



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean



Annual Review

2018

Principal's welcome

2018 was another industrious year in the life of our university, with many positive developments around our partnership and beyond.



In February, the Scottish Funding Council reported that 67.5% of full-time students successfully completed their studies at Highlands and Islands colleges in the 2016 to 2017 academic year. This is higher than the national average figure which showed that 65.3% of students passed further education courses at Scottish colleges in the period.

The university achieved a major milestone in July when we conferred our first Honorary Doctorate to Eileen Mackay, a longstanding supporter of the university. Eileen grew up in Ross-shire before embarking on a distinguished career in the civil service. After retiring, she dedicated her time to a range of voluntary roles, including supporting our work as an independent member of the university court.

In August, the university received its highest ever rating in the National Student Survey. The results place us as the fifth best university in Scotland for student satisfaction and the university performed above the Scottish average in almost all of the other measures.

I was delighted to attend the opening of our micro campus at the Hunan Institute of Engineering in November. The development builds on our existing partnership which enables students from across China to study our BEng electrical and electronic engineering and BEng mechanical engineering degrees. The university fostered links with many other local, national and international partners during the year. These connections are invaluable, helping us to create new opportunities for our students and staff.

I would like to thank all of our students, staff, alumni and partners for their support in 2018 and, indeed, throughout my time as principal and vice-chancellor. In November, I announced my intention to retire at the end of the academic year. The university has achieved a lot over the past five years and its reputation has grown enormously. We have faced many challenges, but we have also turned opportunities into successes we can be proud of right across the region.

The University of the Highlands and Islands is a unique institution and, I would argue, the greatest educational success story in Scotland in a hundred years. I feel privileged to have played a part in the evolution of such a fantastic creation and hope to continue to be an ambassador for years to come.

Professor Clive Mulholland,

*Principal and Vice-Chancellor
of the University of Highlands and Islands*

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We are a partnership of colleges and research institutions delivering further and higher education to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and to the rest of the world.

University facts

We're a little different...

13 colleges and research centres and over

70 local learning centres

NAFC Marine Centre UHI
Ionad Mara NAFC UHI

Shetland College UHI
Colaiste Shealtainn UHI

Orkney College UHI
Colaiste Arcaibh UHI

North Highland College UHI
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd a Tuath UHI

Lewis Castle College UHI
Colaiste a' Chaisteil UHI

Highland Theological College UHI
Colaiste Dhiadhachd na Gàidhealtachd UHI

Moray College UHI
Colaiste Mhoireibh UHI

Inverness College UHI
Colaiste Inbhir Nis UHI

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI

West Highland College UHI
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar UHI

Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI
Comann Saidheans Mara na h-Alba UHI

Perth College UHI
Colaiste Pheairt UHI

Argyll College UHI
Colaiste Earra-Ghàidheil UHI

GLASGOW
GLASCHU

EDINBURGH
DÙN ÈIDEANN

SCOTLAND
ALBA

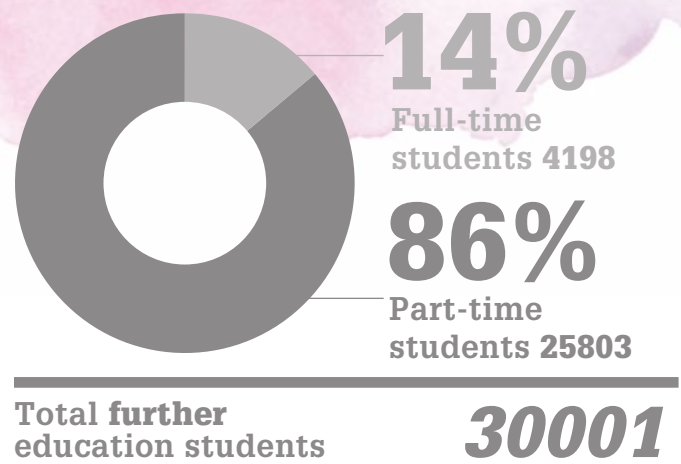
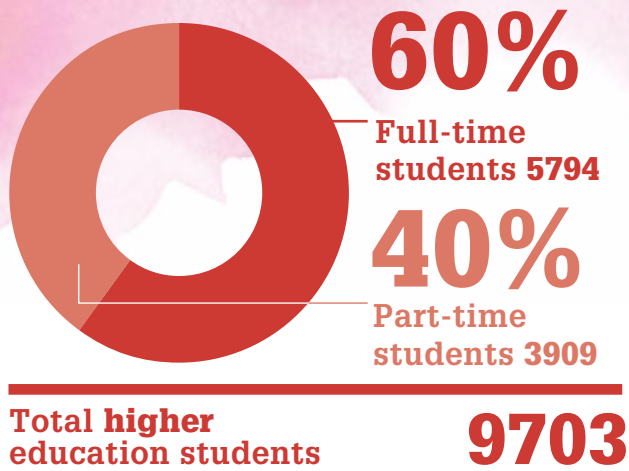
ENGLAND
SASAINN

