



**NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES
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Where learning means more

Highlights Report

2024-2025 Academic Year



August 2024

Young Gamekeeper of the Year 2024 Award



- + Gamekeeping graduate Finnley Struthers was named Scotland's Best Young Gamekeeper of the Year 2024 by The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.
- + The award recognises inspiring young ambassadors.

Salamander Windfarm: Environmental Monitoring



- + Salamander, a joint venture between Ørsted, Simply Blue Group and Subsea7, partnered with researchers at the Environmental Research Institute to investigate any potential impact of floating windfarms on marine ecosystems.

Student Development Fund recipients



- + RES, the world's largest independent renewable energy company, pledged £20,000 to 23 students at UHI to gain new skills, build confidence and enhance their student experience.

Postgraduate student satisfaction survey



- + For the third consecutive year, postgraduate students have rated UHI as the best in Scotland for overall student satisfaction and has ranked 15th in the UK.

Sporting Blues winners announced



- + Sports Person of the Year was awarded to our UHI Golf student and UHI Golf Team captain Taylor Kerr.
- + The UHI Sporting Blues awards recognise outstanding sporting achievement.

September 2024

Graduation and Celebration of Achievement



- + Graduates and award winners celebrated their achievements with friends, family, and guests at our Graduation and Celebration of Achievement ceremonies in Fort William, Stornoway, and Thurso.

Prize for Engineering Excellence



- + Dean Frazer, a First-Class BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering graduate, wins the 2024 Prize for Engineering Excellence, an annual award generously donated by Willie Printie.

PhD Researcher Spotlight



- + PhD researcher Anna McWilliam highlighted her work, which focuses on improving water quality using low-impact methods and innovative brash management.

Regional Student Association Awards



- + The Highlands and Islands Students' Association awards recognise staff and students across the partnership.
- + Lecturer Shaun Escott won the 'Above and Beyond' award category for the 3rd year in a row.

Cnoc Soilleir Phase 2



- + A 200-seater auditorium specifically designed for music and performance gets the go-ahead at Cnoc Soilleir, South Uist.

October 2024

'Supporting Rural Communities' Blog



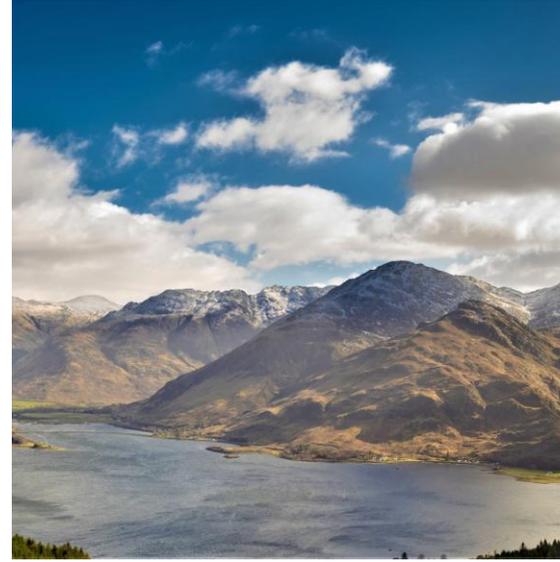
- + Susan MacLean, Engagement Manager, contributed to the Colleges Scotland 24 in 24 blog series, which highlights the diverse and impactful work of Scotland's 24 colleges, showcasing their contributions throughout 2024.

ADHD Awareness Month



- + During ADHD Awareness month, Digital Student Ambassador Neil shared his inspiring story of his diagnosis, and his journey to studying a degree in Scottish History and Archaeology with UHI North, West and Hebrides.

Statement | Delivering a college fit for the future



- + We continue to take forward our plans to become a fully integrated organisation.
- + Delivering a college fit for the future, which meets the needs of its students, local communities and employers, remains the top priority.

