acquiring knowledge.
3. UArctic Chairs are leading in their field, creating new knowledge while they also act as drivers for knowledge development with focus on future generations of knowledge holders through undergraduate, graduate, PhD, and postdoctoral training or traditional ways of knowledge sharing.
4. UArctic Chairs foster collaborative actions among UArctic members and Thematic Networks in partnerships with the broader Arctic community.
5. Diversity in regions, disciplines, topics, and different knowledge systems is vital for the successful implementation of the UArctic Chairs. Thus, it is a goal to ensure that the chairs, as a collective, cover as many aspects as possible of Arctic Relevant Knowledge.
6. A UArctic Chair will normally be funded by, and an employee of one or as a partnership among a few UArctic member institutions/organizations.
7. Chairs are decided on by the Board of UArctic after a thorough evaluation and nomination process.
8. UArctic Chairs will be named ‘UArctic Chair’ of specified topic(s) or disciplinary field(s) and if relevant with the prefixes to UArctic Indigenous Chairs, or UArctic Emeritus/Emerita Chair.
9. Chairs will normally be appointed for a period of five years, with the possibility of renewal. The period may be shorter if support is limited in time.

Profiles

10. The topics/disciplines of a chair may focus on any scientific or Indigenous knowledge system and/or education as well as specific Arctic problems, topic, or issue.
11. Chairs have preferably served actively in a UArctic Thematic Network or filled other roles with a cross institutional mandate, and international experience in the Circumpolar North.
12. A UArctic Chair position may be combined with other Chair appointments, in the host institution or other network systems.
13. A UArctic Chair is not expected to lead a Thematic Networks or UArctic Institute, but rather should take part and support the work of relevant Thematic Networks and Institutes.



14. To benefit from the vast competency and knowledge held by Arctic experts who are moving towards retirement, UArctic welcome emeritus Chairs with similar tasks as all other UArctic Chairs, with reduced demand and obligations.

Roles and Duties

15. A UArctic Chair is expected to continue to deliver high quality results in her/his field of expertise and be a driver in the relevant field providing results by using the UArctic mandate to work across institutional boundaries. Thematic Networks and UArctic Institutes represent a useful vehicle for this.
16. A UArctic Chair is expected to use 20% of their time to fill this role. This time will normally be “released” for this purpose by the host institution (s).
17. A UArctic Chair will normally be closely linked to relevant Thematic Networks or UArctic Institutes.
18. UArctic Chairs meet as a collective under the leadership of UArctic VP Research. This shall serve as a form for coordination and strategic discussions.
19. UArctic Chairs contribute to relevant review and evaluation processes in UArctic.
20. A subset of 6 to 12 UArctic Chairs are appointed to the UArctic Academic Advisory Board (MIMIR) that will serve as a high-level advisory body for UArctic.
21. UArctic may ask Chairs to serve as UArctic lead representatives in international organizations and fora (research community, Arctic Council, UN, etc), or to give keynote addresses on their field of expertise at UArctic and other events.
22. UArctic may ask Chairs to take part in, or lead specific strategic process, and develop strategic UArctic initiatives in their own area of expertise.
23. All UArctic Chairs are expected to ensure information on their work is reported as UArctic news and to provide short quarterly overviews on their progress to host institution(s) and UArctic’s leadership.
24. UArctic Chairs is entitled to and expected to include their UArctic affiliation in all relevant contexts (publications, talks, applications etc.).

Resources

25. A UArctic Chair is normally hosted and funded by one or a partnership of members, who release 20% work time for the UArctic Chair role and that support two international travels annually.
26. UArctic will work with members to seek external funding to ensure chair opportunities for smaller northern institutions with an Indigenous Knowledge Chair position, when a host cannot afford a fully funded chair through their own means.
27. UArctic is committed to work with the chairs and hosting members to identify funding opportunities, including giving priority to UArctic Chairs in the UArctic Philanthropic Fundraising work.



Criteria

UArctic Chairs shall be nominated and elected based on the following criteria:

28. Documented excellence in scientific and academic work or Indigenous Knowledge systems.
29. Commitment to UArctic's mission and values.
30. Potential to build international cooperation and development in their field of interest.
31. Leadership in fostering knowledge in society (including key northern constituencies) and foster multidisciplinary.
32. Documented solid support from the host institution.
33. Diversity among competence area, background, gender, and geographic home base will carry weight in the selection process.
34. Candidates for the category of Emeritus Chairs will also be considered based on their ability to support younger generations of academic leaders.
35. Indigenous Knowledge Chairs, nominated based on their Indigenous Knowledge, will be evaluated by the UArctic Indigenous Advisory Board

Selection Process

36. UArctic's leadership shall solicit nominations from member institutions and organizations.
37. Expressions of interest will be evaluated by the UArctic Academic Advisory Board (MIMIR) based on the criteria.
38. Successful nominations will be asked to submit full proposals.
39. UArctic Board appoints new UArctic Chairs based on recommendation from Mimir and UArctic President.

Operational issues

1. UArctic's chairs are supported by the UArctic VP Research and day to day issues are handled by VP Research.
2. The president can decide on any practical issues related to UArctic Chairs, including deciding on agreements with the host institutions, discontinuation of the Chair Role, etc.
3. Chairs and their host institution can raise issues with the board should they be dissatisfied with the decisions by the President.