

HI!

HISA

YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

   www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk

ISSUE: 021

MAY 2026

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BY-ELECTIONS IN SHETLAND AND NWH!

Who do you want to represent you? Vote NOW for your Shetland Depute President if you're a Shetland student, and your NWH Depute President (North) if you're a NWH student!

You can find out more about the candidates and vote online at

<https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/elections>.

We have remaining vacancies for our Depute Presidents for Perth and NWH West. Keep an eye on our website for news of further by-elections.

Voting closes noon (12:00) Thursday 7th May 2026.

YOUR VOICE IN OUR ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS

It's been a busy old time for democracy! We've held our **2026 Student Elections** (with subsequent **by-elections** where there are still vacancies), and we look forward to welcoming our new Student Officer team on 1st July. If you are returning to UHI next year, you'll hopefully meet them at your local campus!

We've also held referendums on our **revised Articles & Schedules** (part of a big plan to make it clearer how you, our membership, can shape our work) and our **National Union of Students membership**. Neither vote was quorate, despite clear indications of voter preference, so watch our website for updates on what happens next.

If you voted or campaigned, thank you so much for taking part!



OUR STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT - YOUR PRIORITIES

Thank you to everyone who [voted in our poll on the priorities for the next Student Partnership Agreement](#). The SPA is UHI and HISA's shared three-year plan on what we can do to enhance the student experience in partnership, and is shaped by your participation in the vote. There'll be more [information about the SPA on our website](#) soon.

WHO'S YOUR UHI SPORTING HERO?

🏆 Nominations are OPEN for the 2026 Sporting Blues! 🏆

Since 2017, we've celebrated outstanding student athletes - now it's your turn to nominate this year's deserving recipients!

Categories include Full Blues, Half Blues, Colours, Sports Person of the Year, and Honorary Blue.

🕒 Key dates:

- Nominations OPEN: April 27, 2026
- Nominations CLOSE: May 26, 2026

Who can you nominate? Individual athletes competing on their own or as part of a team! Nominate deserving teammates, club members, or fellow students today!

👉 <https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/about/sportingblues/>

NOMINATIONS OPEN!



@TEAMHISA

www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk

SERIOUSLY VALUABLE RESPONSES

Thank you to our incredible 573 [Student Voice Reps](#) who have done great things this year gathering student feedback and sharing ideas and suggestions with their teaching staff, HISA and others. We've loved working with our SVRs at our regular [SVR meetings](#) and learning students' views about everything from Brightspace to facilities to building community. [Watch our SVR page](#) if you're interested in being an SVR next year, developing great skills, meeting new people and above all enhancing the UHI student experience!

Although it is late in the year, there are still plenty ways to tell us about your learning experience and shape things for the future!

- If you're in Arts, Humanities, Business or Education subjects, [tell us about your preferences in-person versus online teaching delivery.](#)
- If you're studying Science, Health or the Environment, [we want your views on the environmental impact of Generative AI.](#)
- If you're studying in the Humanities Degree Scheme, [we want your views on possible "Humanities Hubs"](#) at campuses near you in the next academic year.

EQUALITY AND LIBERATION

PRIDE MONTH!

June is Pride Month! How can you get involved?

Volunteer to help at Highland Pride: email Danielle.Woods@uhi.ac.uk

Attend Moray's Colour-Run at Diversity Day in May: [HISA Colour Run at Diversity Day 2026](#)

Celebrate his nomination for Young Achiever with Cole Garscadden (NWH-North Depute) at the Proud Scotland Awards: [Proud Scotland Awards - Proud Scotland Awards](#)

Make plans to attend a Pride Event:

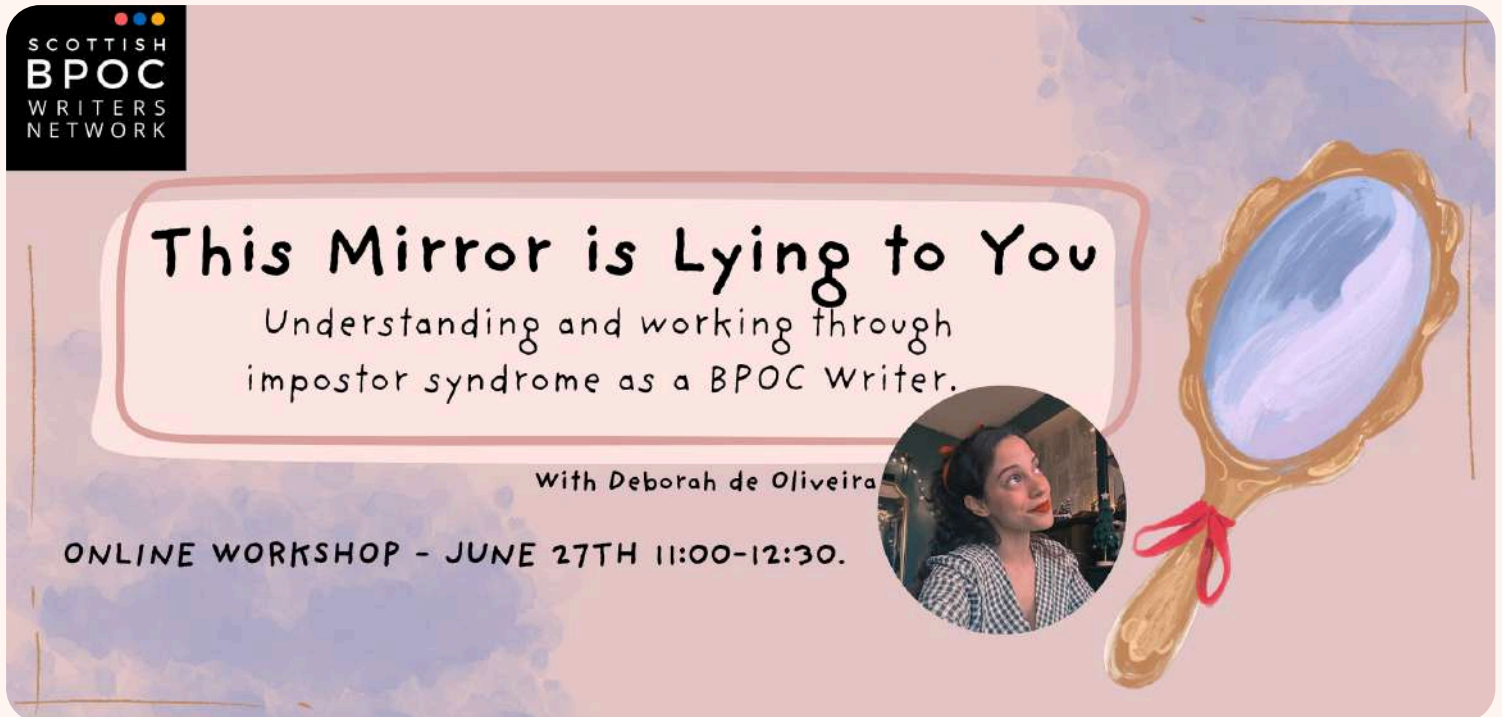
- [Highland Pride](#)
- [Caithness Pride](#)
- [Perthshire Pride](#)
- [Oban Pride](#)
- [Pride Edinburgh](#)
- [Glasgow's Pride](#)
- [Lochaber Pride](#)
- [Shetland Pride](#)



SCOTTISH BPOC WRITERS NETWORK WORKSHOP: THIS MIRROR IS LYING TO YOU

Join UHI Scribbler, Deborah de Oliveira, for this workshop with the Scottish BPOC Writers Network on working through imposter syndrome. The workshop is open to anyone who identifies as a Black writer or a writer of colour, no matter where you are in your writing journey--even if you are completely new to writing! There's no fee for booking, and SBWN offers bursaries for those who might need childcare or data provisions.

<https://scottishbpocwritersnetwork.org/the-mirror-is-lying-to-you-online-workshop-with-deborah-de-oliveira-xavier-27-june-2026/>



SCOTTISH
BPOC
WRITERS
NETWORK

This Mirror is Lying to You
Understanding and working through
impostor syndrome as a BPOC Writer.

With Deborah de Oliveira

ONLINE WORKSHOP - JUNE 27TH 11:00-12:30.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Highlands and Islands Coaching Conference 2026

For all coaches, practitioners and organisations operating within a sports environment in the Highlands and Islands! This is an opportunity for great focused learning, informed discussion, and the sharing of best practice. Learn more about the event on the website here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/highlifehighland/2112407>

- Date: Saturday 09 May & Sunday 10 May
- Location: Bught Pavilion, Inverness, IV3 5SS
- Cost: Free for students

Students need to contact Mark Murray (UHI; Sports Lecturer; email: mark.murray.ic@uhi.ac.uk), who will register them.

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:

“speuclairean-grèine” meaning “sunglasses”

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!](#)

HISA ADVICE SERVICE

-Here to Support You

End of Year Check-In: You're Nearly There

After exams, it's really common for your brain to fixate on the one thing you're unsure about, rather than everything you did know. That feeling can be uncomfortable, and for some of you, it doesn't just switch off when exams end. As we move towards results and the end of the academic year, it's worth remembering: one moment in an exam doesn't define your overall performance, and you don't have to sit with that stress on your own. If things haven't gone the way you expected, or something has impacted your studies, there are still options available to you.

When you finish revising for an exam, then you go to sleep and ask yourself a question and don't know the answer



If this is you right now, you are not alone.

Mitigating Circumstances (Mit Circs) can be used if something outside of your control affected your ability to complete assessments or perform at your usual level. This might include health issues, personal circumstances, or unexpected events.

Appeals may be appropriate if you believe there has been an error in how your assessment was handled, or if there were exceptional circumstances that weren't previously considered. Both processes can feel a bit overwhelming, especially if you're already feeling drained from the year, but you don't have to figure them out on your own. The Advice Service is here to talk things through with you, help you understand your options, and can help guide you to the right place, and UHI Student Services offers counselling support online and by phone.