Stuart Gibb joins United Nations Leadership Council



- + UHI Professor Stuart Gibb joined the Leadership Council to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a United Nations initiative which aims to mobilise the world's knowledge community for science-based solutions for sustainable development.

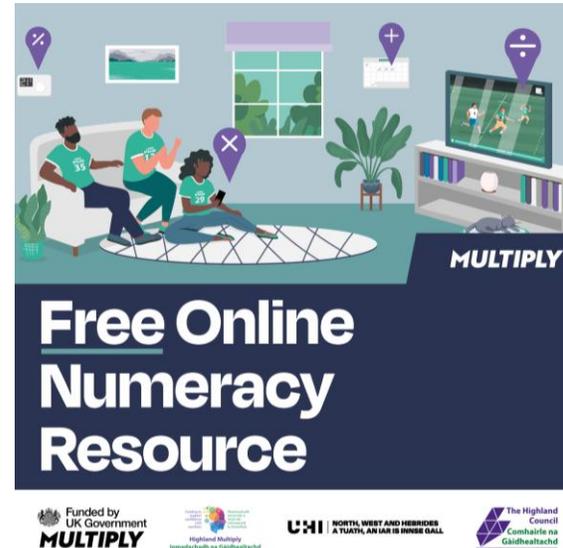
November 2024

Sgoil Fhoghair Gaelic course success



- + Our five-day Gaelic immersion course run on the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, was hailed a resounding success, with plans to run similar events again in the future.

Multiply Project launch numeracy resource



- + We launched a free online resource with Multiply Highland to help people build confidence with their numeracy skills for everyday life, budgeting, and work.

Film Students Project



- + We teamed up with Tarbat Discovery Centre, Easter Ross, to enhance its outreach education and provide filmmaking students with invaluable hands-on video experience.

UHI contribute to drive Scotland Beyond Net Zero



- + UHI joined the Scotland Beyond Net Zero initiative, a coalition of Scotland's universities dedicated to supporting Scotland's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2045.

December 2024

Flow Country win at RSPB Scotland's Nature Awards



- + Professor of Peatland Science and Senior Research Fellow at ERI, Roxane Andersen, collected the 'Nature and Climate' award on behalf of The Flow Country Partnership at RSPB Scotland's Nature of Scotland Awards 2024.

Sustainability Blog



- + Curriculum Manager, Michael Smith, explored the pivotal role of education and training in equipping our workforce with the essential skills to support the transition to net zero by publishing a blog on our website.

Celebrating Women in Engineering



- + BEng Energy Engineering graduate, Chloe Dunnett, was announced as the 2024 recipient of the Sidney Black Memorial Engineering Award, demonstrating a combination of excellent academic achievements and personal attributes.

2025 UHI Business Competition launch



- + The 2025 UHI Business Competition was launched, as aspiring entrepreneurs are invited to pitch their business ideas for a chance to win cash and valuable support packages.

January 2025

Senior Phase Applications Open



- + Applications opened for Senior Phase courses, giving S4–S6 pupils more subject options while still at school. For the first time, pupils in the Outer Hebrides could also apply to study online with peers from across the Highland Council region.

PhD Student Amy Jones Shares her Story



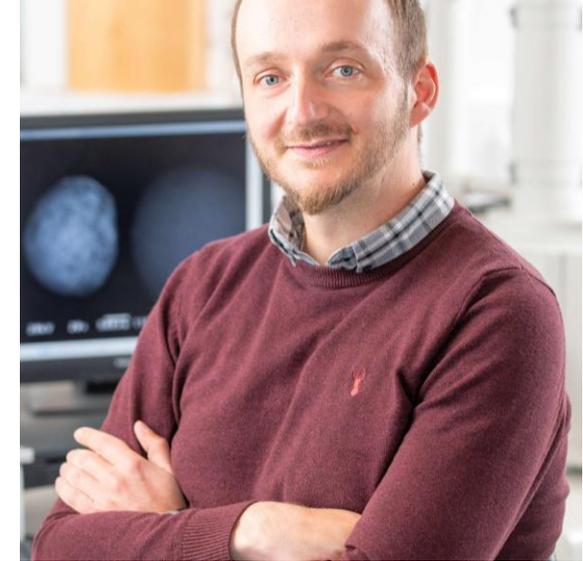
- + Amy Jones shared her story as a part-time PhD student after surviving a stroke and brain tumour. Supported by UHI and her community, she continued her research on seabirds in the Pentland Firth.

