

Hi!

HISA

YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

   www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk

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**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

**STUDENT
ELECTIONS**

#LeadHISA

THE RESULTS!

**20
26**



Colin Munro
CEO

HI!

I am very pleased to have taken up the role of Chief Executive Officer of HISA from mid-March, building upon the success of my predecessor Rachel Burn. My role is to help ensure that elected officers and colleagues in your association work together to represent, support and enhance the student experience whether you're focused on further education, higher education, or research. Having spent thirty years working in national and international charities together with a time at London Business School, I aim to bring the insights I have learned to help ensure we continue to deliver as one team across our diverse geography. Returning to the Scottish Highlands where I was born and educated is personally an exciting prospect and I can see a much more vibrant, creative and diverse community than when I left on my own study journey.



@TEAMHISA

www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk

STUDENT ELECTIONS

#Lead HISA

THE RESULTS!

This month, we were delighted to announce the results of the 2026 Student Elections, where students from across UHI voted for their new Student Officers to lead the Highlands and Islands Students' Association (HISA) in the next academic year.

This year's voting took place from Monday 9th March to Thursday 12th March, and we had a total turnout of 859. We had voting for our two Cross-Campus Officer positions, the President and Vice-President (Education), plus our Local Officers at most UHI partners. We are not electing a Local Officer at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, which has its own local students' association, and at Highland Theological College where students are represented directly by the President and Vice President Education. Meanwhile there were no nominations received for the role of Depute President for UHI Shetland or the Depute President for UHI North, West and Hebrides (North), and the one candidate for UHI North, West and Hebrides (West) was disqualified for a breach of the election rules. For those three positions we will hold a by-election soon – check our website in the coming weeks for more details.

Results were declared by Simon Varwell, who is our Director of Student Engagement and Representation and was appointed by HISA's board of trustees to be the Deputy Returning Officer in the elections. See the new officer team next or [watch our results video on YouTube!](#) You can visit our website [here](#) to check out the full voting stats for each position by clicking on the images.

CROSS CAMPUS OFFICERS



Oliver Sweeney
Students' Association President



Andi Garrity
Vice President Education

LOCAL OFFICERS



Esméemilja Mackenna
Orkney Depute President



Callum Stepien
Moray Depute President



Alasdair Macleod
North, West & Hebrides Depute
President (Hebrides)



Tsz Chung Tang
Argyll Depute President



Chloe Young
Inverness Depute President



Alexandra Paton
Perth Depute President



Merlin Farrell
SAMS Depute President

Have YOU got what it takes to represent the students at your Academic Partner? We'll be holding by-elections very soon to elect officers for Shetland and North, West and Hebrides (North and West).

Keep your eyes peeled on HISA channels for more info and contact elections.hisa@uhi.ac.uk to register your interest in running!

STUDENT REFERENDUM

ARTICLES & SCHEDULES

The Highlands & Islands Students' Association (HISA) held a referendum on the following question between Monday 9th March and Thursday 12th March:

“Should the Highlands & Islands Students’ Association (HISA) adopt the proposed revised Articles of Association and Schedules?”

Why was this referendum being held?

The proposed revised Articles of Association and Schedules were developed as a set of revised governing documents to fix the following four identified issues with HISA's **current**

Articles of Association & Schedules:

- Missing Information
- Outdated Information
- Conflicting & Contradictory Information
- Complexity & Duplication

We are required to fix these issues to ensure that our democratic decision making processes are working properly for students.

Therefore, the existing Articles & Schedules were proposed to be replaced with revised versions which are available to read on our website **here.**

What was the result?

Voting took place between 10am on Monday 9th March and 4pm Thursday 12th March 2026.

The result was as follows:

- For 200
- Against 1
- Abstain 19

While this is a clear indication of student preference, it did not achieve HISA's referendum quorum of 400. Therefore HISA's President will make a recommendation to our Trustee Board to hold an all student meeting in due course to ratify the Articles and Schedules.

For more information about this decision, please contact referendums.hisa@uhi.ac.uk.



**STUDENT
REFERENDUM**
NUS MEMBERSHIP

**You
decide!**

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Should the Highlands & Islands Students' Association (HISA) leave NUS UK and NUS Charity?

The Highlands & Islands Students' Association (HISA) will be holding a referendum on whether to leave NUS UK and NUS Charity between Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April 2026.

Why is this referendum being held?

A motion to hold a referendum on whether to leave NUS UK and Charity was passed at the [All Student Meeting \(ASM\) held on Wednesday 5th November 2025](#).

What is the National Union of Students (NUS)?

