



**NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES
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Where learning means more

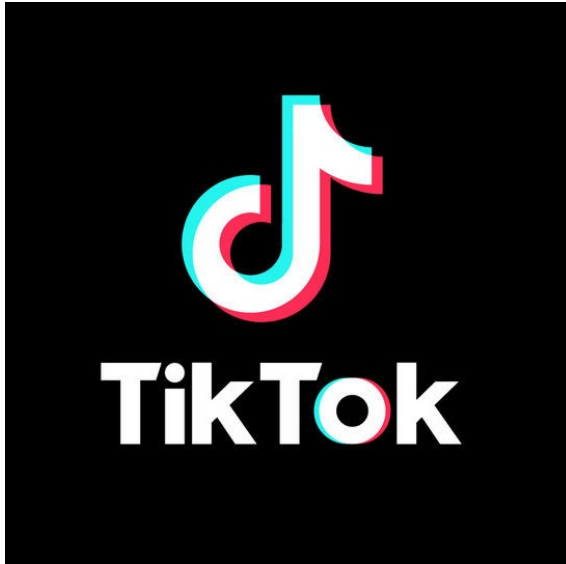
Highlights Report

2024



January 2024

TikTok launched



- + TikTok social media channel launched.
- + 276 followers and 64,000 organic video views (as of December 2024).

Research Associate named in The New Year Honours List



- + Dr Steven Andrew, Research Associate with the Environmental Research Institute, was awarded the Polar Medal for outstanding achievement and service to the UK in the field of polar research.

Research – environmental impacts



- + Our published research outlines how we better understand the environmental impacts of offshore wind farms on marine ecosystems.
- + Includes using fish migration patterns to estimate the future location of seabirds and mammal.

Engineering students awarded scholarship



- + Thurso-based engineering student Tom David was awarded an industry-based scholarship from renewable industry leaders Fred. Olsen Seawind and Vattenfall through the Future Leaders Fund.

February 2024

Music Showcase, Alness



- + HNC Music Performance Showcase took place at our Alness campus.
- + HNC Sound Production students managed the PA system for the event.

Virtual technology strengthens Ardnamurchan community relationships



- + Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research worked with Ardnamurchan pupils to create virtual reality experiences which build meaningful connection between them and places on the peninsula.

Springboard FutureChef



- + Students Alex Johnstone and Domhnall Angus Bruce took part in the regional finals of the Springboard FutureChef competition in Elgin.

Shortbread Showdown Grand Final



- + Baker and tutor Paul Mackintosh worked with pupils from Portree High to enter the Shortbread Showdown Grand Final at Eden Court with Isle of Raasay whisky infused shortbread.

March 2024

Love Lochaber



- + We got behind the Love Lochaber campaign, an initiative to boost the local population.
- + Our alumni [Ellie Moore](#) told her story to the [BBC](#).

Apprenticeship week



- + We celebrated our apprentices and employer partnerships.
- + Staff from Riverside House Care Home in Wick celebrated completion of their Modern Apprenticeships in Social Services and Healthcare, pictured.
- + Employer Harland & Wolff created a [blog](#) about our important partnership.

Lego



- + Our Thurso campus hosted the first Lego League Challenge in the North.

LANTRA Award



- + Kingussie High School pupil Hayden Taylor-Ramsay won the NPA Skills for Work Learner of the Year at the LANTRA Scotland awards.
- + Hayden studied Rural Skills with us in his Senior Phase.

April 2024

Scottish Knowledge Exchange Award WIN



- + The Flow Country Partnership, working with the Environmental Research Institute, won the 'Making an Environmental Difference' award.
- + The awards celebrate people and partnerships in the world of business-academia collaborations.

Celebrating our students' experiences



- + Professional golf student Taylor Kerr won the Scottish Student Sports Champion at the British Universities and Colleges Sport event.
- + Cnoc Soilleir based music students Marit Schoepel and Gracie Davie created and staged a play based on their experiences living in Uist.

SOAS trip to Vjosa Wild River National Park, Albania



- + Students from our School of Adventure Studies in Fort William joined forces with EcoAlbania and Visit Gjirokaster for a packrafting expedition to the recently established Vjosa Wild River National Park in Albania.