24/7 Support - Spectrum Life

If you need to speak to someone at any time, Spectrum Life gives you direct access to trained counsellors and psychotherapists:

Phone: 0800 031 8227

Text "Hi" (WhatsApp/SMS): 07418 360780

Whether you're finishing your studies or coming back next term, thank you for being part of this year. It hasn't been an easy one for everyone, and getting through it matters.

If you need support, even over the quieter summer period, you can still reach out as we support students through the holidays too.

SPORTS CLUBS, SOCIETIES & NETWORKS

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Last month, SAMS Mountaineering and Climbing Club (SMACC) organised a climbing trip to Ulva. A couple of similar trips had been run previously and were popular among SMACC members, leading to it becoming a tradition and a highlight of the semester as students can take a break from studying by enjoying climbing on the basalt columns. This spring semester trip involved a day on the closer, more familiar crags to practise abseiling and lead climbing, before heading off to explore some new sites that have never been climbed before, creating lots of excitement. The new sites also had many rockpools to investigate, with lots of interesting species to ID between climbs. A highlight discovery was a Grey Sea Slug eating an anemone!



Past trips to Ulva included teaching of self-recovery, belaying, setting up and using anchors, and use of trad climbing gear to ensure members had basic skills for climbing outdoors and trad climbing. They also worked on mountaineering skills such as knots, moving together on rope, and taking in coils. During the autumn semester trip last year, Ben More was included, and luckily the weather allowed for views for miles and even a splash in one of the streams on the way down. The club stays in Ulva Hostel, which provides a cozy place to sleep and enjoy evenings together, including wild swimming followed by the sauna, as well as board and card games. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it another trip to remember!

END OF YEAR MEETINGS AND OUTSTANDING GRANT REQUESTS

It's that time of year again! We have emailed all of our clubs and societies to schedule EoY meetings-- so if you haven't had yours yet, please respond to your email from our local teams or get in touch with HISA. Handing over group finances, administration, and committee roles to next year's committee is an essential task to keep your group affiliated—and we need to meet with you to be able to promote your group to other students and reserve your group's presence at Welcome Week!

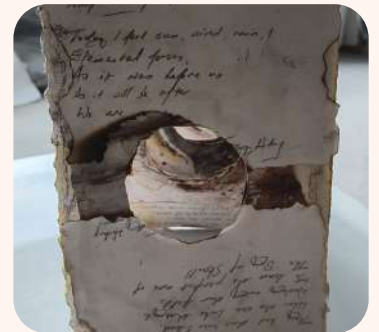
Ending The Year

Also, if your group was awarded a grant this year, make sure to claim it by submitting your budget request form and any receipts, invoices, or items to-be-purchased. Claims made after May 8th may be delayed in processing. All monies need to be claimed by June 1.

Receiving the Funds

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND COLLABORATION

This term, as part of her Professional Practice 1 Module in BA Fine Arts, Joan Scott organised an event with UHI Scribblers to develop artistic and professional practice. In collaboration with the creative writing students, workshop attendees created individual concertina artist books featuring poetry and text and mixed media. Check out participant Lynne Russell's article on this fantastic collaboration: [When Art Meets Words, A Creative Collaboration](#)



LOCAL UPDATES: INVERNESS

COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

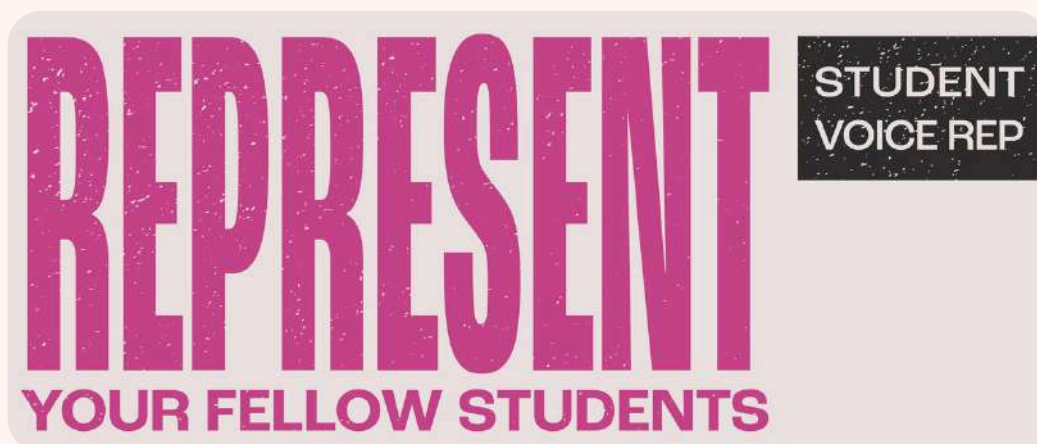
As the semester draws to a close, the Inverness team has hosted two final competitions: the Spring Photography Competition (with students submitting their architecture, nature and landscape photographs from Spring 2026) and the Halls of Residence Cinema Night Competition (with Halls students submitting their feedback on how the Inverness team can best utilise the newly equipped social space on campus). Both competitions will have a winner announced at the end of the academic year, with a £150 Vue Cinema voucher sent to the winning student flat to spend an evening at the cinema with their flatmates!