The National Union of Students (NUS) is a membership association of around 400 students' associations, representing the interests of millions of students across the UK.

The National Union of Students (NUS) is comprised of two shoulder-to-shoulder organisations: NUS UK and NUS Charity:

- NUS UK is the political and campaigning body for students' associations/ students' unions, which conducts the democratic conferences, develops policies, and represents the interests of students nationally.
- NUS Charity provides general support and advice for Students' Associations/ Students' Unions around the country, providing training, networking opportunities and crisis support, as well as operating NUS Services Ltd, the national Trading Consortium which helps member Students' Associations/Students' Unions to purchase collectively for better deals and manages the ethical screening of supply chains.

You can find out more about next week's NUS Membership Referendum [here](#).

GAELIC WORD OF THE MONTH

With the launch of our new Gaelic Language Plan, we're looking to incorporate more Gaelic into our content and day-to-day work. We want to be more accessible for UHI students whose first language is Gaelic and encourage non-Gaelic speakers to try learning it!

At HISA we're also trying to learn more about Gaelic ourselves; each month, in the newsletter, we'll cover a new word of the month and give you some links to resources for further learning.

This month's word is:

“Ius an Aisig” meaning “wild daffodil”

Use this Gaelic dictionary to learn other words and how to pronounce them!

<https://learngaelic.net/dictionary/> Learn more here! <https://speakgaelic.scot/>

SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT!

Did you know we have a new Gaelic society? Join Gàidhlig Còmhla (Gaelic Together)- a society for anyone interested in learning and practising Scottish Gaelic, no matter your level! Join us for fun events, conversation, and lots more! [Gàidhlig Còmhla \(Gaelic Together\)](#)



SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG SHORT COURSES

Are you keen to take the next step in your Gaelic learning journey?

Check out these [short courses](#) at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig!

UHI GAELIC TOOLKIT

Check out even more Gaelic resources and learning from UHI [here!](#)

Shinty Champs!

Clean Sweep for UHI SHINTY!

UHI shinty made it a perfect day at the 2026 Littlejohn Vase in St Andrews, with both men's and women's teams striking gold to complete a historic clean sweep. Sponsored by Kishorn Port and Dry Dock Ltd, and managed by HISA, UHI Shinty has taken home awards every time we compete. The men, led by Sergio Thompson, powered to a third consecutive title with a dominant run and a final win over Strathclyde, while the women—captained by Rachel Cruickshank—completed their rise from bronze to champions with a dramatic penalty shootout victory after a 1-1 final. With Lucy Brown and Jay McCrae finishing as top scorers, it was a standout day that highlights the strength and growing success of shinty across UHI.

Read more: [Shinty Clean Sweep](#)



HISA ADVICE SERVICE

-Here to Support You

As we approach the end of the academic year, we know this can be a busy and sometimes stressful time for many students. The [HISA Advice Service](#) is here to support you through it all.

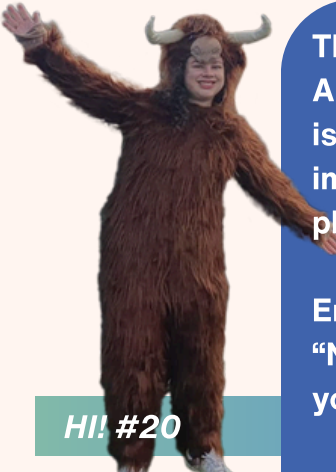
With exams and assessment deadlines coming up, it's important to pause and check in with yourself. Are you feeling fit to sit or submit? Have your circumstances changed in a way that might affect your academic performance or behaviour? If so, it's always better to seek advice early so you can understand your options and avoid things escalating later.

[Mitigating circumstances](#) may be an option, and you can speak to us or your PAT to understand what support is available and how to approach this.

Our service will remain open over the summer, so if you need support with assessment appeals, academic concerns, or upcoming hearings, you can still [get in touch](#) for confidential, independent advice.

If you're navigating housing changes, whether your tenancy is ending, you're unsure of your rights, or you're looking for somewhere new, we can support you to understand your options and next steps. Financially, discretionary funding from UHI may also be available, and we can talk you through eligibility and support you with the application process.

**Whatever you're facing, you don't have to manage it alone.
Reach out to HISA Advice Service for free, impartial support.**



Thank you for reading this issue of Hi!, the Highlands and Islands Students' Association Newsletter. Got some feedback for us? What did you like in this issue? What did you find useful? What didn't you like? We're always looking to improve and would love to incorporate your suggestions into our development plan for the newsletter.

Email us at hisa@uhi.ac.uk with the subject line: "NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK - MAR25" to tell us your thoughts!

