University of the Arctic Charter
As Adopted by the UArctic Rectors’ Forum
Rovaniemi February 29, 2008

Preamble

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Our members share resources, facilities, and expertise to build post-secondary education programs that are relevant and accessible to students of the North.

Our overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and northern communities through education, training and shared knowledge. UArctic seeks to promote excellence in knowledge generation and knowledge application in areas that are relevant to the North.

UArctic training and education is circumpolar, holistic, and diverse in nature, and draws on our combined members’ strengths to address the unique challenges of the region. UArctic promotes cooperation in a context in which recognized degrees are granted by the members themselves.

UArctic recognizes the integral role of indigenous peoples in northern education, and seeks to engage their perspectives in all of its activities. UArctic and its member institutions further respect the needs of the indigenous peoples, and commit themselves to actively include the needs of the indigenous peoples and indigenous communities of the Arctic in education and training services.

We, as leaders of UArctic’s Higher Education members, on behalf of our respective institutions, hereby agree to the provisions set out in this Charter and jointly commit to strive towards:

- Develop and use UArctic as a tool to implement the institutions’ tasks on conducting higher education and research relevant to local, regional, and international Circumpolar northern communities;
- Cooperate in research and science on the north, building on each other’s strengths;
- Support the initiation and participation in relevant Thematic Networks as mechanisms for joint academic cooperation at the Circumpolar level;
- Promote student mobility and organize good quality student support services for incoming students from UArctic member institutions;
- Honour and facilitate the recognition of academic credit taken at other UArctic member institutions;
- Organize the sharing of expertise through facilitating the exchange of academic staff;
• Offer UArlcti’s Circumpolar Studies to our students and participate in its development and implementation;

• Promote undergraduate education and training in the Circumpolar North;

• Participate in the development and implementation of joint graduate programming on northern issues;

• Share our northern relevant course offerings through the UArlctic Studies Catalogue;

• Participate in the joint international marketing of our programs and to promote the north as a study destination of choice globally;

• Recognize the integral role of indigenous peoples and their knowledge in northern education, and seek to engage and incorporate their perspectives and teachings in both traditional and indigenous knowledge and to meet their needs in all of its activities.