Regional
university

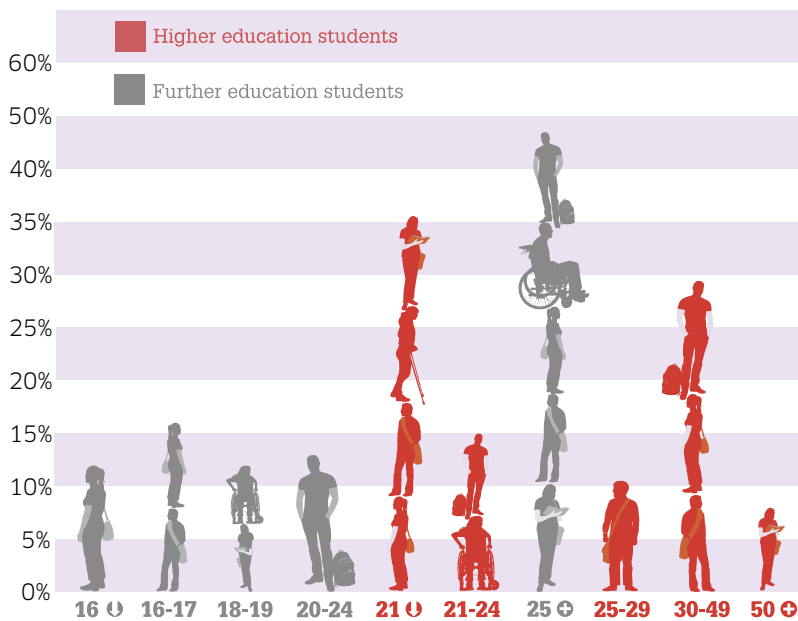
Higher
education

Further
education

but our students like that...



whatever their age...



Where our higher education students come from..



Our people



Martin Jones

Martin Jones took up the role of principal and chief executive officer of Argyll College UHI in November following the retirement of Fraser Durie. He joined the college from Glasgow Caledonian University where he was a senior lecturer in law and has lived near Dunoon for many years.

“ I’m pleased to be appointed as principal of Argyll College UHI. I look forward to working with staff and students in Argyll and in the wider university network at what is an exciting time in the sector.”



Dr Gillian Rothach

Dr Rothach took up the position of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI principal in August following the retirement of Professor Boyd Robertson who had been at the helm since 2008. In her former role as deputy director of studies and head of research, she was central to the development of the college’s research portfolio, with many areas classed as world-leading in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework exercise.

“ We have a strong and capable team at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI and we are all committed to the same aim – of strengthening Gaelic in every area and place. I have total respect for the value of the history and culture of the Gaels. I view it as a real honour to have been involved in Gaelic language development since 1984.”



Professor Neil Simco

The university appointed Professor Neil Simco as its vice-principal for research and impact in March. Professor Simco is responsible for leading and overseeing the university’s research activity in the role.

“ It is a privilege to lead research at the University of the Highlands and Islands. We already have a significant amount of world leading and internationally excellent research in fields such as marine, energy, environmental science, archaeology, health, Nordic studies and history, and there is much to do to build on what has already been achieved.”

Orkney College UHI welcomes new principal



Dr Bill Ross principal of Orkney College UHI, announced his plans to retire in December. Dr Ross, who has served in the post since 2002, will be succeeded by Professor Eddie Abbott-Halpin.

