HI!

HISA

YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk

ISSUE: 023 OCTOBER 2026



THE SKYE SUMMARY

THE MOST IMPORTANT HISA NEWS FROM ACROSS UHI!



Student Elections

Recent by-elections have taken place for our Orkney and NWH Hebrides Depute Presidents. HISA's main Student Elections open in January 2027 – your chance to stand for a leadership role next academic year. More details coming soon!

Click here to read more

Student Partnership Agreement signed!

HISA has been working with UHI to agree a new Student Partnership Agreement (SPA), focusing on practical support with the rising costs of student life and creating safer, more respectful campus communities.

Click here to read more

Your local update

See what your local HISA team have been up to and what's coming up at a campus near you!

Click here to read more

Black History Month

October marks the 25th year of Black History Month celebrations in Scotland, with free events, exhibitions, and articles available online. HISA also features a blog by UHI Scribblers author Deborah de Oliveira exploring the importance of Black community, alongside her book recommendations.

Click here to read more

Make sure your UHI records are updated

Quick question: if UHI posted you something important today, where would it end up? If you're not completely sure, read the Advice Service section here. Every year the Advice Service helps students who've missed letters, deadlines and decisions because their details were out of date.

Click here to read more

New student groups!

We are happy to say that we have several new clubs and societies for your extra-curricular (or quite curricular) enjoyment, bringing your total up to 41! As well as some local campus ones (check out your local section to find out more), we also have three new societies that are deserving of some particular highlighting!

Click here to read more

Join our team at Fort William

Join HISA as a paid Student Intern at UHI Fort William to support student activities, champion student voices and help make campus life better, earning £13.45 per hour. Interested? Read our Student Opportunities page here to learn more and apply!

Click here to read more



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CROSS CAMPUS OFFICERS!

Student President Update



Oliver Sweeney

What a busy start to the year we have had! After our officer residential training, my main focus shifted to working with UHI to agree on the new Student Partnership Agreement (SPA). After many meetings and informal chats, UHI has agreed to work with us on practical solutions to help students with the rising costs associated with being a student, as well as focussing on an improved student community with campuses where students feel safe and respected. You can read more about the SPA **here.**

On Wednesday the 21st of October, I attended a day long in person workshop with UHI's senior leadership to talk about the future of UHI, and I used this important opportunity to remind UHI what changes students need to see now, and also what students will need from UHI in the future.

We have been doing a lot more than just this though, and I will be publishing a report in the coming days detailing everything that has happened in the first 100 days of the year!

Vice President Education Update



Andi Garrity

Over the Summer, I've been having meeting with the local HISA teams to get a sense of what different issues are being faced across the UHI Partnership, getting to know what the local officers are working on this year, and figuring out where I'd be able to help local teams.

You may have seen me helping out in the Perth & Fort William Welcome Fayres or at UHI Argyll Graduation this September. It's been lovely to be able to get out and engage with students!

I've been feeding into our Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review covering the main university, SAMS, & HTC. This includes a trip to UHI House for the initial review visit in early October and the main visit later in November. This is a great chance to get an outside perspective on the university partnership to see where we can do better.

LOCAL UPDATES: ARGYLL

We are still recruiting SVRs!

Fancy shaping the student experience on your course? Are you a good listener? We're still recruiting Student Voice Reps from courses across the college. **Find out more on our website.**

Hello from your Depute President!



Your Argyll Depute President this year is Timothy Tang, who is a BA Business and Management student originally from Hong Kong. He's keen to talk to all students across UHI Argyll, and has been visiting classes across the college to recruit Student Voice Reps. **Keep in touch with him**!

Photography Comp closing soon!



Our **Argyll photography competition** remains open until the end of the month! Open to students across UHI Argyll and the Scottish Association for Marine Science, the theme is the natural world of Argyll and Arran. Get snapping – and submit by 31st October.

