

The University of the Highlands and Islands: A guide for parents

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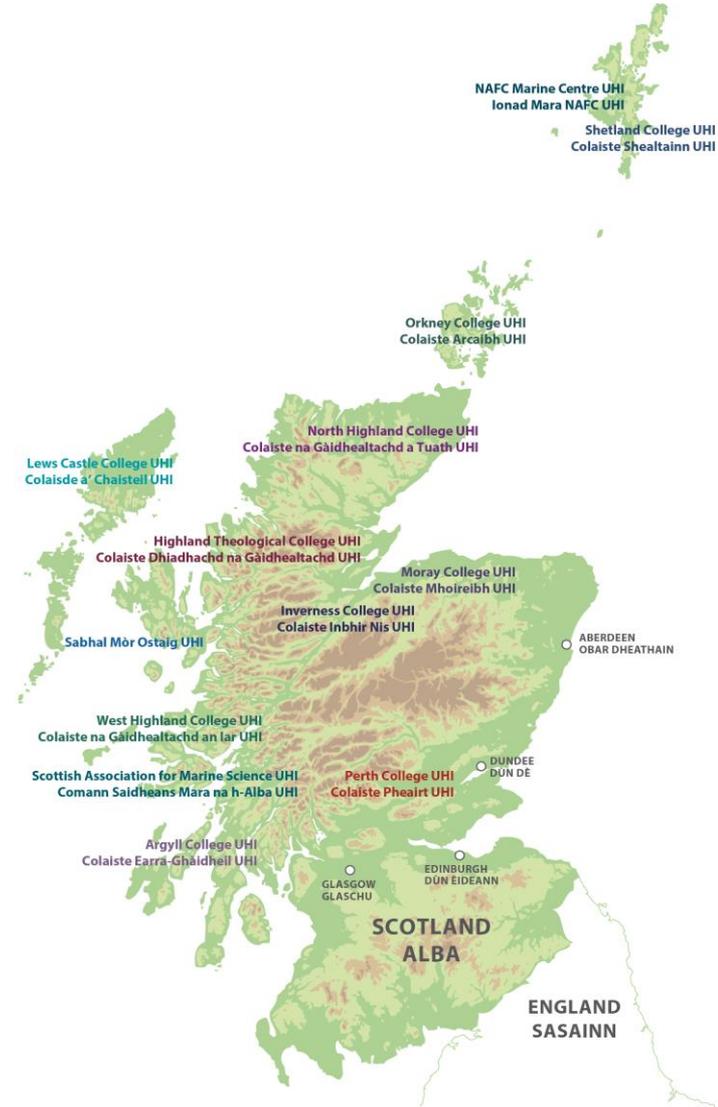
Who are we?

- The University of the Highlands and Islands:
 - Is the UK's leading integrated university encompassing further and higher education.
 - Total higher education students **8300**
 - Total further education students **31,243**
 - Is the only university based in the Highlands and Islands, Moray and Perthshire.
 - Provides access to undergraduate and postgraduate study and research opportunities.
 - Operates through a partnership of thirteen colleges and research institutions.
 - Offers a diverse range of courses, many taking advantage of our region's unique environment, landscape and culture.



Where are we?

We have a network of colleges and research centres, spread across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.



The university at a glance

- Between 2001 and 2015 the university has awarded
 - Undergraduate degree awards **5910**
 - Honours degrees **1,181**
 - Ordinary degrees **3609**
 - Diploma of Higher Education **365**
 - Certificate of Higher Education **755**
 - Other undergraduate awards **24,144**
 - Higher National Diploma **5,039**
 - Higher National Certificate **15,000**
 - Other higher education awards **4,105**
 - Total postgraduate awards **916**



Curriculum overview

Arts, humanities and social science

- Archaeology; Art; History; Literature; Philosophy, Politics and Economics; Scottish Cultural Studies; Social Sciences; Sociology and Criminology; and Theology.

Business and leisure

- Accounting and Finance; Adventure Performance and Coaching; Adventure Tourism Management; Business and Management; Coaching and Developing Sport; Events Management; Golf Management; Health, Fitness and Exercise; Hospitality Management; Marine and Coastal Tourism; Professional Golf; Soft Tissue Therapy; Sport Management; Sports Therapy; and Tourist Guiding (North Highlands).

Computing and IT

- Computer Science; Computing; and Interactive Media.



Curriculum overview

Creative and cultural industries

- Applied Music; Audio Engineering; Contemporary Art and Contextualised Practice; Contemporary Textiles; Contemporary Film Making in the Highlands and Islands; Drama and Performance; Fine Art; Music Business; Popular Music; Technical Theatre; and Visual Communication and Design.

Education and childcare

- Child and Youth Studies; Childhood Practice; Primary Teaching (PGDE); and Secondary Teaching (PGDE).

Energy, engineering and construction

- Aircraft Engineering; Architectural Technology; Civil Engineering; Construction Management; Engineering (electrical, electronic, design, energy, marine, mechanical, power); Fabrication Welding and Inspection; and Quantity Surveying.



