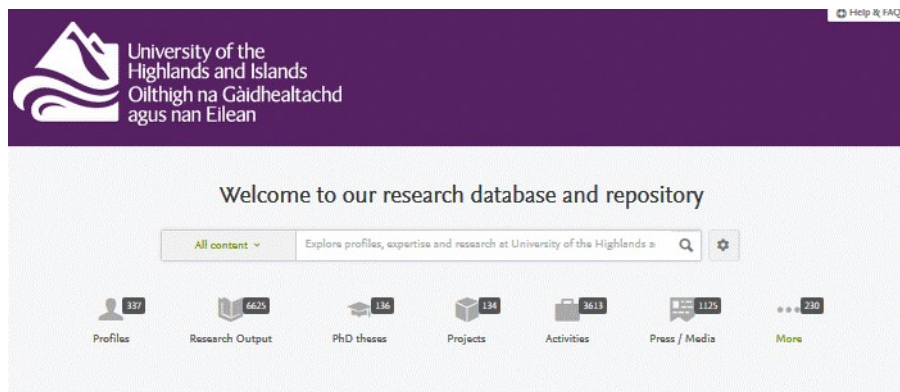


Research activity, support and opportunity here at the university

## University Research Update (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

Welcome to the university's research newsletter which has been developed to inform you about research in the university, relevant information, news and support. It has, since the last edition, been an exceptionally busy time with many exciting opportunities as is always the case. We are excited to showcase a number of highly important successes and achievements and look forward to that continuing. This newsletter gives a snapshot of a few items of many more that are out there. You have received this newsletter as you are on the university's mailing list as being research active / interested. If you would like to unsubscribe please [reply to this mailing](#).

### Announcing the university's new public research database



Explore in detail our research activity, publications, research centers and researcher profiles.



Our campuses lie in unparalleled natural laboratories with opportunities to support world-class research across a wide range of disciplines. This portal enables you to explore in detail our areas of expertise by either going straight to your discipline of interest or searching by location, department or for specific researchers. Research at the University of the Highlands and Islands is carried out by our various specialist research centres and academic departments working across teams, networks and locations throughout the region and internationally.

Our new (2020) research database can be accessed at <https://pure.uhi.ac.uk/en/> by anyone with an internet connection. It represents a huge step forwards in usability for our **public face of Pure**; like the last portal it displays all items added to Pure that have their visibility marked as 'public' and gives all UHI research staff a platform to reach anyone in the world with their research. But now it has a range of features that make all research activity much more discoverable and better presented. It is open and full of useful features to sort and explore our research, making it **more important than ever that all research activity is recorded accurately within Pure**. Obviously journal articles can have a global audience but a large proportion of journal articles are still hidden behind publisher paywalls, making it difficult for fellow researchers in poorer regions, unaffiliated researchers or even just institutions on a different publisher subscription plan to access published research. The UHI public portal has no such barriers and is fully compliant with funder and Research Council Open Access policies. All items are fully search engine-friendly.

Delving into the metrics on our new research portal Built-in to our new portal are a range of new metrics, or altmetrics, which give you the opportunity to learn more about where your research is being read, be it in blogs, on twitter or in news outlets as well as data on total numbers of downloads and citations. You do this by clicking on any output that has the coloured 'doughnut' graphic to the right of it and from there you can drill-down

to look at country data and more, if you wish, all of which gives you various ways of gauging your reach and impact. All citation and h-index information is derived from data on the Scopus platform and quoted you can see download data from the research portal.

---

### The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) is recruiting

The RSE Young Academy of Scotland is now accepting membership applications.

Like the RSE, YAS is a multi-disciplinary organisation, with members from a wide range of disciplines, and with academic and practitioner members. But also like the RSE, some areas are not as well represented as they would like. Although they are keen to receive applications from candidates in all disciplines, they would particularly like to have more people working in the public and third sectors in the membership.



The application is available to download via this link: <https://www.youngacademyofscotland.org.uk/membership/become-member/>. A lot of additional information about the application process and what it means to be part of YAS is also available there.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on **Monday 17 February 2020**.

---

### Universities, Heritage Bodies and Scotland's Regional Pasts: Evidencing and Transforming from the Highlands and Islands

On Tuesday 22 October 2019, at Perth Museum and Art Gallery and in association with the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities, attendees from the Universities of the Highlands & Islands, Aberdeen, Stirling, Heriot-Watt, Northumbria, Edinburgh and Glasgow gathered to take part in the above discipline + catalyst training event.