LOCAL UPDATES: SAMS

Events

Hello SAMS! We started off this year with an absolute blast of a Welcome Week (including an unusual number of treasure hunts). Congratulations to Jasper for winning the 'Oban Passport Project', and a HUGE thank you to the brilliant local businesses who got involved and donated prizes. Congratulations also go to the winning 'raft' in our 'Lost at Sea' survival game, who did a great job of living long enough to get rescued (no students were harmed in the making of this competition).







We don't stop when Welcome Week ends though, and we have had our first Therapets visit of the year. Archie and Basil (and Lyndsay) will be back once a month during term time, so don't panic if you didn't get your fill of pooch scootches. **You can join them next on 5th November** (remember remember).

That isn't the only event we have planned for you, though! Keep an eye on our **Your Campus** page and any posters around the place for news of what is coming up (but also here's a little list for you, because we do love to make your lives easy).

- **Until 31st October: Argyll & SAMS Photography Competition (see below for more info)**
- **4th November: SVR Meeting, 12.30pm to 1.30pm**
- **5th November: Therapets, 12.30pm to 1.30pm**
- **24th November: Decorate the SAMS Christmas Tree (naff festive jumpers strongly encouraged), 11am to 2pm**
- **3rd December: Therapets, 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

We are coming to the end of the Argyll & SAMS Photography Competition, so if you have been thinking about entering then get your wonderful photos of the beautiful natural world in! You can find all the Ts & Cs on our **website,** but crucially there are some awesome prizes to be won!

Clubs & Societies

As well as events organised by Team HISA, we have not one but TWO new clubs/societies available for you at SAMS. **The Presentation Club** offers a supportive and friendly opportunity to practice your skills at (unsurprisingly) presenting, and **The Volleyball Club** meets regularly to practice and play.

SVRs

We also want to thank all of you awesome students who have signed up to be Student Voice Representatives (SVRs). Our first meeting of the year was a huge success (not least because there were biscuits). We are still keen to have some more sign ups though, especially from 2nd and 3rd year, and from our PGR cohort. This is a fab opportunity to shape your experience at SAMS, let us at HISA know what YOU want from US, and get some seriously CV-boosting experience. To find out more, and to sign up, just go to our **website.**

Funding Opportunity

The deadline for the UHI Offshore Wind Skills Hub Bursary Fund is approaching (31st October). This is an award of up to £1,500 for students who face financial, geographic or socio-economic barriers to access training that could potentially help them engage with the offshore wind industry. Marine interests? Apply! You can find out more, including what it can be used for and who is eligible **here**.

Officer Update



Merlin Farrell

I'd like to express a massive thank you to SVRs and fellow students for contributing ideas and voicing concerns, which ultimately will help shape and improve your student experience. The team is working hard behind the scenes to explore options and deliver what we can. This month I'm investigating funding opportunities for bolstering our clubs and societies' budgets and will be excited to share information around this. If you're looking to navigate opportunities in Marine Science and network, then you should be aware of upcoming **MASTS 2026** Annual Science Meeting happening on the 10th - 12th November in Glasgow where you may see some familiar faces. I'll be looking to share more opportunities in the future and welcome any suggestions.

LOCAL UPDATES: INVERNESS & HOUSE

Become a Student Voice Rep, today!

Student Voice Representatives are students who volunteer to represent their class. By becoming an SVR, you are helping HISA to improve your learning experience. Whether that's by getting your class access to better course materials or access to the right area in the building, for you to study. So, do you want to make change? Want to see improvements happen in real time, for yourself and your classmates? If so, join the Inverness SVRs today!

Visit the HISA website through the following link, to get started on your SVR journey! - **Find out more on our website.** If you have any questions, or need help filling out the registration form, visit the Inverness HISA Office or contact our team through our local inbox.

As your local HISA team, we gather the SVRs every month, to hear your issues, and gather your feedback, to find out how we can improve your student experience at UHI Inverness. The first SVR meeting of the year takes place on Tuesday the 3rd of November! Further information will be on its way soon, so SVRs keep a look out for that!