Professor Abbott-Halpin joins us from the department of computing, creative technology and engineering at Leeds Beckett University. He has more than 20 years’ experience in the further education sector, including work as a visiting professor in Sri Lanka and Iraq.



Dr Adam Giangreco

Dr Giangreco joined the university as director of innovation and commercialisation in April. Based at the Centre for Health Science, he oversees health commercialisation activities at the university.

New Professors

The university awarded four personal chairs during 2018



Professor Morag Redford

was recognised for her achievements in leading the provision and development of teacher education across the Highlands and Islands. Based at Perth College UHI, Professor Redford has been head of teacher education at the university since 2014.



Professor Annetta Smith

is head of the university's department of nursing. She was awarded a personal chair for her expertise in nursing leadership and research in health service delivery and access; remote and rural healthcare; sensory impairment and nursing education.



Professor Gill Hubbard

is head of research at the department of nursing. The university awarded her with the title of professor in recognition of her expertise in leading health services research.



Professor Elizabeth Cottier-Cook

is a marine biologist at the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI. Her personal chair recognises her status as a global authority on the impacts of invasive non-native species on the marine environment.

Our students



Young entrepreneur recognised with university title

A young entrepreneur who set up an organisation to support survivors of domestic abuse was named as the University of the Highlands and Islands Alumnus of the Year. **Rachael Bews** from Evanton was nominated for the award in recognition of the achievements she has made since graduating from Inverness College UHI in 2014.

After gaining a first class honours degree in business and management, Rachael specialised as a digital marketing consultant, developing a portfolio of clients around Scotland. She founded ALICAS, a social enterprise which gifts bespoke clothing parcels to women who have fled abusive relationships, in February 2018. The packs are made using surplus retail stock which would otherwise be sent to landfill or incineration. Rachael is keen to help promote and develop the university's growing alumni community.



Student of the Year winners 2018

The university announced its Student of the Year winners in October, with all three of its top awards going to students who were enrolled at island campuses.

Rhea Kay completed a BA (Hons) in contemporary textiles at Shetland College UHI. She was nominated for the Higher Education Student of the Year award in recognition of her exceptional academic achievement, professional attitude and creativity.

James Ellsmoor from Shropshire completed our island studies MLitt as a distance-learning student enrolled at Orkney College UHI's Institute for Northern Studies. He received the Postgraduate Student of the Year award for his academic and entrepreneurial abilities.

Crisdean Saunders completed a horticultural employability programme at Lews Castle College UHI. His selection as Further Education Student of the Year recognises his dedication and his success in securing employment in his chosen field.

University welcomes National Student Survey result

July saw the university receive its highest ever rating from satisfied students. The National Student Survey results placed the university fifth in overall satisfaction in Scotland, with an increase of 6% in overall satisfaction. This puts the institution 2% above the Scottish average of 83%. The university performed above the Scottish sector in almost all measures, with a high level of student satisfaction evident across all areas of the partnership.

"This wonderful result has been achieved through cohesive, coordinated and collective efforts by many people across the partnership. To have these efforts recognised in the most important national measure of student satisfaction is testament to the high quality of hard-working colleagues we have, committed to the support and learning of our students."

Dr Iain Morrison, *Dean of Students*





An exciting year at the Highlands and Islands Students' Association

The Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA) has had a great 2018! We are here to represent all students from across the University of the Highlands and Islands and, over the last year, we have successfully grown our student engagement with bigger and better student events, increased nominations in our HISA Awards and a phenomenal increase in participation with student elections.

HISA has also been recognised with national awards – we were presented with the Student Opportunities Award at the NUS Scotland Conference and we were awarded two stars in the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Awards, a project we worked on in partnership with the university.

All in all, 2018 was a very exciting time to be involved with HISA and I can't wait to see what 2019 will bring!

Alan Simpson, *President of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association*



Report highlights success of Highland and Islands colleges

A new report has revealed that 67.5% of full-time students successfully completed their studies at Highlands and Islands colleges in the 2016 to 2017 academic year. This is higher than the national average figure which shows that 65.3% of students passed further education courses at Scottish colleges in the period.

