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Universitetet i Stavanger, Det teknisk- naturvitenskapelige fakultet  
Norges miljø- og biovitenskapelige universitet  
UNIS – Universitetssenteret på Svalbard  
Samisk høgskole  
Nord universitet  
UIT Norges arktiske universitet

## Call for Applications:

### North2North Project Call for Virtual Exchange Activities

Due to continuing restrictions on physical mobility of students and staff, University of the Arctic's mobility programme north2north invites Norwegian n2n institutions to initiate projects aimed at developing virtual exchange with other n2n partners. Academic and administrative staff's engagement in virtual exchange initiatives requires time and a significant extra work load. This call provides the opportunity to support such an important initiative financially.

The funding is targeted to support new cooperative projects on networking activities related to maintaining contact with north2north partners in the time of the pandemic when physical meetings and exchanges are not possible. The total amount available for this call is 1.5 mill NOK. Projects may be funded with a maximum total of NOK 400.000.

#### Who can apply

The main applicant must be a north2north member university in Norway. A complete and updated [list of member institutions](#) can be found on the UArctic website.

Funding cannot be applied for retrospectively and you cannot apply for funding for activities already carried out at the time when the funding decision is made.

#### Supported activities

North2north encourages engagement between a Norwegian member institution and a north2north institution outside Norway for activities that in the long run will lead to enhanced physical mobility between n2n partner institutions.

Therefore, eligible projects must include two or three n2n members as project partners (one n2n member must be Norwegian).

1. The projects can involve activities within existing UArctic Thematic Networks or UArctic Institutes. For a list of existing networks and institutes, please see: <https://www.uarctic.org/organization/thematic-networks/> **The projects should have a northern relevance and/or focusing on indigenous issues at all cycles (BA, MA or PhD).**

2. The projects should develop virtual activities motivating and preparing students for future physical exchange. This may involve one or several of the following activities:

a) **Pre-mobility courses** (preparing students for a physical exchange at another institution after the pandemic, the students of the participating institutions carry out various tasks using zoom, email, etc. under supervision and guidance of the teachers at both sides).

b) **Blended mobility** (combination of online collaboration with physical mobility, usually starting with virtual teaching, followed by virtual collaboration and task completion, short-term physical mobility in the end, preferably 1 month or longer).

c) **Course integration** (a transnational virtual exchange of classes, i.e. students cooperate online to complete various tasks/assignments related to the course content under supervision of a host university's teacher).

d) **Hybrid-model** (Synchronous and asynchronous teaching, recorded lectures and joint seminars in real time).

3. The project should also address administrative procedures related to enrolment, evaluation and quality assessment.

4. The projects should meet the values of UArctic:

#### **Circumpolar**

UArctic promotes northern voices and a circumpolar world view.

#### **Inclusive**

UArctic embraces and respects cultural diversity, language plurality, and gender equality.

#### **Respectful**

UArctic promotes relationships of respect, trust, and partnership, and embraces the perspectives and knowledge of northern Indigenous Peoples.

#### **Collaborative**

UArctic is committed to supporting participatory approaches to the production and sharing of knowledge.

#### **Open**

UArctic is a university network without walls, committed to reducing all barriers to cooperation - across borders, cultures, and academic systems, embracing transparency and openness.

#### **Influential**

UArctic provides decision-makers with knowledge-based advice that supports sustainable development in the Arctic.

#### **Eligible costs:**

- Meeting and workshop expenses, e.g. venue, meals, accommodation and travels of the participants (e.g. experts travelling within the country).
- Teaching fees or payments and per diems. Please note that you cannot cover the permanent salaries for scientific/academic or technical/administrative staff.
- Consumables related to preparatory course work.
- Overhead costs cannot be covered.
- Applicants should document funding of at least 25% of the total budget from in kind and or other sources.

## **Duration of the project and funding amount**

Projects are funded with a maximum of NOK 400.000 and must be completed within the calendar year 2021.

### **Application deadline**

Applications have to be sent by e-mail to [natalia.kononova@uit.no](mailto:natalia.kononova@uit.no) by **December 10, 2020 by 23:59 (CEST)**. **Applications received after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be evaluated.** The funding decisions will be made by the middle of January 2021, and the grants need to be accepted by successful candidates by January 31 by 16:00 (CEST), 2021. Note that it is possible to supplement mobility costs by using the north2north programme for [student or staff mobility](#), if relevant and possible during 2021.

**All projects must be reported by 1 February 2022 and no extended deadline will be given.**

### **Application procedure:**

Applications must include the following:

- a project plan\*
- an endorsement letter\*\*
- detailed budget
- letter(s) of consent from the partner institution(s)

**\*Project plan** (maximum of 5 pages) **must include:**

1. The purpose and overall goal of the project
2. List and descriptions of the concrete deliverables
3. Description of the project activities
4. Virtual exchange should not be seen as being in competition with physical mobility, but rather as a supplement contributing to the better quality of the physical exchange.  
How will the virtual activities supported in this project benefit the future physical staff and student exchange in the circumpolar world?
5. Description of how the virtual exchange activities will be integrated into university curriculum, including the evaluation and recognition of students' learning outcomes. be evaluated and recognized?
6. Description of how the project meets UArctic's values (see earlier in this document).

\*\*The applying institution must provide a support letter from the appropriate leadership.

### **Evaluation procedure**

The project proposals will be evaluated based on the following list:

- The feasibility of the project, its goals, activities, time line, deliverables and budget.
- Relevance to UArctic's goals and values (<https://www.uarctic.org/about-uarctic/our-2020-goals/>)
- Internal project evaluation and communication plan, including measuring impact of the activities and how the sustainability of the project will be ensured.
- Potential to increase motivation of participants to go on physical exchange after the pandemic.

The grant is managed and administered by UiT The Arctic University of Norway in accordance with the recommendations by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

Yours sincerely,

Sigrid Ag  
Head of Section  
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*The document is electronically approved and does not require any signatures.*