The team would like to send a huge thank you to all the students who sent us wonderful responses to these competitions!

At the end of March, the team hosted a Spring drop-in and Easter crafts stall, in the second-floor atrium of the main campus building. This event provided a great opportunity for students to discuss their end-of-year thoughts and suggestions whilst crafting Easter cards and decorating D.I.Y stickers. Freebie bags with highland cow stickers, a HISA key chain, a crème egg and were available for students attending the stall.

To notify students of all our events, a custom wide board was installed inside the noticeboard directly opposite the office. This is now our monthly calendar that is regularly updated with both HISA and UHI Inverness events, competitions, and academic evenings.

Finally: we're seeking a volunteer student member of the college's Board of Management for next year. This is an exciting and unique opportunity to gain experience in governing a public body, developing some brilliant skills, and making a real difference. If you've got a passion for improving the college and its student experience, then [we want to hear from you!](#)



LOCAL UPDATES: UHI HOUSE

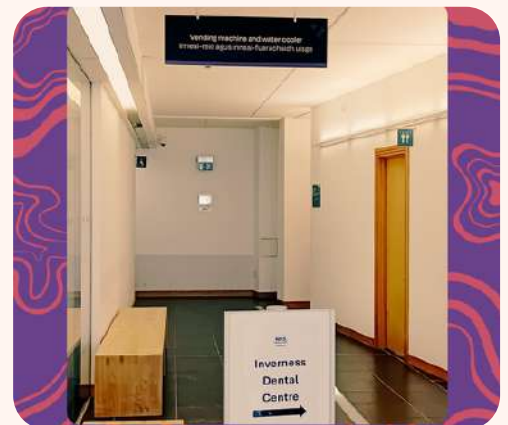
WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU?

On Monday 13th & 14th April, we acted as live patients for the Mental Health & Nursing students. Students, staff & officers acted as a variety of “patients”. It was an incredibly fun event to participate in and we can’t wait for the next one!

Photo credit to Erin Matheson, UHI’s Digital Content Officer



In previous drop-in sessions, several of you were asking for a vending machine for when the café is closed – a lot of you were very surprised to hear that there is already one on campus. I reported this to the appropriate folk and I’m pleased to announce that we have a sign to show you where it is!



We also now have a notice board for all HISA -related things up on the mezzanine level, near the stairs. This will be updated regularly and if you would like us to post anything in there, you can email us at: CRHS.HISA@uhi.ac.uk

In terms of the café and a multifaith room, we are continuing to work with UHI to make improvements. The next drop-in session will be on Wednesday 13th 11-1 opposite the café; come and have a chat with me!

LOCAL UPDATES: HTC

REFLECTING ON CHANGE AND LOOKING AHEAD

Following a recent student vote, the role of HTC President will no longer continue in its current form, with responsibilities transitioning to Cross-Campus Officers from the next academic year.

While this marks a significant change for our campus, it also reflects the evolving priorities and voices of our student body. Student democracy is at the heart of our union, and this decision demonstrates the power students have in shaping how they are represented.

Serving as HTC President has been an incredibly meaningful experience. It has been a privilege to work alongside students, staff, and officers to represent your views, support campaigns, and contribute to the life of our campus. I am proud to be the one to help usher in a new era for representation at HTC which better reflects the needs of our campus. The community at HTC has been a life-line as a student and as an officer; I really cherish the kindness and dedication of those I have worked alongside.

Change can bring uncertainty, but it also creates an opportunity to rethink how representation works and how we can ensure all student voices continue to be heard effectively. The introduction of cross-campus officers aims to bring a more unified approach, and it will be important that HTC students remain engaged and continue to make their perspectives known within this new structure.

I would encourage all students to stay involved, whether that's through voting, participating in campaigns, or sharing feedback with your representatives. Your voice remains vital.

In particular, we are looking to start a new society within HTC centred around Theology and Philosophy. This will help keep events student-led and provide us with a meaningful way to connect across the different degree programs while offering us all new opportunities for experiences which will strengthen our learning and development together. If you are interested in being a part of this, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your SVRs.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me during my time in this role. It has genuinely been an honour to represent you. I will be running some online sessions before my time is up to help answer any questions that you may have about next year, what your representation will look like going forward and how to set up societies within HTC. Community has always been at the heart of HTC and it was a privilege to help support that. I know that together we can continue working together to build a strong, inclusive, and engaged student community at HTC.

Susan Loughlin

HTC Depute President

LOCAL UPDATES: PERTH

OFFICER UPDATE!

Andi

Don't ask me how we're at the end of the year, I don't know either. To everyone with exams & assessment best of luck! I'm grateful that being a full-time officer means I don't have any this year. Here's my recap of what I've done since the last update, and I'll end the year with you at the OBI Awards Ceremony on the 18th May.