The statistics were published in the Scottish Funding Council's college performance indicators report in February. The number of part-time students who successfully completed their courses at Highlands and Islands colleges was also found to be higher than average.

"Once again, further education students in the University of the Highlands and Islands colleges have performed well above average. This is due to the hard work by our lecturers and support staff as well as by the students themselves. These students can now access much better employment opportunities or carry on to higher education."

Dr Michael Foxley, *Chair of the Highland and Islands Further Education Regional Board*

Our research



Moray student awarded scholarship for archaeology research

A Moray student has been awarded a scholarship to undertake new research into upland farms in the Highlands in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Stephen Worth from Findhorn is our first student to be awarded a Carnegie-Caledonian PhD scholarship and was one of only 19 recipients in Scotland in 2018.

Stephen is using the scholarship to undertake groundbreaking research into the fate of farms which were set up on marginal land after the Highland Clearances. He is completing his PhD through the university's Centre for History, with support from the Archaeology Institute.



Study explores impact of forest operations on red squirrels

Researchers at Inverness College UHI are leading a study to address knowledge gaps around the impact of forest operations on red squirrels and the effectiveness of current mitigation measures. Due to competition, disease and habitat loss, fewer than 120,000 red squirrels remain in Scotland.

The project, led by **Dr Louise de Raad** in partnership with Forest Enterprise Scotland, is looking at the impact of thinning operations on the protected species. This involved introducing artificial nest boxes in woodland near Inverness to observe red squirrel activity and drey usage during forest operations.

Polar bear diet discovery prompts warning

Research by the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI has suggested predictions about the population decrease of polar bears may have been underestimated.

Dr Thomas Brown has highlighted how the polar bear diet relies heavily on the production of microscopic algae that grow underneath sea ice. The algae are eaten by zooplankton and the energy works its way up the food chain.

Dr Brown explains:

"Assessments identify the reduction in sea ice as a significant threat to polar bear survival. However, the additional role of sea ice as an indirect source of energy has been overlooked. Polar bears' reliance on energy derived from sea ice algae was surprisingly high and shows the reduction of sea ice means more than just a loss of habitat – it threatens the success of the entire Arctic food web."





University first for graduate

A marine scientist who studied at the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI has become the first person to be awarded a University of the Highlands and Islands' Master of Science by Research Degree. **Eleanor Wood**, who now works as a research technician at Swansea University, received her award in September.

"The university received confirmation that it had been successful in its application for Research Degree Awarding Powers in 2017. Today's graduation sees the first research degree being awarded using the university's new powers; a moment of celebration not only for Eleanor Wood, but for the whole university."

Professor Clive Mulholland, *Principal and Vice-Chancellor*

Professor Martin Price

Professor **Martin Price** is the Director of the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College UHI. His research interests include the sustainable development of mountain areas, climate change and the links between biodiversity and sustainable development.

During 2018, Professor Price gave presentations on biosphere reserves at international workshops in Japan and Norway. He is collaborating with the University of Bergen on a four-year project to support the Nordhordland Biosphere Reserve in Western Norway.



For our region



Apprenticeship opportunities to help strengthen workforce

Businesses in the Highlands and Islands, Perthshire, Argyll and Moray now have more opportunities to develop their workforces through the university's modern apprenticeship programme. The university has brought together apprenticeships from across its college network to create a regional portfolio which best serves businesses. As well as being able to access the modern apprenticeships available through their local college, it is now easier for businesses to tap into programmes from across the university partnership.



New PhD will explore history of North Coast 500 region

In April, the university announced it was inviting applications for a new North Coast 500 studentship. The PhD opportunity has been developed by the university's Centre for History in partnership with the North Coast 500 initiative.

Working out of the North Coast 500 office, the successful candidate, due to start in 2019, will document stories and information about heritage sites, objects and landscapes around the North Highlands to develop a new digital app for tourists. North Coast 500 managing director Tom Campbell will co-supervise the PhD student along with the Centre for History's Dr Iain Robertson.