Upcoming events - Hallo-week at Inverness

Calling all students at the Scottish School of Forestry! A Halloween stall is coming your way, on the 27th of October. With sweets, Halloween crafts, a spooky showing of some silent films alongside some exciting upcoming event information from our student bar, Tooth & Claw!

On the 29th of October, the HISA Hallo-week stall comes to Inverness! We have Halloween crafts and sweets, with film showings of a black and white, silent Nosferatu and Alice in Wonderland. And don't forget to visit then alcohol-free bar provided by our student bar, Tooth & Claw!





Upcoming events - Hallo-week at Inverness

Competitions! - This month, you have a chance to win a £50 voucher by entering your spooky costume or makeup design into our October competitions! Visit the HISA Inverness Office or send our local inbox an email to enter - **Spooky Costume Contest** and **Spooky Makeup Contest.** Entries close on October 30th, so don't miss your chance to enter!





LOCAL UPDATES: PERTH

The year so far!

It's been a fantastic start to the academic year, and we've loved meeting so many of our new and returning students over the past few weeks.

Welcome Week was packed with activity, with students getting involved in events including Therapets, the Sports & Societies Fair, Halls Welcome, and the Welcome Fair. These events gave students the opportunity to meet new people, find out more about life at UHI Perth, and discover ways to get involved during their time here. A special thank you goes to Lindsey Brown, Active Campus Coordinator, for her support in delivering the Sports & Societies Fair and helping students connect with the many opportunities available across campus.

One of the highlights of the semester so far has been meeting students directly through our classroom visits. We visited an incredible 72 classes across the campus, speaking to students about the support HISA provides, opportunities to get involved, and ways to have your voice heard. It was wonderful to meet so many new faces, and we'd like to thank all the lecturers and students who welcomed us into their classrooms and helped make these visits possible.

A huge thank you also goes to everyone who has signed up to become a Student Voice Representative (SVR). Your commitment to representing your fellow students and helping improve the student experience makes a real difference. If you'd still like to get involved, SVR registration remains open, and we'd encourage anyone interested to sign up.

We would also like to congratulate all students who celebrated their achievements at Graduation on 8 October. It was a fantastic day recognising the hard work and dedication of our graduates, and we wish them every success in the future.

Stagecoach X56 service

We were also pleased to work alongside UHI Perth in campaigning against cuts to the Stagecoach X56 service. Thanks to the collective efforts of students, HISA, and the university, a replacement service was agreed, helping to ensure students can continue to travel to and from campus.



Coming Up

There are plenty of exciting opportunities to get involved over the coming weeks, including:

- Student Voice Representative Meeting bringing together our SVR community to share ideas and discuss priorities for the year ahead. The meeting will be held on the 4th November in the Brahan building, room 319, from 12.30 to 13.30.
- Halloween Costume Competition get your costumes ready and keep an eye on HISA's social media @teamhisa for details on how to enter and win some spooky prizes. Photo submissions will be open from 23rd to 30th October, and the winner will be announced in the first week of November.
- Link to the event: **Halloween Costume Competition**

Thank you to everyone who has engaged with HISA Perth so far this year. We're looking forward to continuing to work with you, supporting your student experience, and making this another great year at UHI Perth.



Shape the college's direction – join the Board of Management!

There is one space left for a student member on UHI Perth's Board of Management. The Board sets the priorities and direction of the college, and the college management report to it, so it's an important place for shaping the student experience. If you're interested in joining, **find out more on our website**.

LOCAL UPDATES: MORAY

Hello from your Local Depute!



Your local Moray Depute for this year is Callum and you can typically find him in the HISA Office in P Block of the Moray Street Campus on Mondays, Wednesdays for most of the day, as well as on and Thursday and Friday afternoons! His goals for this year are to look at smoking shelter provision on our campuses, ensure feedback from students is enacted upon, and to run events focussing on mental health. If you need anything or have any feedback to give, drop him an email at **hisa.moray.depute@uhi.ac.uk**

Welcome Week - Thank You!