CECA Course Launch



- + Our new CECA Academy Scotland - NPA Civil Engineering Operative course launched in Fort William, giving students hands-on training in groundworks, health, safety, and construction skills, working with employers over 19 weeks.

Podcast Guest Speaker



- + Dr Szabolcs Pap, environmental chemical engineer at our Environmental Research Institute, appeared as a guest on the new SAGES Climate Science Podcast to discuss technology and innovation in treating pollution.

February 2025

Senior Phase Applications Open



- + During Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week) we celebrated Gaelic language and culture with student visits, live-streamed music from South Uist, STEM activities, a Gaelic phrase day, and sharing student stories supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Uist Unearthed Project Expansion



- + The award-winning Uist Unearthed digital archaeology project received funding to expand across six Outer Hebrides sites in Barra and Harris. The project will create new augmented reality experiences of historic sites spanning from the Mesolithic to the early 20th century.

Fort William Mountain Culture Award



- + Hannah Smith, a 22-year-old climber and youth coach, received the Scottish Youth Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture at the Fort William Mountain Festival, sponsored by UHI North, West and Hebrides.

Young Scottish Chef Ambassadors



- + Two of our Dornoch students were named Young Scottish Chef Ambassadors as part of a national programme by Scottish Chefs. Freya Macdonald and Arek Ulicki were among only 30 students selected across Scotland.

March 2025

Lantra 2025 Award Win



- + Ailie MacLeod, a Kingussie High School pupil and one of our Senior Phase students on our 'Skills for Work: Rural Skills' course, won the School Pupil Award for her at the 2025 ALBAS, run by Lantra Scotland.

IET Partnership for Engineering Lectures



- + We partnered with the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) to deliver a new lecture series exploring the future of engineering, covering topics like hydrogen and wind energy, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology.

SQA Higher National Campaign



- + We supported SQA's campaign promoting Higher National qualifications as pathways to career success. We showcased how our courses help students build skills and confidence.

Advancing Peatland Landslide Detection



- + We contributed to research showing how satellite radar identifies peatland areas at risk. Professor Roxane Andersen co-authored the study, highlighting InSAR's potential to improve land assessments for restoration and development.

Scottish Apprenticeship Week



- + We celebrated Scottish Apprenticeship Week by showcasing our Modern Apprentices' achievements. Their stories highlighted the hands-on experience gained and our strong local employer partnerships.

April 2025

UHI Business Competition



- + The UHI Business Competition 2025 showcased 15 finalists with innovative ideas tackling challenges. Awards went to **Szabolcs Pap**, researcher at ERI, for a phosphorus recovery biochar solution, and **Martin Cameron**, student on BSc Applied Software Development, for Teia, a visual aid for people with visual impairments.

Eddy Graham Book Launch



- + Our colleague Edward Graham, an atmospheric scientist who teaches part-time on sustainable development, geography, and environmental science, and also leads the new MSc programme in Extreme Weather, published his first book, *Clouds*.

UHI Integrated Land Use Conference



- + Our students attended the UHI Integrated Land Use Conference, joining discussions on sustainable land management and biodiversity. They gained insight into Scotland's land use and engaged with industry professionals in important conversations.

Veterinary Employer Engagement



- + Veterinary Care Assistant students in Halkirk had an industry visit from Guy Gordon, director at D S McGregor & Partners Vets and star of Channel 5's *The Highland Vet*. He spoke about the vital role VCAs play in supporting clinical teams and caring for animals.