Applications welcomed for innovative midwifery programme

Nurses in the Highlands and Islands have the opportunity to become fully qualified midwives in just 20 months thanks to an innovative pilot scheme developed by the university, NHS Highland and NHS Western Isles. The pre-registration shortened midwifery programme, which starts in January 2019, will be available to local registered adult nurses and those from further afield who wish to study at the University of Highlands and Islands and then work in the region.

Work-based learning hub

Our work-based learning hub manages a portfolio of opportunities across the university partnership, including Foundation Apprenticeships, Modern Apprenticeships and Graduate Apprenticeships.

We are working with:



51 schools



464
employers



To support
1046 apprentices

...across our work-based learning portfolio

Enterprise and innovation

Collaborative centre to improve cardiovascular care

A £7.2 million cross-border research centre is set to benefit cardiac care in the Highlands and Islands. The Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre will develop new models of care, smart wearable technologies and improved patient monitoring systems.

The centre, which received funding from the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, was launched at Ulster University in January. A partner in the project, the University of the Highlands and Islands welcomed five students and a postdoctoral researcher as part of a doctoral training programme.

Professor Ian Megson, Head of the Division of Health Research, said:

"This programme provides the university with an excellent opportunity to work with engineers, biomedical researchers and clinicians from across Ireland to develop and evaluate state-of-the-art solutions to improve cardiac healthcare."



Trials of innovative net show promising results

An experimental trawl net has shown promising results in initial trials at the NAFC Marine Centre UHI. The net has been designed to allow cod to escape without reducing catches of other commercial species. Cod have become increasingly abundant in the northern North Sea over recent years which has proved challenging for fishing vessels targeting other species. The NAFC Marine Centre UHI hopes to carry out further trials of the new net.



Lecturer recognised in Converge Challenge

Dr Mary Doherty, a senior lecturer in the department of diabetes and cardiovascular science, was selected as a finalist in the 2018 Converge Challenge. Dr Doherty was nominated for the AquaOmics project which plans to use zebrafish to convert biomass into chemicals which can be used in life sciences and environmental research.



The Converge Challenge is open to students and recent graduates of Scottish universities and research institutes. The initiative aims to create a new generation of entrepreneurs in Scotland.

Competition rewards entrepreneurial innovation

A therapeutic cow shoe, a bow stand to make archery accessible and a sculptures from scrap metal business were among the winning ideas at the University of the Highlands and Islands Business Competition final in November. Ten finalists shared in a prize fund of £6500 after pitching their ideas to a panel of the region's top business and enterprise professionals.

The competition, now in its thirteenth year, attracted 110 entries, including 82 from students across the university partnership. Run by CREATE, the Centre for Enterprise and Innovation at Inverness College UHI, the initiative aims to support and encourage entrepreneurship across the university and the Highlands and Islands region.



Moray College UHI bids for expansion

Two new campuses could be created for Moray College UHI as part of an ambitious vision to keep young workers in the region. Proposals have been unveiled to create new facilities as part of the £200 million growth deal bid for the region.



The Moray growth deal aims to boost economic growth across Moray. It is a long-term plan centred around projects designed to transform the economy, encourage young people to live and work in the area and address gender inequality in employment. It brings together Scottish and UK governments, Moray Council, partners from across the public and third sectors and private businesses.

International

During 2018 we welcomed students from



University opens micro campus in China

The university opened a micro campus at the Hunan Institute of Engineering, China, in November. The development builds on an existing partnership between the organisations which enables students from across China to study our BEng electrical and electronic engineering and BEng mechanical engineering degrees.

Principal and vice-chancellor, Professor Clive Mulholland, and Hunan Institute of Engineering President, Liu Guofan, marked the opening with the unveiling of a plaque. The launch event took place on the day of the engineering students' graduation.

"The opening of a micro campus is an important and exciting step in the development of the university and a clear statement of our international aspirations."

Professor Stuart Gibb
Vice-Principal International
and External Engagement



Colleagues contribute to Easter Island research

Professor Jane Downes and Professor Colin Richards from the Archaeology Institute are part of a team examining the effect of coastal erosion on the moai statues and associated monuments of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Rapa Nui, Easter Island.

The research shows climate change is having an adverse impact on sites situated on the coast and could have a negative impact on the tourism economy. The findings attracted international attention, with features in the New York Times and Canadian CBC Radio.