We loved hosting a variety of events to welcome new and returning students to UHI Moray during the week of 21st September! Whether you saw us at our stall at Welcome Fair, played games with us at Biblical Gardens or played with Therapets at Linkwood, we loved meeting you!

Refectory Feedback

We have received a lot of feedback from you all already regarding changes to catering on campus, and we're keen to get more! We'll look at gathering feedback over the next few weeks on campus but if you have feedback on catering, please email us at **hisa.moray@uhi.ac.uk** - the more the better!

AyePod Update

Work is still underway to get the AyePod refurbished following student feedback last year. The last update we received was that furniture orders are being finalised so we're hoping to do a big official opening soon and showcase the winners of our Art Competition.

SVR Meetings

We already have lots of Student Voice Reps (SVRs) at Moray and held a Welcome Event at the end of September to welcome them to the role. Thanks to those of you who attended the first online cross campus SVR meeting in October – we are already looking at the feedback you provided!

Our first in-person meeting of the year will take place on Monday 2nd November from 1-2pm in the lecture theatre at Moray Street Campus. Please give feedback to your SVR in time for this event!



Shape the college's direction – join the Board of Management!

There is one space left for a student member on UHI Moray's Board of Management. The Board sets the priorities and direction of the college, and the college management report to it, so it's an important place for shaping the student experience. If you're interested in joining, **find out more on our website**.

LOCAL UPDATES: ORKNEY

By-election results for the Orkney Depute President

We are delighted to announce that following our recent by-election, we have elected a new Orkney Depute President to serve on our Student Officer team for 2026-27! A big congratulations to Alastair Mateer. For the full results of the by-election please **click here!**





Events and other notices

Due to the by-election, we have been unable to host events and activities. However, do keep an eye out on our socials @TeamHISA for upcoming events.

Finally, if you need to contact HISA Orkney before Alastair takes up the role in due course, please feel free to contact Harley Green who is the local coordinator for Shetland and Orkney and can be emailed at harley.green@uhi.ac.uk or through hisa.orkney@uhi.ac.uk

LOCAL UPDATES: SHETLAND

Events coming up!

Want to practice your trick or treat skills before the most spooktacular day of the year? Pop down to the HISA office D11 on the Lerwick campus during the week of the 26th of October to get some sweets and a freebie or two!

The HISA office will be open at the following times:

- Monday 26th: 10-3pm
- Wednesday 28th: 9-3pm
- Thursday 29th: 10-3pm
- Friday 30th: 10-2pm

HISA Shetland will be looking to hold a Christmas craft fair on campus in December time so keep an eye out on socials @TeamHISA for more information!



LOCAL UPDATES: NWH

Halloween Events!

Halloween Crafts: Thursday 29th October 2026, noon to 1pm in the Thurso Campus Library. Drop by to make some fantastic seasonal decorations to brighten up your desk or room!

Halloween Scavenger Hunt: Monday 26th to Friday 30th October 2026 across the Thurso, Stornoway, and Fort William Campuses. There are plenty of treats to go around, but once the trinkets are found, they're gone!





Welcome Week Winners

Congratulations to all the winners of our Welcome Week events this year.

A massive congratulations to our main Welcome Fayre Passport Winner, Liam Walker (Fort William), who snagged the big prize of a £100 One4All Voucher!

Additionally, Karla Ricalde Cedando (Online Virtual) and Danii McKellar (Argyll) each won a £25 Amazon Voucher for winning their respective games of bingo. We're hoping to keep these going into the rest of the year – so keep your eyes peeled on our **What's On** page, newsletter or **Instagram** for more chances to win!

Campaign Updates – Free Breakfasts Return!

Following on from Cole's manifesto to aid students with the cost of living, we have successfully secured funding to provide free breakfasts across the NWH campuses for this academic year!



