

## **Reasons for dropout and long completion times of students at the Arctic Civil Engineering program at the Technical University of Denmark**

*Pernille Erland Jensen, Department of Civil Engineering, Technical University of Denmark.*

The Bachelor of Engineering in Arctic Civil Engineering program at the Technical University of Denmark rates successful in many aspects of its performance. Most importantly, the graduates find their first employment very soon after graduation or even before graduation, thus the demand for the education is high. Compared to other similar educations the education furthermore performs well in the number of students taking a semester abroad, the gender balance, and the satisfaction with the study environment. However, on three essential parameters the education underperforms compared to similar educations: recruitment of students, dropout rate and completion time. Numerous initiatives to improve these parameters have been undertaken [1-3], however, with no or low affect [3]. In this presentation the measures taken are discussed in relation to known specific reasons for drop-out and delay. A postulate stated by an external evaluating panel in spring 2021, that the drop out relates particularly to the transfer from the campus in Sisimiut, Greenland to Ballerup in Denmark after the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester is investigated. Finally the impact of COVID19-restrictions and close downs during spring and fall 2020 on student performance are evaluated.

[1] Hoffmann, Birgitte; Jørgensen, Ulrik; Christensen, Hans Peter, CULTURE IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION CDIO FRAMING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES, Proceedings of the 7th International CDIO Conference, Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen, June 20-23, 2011.

[2] Hendriksen, Kåre & Christensen, Hans Peter, THE INTERCULTURAL CHALLENGES OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN A GREENLANDIC CONTEXT, Arctic Yearbook, 2014.

[3] Christensen, Hans Peter, The Continuous Challenge in teaching Engineering to Students from a Society with no Tradition for Higher Education, Published in: Proceedings of the 12th Active Learning in Engineering Education Workshop, 2014.