- Launched the 2026 Refurbished iMac Sale, which has had a really great start!
- Reading all of your amazing **Outstanding, Best, Inspiring (OBI) Awards** nominations and organising the awards ceremony
- Launched the **Language Accessibility Promise** which is the project I've been co-leading under the **Scottish Tertiary Enhancement Programme (STEP)**. This means institutions that sign up are committed to improving access to education, enhancing the quality of the student experience and increasing students' sense of belonging. So far UHI Perth, Inverness, & Orkney have committed to the Language Accessibility Promise and the institutions pack has been sent to the **College Development Network (CDN)** Quality Leads for approval processes to all colleges & universities in Scotland, including all UHI Academic Partners.
- Consulted on the **NUS Student Manifesto** with the **Students Demand Better Campaign for the Scottish Elections** which launched on the 26th of February.
- I published a HISA article '**Pride: The Importance of Education**' as part of **LGBTQIA+ History Month Collection**.
- Recently took Special Leave to participate in the HISA 2026 Student Elections where I was **elected as the 2026-27 Cross Campus Vice President Education**.



Millie

The end of the academic year is drawing closer, and I hope everyone has had a fantastic year! I've been very lucky to have had the opportunity to be a part of the HISA team this year and get to know and work with wonderful people! For my last update I'll be sharing some of the events we have had recently:

- Art Competition

For those that have participated in the art competition, a massive well-done! Every submission was unique and created with heart by such talented artists!

- Tea Brew

A big thank you to all those that came along to the tea brewing events and shared their interests and culture for everyone to participate in. It's been wonderful sitting down with students and chatting over a cuppa.

- Mental Health Leaflets

After some research and pulling on older sources, I've created some leaflets that may help for anyone struggling with their mental health. These can be found in Perth HISA reception.



OBI AWARDS

Now in their fourteenth year, the OBI Awards are Scotland's longest-running student-led college awards, celebrating Outstanding, Best and Inspiring students and staff across UHI Perth. This year has been the most successful yet, with 545 nominations recognising the individual contributions that make UHI Perth such a vibrant and supportive community.

The awards ceremony will take place on 18 May from 1430 in the Goodlyburn Theatre. All nominees have been invited, and we look forward to seeing you there! If you cannot join us or would just like to watch along you can join our live stream from the OBI web page [here](#).

The ceremony will be a true cross-college celebration, featuring performances from the music industries courses and refreshments prepared by hospitality staff and students.



ART COMPETITION - WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT!

We have had lots of brilliant entries to our art competition to choose student artworks to decorate the Goodlyburn Canteen. Thank you to all the artists who took the time to submit work. Our judges had a very difficult time selecting the winners from such a diverse range of entries!

The artworks selected for display are:

- Collective Overdose by Julie McDonald
- Positive Futures by Daniel White
- Abstract by Sandy Shields
- Life in the Decay by Gordon Griffiths
- Art work by Kallan-Grimm MacLachlan

These pieces are currently being framed – look out for them in the Goodlyburn Canteen before the summer break!

Finally: we're seeking a volunteer student member of the college's Board of Management for next year. This is an exciting and unique opportunity to gain experience in governing a public body, developing some brilliant skills, and making a real difference. If you've got a passion for improving the college and its student experience, then [we want to hear from you!](#)

We also have a vacancy for the post of Depute President for Perth next year – an exciting, full-time paid role with lots of opportunities to develop skills and shape the student experience. We'll have a by-election for this post soon – keep an eye on our website!

LOCAL UPDATES: MORAY



AYEPOD COMPETITION RESULTS & PROGRESS UPDATE

A huge thank you from HISA to everyone who submitted their work into our AyePod art competition! The judges had the difficult task of choosing the winners, whose art will be installed in the AyePod once it gets its makeover. They chose five pieces, which you can check out on our [website](#). The winners have each received a £40 voucher, with a box of chocolates going to the honourable mention.

The team had hoped to install the art on the AyePod walls as soon as the winners were picked, but unfortunately there's been a delay with the big renovation. The new furniture is still on its way! In the meantime, the HISA team is working on installing the pieces on the walls as they are now, so watch that space...

STUDENT VOICE REPS & CAMPUS FOOD

The last SVR meeting of this academic year took place on the 22nd of April. Thank you to all SVRs who've engaged with us this year, whether that's been by attending meetings, sending us check-in emails, or chatting with us in the corridors to tell us what's been going on recently!

One big issue lots of SVRs have talked about is catering options on campus. The HISA team collected all the feedback about food we've had from SVRs this year and brought it to meetings with the team at UHI Moray who will soon be arranging a new catering contract for the college. We'll be attending Open Days for businesses who are interested in taking up this contract to ensure the opinions you've expressed this year feed strongly into the catering setup next year.

UPCOMING EVENT: HISA COLOUR RUN

Come along and create a burst of colour on campus with HISA, at the UHI Moray's first ever Colour Run!