National Success for UHI Golf Team



- + Our Dornoch-led UHI Golf Team reached the final of the Scottish University Team Championships, finishing runners-up to Stirling. Third-year Professional Golf student Pia Kaur also took second place in the Scottish University Women's Matchplay Championship.

May 2025

Creative Arts Festival



- + Students showcased their creative industries work including art, design, textiles, fashion, jewellery, music, film, writing, and photography through exhibitions and performances at campuses, local venues, and in an [online exhibition](#).

Floating Offshore Wind Impact Research



- + PhD researcher Caitlin Harris co-authored a review on floating offshore wind's impact on marine mammals. The study highlighted knowledge gaps and urged more research to support sustainable energy growth while protecting marine life.

Technology and Innovation Centre Opening



- + The new Technology and Innovation Centre at our Stornoway campus officially opened - a £2.3M Islands Growth Deal project, the first capital project completed on budget and on time, will boost economic growth and sustainable jobs in the islands linked to the green energy future.

UHI innovators at Converge 2025



- + Five UHI projects were selected for **Scotland's 2025 Converge cohort**. Dr Szabolcs Pap, ERI environmental chemical engineer, leads **CassioPeia**, a biochar filtration system that recycles phosphorus to reduce pollution and support sustainable farming.

June 2025

Energy Guide Launch



- + We launched a new [energy guide](#) to help employers and investors explore skills, education, and research for future workforce needs amid £100 billion projected inward investment focused on renewables and infrastructure.

DRIFT Offshore Partnership



- + We partnered with DRIFT Offshore to develop an introductory training course on ROVs, trenching, and subsea equipment. This collaboration aims to tackle the global skills shortage in subsea industries, including renewables.

Students of the Year Announced



- + We named our 2024-25 Students of the Year: **Adam Hutchison**, NC Creative Music student, Further Education Student of the Year, for his resilience and positivity; **Robert McHenry**, Higher Education Student of the Year, for advancing research on onshore wind environmental assessments.

CECA Civil Engineering Graduation



- + The first students of our new CECA Scotland Academy Civil Engineering Operative course celebrated completing their studies with a graduation ceremony at our Fort William campus.

Learn in Uist Campaign Launch



- + The [Learn in Uist](#) campaign centres on a £1,000 Music Scholarship celebrating Uist's unique culture and lifestyle, designed to support students eager to study, live and work in this vibrant island community.

June 2025 continued

Hydrogen Training Lab Opening



- + We opened a newly refurbished **Hydrogen Lab** as part of our new *Technology and Innovation Centre* at our Stornoway campus. The opening follows a major upgrade funded by a generous £40,000 grant from community wind farm Point and Sandwick Trust.

Peatland Health Satellite Research



- + ERI researcher Professor Roxane Andersen and the University of Nottingham team developed a new satellite radar method to monitor peatland health in Scotland. Professor Andersen led field validation using a rapid assessment protocol across the Flow Country and Cairnsmore.

Just Transition Commission Visit



- + We hosted the Just Transition Commission in Thurso to discuss the college's role in meeting green skills demand and supporting Scotland's net zero goals by 2045 with presentations from Professor Stuart Gibb, Dr Stephanie Strother, Focus North and our Engineering leadership team.

Gamekeeping Clay Pigeon Shoot and Awards



- + Our Gamekeeping students ended the year with a clay pigeon shoot and awards at Rothiemurchus Estate, joined by alumni and staff. Lauren Cowe was named NC Gamekeeping Student of the Year and David Anderson was named Students' Student of the Year.

Alan Cumming Celebrates Creative Talent



- + Students and staff at our Alness campus enjoyed a visit from internationally acclaimed Scottish actor, writer, and presenter Alan Cumming as part of the UHI Creative Industries Student Fringe, an annual showcase of student creativity.



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