The funding comes from the Dounreay Communities Small Grants, the Highland Council Discretionary Fund (Wards 11 and 21), and the Baillie Wind Farm Community Fund. We thank them greatly for their support.

The Student Breakfast Club is already up and running at Thurso, Fort William, and Stornoway locations. It offers free toast, cereal bars, porridge pots, coffee and tea from 8:30am to 10am daily, and is open to all UHI North, West and Hebrides students.

SVR Meetings

Our upcoming online meeting dates are Tuesday 10 November and Thursday 12 November, 1pm to 2pm.

Not a Student Voice Rep yet, but want to be? Visit our **website** to find out more and get involved!



STUDENT DEMOCRACY

Your Digital Learning Experience

We held a cross-campus Student Voice Rep meeting in early October, and our focus there was the digital learning experience - including the virtual learning environment Brightspace where the university is seeking student views on some big developments. If you've got views about how Brightspace supports your learning, please tell your SVR. And if you don't have an SVR in your class, **why not volunteer?**



Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review

A big thanks to the many SVRs, club and society committee members and other students who met with the team who visited UHI in early October. This review, TQER, happens once to every university and college in Scotland in a seven-year cycle, so it's an important way of finding out how good UHI's learning experience is. Students' views are hugely important, and we're asking for more students to be involved in the second visit in mid-November. You can find out more about TQER **on our website,** and watch this space for the actions that will come out of this review.

Student Elections

We've had by-elections recently for our Orkney Depute President and our NWH Hebrides Depute President. Nominations for our main Student Elections will open in January 2027, which will be your chance to throw your hat into the ring to lead HISA in the next academic year. More information coming soon!

EQUALITY AND LIBERATION

October is Black History Month

October of 2026 marks the 25th year of Black History Month celebrations in Scotland led by the Coalition for Racial Equity and Rights. This month recognises the history of African, Caribbean and Asian people in Scotland, often including histories of slavery, colonialism and migration. You can visit their website for articles, free events, and exhibitions: **BLACK HISTORY MONTH SCOTLAND.**

On the HISA website, we have a blog from **UHI Scribblers** author Deborah de Oliveira about the importance of black community and her experience of finally **"Standing in a Room of People Like You":**

There is something wonderful about entering a space where your difference is no longer the first thing people notice about you. Where you can disagree, laugh, complain, be a little ridiculous, and simply exist without feeling that you're somehow representing an entire community.

You can also find Deborah's book recommendations for Black History Month at the end of her blog.



HISA ADVICE SERVICE

-Here to Support You

Five Minutes That Could Save You Weeks of Stress

Quick question: if UHI posted something important to you today, where would it end up? If you're not completely sure, keep reading. Every year the Advice Service helps students who've missed letters, deadlines and decisions because their details were out of date.

Why it matters

UHI usually holds two addresses for you: a term-time address (where you live while studying) and a home address (where you normally live outside of term). Most contact happens by email, but some important things are still posted or sent to whichever address is on your record at the time.

What to check

Log in to your student record and check:

- **Term-time address:** is it where you live this year?
- **Home address:** is it current, and somewhere you reliably get post?
- **Phone number and personal email:** are they ones you still use?
- **Emergency contact:** is this still the right person?

You can update your details here via the UHI Records tile and the Personal Details option on the left-hand menu: **https://myday.uhi.ac.uk/**

Your campus' Student Services team can help if you're unsure how.

Most official communication also comes to your student email, so check it regularly, including during holidays and placements.

Think about your PLSP too!

If you have a disability, long-term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difference, you may have a Personal Learning Support Plan (PLSP). This sets out reasonable adjustments such as extra time in exams, extensions or alternative assessment arrangements.

Like your contact details, it only works if it's up to date. Does it still reflect your needs? Does it cover your current course, level or placement? Do your new lecturers know about it?