This free event will be run by your HISA Moray team as part of the Diversity Day event on the 21st May, 2026. Colour Runs are popular all over the world; you turn up, grab a pot of vibrant powder paint, and when the run or walk starts you throw your paint up into the air, creating a beautiful rainbow cloud of colour. Find out more information [here](#) on the HISA website.

GOODBYE FROM CHARLOTTE AND EMMALEIGH

Charlotte Usher and Emmaleigh Hay are coming towards the end of their time in office as your HISA Moray President and Depute President! They've worked incredibly hard this year to represent your voice, from taking SVR feedback to the UHI staff who need to hear it, to holding fun events on campus, to speaking on your behalf at UHI Moray board of management meetings. They have a few weeks left to wrap things up before handing over to your elected 2026-27 president, Callum Stepien.

VOLUNTEER TO JOIN THE UHI MORAY BOARD OF MANAGEMENT!

Interested in joining UHI Moray's Board of Management as a student representative? There are places for two student members on the board in the new academic year. One place is already taken by next year's Depute President, but another place is available to a volunteer. It's important for this second position to be filled to that the insights and experiences of students are fully represented in board meetings. If you're interested, find out more information [here!](#)

LOCAL UPDATES: NWH

Vote now for your NWH Depute President (North)! Voting closes noon (12:00) Thursday 7th May 2026.

OFFICER UPDATES

Cole

Well done, Classes of 2025–26! You have all achieved so much and should be incredibly proud of yourselves. To those leaving us this year: the best of luck and thank you for choosing UHI NWH. Up in the North, HISA has managed to pull off some amazing things for students this year:

- Free Breakfasts: We helped introduce free breakfasts on campus and are already working to ensure they continue into the next academic year.
- Online Bingo: A successful virtual hit with the student community.
- Free Hot Chocolate Day: We had a fantastic turnout for this one as always!
- Gaming Lunches: These have been amazing for anyone looking to meet new people.
- Pop Art Session: A special event held with Stepping Out to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month.
- Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover: This was so popular for World Book Day that we are now rolling it out as a full-time initiative!

Alasdair

Alasdair has focused this year on making sure that the students voices are heard at all levels of North, West and Hebrides, from meetings with the principal, to encouraging more financial transparency on the board. He also personally took on the issue of the funding problems that were raised this year, made sure that it was taken seriously by the university, and helped with a solution that would benefit our students.

Abby

Abby has had a focus on bringing students and staff together through HISA-led events. Kicking off the efforts with an amazing ADVENTure calendar, which gave a new activity/challenge for each day of December, with various things such as a trip to a wellness farm and laughter yoga. Alongside these efforts, Abby has been working as part of an action group to tackle the issues that have arisen with the Student Accommodation here in Fort William, listening to issues and complaints that were brought up by students. Taking these issues onboard, Abby pursued them until the issues were rectified.

In the new year, Abby started a weekly quiz that was hosted at lunchtimes; the categories rotated each week to ensure the quizzes stayed relevant and unique. It worked effectively at bringing both students and staff together to enjoy a shared experience with prizes up for grabs.

WINS FROM OUR STUDENT VOICE REPRESENTATIVES

Our student voice reps have had a fantastic year getting your feedback heard by the people within North, West and Hebrides that can help make the changes that matter to you.

Some of the things that we have been able to get actioned that our SVRs have brought to us are:

- Issues with clarity around funding issues – The funding team have taken on board that how they communicate issues with information needed with bursaries have been confusing some students this year and are hoping to roll out more of the funding drop ins that have worked well at the Stornoway campus.
- Access to Perth music rehearsal spaces – A lot of work has gone into getting North, West and Hebrides students based near the Perth campus access to their music rehearsal spaces. The process for accessing them will be finalised over the summer holidays and be ready for inductions next academic year.
- Students in more rural centres feeling left out – A greater effort is being put into expanding the centres that events are held at by HISA. This is a slow process as we need to figure out what works best at what centre, so we will organise meetings with the engagement leads to see what we can do to bring events to you that you will enjoy.
- Consistency with Brightspace - HISA will be sitting down with the curriculum team during the summer holidays to go through some of the courses' Brightspace areas that reported inconsistency between lecturers uploading resources to Brightspace to help ensure that our students get the best possible experience in their studies.

More has been done than this, but these are the most important issues that we had brought to us. If you have anything else you think we need to look into, please never hesitate to get in contact with us at: hisa.nwh@uhi.ac.uk

FORT WILLIAM UPDATES

Great things have been happening on the Fort William Campus! The UHI Paddlesports Club and the UHI Mountaineering Club have both had successful trips that got students out and about on their respective adventures with strong turnouts! On Campus, students have been enjoying weekly quizzes hosted by Abby and Sam, where the categories change each week, with prizes up for grabs. More recently there was an Easter treasure hunt underway, and a new movement from HISA that has been replicated across NWH colleges with our “Don’t Judge a Book By Its Cover”! After quite a successful debut, this project has now moved into the library where it is becoming a more regular feature for staff and students to enjoy.

