

Thematic Network on Collaborative Online International Learning and Biodiversity Education across the Arctic Circle

(COIL@UArctic)

Hosted by Robert Gordon University, Scotland, UK

Presented by Judy Tupper, University of Southern Maine, USA



The proposed thematic network will promote and facilitate Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and biodiversity education across the Arctic region.

- COIL or Collaborative Online International Learning is a sustained educational approach where groups or individual students from one institution collaborate with groups or individual students from another institution, in a different country and/or culture, on sustained and assessed projects or assignments, developed collaboratively by partner institutions.
- The collaborative work takes place online, using free communication technology. COIL projects can involve any topic, subject, or discipline.
- Biodiversity is one example of how COIL pedagogy can be applied. The Finnish Biodiversity Education initiative will be at the center of the COIL@UArctic thematic network, helping to illustrate how COIL can be used to address important global issues and providing a ready-made platform for UArctic members to collaborate in this area.

Initial Planned Activities: COIL Toolkit, Training, and Resources

- Webinar Workshop for UArctic Members exploring COIL as a recognized teaching and learning approach across UArctic.
- Dedicated COIL Web Page on the UArctic website explaining what COIL is, what the benefits are, and how prospective partners can connect with each other.
- Dedicated Staff Development Area on the UArctic website including project start-up guidelines; best practice examples and case studies; COIL teaching, learning, and assessment resources; digital skills support; internal and external training opportunities; peer support; and access to global COIL networks.

Thematic Network Goals

1. To promote and enable wider engagement with COIL as part of a future-focused, globally-connected, virtual learning strategy.
2. To highlight the importance of biodiversity for the well-being of the planet as well as for sustainable development.
3. To enhance student employability within the Arctic region through the promotion of future-focussed, interdisciplinary, transversal skill development using COIL.
4. To democratize student mobility and strengthen internationalization at home through the expansion of COIL knowledge and opportunities across the Arctic region.

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