

LÆRA
INSTITUTE



UARctic

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS, IS, COULD BE...

Third UArctic Congress

Iceland
17th May 2021

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES IS, WAS, COULD BE...

1. Circumpolar Studies was...

A brief foray into the distant past

2. Circumpolar Studies is...

Where we are now

3. Circumpolar Studies could be...

recommitting to shared voices and co-construction of knowledge will set future directions

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...

Some dates for context

- 1987: *Our Common Future*, October
- 1989–1991/06: AEPS development in late Cold War environment; June adoption; included Indigenous peoples' organizations
- 1991/12: of the Soviet Union
- 1991: The Web goes world wide
- 1993: AEPS added sustainable development
- 1994: Netscape browser
- 1996: Formation of the Arctic Council
- 1997: Proposal for a university of/for the Arctic
- 2002: BCS 100 piloted

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...

Initially a plan for a Bachelor degree



A light-weight, laddered program that leveraged existing capacity

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...

Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies brochure



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

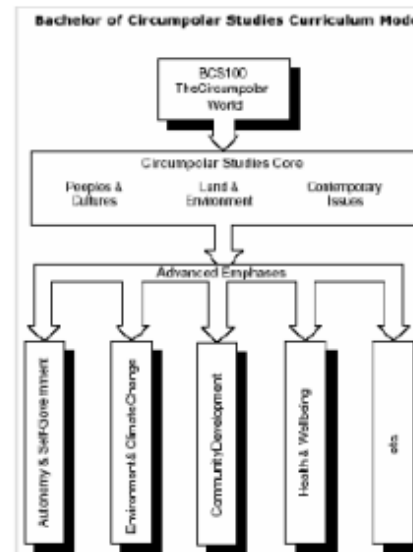
Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies

The Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies (BCS) is a new way for students attending University of the Arctic (UArctic) member institutions to learn about the North, with courses held in the classroom, on-line, outdoors and around the world. As UArctic's signature undergraduate program, BCS provides a solid understanding of issues relevant to the Arctic and opportunities to further study unique and diverse research subjects. You can choose Circumpolar Studies as your main study subject ('major') or combine it with other degree programs at your home institution. The BCS program gives you the opportunity to learn about the lands, peoples and issues of the Circumpolar North and prepares you for advanced study or professional employment in fields as diverse as sustainable resource management, self-government, Arctic engineering and tourism.

What Courses Do I Take?

The BCS program consists of three components: **Introduction**, **Core** and **Advanced Emphases**. Most students will take at least the introduction and core, depending on what options are available at your home institution, and whether you choose to take BCS as your main subject or as part of other studies. To earn a BCS degree, you will have to complete at least one Advanced Emphasis.

BCS 100: Introduction to the Circumpolar World introduces you to the interdisciplinary study of the lands, peoples,



and critical issues of the contemporary North, and can be taken in your first year of studies.

The main component of the program is the **Circumpolar Studies Core**, consisting of six courses (two each) in three fields of study: Land and Environment; Peoples and Cultures; and Contemporary Issues. These core courses will give you broad knowledge of understanding of the lands, peoples and major issues of the circumpolar world.

The Introduction and the six Core courses are each worth 6 ECTS

(European Credit Transfer System) credits. This is roughly equal to a 3 credit course in many North American institutions.

Finally, students can complete one or more **Advanced Emphases**, roughly equivalent to half a year of studies. Advanced Emphases focus on advanced study of an area, issue, or problem of particular relevance to the North and for its people. Currently available Advanced Emphases include Arctic Governance; Northern Scandinavian Politics and Society; Arctic Environmental Technology; and Polar Oceanography and Meteorology. Advanced Emphases in indigenous tourism, aboriginal public administration, international project management, Arctic sustainable resource development, and many others are currently in development. Your home institution will offer Advanced Emphases that reflect its particular area of expertise. You may also choose to complete your degree at another member institution of the University of the Arctic that offers an Advanced Emphasis in your area of specialization.

How Do I Take the Courses?

The Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies is designed for flexible delivery to meet the particular needs of northern students. This ensures that all students taking the BCS share common knowledge, no matter where or how they take BCS courses. You might take some courses in a traditional classroom setting at your home institution, study on-line, or go on exchange to another UArctic institution through the north2north mobility

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES WAS...

Towards a common vocabulary

“The seven core Circumpolar Studies courses, including an introduction and three pairs of courses in different topics, ensure that all students share a broad knowledge and understanding of the lands, peoples, and major issues of the Circumpolar World.”

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CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES IS...

Now just 'Circumpolar Studies'

- Dropped the “Bachelor”
- Dropped the Advanced Emphases
- Revised the core texts
- Working to expand member participation
- Working to solve bureaucratic (provincial/national) mismatches

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CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...

What Circumpolar Studies can do

- Can benefit from current conversations about reconciliation, and equality, diversity and inclusion
- Support, encourage and build on the work of Indigenous scholars
- Can again be “a new way for students to learn about the North”

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...

Inclusive, comparative, but also separate, distinctive

- Geographically
- Linguistically
- Culturally
- Epistemologically
- Ontologically
- Academically

CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...

In the North, for the North, by the North – differently

- Building bridges
- Bridging differences
- Embracing differences
- North-centred critique
- Decolonial
- Ethical



CIRCUMPOLAR STUDIES COULD BE...

Connected to the aims of the North

- Supporting sustainable, respectful cohabitation of the North
- Living well together, Indigenous and incomers
- Recognizing and honouring the infinite forms of expertise
- Leaving space for other voices, all voices
- Making connections far and wide
- Teaching and learning also in unconventional ways, on the land, in classrooms, in the virtual realm
- Sharing knowledge and ~~best~~ *novel* practices

Thank you / Þakka ykkur fyrir

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