The research was undertaken as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded 'Rapa Nui – Landscapes of Construction' project.



Student golfers selected for professional adventure

A group of professional golf students enjoyed a once in a lifetime trip in February, after they were selected for a two week work experience placement in Muscat, Oman. Marsha Hull, Michael Schinkel, Riccardo Cellerino and Kieran McCormick worked at the European Tour NBO Oman Open and introduced golf to hundreds of young people.

Speaking of his experience, Kieran said:

"The Oman trip in my opinion was one of the best experiences I've had so far. I gained a vast knowledge of what goes on behind the scenes at a tour event and how many job opportunities there are in the golfing industry."



New infrastructure

Plans unveiled for healthcare and life sciences centre

Plans for a major new development on Inverness Campus were shared with the public in July. The proposals are to create an innovative, multidisciplinary healthcare and life sciences centre which will serve the Highlands and Islands region.

The project, a collaboration between the university, NHS Highland and Highlands Islands Enterprise, is forecast to create around 189 jobs. The university, which has been allocated £9 million from the UK Government through the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal, plans to develop a life sciences innovation centre at the new facility.



New campus opened in Paisley

Highland Theological College UHI opened a new campus in Paisley at the start of the 2018 to 2019 academic year. The site replaces the college's former base in Glasgow and offers more space, with three classrooms, two offices and a library and study area.

The Paisley campus provides a base for students in the central belt to get together, access resources and attend classes. Approximately 40 students attended an induction event in September and around a dozen use the facility each week. The facility complements Highland Theological College UHI's main campus in Dingwall.



*State of the art
facility to boost
**active
health
research***

The university opened its new active health exercise lab at the Centre for Health Science, Inverness, in March. Supported by the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal and Highland and Islands Enterprise, the facility contains a range of state of the art equipment used to assess exercise capacity and health status. Members of the active health group are using the lab to conduct research aimed at improving quality of life, reducing hospital re-admissions and increasing life expectancy. In addition, staff expertise and lab equipment have enabled knowledge sharing opportunities that were previously unavailable within the Highlands.

News



Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI receives Sorley Maclean collection

The library at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI received an extensive collection of books belonging to the renowned poet Sorley Maclean in July. Numbering almost 1800 titles, the collection includes old family books, prizes from Sorley's schooldays as well as his own personal acquisitions.

Born in Raasay, Sorley Maclean (1911-1996), a champion of the Gaelic language, would go on to become a poet of international stature. He was one of the college's founding trustees and one of its first writers in residence.



Students put skills to test with club shop takeover

The university joined forces with Golspie Golf Club in May to enable golf degree students to work in the club shop throughout the year. Supported by university staff, the students are responsible for the day-to-day running of the shop. They also have the opportunity to develop commercial strategies, implement operational changes and make managerial recommendations to the club's committee.

Golf student Caitlin Boa said:

"It's a great opportunity to be involved so closely in the running of the shop and other parts of the club. It provides the ideal platform to put the industry skills and knowledge we've gained in our studies to the test, maximising our learning experience and benefitting the club."



New album showcases students' musical talents

A new album showcasing the music of University of the Highlands and Islands students and alumni was launched at Celtic Connections in February. 'The Musicians' Nest' (Nead nan Ceòladair) features tracks from artists who crafted their skills at the Benbecula campus of Lews Castle College UHI.

The album includes tunes donated by award winning musicians such as James Duncan MacKenzie, a piper with Breabach, Seonaidh MacIntyre, a multi-instrumentalist from Trail West and Robbie Greg, winner of the 2017 Neil Gow Scottish Fiddle Award.



Squash player presented with university award

The university recognised professional squash player Greg Lobban with an Honorary Blue award in August. Introduced in 2017, the Sporting Blues awards recognise the sporting excellence of the university's students and alumni.

Greg completed an HND in sports coaching with development of sport at Inverness College UHI in 2011. He has gone on to become one of the best squash players in the world, with a current career-high ranking of 30. He has represented Scotland at two Commonwealth Games, was the World Doubles Champion in 2016 and has a long list of Professional Squash Association World Tour titles.