We’re finishing the year off strong with an End of Year Potluck Picnic on Tuesday 5th May, where students and staff are invited to bring along food to share. There will be live music and a big end-of-year quiz with prizes up for grabs, as well as board games and other fun things. Starting at 2pm, feel free to join us!

Finally, we have a vacancy for the post of Depute President for NWH West next year – an exciting, part-time paid role with lots of opportunities to develop skills and shape the student experience. We’ll have a by-election for this post soon – keep an eye on our website!

LOCAL UPDATES: SHETLAND

Vote now for your Shetland Depute President! Voting closes noon (12:00) Thursday 7th May 2026.

FINAL UPDATE FROM YOUR OUTGOING SHETLAND DEPUTE PRESIDENT

Hello All! I can't believe it's coming to the end of the academic year, as well as my 2nd term coming to an end.

First of all, to the students who voted for me during the Spring elections in 2024 and 2025, thank you. I have very much enjoyed my time as an elected officer for Shetland, and it will be an experience I won't forget. During my 2 terms, there have been the highs and lows as well as the start of the Future campus project, the UHI Transformation project, events and so much more! As I depart, I wish the best of luck to all the students who are looking to be a student next year, and to those students who are leaving UHI Shetland: best of luck in your next steps.



We've been [running a by-election](#) for my successor and for a couple of other vacancies – so please watch out for news of the result!

Future campus:

Progress on the project is ongoing now that the Board has committed Scalloway as the chosen site. Please ensure you continue to engage with the project for the best possible outcome. I accept, and many staff involved with the project accept, that transport is the biggest student concern and that negotiations between UHI Shetland and the Shetland Islands council will take place to help students reach the site. I also would like to stress that the Lerwick campus will not be closing tomorrow or in a weeks' time. The project will take time, and changes will happen slowly, so please do not panic. If you are worried, please do speak to HISA or the

[HISA Advice Service.](#)

And a big thank you to everyone who took part in our consultation events at the Lerwick campus during the week of 20th April. We gained lots of views about your hopes, fears and concerns. Thank you also to everyone who [participated in our survey](#) about the decision which ran until the end of April.

Viking Event

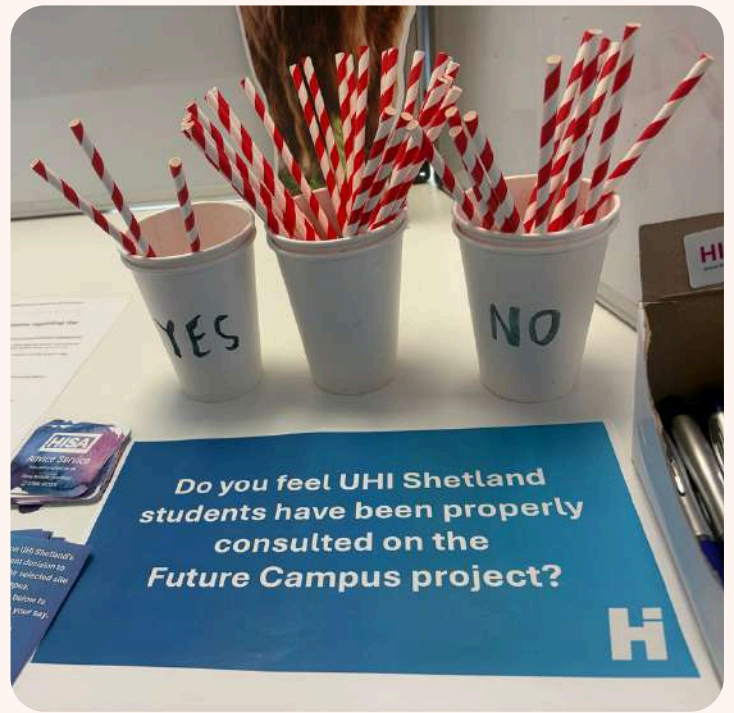
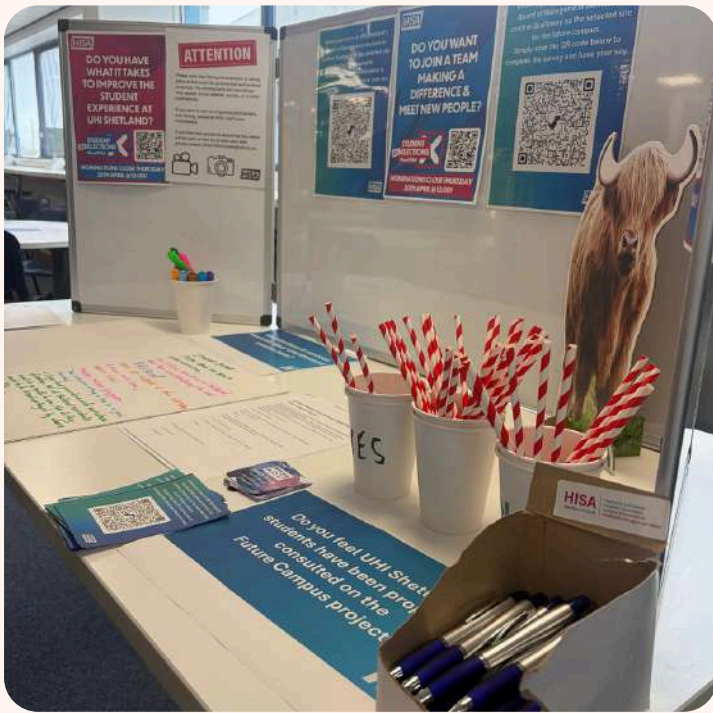
Congratulations to all the students who found a Viking in either Lerwick or Scalloway! The Vikings have now made it home safely and resting and preparing for Up Helly Aa 2027.

