



# UARctic

## UARctic Chairs – Terms of Reference

(February 2021)

### Chairs

- 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.
- UArctic Chairs are leading scientists in their field, creating new scientific knowledge while they also act as drivers for academic development with focus on future generations of knowledge holders through undergraduate, graduate, PhD, and postdoctoral training.
- UArctic Chairs foster collaborative actions among UArctic members and Thematic Networks in partnerships with the broader Arctic community.
- UArctic shall 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.
- 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. Having chairs with identical profiles is not a priority.
- A UArctic Chair will normally be funded by, and an employee of one or as a partnership among a few UArctic member institutions/organizations.
- Chairs are decided on by the Board of UArctic after a thorough evaluation and nomination process.
- UArctic Chairs will be named ‘UARctic Chair’ of specified topic(s) or disciplinary field(s).
- Chairs will be appointed for a period of five years, with the possibility of renewal.

### Profiles

- The topics/disciplines of a chair may focus on any scientific or Indigenous knowledge system and/or education.
- Chairs have preferably served actively in a UArctic Thematic Network, are granted a relevant research Chair position in a UArctic member organisation or nations with a cross institutional mandate, or have other forms of international experience in the Circumpolar North.
- 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.
- To benefit from the vast competency and knowledge held by Arctic experts who are moving towards retirement, UArctic will include emeritus Chairs with similar tasks as all other UArctic Chairs, with reduced demand and obligations.

### Roles and Duties

- A UArctic Chair will be closely linked to relevant Thematic Networks or UArctic Institutes.
- A UArctic Chair is to provide scientific and knowledge inspiration to Thematic Networks or UArctic Institutes via input related to, for example, Arctic research needs, strategies, access to partners, and funding opportunities relevant to their area of expertise.
- 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.

- A UArctic Chair is expected to use 10-20% of their time as a strategic leader for UArctic, including leading our partnership in a specific international body (research community, Arctic Council, UN, etc), or leading a specific strategic process (e.g. like a issue focussed, a national or regional Arctic process), and develop strategic UArctic initiatives in their own area of expertise. Some chairs may be asked to serve in UArctic’s Academic Advisory Board (\*called “MIMIR”).
- A subset of 6 to 12 UArctic Chairs will form a strategic Academic Advisory Board (MIMIR) that will serve as a high-level advisory body for UArctic.
- All UArctic Chairs are expected to feed information of their work results into UArctic’s news system and provide short quarterly overviews on their progress to host institution(s) and UArctic’s leadership. They may also be asked to give keynote addresses on their field of expertise at UArctic events.

## Resources

- A **UArctic Chair** is normally hosted and funded by one or, preferably, a partnership of members, and spend the majority of their time as academic leads in their area of work at the host institution(s).
- 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.
- UArctic will also work with the hosting member to seek external funding to provide operational funding for **UArctic Emeritus Chairs**.

## Criteria

- UArctic Chairs shall be nominated and elected based on the following criteria:
  - 1) Excellence in scientific and academic work or Indigenous Knowledge systems, with added value on multidisciplinary.
  - 2) Commitment to UArctic’s mission and values.
  - 3) Leadership in fostering knowledge in society (including key northern constituencies).
- Care shall be taken that the selection of UArctic Chairs reflects UArctic’s values, including circumpolar, gender balance and Indigenous representation.
- Diversity among competence area, background, gender, and geographic home base shall carry weight in the selection process.

## Selection Process

- UArctic’s leadership shall solicit nominations from member institutions and organizations.
- A nomination should include the name and present function of the candidate, the thematic area in which the person is being nominated, background information / biography, CV, motivation text, recommendation text, documented support from host institution(s) clarifying access to resources and support, and as relevant include letters of recommendations from partners and co-workers.
- The UArctic Academic Advisory Board (MIMIR) will evaluate nominations (note: this will initially be done by an interim Academic Advisory Board), and give advice on Chair function area and Chair title for candidate that are considered qualified.
- The President of UArctic will group nominations into clusters reflecting competence and background gaps and overlap considerations and will present this to the UArctic Board. The Board will review the candidates in each grouping and decide candidates based on competences, diversity, and balance requirements that fit UArctic’s needs.

\* **“MIMIR”** A figure in old Norse mythology renown for being holder of knowledge and wisdom.