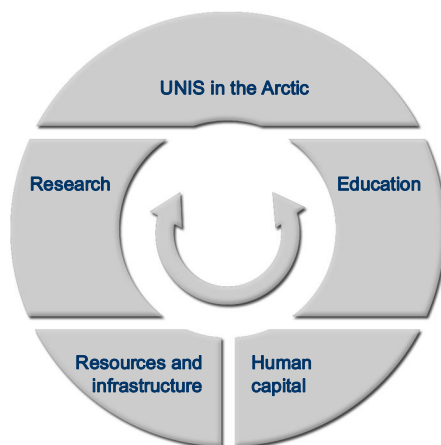




Arctic science for global challenges



The University Centre in Svalbard Strategic plan 2007-2012

Mission and Vision
Basic strategies
Goals of UNIS 2012

UNIS 2006

The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) was established in 1993. It is organized as a limited company and owned by the Ministry of Education and Research. UNIS is led by a director, appointed by the board for 3-year periods.

UNIS specializes in arctic science and education. 350 students from 25 countries attended UNIS in 2006.

UNIS works closely with the Norwegian universities. The universities in Tromsø, Trondheim, Bergen and Oslo and the local council in Longyearbyen all have representatives on the board.

The main campus of UNIS is the Svalbard science park, which was officially opened by the King and the Queen of Norway on April 26th 2006.

Mission

UNIS shall offer education and perform research based on Svalbard's geographical position in the Arctic and the advantages this represents.

UNIS shall play a major role in building an international research platform on Svalbard and in representing and securing Norwegian polar interests. Through its own research and through cooperation, UNIS shall contribute to developing the knowledge and competence Norway needs to explore the opportunities of the High North in a safe and sustainable way.

UNIS shall be a resource for the communities on Svalbard by making its competence available and by its contribution to sustain a stable whole-year family community in Longyearbyen. All education and research at UNIS shall satisfy the provisions of the Svalbard Environmental Act.

Basic strategies

UNIS performs research and education and provides technical support in the fields of Arctic biology, Arctic geology, Arctic geophysics and Arctic technology. We develop courses in energy and the environment.

UNIS offers highly specialized courses at PhD, master and bachelor levels that are supplementary to the curriculum at the Norwegian mainland universities.

UNIS is an international organization, where approximately half of both students and scientific staff come from outside Norway. English is the official language.

UNIS is a network university, with a small core staff of full time professors and associate professors cooperating with a large network of adjunct professors and guest lecturers.

Goals of UNIS 2007 – 2012

Overall goal

By 2012 UNIS has utilized its own expertise and external opportunities to become a leading international centre for arctic studies.

Our vision

Arctic science for global challenges.

UNIS in the Arctic

- UNIS is renowned and respected, nationally and internationally, has strong positions in Arctic oriented forums and influences the public discourse.
- UNIS has taken advantage of the IPY and the political-economic interest in the High North to expand from Svalbard to the Arctic.
- In its search for excellence, UNIS is allied with the best research and education institutions that are active in the Arctic.
- UNIS is recognized as the hub among research organizations on Svalbard. UNIS ties the network of researchers together.

Research

- The research departments at UNIS have obtained critical mass, have clear scientific aims and are recognized as leaders in their fields.
- The research departments at UNIS are part of collaborative networks with long term funding.
- UNIS has broadened its academic scope by including the field of energy and the environment.
- UNIS works closely with commercial companies who are active in the High North.

Education

- UNIS is a sought-after educational institution where both the requirements to be accepted and the student achievements are high.
- UNIS is recognized as a leading centre to attend for specializing in Arctic studies at a graduate level. UNIS offers bachelor and master of science and technology modules that are accepted as part of the mainland universities curriculum in all its disciplines.
- UNIS is seen as a centre of excellence by those who seek a broad expertise on arctic conditions and challenges. UNIS offers unique multi-disciplinary programs on an executive level.
- UNIS operates a program for educational cooperation with Russia which has a good reputation in both countries.

Human capital

- Activities at UNIS are safe. Safety is given first priority during field operations.
- UNIS has a stimulating working environment and attracts the best people in every field. Employees of UNIS are appreciated as professionals as well as human beings.
- All UNIS personnel have access to development training as UNIS requires skilled staff in all positions.
- UNIS has developed a dynamic and flexible staff appointment system which ensures both renewal and continuity at a high academic level. UNIS recruits strategically to achieve its goals.

Resources and infrastructure

- UNIS funding comes from government, research councils and private industry, nationally and internationally.
- Through its own investments and cooperation with other organizations, UNIS has access to the best research infrastructure on Svalbard and in the Arctic.
- UNIS has a lean and professional administration based on good routines and effective support systems.
- UNIS is at the forefront on logistical and technical services and is recognized as the leader in undertaking scientific operations in the Arctic. We offer "Safety, Health and Environment"-courses for external groups on a commercial basis.