Events for May:

Due to staffing and the time of year, the decision has been made that there will no more HISA-ran events this academic year and the next HISA events in Shetland will be the Welcome Week events in September/October 2026.

And just like that, you have reached the end of the local Shetland HISA update for the academic year! Thank you once again and goodbye for now.

Harley Green
Depute President for AY 24-25 & 25-26



LOCAL UPDATES: ORKNEY

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our activities in the past year – from our clubs and societies to our SVR team. Mila Tabone has been our Depute President for the past two years and so is now stepping down – and she sends a big thanks to the college and all UHI Orkney students for their support and engagement.

Esméemilja Mackenna is our Depute President for next year, and they look forward to representing you! Keep in touch with us and pop into our office on the main campus, and we will see you at an event in the new year!



Esméemilja Mackenna
Orkney Depute President 26-27

LOCAL UPDATES: ARGYLL

As the year draws to a close, we want to say a massive 'thank you' to all the wonderful UHI Argyll students, SVRs, and of course the Local Depute for everything this year!

A particular highlight was hosting hot chocolate and pyjama days across Argyll. Real wholesome fun!

But it isn't over yet, and we have one more event for you all. On Wednesday 20th May we will be holding a Student Voice: Round Table session, open to every single UHI Argyll student. You can join online, or on campus – where there will be free coffee, hot chocolate, biscuits and sweets. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts about what it is like to be a UHI student. If you have an opinion, then we want to hear it! You can find more information by heading over to our website ([Student Voice: Round Table](#)), or ping us an email at HISA.Argyll@uhi.ac.uk.

Finally: we're seeking a volunteer student member of the college's Board of Management for next year. This is an exciting and unique opportunity to gain experience in governing a public body, developing some brilliant skills, and making a real difference. If you've got a passion for improving the college and its student experience, then [we want to hear from you!](#)



DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?
DO YOU WANT TO BE
HEARD?

HISA

**STUDENT
VOICE:
ROUND
TABLE**

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY
AT A LEARNING
CENTRE NEAR YOU!

UHI ARGYLL

The poster features a central illustration of four people sitting around a table, with a yellow and blue background and a white circular graphic.



LOCAL UPDATES: SAMS

A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST YEAR!

With everything done and dusted for the 25/26 academic year, we thought it would be nice to look back on the best bits!

We hit the ground running with our Welcome Week events. Getting a load of new students who had met the day before to get involved in a three-legged-race (and get involved you did!) was the cause of a great deal of hilarity, and I am still impressed by Team Scavenger Shark for their speed at completing the Scavenger Hunt around Oban.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas Tree decorating session. It was so wholesome, and so joyous. Remember to look out for your decorated and signed bauble again next time!

I hope you all enjoyed the (almost) Valentine's Ceilidh as much as I did! This has definitely achieved the status of annual tradition, now!

The Easter Critter Hunt was as chaotic and daft as hoped, and we know for next year to get even more teeny tiny resin critters! 17 minutes! It took you folks 17 minutes to find all 50, plus those two little ducks that appeared from... somewhere?

It was an absolute pleasure to work with the SAMS SVRs this year (as it is every year), and I hope that those of you who aren't graduating (or stepping up to be the Local Depute) will reregister in September.

We were really happy to finally get Therapets to visit SAMS and hope you all enjoyed meeting Archie and Basil (and Lyndsay) as much as we enjoyed hosting them! I am happy to say that they will be back again after the summer.



STUDENT-FRIENDLY RECIPE

Easy Egg Frief Rice

See the full recipe [here!](#)

STUDENT FOOD SAFETY

First time sharing a kitchen? Make sure you're up to speed with the basics of food hygiene. Here are the Food Standards Agency's top tips

- Wash your hands before preparing food and after handling raw meat
- Keep all surfaces, chopping boards, utensils and dishes clean by washing with warm soapy water between tasks
- Use separate chopping boards for raw and ready-to-eat foods
- Never wash raw chicken or other meat as this can spread bacteria onto hands, surfaces and clothing
- Change or wash re-usable dish cloths, tea towels and sponges regularly, and allow them to dry fully before reusing

[Check out the FSA student guide for more food hygiene advice.](#)



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 - MAY26" to tell us your thoughts!

