Dartmouth is a founding member, with the University of Otago, of the Matariki Network of Universities, established in 2010-2011 to bring together institutions that share characteristics (research intensive, residential, outside of their respective national capitols). “Matariki” is the Maori word for the Pleiades, or Seven Sisters, star cluster and represents the network’s current membership of seven universities: Dartmouth, University of Otago, Durham, Tuebingen, University of Western Australia, Uppsala, and Queen’s. Member institutions work together on a wide variety of international research collaborations across multiple disciplines. Dartmouth faculty and administrators participate in most of them. Some specific examples include:


- A broad array of collaborations focused on the Humanities, launched by a meeting at Dartmouth in 2013, and continuing at Otago, Durham and Queen’s. Sessions have focused on Research in the Humanities, Digital Humanities, Religion across the Humanities, and similar events involving Literature, Languages, and Pre-Modern Studies.

- A multi-institutional Library Benchmarking Group created in 2010 that continues to flourish. Most recently, a Book Arts exchange took place between Dartmouth and Otago, which are each hosting Printers in Residence in 2016-17.

- A Workshop on “Enlightened Cybersecurity” held at Durham in 2014 that gathered scholars from a variety of disciplines to discuss risks associated with technology.

- An Indigenous Student Mobility Program launched by Dartmouth, Otago and Western Australia in 2016. The two-week experience brings indigenous students from network universities to one of the host sites where issues of concern to indigenous populations are discussed with academics and local communities. Otago hosted in 2016, UWA will host in 2017, and Dartmouth in 2018. Durham and Queen’s also participated in the inaugural session.

- A Global Citizenship initiative launched at Uppsala University in April 2016 during a workshop organized by CEMUS (Centre for Environment and Development Studies). Proposals include initiatives on Science Diplomacy and a Global Citizenship Fellows Program, among others.

- Matariki Network institutions facilitate visits by Fellows from other member institutions, promote job shadowing programs, and arrange alumni gatherings that coincide with Executive Board meetings.

The Network is led by the Executive Heads (Vice Chancellors, Presidents) of the members. A group of International Leads guides implementation of strategic, long-term planning, an advisory group of Research Leads provides input on collaborative research, and institutional Coordinators Matariki provide administrative expertise in implementing specific programs. An Education Advisory group will be formed in 2017. A Secretariat housed at Durham handles the day-to-day operations of the Network.

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