

UNIS Health, safety and environment (HSE) standards

Overall HSE goal

UNIS shall be a leading organization for health, safety and the environment. We will work to prevent injuries or accidents associated with our activities. We shall minimize any possible negative impacts on the environment and ensure a working environment that is safe, stimulating and rewarding.

Health

UNIS will ensure that all activity can be undertaken without danger of injury. UNIS will encourage suitable health and safety procedures.

Knowledge goal: UNIS shall have an appropriate knowledge of the special health issues of concern on Svalbard. This applies in particular to clothing, weather and light conditions. UNIS will cooperate with the company health service and Longyearbyen hospital on matters related to both health and the working environment.

Approach goal: UNIS will actively encourage participation in activities that help to protect and promote health. Health and safety shall be taken into consideration during all planning and work at UNIS as well as during field operations.

Skills goal: UNIS shall be able to use the necessary safety equipment to avoid injury.

Safety

UNIS shall conduct all activities with safety for the participants as the first priority. UNIS will provide logistics, training and procedures that make the institution a leader in undertaking safe fieldwork in the Arctic.

Knowledge goal: UNIS shall have the necessary knowledge concerning the risks associated with the activities at UNIS to be able to prevent accidents and injuries.

Approach goal: Safety shall have the highest priority and always weigh heaviest in all activities in and outside UNIS.

Skills goal: UNIS will have the necessary skills to operate the equipment and the instruments that are required both at UNIS and during fieldwork. We should master the techniques and methods required to prevent injuries from all types of fieldwork. All laboratory work will be governed by rigorous rules and procedures for the use and management of chemicals, radiation sources and harmful substances.

Working environment

UNIS will create a working environment that is healthy and educational for all staff and students. UNIS should have active management employee participation and



involvement to create an excellent working environment. UNIS will be the local leader in waste management and recycling.

Knowledge goals: We will have the necessary knowledge of working conditions to create and maintain a good and healthy working environment. UNIS shall ensure that all receive appropriate training and information on how to create high-quality working surroundings. We will ensure that procedures and training prevent pollution from activities at UNIS.

Approach goals: We will encourage active participation to improve the working environment at all levels. We will create an understanding and committed approach to how waste is treated and hence how we effect the environment.

Skills goal: All with tasks connected to the working environment will be offered appropriate courses and training.

Natural environment and cultural heritage

UNIS will undertake field-based research and teaching taking into account the special vulnerability of the Svalbard environment. All activity will be based on an understanding of the flora, fauna, cultural heritage and natural environment of Svalbard. Protecting the environment is the deciding factor when conflicts between the environment and a desired activity occur.

Knowledge goals: We shall have a thorough knowledge of how our actions may affect the environment and how these impacts can be reduced. We should know the laws and regulations that govern the natural environment on Svalbard. The policies and procedures of UNIS will build on the current regulations and will be understood and followed by all at the institution.

Approach goals: We shall have a common understanding of the importance of careful activity due to the special vulnerability of the Svalbard environment. UNIS will excel as an institution where students and staff will take into consideration the environment in all activities.

Skills goals: All staff and students at UNIS will undergo training to prevent adverse environmental impacts during their field work. How to avoid possible negative environmental effects will form a part of project planning for all field operations.