The event involved several talks, and focused discussion on 'public engagement' and 'impact' for doctoral students interested in Scotland's regional pasts. It brought together a body of academics, doctoral and staff and cultural heritage practitioners in a completely new way, leading to new insights and new networking opportunities for the doctoral students, encouraging new approaches to collaboration of this type. The doctoral students reported that it was 'good to hear from industry partners' while, in return, one cultural practitioner reported that 'such partnerships are crucial for the cultural (and economic!) sustainability of the sector – public and academic'.



### University wins over half a million pounds to advance digital heritage tourism



Two digital heritage tourism research projects at the University of the Highlands and Islands are amongst nine projects in the Highlands and Islands selected to share a £5 million European Regional Development Fund.



The 'Uibhist virtual archaeology' project received a grant of £271,000 to create a new series of virtual reality digital reconstructions of seven archaeological sites located on the Hebridean Way walking route in Uist and Benbecula.

The 'coast that shaped the world' project received a grant of £350,000. This project will develop a website, app and programme of innovative digital exhibitions along the west coast of Scotland to narrate how maritime cultural, and natural, heritage helped to shape the world.

[Read more.](#)

Top photo: Ardnamurchan Lighthouse credit to West Coast Waters, lower photo: Dun an Sticer (North Uist) credit Emily Gal

### UHI Postgraduate student of the year

Congratulations to Dr Martha Johnson, who received the UHI Postgraduate Student of the Year award. Martha's PhD title was 'A geological basis for understanding the rock at The Ness of Brodgar, Orkney' for which she was studied at Orkney College UHI.



PhD Rock Matters: A geological Basis for Understanding The Rock at The Ness of Brodgar, Orkney — from the left: Professor Jane Downes (director), Dr Nick Card (senior project manager), Dr Martha Johnson and Dr Ingrid Mainland (curriculum leader).

### University of the Highlands and Islands archaeology scholar awarded the Robertson Medal

Neil Ackerman (32), a PhD researcher at the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute, has been awarded the Robertson Medal from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland for academic year 2019-20. The silver medal is awarded each year to the scholarship candidate judged to be the most outstanding for that year's competition.

Neil becomes the university's first postgraduate student to receive this honour. He was selected from 18 awards made in this year's Carnegie postgraduate scholarship competition.



His research, entitled 'Scotland's earliest built environment: halls, houses and big houses', looks at the earliest buildings of Neolithic Scotland. This period reveals a settled farming architecture for the first time, and also a growth in the size of public meeting halls. Studying the Neolithic period from the perspective of both monumental halls and domestic architecture will uncover a new understanding of the earliest Scottish Neolithic period.

[Read more.](#)

## Why moving more is simple but complex: reflections on 25 years of trying



Professor Trish Gorely's inaugural lecture, title as above, took place at Inverness College UHI on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

A leading health researcher, with a background in sport science and psychology, Professor Gorely has worked in teams designing and evaluating interventions promoting active lifestyles in schools, community groups and clinical populations. Her work has included national and international collaborations and has helped to inform government policy.

Access the lecture [here](#).

## Sugar and slavery in Suriname

Dr David Worthington from the university's Centre for History has been researching links between the Highlands and the international slave trade and has uncovered the region's earliest-known overseas slave-owning circle, which had links with the Dutch Empire. His research was published in Dutch Crossing: The Journal of Low Countries Studies and was followed by an [article on 'Sugar and Slavery' in The Scotsman newspaper](#).

## Scottish School of Primary Care



Professor Gill Hubbard has been recently appointed a deputy director of the Scottish School of Primary Care. This is a funded 3-year post. Gill looks forward to supporting and developing academic primary care in Scotland.

## Postgraduate research conference November 2019



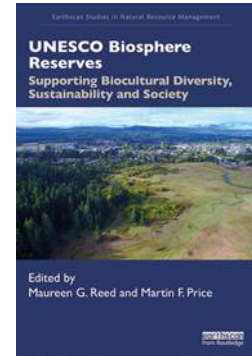
Postgraduate research students (PGRs) from across the university's partnership participated in their bi-annual conference, hosted by the Environmental Research Institute in Thurso, from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November. In all, approximately 50 PGRs attended the three-day event of presentations, networking, training and socialising held between the North Highland College campus and the Thurso cinema. Built into the programme was an icebreaker session at Dunnet Head Lighthouse; a poster session and curry at ETEC; presentations from invited speakers, and from the PGRs themselves; breakout sessions and tours of the facilities; a conference dinner and ceilidh at the Weigh Inn; and finally some prizes for best posters and presentations by the PGRs.

The event was also attended by several invited speakers, with a fantastic keynote address from Inverness College's Dr Melanie Smith, who shared the experience of her route into and through academia – the key seems to have been start young, do surveys and experiments in and around your parents' house.



## UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

Congratulations to Martin Price who co-edited the book [UNESCO Biosphere Reserves Supporting Biocultural Diversity Sustainability](#). According to the 10-year plan of action for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, every biosphere reserve should have a partnership with its local university. For UHI, our local Biosphere Reserve is Wester Ross Biosphere (WRB), and on 11 December, representatives from WRB met with researchers and educators from across the university's partnership to discuss their common interests and possibilities for future collaboration. It was recognised that many UHI staff and students are, or have recently been, doing research in Wester Ross, so it was agreed that Martin Price will compile a list of such activities, working with the Research Cluster coordinators. This will be one step towards a research strategy for WRB, as called for in its [Strategic Plan for 2018-2023](#) – and, hopefully, a long-term partnership that will be of benefit for both UHI and WRB.



## Collaboration with NHS Highland cardiology and Daiichi Sankyo



The university's Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal is working closely with NHS Highland cardiology and the pharmaceutical company Daiichi Sankyo to evaluate and implement a new technology to predict the occurrence of secondary stroke in patients admitted to hospital following a stroke. The project involves monitoring all patients admitted following stroke for the presence of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, a major stroke risk factor. Only in its 4<sup>th</sup> month, the work has already identified 5 out of 44 patients who are now receiving appropriate treatment. Based on these results, up to 50 secondary strokes per year could be prevented in NHS Highland alone if this technology were made available to all patients.

## Technology-enabled learning for rural education through the lens of dementia education

Kevin Muirhead, PhD student from the university's Department of Nursing & Midwifery, presented on the above at the university's Learning and Teaching Conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.



## Society for Research into Higher Education Scoping Awards 2019

Congratulations to Dr Khristin Fabian from Perth College UHI who, in collaboration with Ella Taylor Smith from Napier University, received a scoping award from the [Society for Research into Higher Education](#). The title of their scoping project is 'How are we positioning apprenticeships? A critical analysis of job adverts for degree apprentices'.

## REF



If staff think they should have a reduction in the REF requirement for outputs (due to, for example, a period of maternity leave or a period of illness that affect their ability to produce published outputs) then they should make a [special circumstances](#) request by the **28<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.

## The role of online communities in building rural resilience



**Australian Government**

**Australian Research Council**

The Division of Rural Health and Wellbeing at the University of the Highlands and Islands is to partner with three Australian universities to look at the role of online communities in building rural resilience. The project, funded by the Australian Research Council, will be led by Prof. Jane Farmer at Swinburne University. Dr. Sarah-Anne Munoz from the UHI Division of Rural Health and Wellbeing is one of two invited international experts who form part of the project team. The research will use data from online communities to identify the roles that they do, and could, play in fostering rural resilience. The work will use social media analysis and spatial techniques to classify and map services and other aspects of social resilience. The research team aims to understand more about whether using online communities builds or undermines various dimensions of social resilience for rural people, and in what circumstances.

## Scottish and South African researchers to share mountain knowledge



The university is embarking on a new project to help develop mountain research in southern Africa. Academics have been awarded a grant of over £264,000 from the British Council and the South African Department of Higher Education and Training to help mentor and co-supervise a group of South African doctoral candidates. The funding will be used to support academic staff from the University of the Free State and the University of Venda to complete PhDs on topics related to the sustainable development of mountainous regions and biosphere reserves.

Mountains are vital for the production of water in the drought-prone region of southern Africa. With projections on the impact of climate change and population growth, experts have indicated that the area's mountains will become increasingly important for water security. Despite this, they are among the least studied parts of South Africa. Academics from the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College UHI and other University of the Highlands and Islands' research institutes, will work with colleagues from the University of the Free State and the University of Venda to co-supervise ten new doctoral students.

The aims of the four-year project are to increase South African mountain research, to develop future research capacity at the two universities and to foster ongoing collaboration between the three partners. The project will have a particular focus on increasing the number of young, female and black researchers at the University of the Free State and the University of Venda.

Professor Martin Price, Director of the Centre for Mountain Studies, said: "The Afromontane Research Unit at the University of the Free State is becoming the leader for research in the mountains of southern Africa. I am glad that my years of involvement with the unit are now leading to stronger interactions between our universities, which will enhance research capacity in South Africa and provide University of the Highlands and Islands staff with opportunities for collaborative research there."

Dr Ralph Clark, Director of the Afromontane Research Unit at the University of the Free State said: "Increasing mountain research expertise in southern Africa is essential for long-term social, economic and political viability in our region. If we lose our mountains to unsustainable activities, we lose our future. We are greatly encouraged that this South-South-North relationship will boost a community of practice that understands southern African mountains systems and can drive a science-policy-action interface for their sustainable development."