Triple success for game and wildlife student

North Highland College UHI enjoyed a successful evening at Lantra Scotland's Land-based and Aquaculture Learner Awards in March. Game and wildlife management student, Megan Rowland, won the Overall Learner of the Year Award and also took home a Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies (CARAS) accolade. She also won the Game and Wildlife Learner of the Year Award, with her fellow gamekeeping student, Connor Aubrey, named as the runner-up.

Megan said:

"I was thrilled to be named as winner of the game and wildlife category and to get a CARAS award, but couldn't believe it when my name was read out as the overall winner too. I hope this encourages more women to consider a career in game and wildlife."



Students learn geology rocks with new donation

An amateur geologist is helping students to gain a rock solid education with a donation of geological samples.

Calum Anton from Fortrose gifted over 50 rock specimens to the university in February. The collection includes rare samples from around the Highlands and Islands, the rest of Scotland and Europe.

The samples are displayed at the STEM Hub in the An Lòchran building on Inverness Campus. They are being used to teach school pupils about the composition of the earth and can also be accessed by students from the university's geography degree.



Scotland's Chief Nursing Officer visits Inverness

North nursing students had the opportunity to meet Scotland's Chief Nursing Officer in September when she visited the university's nursing department in Inverness. Professor Fiona McQueen spoke to students and staff in person at the Centre for Health Science and addressed students in Stornoway via a video conference link.

Professor McQueen also took part in the department's award ceremony, presenting certificates to nominees for the university's nursing student of the year awards as well as a certificate and £100 cheque to the overall winner, Aimie Davies.



Support cards launched at Perth College UHI

John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Minister for Education and Skills, visited Perth College UHI in October to launch gender based violence support cards at the college. The cards have been distributed to every college and university across Scotland to help staff provide the correct support to someone experiencing gender based violence.

Debbie Das Chaudhury, women's officer at the Highlands and Islands Students' Association Perth, said:

"We firmly believe that college should be a safe space for all students. They should be able to study without fear of gender based violence and sexual harassment. These information cards are an important and necessary step to tackling gender based violence."



Celebration of creative arts at West Highland College UHI

Students from a range of creative disciplines hosted a showcase evening in Fort William in May. Guests enjoyed canapés prepared by professional cookery students, entertainment from music students and exhibitions from art, textile and digital media students. The event also included a fashion show supported by the college's hair and beauty team.

"This type of event is what makes all of our jobs at the college worthwhile. The talent of the students is evident. Our role is to encourage, motivate and equip them with the necessary skills and qualifications to make the most of every future opportunity that comes their way."

Sue Macfarlane, Vice-Principal Academic Affairs



North Highland student awarded engineering prize

Alexander Mackay, a BEng electrical and electronics engineering graduate from North Highland College UHI, was awarded the university's 2018 Willie Printie prize for engineering excellence. The prize, worth £500, is awarded annually to a graduate who has progressed from an apprenticeship background through further education qualifications and is one of a number of prizes gifted by our donors and supporters.



Partnership to deliver teacher training in rural schools

In January, it was announced the university would be partnering with the University of Dundee to offer a new route into teaching for graduates and career changers. The universities are working with rural schools in areas of high deprivation to support between 30 and 50 students in qualifying for a Masters-level diploma in teaching.

The course, which started in December, is open to graduates with a 2:1 honours degree in chemistry, physics, home economics, maths and engineering. The university partnership was chosen as the successful bidder following a procurement exercise by the Scottish Government.

Honorary awards, graduations



Eileen Mackay – Honorary Doctorate

The university achieved an important milestone in July when we conferred our first ever Honorary Doctorate on Eileen Mackay, a longstanding supporter of the university. Eileen grew up in Dingwall before embarking on a distinguished career in the civil service.

After retiring, Eileen dedicated her time to a range of voluntary roles, including supporting our work as an independent member of the university court. The Honorary Doctorate, which recognises her outstanding contribution, was presented by our Chancellor, HRH The Princess Royal, at Highland Theological College UHI's graduation ceremony in Dingwall.



Orkney College UHI graduation

As well as presiding over the Highland Theological College UHI graduation in May, HRH The Princess Royal also attended the Orkney College UHI graduation ceremony in September.

