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Model Arctic Council 2018

October 29 – November 2, 2018 in Rovaniemi, Finland

Call for Participation

An excellent and exciting opportunity awaits university students interested in the Arctic and Arctic affairs. University of Lapland (Finland), in cooperation with the Model Arctic Council Thematic Network, will host a Model Arctic Council, October 29 – November 2, 2018, in Rovaniemi, Finland.

The Model Arctic Council (MAC) is an experiential learning exercise, in which graduate and advanced undergraduate students from different disciplines and universities all over the Arctic region come together to simulate the work of the Arctic Council. The Council is the primary forum for international cooperation and environmental protection in the Arctic; its working groups contribute to knowledge creation on the Arctic and its fragile ecosystem.

The MAC will engage graduate and advanced undergraduate students from universities in the Arctic states, and possibly from some Arctic Council observer countries, to simulate the work and processes of the Arctic Council and its working groups. In the simulation each student will represent her/his assigned Arctic Council role – representing either one of Member States, or Permanent Participants or Observer countries – together with 1-2 other students as a delegation.

Theme: The MAC 2018 simulation will closely deal with the aspects, priorities and project areas of a new Arctic Council Strategy, which is under preparation during Finland's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2017-2019), and should be launched at the ministerial meeting in spring 2018. The final theme of the MAC 2018 will be decided later.

Aim: The main objective is to simulate an international negotiation situation on fundamental issues current and relevant for the Arctic region and its inhabitants, so students learn about both the pressing issues the Arctic faces and about the Arctic Council itself. Secondly, participants of the simulation develop an understanding of the interplay between science, politics, and economics by implementation and practice. Finally, they will be better prepared to assume and adopt decision-making processes, and to exercise and have training in leadership and diplomacy skills (for possible leadership roles in the Arctic). All this requires practice in active listening, public speaking and training of oral skills.

Preparation: All students are expected to prepare in advance to fulfill their roles in the simulation. Students will do so independently by examining the basic documents of the Arctic Council

and its working groups (e.g., Declarations of ministerial meetings; *Vision for the Arctic* 2013), and through courses and extra-curricular programs at their universities. Applicants will be asked to state their top three role preferences from among the member states, the permanent participants and the observer countries of the Arctic Council. The final roles will be assigned, however, by program organizers (in order to avoid double roles in the simulation). After receiving their assignments for the MAC 2018, each participant must carefully examine the policies, strategies, agendas and statements of her/his actor in the simulation.

Funding: All conference-related costs (while students are in Rovaniemi, Finland) will be covered by the host institutions. This includes accommodation (based on double occupancy), local transportation, daily lunches and coffee/tea. Students are responsible for obtaining funding to cover the cost of their transportation to/from Rovaniemi. We encourage applicants to seek funding for transportation by contacting their universities´ administrations or countries´ ministries of foreign affairs, or organizations/institutions working on the Arctic/Arctic affairs.

Time and place: The MAC 2018 will take place in October 29 – November 2, 2018, as the Sustainable Development Working Group is meeting in October 29-30, 2018, and Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) and Working Groups' representatives of the Arctic Council are meeting in October 31 – November 2, 2018, both in Rovaniemi, Finland.

Partners: The following academic institutions, all members of the University of the Arctic, aim/plan, so far, to recruit students to participate in the October 2018 event in Finland: Laval University and Trent University from Canada; University of Greenland; Universities of Helsinki, and Lapland from Finland; University of Akureyri from Iceland; UiT – The Arctic University of Norway and Bodö University from Norway; Northern Arctic Federal University, North-Eastern Federal University, Petrozavodsk State University and St. Petersburg State University from Russia; Umeå University from Sweden; Dartmouth College, Boston University, United States Coast Guard Academy, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Southern California, and University of Washington from the USA.

Hosts: The Model Arctic Council 2018 will be hosted by the University of Lapland and led by Professor Lassi Heininen. It will be organized with the cooperation and financial support of the Foreign Ministry of Finland, as one of the activities of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council 2017-2019. Moreover, the event will be a collaborative effort with the Model Arctic Council Thematic Network, a continuing program organized of the University of the Arctic and led by Professors Mary Ehrlander and Brandon Boylan at the University of Alaska Fairbanks .

More information: For more detailed information visit **www.uaf.edu/mac**, or contact Prof. Lassi Heininen (lassi.heininen@ulapland.fi), University of Lapland; or Prof. Mary Ehrlander (mfehrlander@alaska.edu) or Assoc. Prof. Brandon Boylan (bmboylan@alaska.edu), University of Alaska Fairbanks.