Curriculum overview

Gaelic medium studies

- Gaelic and Communication; Gaelic and Development; Gaelic with Education; Gaelic and Traditional Music; Primary Teaching (PGDE); and Secondary Teaching (PGDE).

Health and wellbeing

- Beauty Therapy; Complementary Therapies; Dental Technology; Hairdressing; Health Studies; Oral Health Science; Psychology; and Social Services.

Science and Environment

- Applied Sciences; Arboriculture and Urban Forestry; Archaeology and Environmental Studies; Environmental Science; Equine Business Management; Forestry; Gamekeeping with Wildlife Management; Geography; Marine Science; Sustainable Development; and Sustainable Forest Management.



Progression routes

We aim to provide a learning structure which helps students reach their goal no matter where they start from. We do this by offering a range of alternative progression routes through our degree courses.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
HNC	HND or DipHE	BA or BSc	BA or BSc (Hons)	
CertHE	DipHE	BA, BEng or BSc	BA, BEng or BSc (Hons)	
CertHE	DipHE	BEng	BEng (Hons)	MEng

We also offer a BSc (Hons) Geography accelerated degree that can be completed in three years rather than the traditional four.



The application process

- How to help your son or daughter choose a course
 - Browse our list of subject areas or view the A-Z of courses
 - Pay particular attention to the minimum entry requirements for each course
 - Consider future career plans when choosing a course
 - Use the UCAS website to compare courses and universities
 - Attend open days – visit www.uhi.ac.uk/opendays
 - Attend a UCAS higher education exhibition
- Applying
 - Applications are made online at www.ucas.com
 - An applicant can make up to five choices in one UCAS application
 - The applicant fee is: £12 for one course; £23 for multiple courses



The application process

Key UCAS dates and deadlines

Mid-June	Applicants can register and start to complete their UCAS application.
Mid-September	Schools can start to submit completed applications to UCAS.
15 October	Application deadline for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science/medicine and for courses at Oxford <u>or</u> Cambridge.
15 January	Application deadline for most courses.
15 March	Application deadline for many art and design courses (check courses/institutions for deadlines).
30 June	Applications submitted after this date are held for clearing.

**Applications received by the key deadlines
are given equal consideration.**



The UCAS application

- Your son or daughter has six sections to complete:
 - Personal details
 - Student finance (UK and EU only)
 - Choices
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Personal Statement
- The reference is added after your son or daughter has submitted their application to UCAS.
- UCAS will then pass completed applications to chosen colleges or universities.



Encourage a personal statement which will stand out from the crowd



At some universities lecturers can receive up to 200 personal statements per week.



The personal statement

- Personal statements are very important, make sure your son or daughter:
- Includes academic achievements, past and pending.
- Undertakes research on courses / institutions of interest:
 - Pays attention to the entry requirements for each course.
 - Notes down the qualifications, qualities and experiences that each course is looking for.
 - Links the range of skills they have developed both inside and outside of the classroom to the entry profiles of their chosen course(s).
 - Thinks of other examples that can be used within the personal statement, e.g. projects, events, volunteering, fundraising activities that they have been involved in.
 - Explains how these activities have developed their independent skills and strengths, such as confidence, communication skills, team working, etc.
- Explains why they are interested in the subject area and why they would be a good student.
- Shows their knowledge of the subject and enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus.
- Demonstrates their commitment to the course and includes what they enjoy about studying.
- Starts working on their personal statement early, e.g. 3-4 months prior to submitting a UCAS application.



Decision-making by institutions

Colleges and universities will review:

- Personal Statement
- Reference
- Qualifications
- Interviews
- Portfolios
- Auditions

They may make one of three decisions:

- **Unconditional** offer
- **Conditional** offer
- **Unsuccessful** offer

Institutions may also offer a place on an alternative course.



Replying to offers

- When your son or daughter receives decisions from all of their choices they will need to make their replies online by a set date.
- They can hold a maximum of two offers:
 - **Firm** – their first choice. If they meet the conditions of the offer they will be offered a place.
 - **Insurance** – acts as a back-up choice and only comes into play if they are not placed with their firm choice.
- If they do not receive any offers they can make an additional choice through the Extra scheme.

If your son or daughter fails to reply to their offers by the deadline date, all offers will automatically be declined.



UCAS Extra

- UCAS Extra is a final chance for your son or daughter to secure a place before entering UCAS clearing.
- Students eligible for Extra:
 - Used all five choices
 - All choices unsuccessful, cancelled or offers declined
 - No option for firm or insurance choice
- www.ucas.com/extra



Exam Results

- If your son or daughter holds a conditional offer, once exam results are published, admissions staff will check to see if they have met the conditions of their offer.

If your son or daughter meets the conditions of their firm choice. It's time to celebrate!

If your son or daughter doesn't meet the conditions of their firm choice, but meets the conditions of their insurance choice, they will be placed at their insurance choice. It's also time to celebrate!

If your son or daughter has not met the conditions of their firm or insurance choice, they will be entered into a process known as **Clearing**.

If your son or daughter meets and exceeds the conditions of their offer, they are eligible for **Adjustment**. This provides an opportunity for them to change their offer and secure a place on a different course or at a different institution.