The event was a particularly proud day for Dr Val MacIver OBE, who saw her granddaughter, Niamh Mackenzie, collect a first class honours degree in culture and heritage. Dr MacIver was instrumental in establishing the university, having chaired the Highland Council steering group set up to examine the case for its creation in 1991. She worked tirelessly to support the venture and was recognised with an Honorary Fellowship in 2004.

“ It has been a pleasure to celebrate the endeavours of our graduates and to recognise the invaluable contributions made by Eileen Mackay and John Norman MacLeod. They have both played a crucial role in the development of the university and we thank them for their years of service.”

Professor Clive Mulholland

*Principal and
Vice-Chancellor*

and chancellor



John Norman MacLeod ***– Chancellor's Medal***

John Norman MacLeod was awarded our Chancellor's Medal in July. He was presented with the medal by HRH The Princess Royal at the Highland Theological College UHI graduation ceremony in Dingwall.

John Norman, who joined Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI as its first lecturer in 1983, announced his retirement in January. The award recognises his contribution to the development of further and higher education through the medium of Gaelic throughout his 35-year career.

Dee Bradbury ***– Honorary Doctorate***

Dee Bradbury, Scottish Rugby Union President, was presented with an Honorary Doctorate the Argyll College UHI graduation ceremony in September. The award recognises her leadership in sport at a local, national and international level.

Ms Bradbury is Scottish Rugby Union's first female President and the first female leader of any Tier 1 rugby playing nation in the world. Based in Oban, she has dedicated her time to championing women and girls to play sport, as well as leading and administering sporting activities for everyone.



Gaelic

Dr Marsaili MacLeod joins Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI

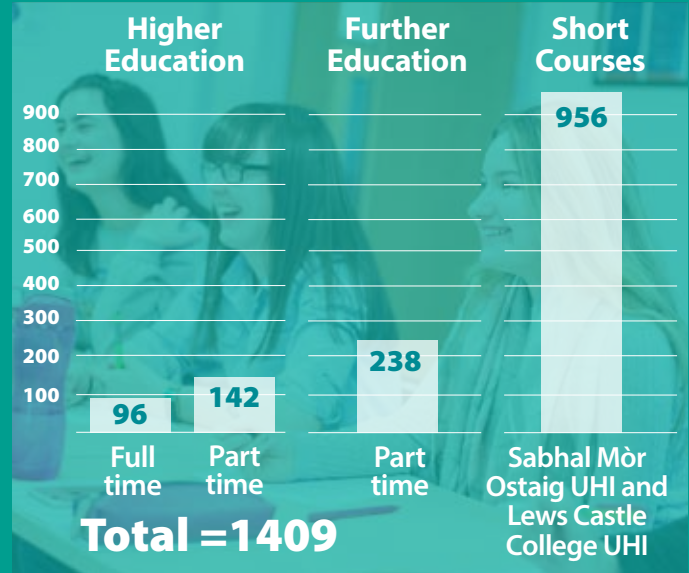


Dr Marsaili MacLeod joined Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI as vice-principal and director of studies in September. Dr MacLeod is a well-known researcher with experience in rural development and management. She joined the college from the University of Aberdeen, where she lectured in Gaelic Studies.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI chair, Angus MacLeod, commented:

“Marsaili has excellent skills in teaching, research, management and administration and we are sure she will achieve great things in this role.”

Student numbers on university's Gaelic programmes



Public invited to have their say on Gaelic Plan



The university launched a public consultation on its proposed new Gaelic Language Plan in June. The document sets out how the university intends to continue to promote and develop the use of Gaelic through its practices, communications and curriculum until 2022.

The document, due to be launched in 2019, is the university's third Gaelic Language Plan. Proposals include enhancing Gaelic curriculum, producing more bilingual resources for students and providing training opportunities for employees.

“Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life. As the only university based in the Highlands and Islands, we are intensely aware of our responsibilities to enhance the status of Gaelic and promote its use.”

Professor Clive Mulholland, *Principal and Vice-Chancellor*

Thank you!

We would like to thank all of the individuals, organisations and charitable trusts and foundations who donated to the university during 2018.

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