**higher education  
& training**

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Graduate School's training officer's 20 years' service



Congratulations to Val Cooper, UHI Graduate School's training officer, on her 20 years service to the university; she was awarded her long service award in November 2019. As part of the Graduate School team, Val's main responsibilities are providing generic training for our research students and managing the progress monitoring process. Val joined the university in 1999 as a secretary providing support to all the university's academic committees, later becoming a member of the Academic Registry team, looking after External Examiner processes, working with the Regulations Subcommittee on the annual review of UHI's Academic Standards & Quality Regulations, and supporting the university's application to taught degree awarding powers.

### HALT! Hernia Active Living Trial



Funded by [Ileostomy and Internal Pouch Association](#) and [Kingston Trust](#) Gill Hubbard with Becca Beeken, Claire Taylor, Raymond Oliphant, Angus Watson, Julie Munro and William Goodman will be conducting a feasibility study of a randomised controlled trial of a physical activity intervention to improve quality of life in people with a bowel stoma who have a bulge/parastomal hernia.

---

### Converge Kickstart Challenge

Tom Carew, a final year PhD student supervised by Professor Mary Doherty within the [Institute of Health Research and Innovation](#), has been shortlisted as 1 of 32 finalists in this year's [Converge Kickstart Challenge](#). The KickStart Challenge is aimed at early-stage, innovative projects embarking on the first steps of the commercialisation journey. As a finalist, Tom will receive two days of entrepreneurial training, pitch training, and business advice. Tom was shortlisted on the basis of several new products he developed during the course of his PhD studies. One of these novel devices is additionally being supported for commercialisation through the university's Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal.



### Ruination and Decay



A new year-long research programme created to galvanise multi-disciplinary research collaborations across UHI concluded with a two-day conference on December 11-12<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Inverness College UHI.

The 2019 inaugural theme was [“Ruination and Decay”](#) and brought together researchers and creative practitioners from different disciplines and geographical areas to produce a variety of novel approaches to research and teaching.

Guest speakers from Forestry and Land Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland and universities across the UK joined the university's research experts from a range of disciplines, including cultural geography, archaeology, performance studies, art and design, visual studies, heritage studies, history and literature. Building on the success of this year's themed project, HARC and SILK will combine forces in delivering a UHI wide themed research project commencing in the Spring of 2020, with enhanced interdisciplinarity.

---

### Research publications

Since the beginning of December university researchers have published 47 new works. Below are a (fairly) random selection to demonstrate the breadth of research happening across the university:

- [Sun protection education for adolescents: a feasibility study of a wait-list controlled trial of an intervention involving a presentation, action planning, and SMS messages and using objective measurement of sun exposure](#)  
UHI authors: Gill Hubbard and Jonathan Gray. Published in BMC Public Health
- [Briathrachas Beatha nam Ban 'Terminology in the lives of women.'](#)



UHI author: Hugh Cheape. Published in Dunedin Academic Press.

- [Invasive non-native species likely to threaten biodiversity and ecosystems in the Antarctic Peninsula region](#)

UHI author: Elizabeth Cottier-Cook. Published in Global Change Biology

- [Significance of climate indices to benthic conditions across the northern North Atlantic and adjacent shelf seas](#)

UHI authors: Claire Johnson, Mark Inall, Stafan Gary, Stuart Cunningham. Published in Frontiers in Marine Science

- [Viking and Norse Heritage Tourism in Scotland](#)

UHI authors Alex Sanmark, Steven Timoney : a scoping report

- [Putting design into practice: An investigation of TPACK scores of lecturers in a networked institution](#)

UHI authors: Fabian, K. Published in [Research in Learning Technology](#). 27

Congratulations to all university researchers who have had their work published.

You can browse all research outputs published during 2020 on the [university's research database](#).

---

## Funding opportunities

Funding opportunities can be accessed [here](#).

---

## Ethical approval process



Following a change to process, it is essential that all staff and students who are undertaking research read the [UHI Research Ethics Framework 2020](#) before submitting an online application for ethical approval. If you have any queries please contact the [Research Ethics Officer](#).

---

## The university's research web pages

Access the university's support pages for research staff [here](#) to access a host of researcher resources, policy information and news.



**Collaboration**

**Openness**

**Respect**

**Excellence**

If you want to **share** your research colleagues across the university to learn about your project, a recent publication, your work in general or have information about research news, a funding collaboration you are building, events or training opportunities then please click the button below!

**Submit an article**

This email and its content has been produced and sent by the Research Office of University of the Highlands and Islands.  
12b Ness Walk, Inverness, IV3 5SQ - (01463) 279000.