Deputy First Minister visits Stornoway campus



- + Shona Robison MSP visited our Stornoway campus to see progress on our campus redevelopment project, due to be complete by the autumn.

May 2024

Rural Studies Centre Highly Commended



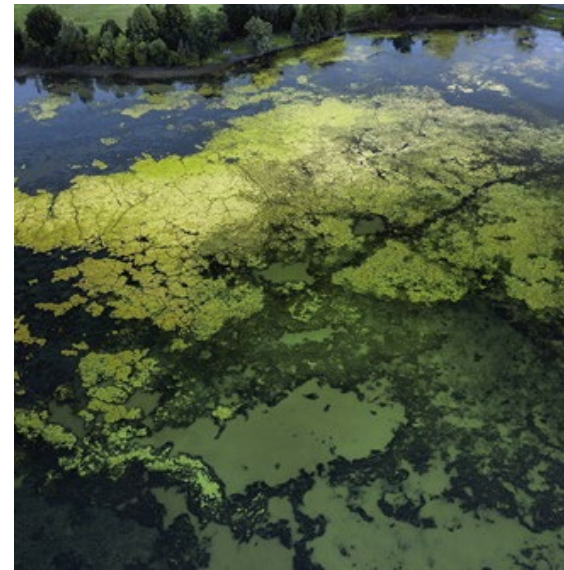
- + The equine area of our Rural Studies Centre in Halkirk received a highly commended rating through British Horse Society (BHS), Areas highlighted include coaching standards, horse care, client experience, tack and equipment, working practices and grassland and turnout.

Business partnership supports half price courses



- + Our business partnership with EDP Renewables supports half price courses for residents on the Isle of Skye access to training courses to support businesses or community organisations.

Scottish lochs and rivers – cleaning them up with sewage



- + Researchers at the Environmental Research Institute are investigating the potential of converting sewage sludge into mineral rich material that could treat water impacted by eutrophication and algal blooms.

Best Social Impact Award



- + Postgraduate student James Macdonald, studying MSc Sustainable Energy Solutions, won the Best Social Impact Award at UHI Business Competition.
- + His company, Energize Highlands, brings renewable power to remote communities.

May 2024 – Student Showcases

Uist Open Studios Exhibition



- + Annual Open Studios Exhibition at Taigh Chearsabhagh.
- + A showcase of work from 12 NC Art and Design and BA (Hons) Fine Art students based in North Uist.

Creative Arts Festival-Fort William



- + Creative Arts Festival at our Fort William campus.
- + A showcase of work from Creative Arts, Textiles, Fashion and Photography students.

Creative Arts Festival-Portree



- + Creative Arts Festival at our Portree campus.
- + A showcase of print making, paintings, drawings, sculptures and photography from our Art and Photography students.

Creative Arts Festival-Auchtertyre



- + Creative Arts Festival at our Auchtertyre centre.
- + A showcase of work from our NPA Art and Design students, with mixed media, print-making and illustration on display.

UHI Film Showcase-Eden Court



- + UHI Film Showcase by BA (Hons) Contemporary Film Making in the Highlands and Islands held at Eden Court

June 2024

SECTT Apprentice of the Year competition



- + Electrical engineering apprentices competed in the SECTT Apprentice of the Year competition in Aberdeen, including David Matheson and Dan Macleod from Lewis Builders Ltd.

HISA Awards 2024



- + We received a total of 81 nominations from students in the 2024 HISA Awards.
- + These nominations represent more than 21% of votes cast across the UHI partnership.

End of year fun for our Pathway students!



- + Pathway courses offer an introduction to further education, building confidence and skills to progress into further study, employment or volunteering.
- + Highlights from Stornoway, Thurso, and AIness.

Gaelic Language Plan



- + Our first Gaelic Language Plan submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval.

July 2024

Uist Unearthed



- + Visit Scotland reports that the Uist Unearthed project led by our archaeology team has been downloaded 6,500 times since its launch in 2021 and has contributed to a growth in visitor numbers and enjoyment of the islands.

2024 National Student Survey results



- + UHI announces its impressive performance in the 2024 National Student Survey, surpassing both its benchmarks and the Scottish sector average with an overall satisfaction of 81.2%.