UCAS Clearing

- Clearing is a service that unplaced applicants can use to find available courses.
- It is for applicants who have not met the conditions of their firm or insurance choice and for applicants who have submitted their UCAS application after the 30 June.
- Clearing begins in July each year, but doesn't really begin until summer results are through in August.
- Applicants can only apply for one clearing choice at a time.
- Applicants in clearing are recommended to contact institutions to discuss course vacancies prior to making any changes online via Track.
- Once a verbal offer of a place has been given by an institution applicants will be advised to enter their choice details online via Track for final confirmation to be received.
- www.ucas.com/clearing



Undergraduate fees 2016/17

Undergraduate fees 2016/17	Scotland/EU	RUK	International (INT)	EU/RUK/INT domiciled studying online
Full-time degree (6x20 credit modules per year)	£1,820*			
BA, BLitt, BA (Hons), BLitt (Hons), MA (Hons)		£8,000	£10,000	£5,400
BSc, BEng, BSc (Hons), BEng (Hons)		£9,000	£11,000	£6,120
Full-time HN (15 Higher National credits per year)	£1,285	£6,510	£6,510	
Part-time degree (per 20 credit module)	£215			
BA, BLitt, BA (Hons), BLitt (Hons), MA (Hons)		£1,340	£1,680	£900
BSc, BEng, BSc (Hons), BEng (Hons)		£1,500	£1,840	£1,020
Part-time HN (per SQA unit)	£86	£434	£434	



Funding

- **Students who live in Scotland:**
 - Apply online to SAAS from April.
 - Apply for tuition fees, loan, bursary and grants.
 - www.saas.gov.uk
- **Students who live in England:**
 - Apply online to Student Finance England from April.
 - Apply for tuition fee loans, maintenance loans and maintenance grants.
 - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>
- **Students who live in Wales:**
 - Apply online to Student Finance Wales from April.
 - Apply for tuition fee loans, fee grants and maintenance loans.
 - <http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/>
- **Students who live in Northern Ireland:**
 - Applying online to Student Finance Northern Ireland from April.
 - Apply for tuition fee loans, maintenance grants and maintenance loans.
 - <http://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk>
- **Students who are an EU national or national from outside the EU:**
 - Visit SAAS to see if they are able to receive help with tuition fees and living expenses.
 - www.saas.gov.uk
 - Other funding for international students
 - www.uhi.ac.uk/international



Accommodation

From September 2016 new student residences will be available at our Inverness College UHI and West Highland College UHI (Fort William) campuses. The accommodation will be professionally managed by Cityheart Living (Scotland) Ltd.

- **Inverness College UHI**
 - A few minutes walk from the campus, the new purpose-built student residence offers 150 en-suite bedrooms with shared kitchen and living areas.
- **West Highland College UHI**
 - The dedicated, on campus, student accommodation has 40 en-suite bedrooms with shared kitchen and living areas.
- **Further information**
 - www.uhi.ac.uk/accommodation



Accommodation

- The following five campuses also offer dedicated student accommodation:
 - Lews Castle College UHI (Stornoway)
 - NAFC Marine Centre UHI (Shetland)
 - Perth College UHI (Perth)
 - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI (Skye)
 - Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI (Oban)
- Further information:
 - www.uhi.ac.uk/accommodation



Research



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

Research Excellence Framework 2014:
Times Higher Education*

Frèam Sàr-mhathas Rannsachaidh 2014:
Times Higher Education*

65% of research rated as **world leading** or **internationally excellent**

65% de rannsachadh **air thoiseach air càch san t-saoghal** no **sàr-mhath gu h-eadar-nàiseanta**



***Best performing young university in Scotland**

***Na toraidhean as fheàrr am measg oilthighean òga an Alba**



***Ranked 63** in the UK, **↑33** places

***63** mh anns an RA, **↑33** àiteachan



Current research expertise

- Archaeology
- Celtic and Nordic studies
- Creative Industries
- Energy
- Environmental science
- Health
- History
- Marine science
- Rural childhood and development
- Tourism and heritage

www.uhi.ac.uk/research



Why choose the University of the Highlands and Islands?

Choice of campuses

- There's a course and a campus for everyone.

Specialist subjects

- Students can study one of our specialist courses reflective of the unique environment, culture and heritage of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Small class sizes

- Students will have a more personal experience of university, and our friendly staff are always available to help and support students throughout their studies.

Excellent support

- Whether a student chooses to study online or on campus, they will be supported by expert staff throughout their time studying with us.



Why choose the University of the Highlands and Islands?

Flexible entry/exit points

- We provide a learning structure which will help students to reach their goals no matter where they start from.
- We do this by being flexible with our entry requirements and offer a range of alternative progression routes through our courses.
- Our undergraduate degrees offer accredited exit points at appropriate levels of higher education (HNC, HND or CertHE, DipHE).

Technological expertise

- We are a leader in the use of online and video conference technologies to deliver undergraduate courses to students, wherever they are based.

The affordable option

- If your son or daughter currently lives in the Highlands and Islands they don't have to leave home and incur debts when they choose to go to university; we're right here on their doorstep.



Contact details

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Keep in touch