Flow Country World Heritage status



- + Our Environmental Research Institute team contributes to The Flow Country securing prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Site status for its globally important nature.

'For Peat's Sake' Project launch



- + We launched the 'For Peat's Sake' project, a collaboration with NatureScot Peatland ACTION, which will deliver an introductory peatland restoration training course to businesses.

'Green Engineers for the Future' launch



- + We launched 'Green Engineers for the future', a new course and workshop offered at our Thurso campus aimed at engineers and technicians looking to train in green engineering maintenance skills.

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 ambassador.

Salamander Windfarm: Environmental Monitoring



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

Student Development Fund recipients



- + RES, the world's largest independent renewable energy company, has pledged £20,000 to 23 students at the 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 UHI Golf student and UHI Golf Team captain Taylor Kerr at the UHI Sporting Blues.

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 this month.

Prize for Engineering Excellence



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

Student Development Fund recipients



- + To celebrate World Water Monitoring Day we highlighted the work of PhD researcher Anna McWilliam. Her studies focus on improving water quality using low-impact methods and innovative brush management

Regional Student Association Awards



- + HISA published its awards for staff and students across the partnership.
- + We gained 80 nominations, with Shaun Escott winning overall winner of 'Above and Beyond' award category.

Cnoc Soilleir Phase 2



- + A 200-seater auditorium specifically designed for music and performance is to be built 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, a series highlighting the diverse and impactful work of Scotland's 24 colleges, showcasing their contributions throughout 2024.

ADHD Awareness Month



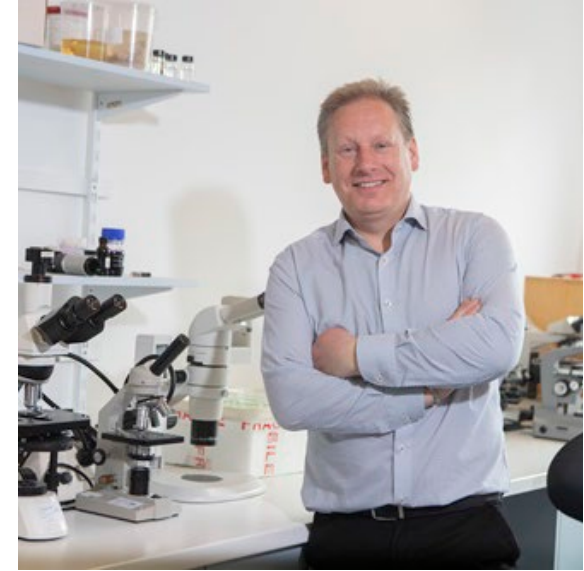
- + During ADHD Awareness month, Digital Student Ambassador Neil, shared his inspiring story of his diagnosis and journey to studying a degree in Scottish History and Archaeology.

Statement | Delivering a college fit for the future



- + Statement released highlighting our priorities for delivering a college fit for the future, which meets the needs of its students, local communities and employers.

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.

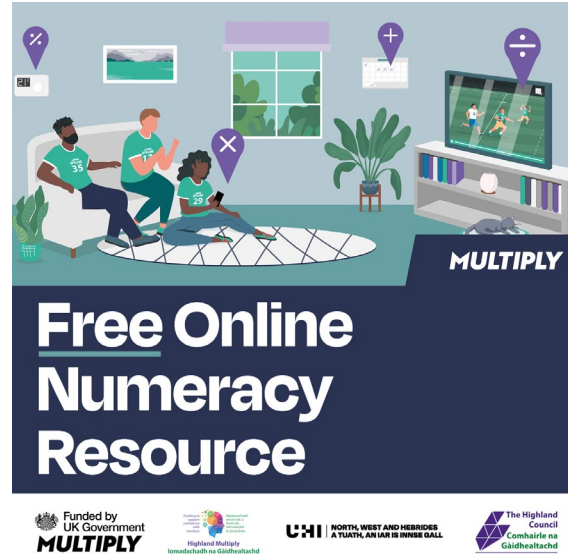
November 2024

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



- + We were proud to announce 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 RSPC Scotland's Nature Awards



- + Professor of Peatland Science and Senior Research Fellow at our 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.



**Thanks
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