Five Minutes That Could Save You Weeks of Stress

If you don't have a PLSP but think you'd benefit from one, contact your campus Student Support team. You don't need a formal diagnosis to start the conversation.
A current PLSP also matters if things go wrong. If you later need to appeal or submit an extenuating circumstances claim, having your adjustments recorded can make a real difference.
If something has already gone wrong
If you think you've missed a letter or deadline because it went to the wrong address, don't ignore it. Contact us as soon as possible. The sooner you act, the better.

Get in touch
The HISA Advice Service is free, confidential and independent of the university. We help with appeals, complaints, misconduct, fitness to practise, funding, accommodation and much more.

Need advice?
Contact the HISA Advice Service:
hisa.advice@uhi.ac.uk

HISA ADVICE SERVICE
INDEPENDENT
IMPARTIAL
FREE

SPORTS CLUBS, SOCIETIES & NETWORKS

New Student Groups

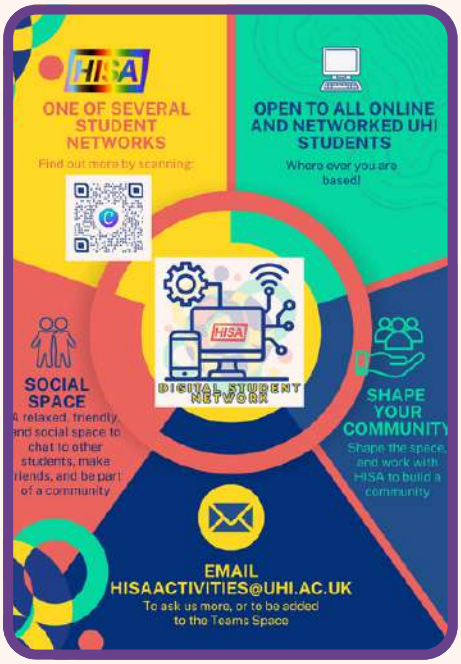
We are happy to say that we have several new clubs and societies for your extra-curricular (or quite curricular) enjoyment, bringing your total up to 41! As well as some local campus ones (check out your local section to find out more), we also have three new UHI-wide societies that are deserving of some particular highlighting!

Continuous Personal Development
This is a brilliant new society that is just as varied as it sounds. They currently meet once a month, and, in their own words, they are a space for "everyone to try anything". Learn new skills, try out interesting stuff, and make new friends. What more could you want?

UHI Chess Association
A group for chess players, both online and in-person (UHI Perth)! They welcome players of all levels of skill and experience, and membership is a mere £5 for the year!

UHI Theological & Philosophical Society
Another society that costs a mere £5 to join, these folks are organising external talks and internal conversations around the overlap between religion and philosophy. If you have questions about the meaning of life, then this is the society for you!

Digital Student Network
So, not technically new, but in a new space and trying new things (words to aspire to!). We are migrating our Digital Student Network over to Teams, to make it a bit more accessible and user friendly for the wonderfully wide range of online and distance students here at UHI. Yet another opportunity for YOU to shape YOUR student experience (we genuinely love supporting you all to do that), this is not only a friendly, easy going, and supportive network for students across UHI, but it is also an opportunity for you to help shape the space. Join up, and join the conversation!



HISA Grant (Autumn '26)

This term we were happy to award thirteen of our clubs and societies parts of a £2000 grant pot. We have been able to support club events, training, equipment, and trips! Don't worry if your student group missed out, as this runs not once but TWICE per year! There will be another opportunity after the winter holidays.

Form a new club or society?

If none of the student groups we have cover your particular hobby or interest (and of course that means that we are missing the BEST possible club or society), then why not set it up yourself? It is pretty straightforward to get started. Find two friends (who are also UHI students) to form the committee with you, decide what it is you want to do, then read through the guidance and fill in the application form on our **website!** You'll get support from your local HISA team to get going, as well as centralised support from the HISA Activities team. What club do you think is missing?



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:

"puimcean" meaning "pumpkin"

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!**

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Shape your college's future – join the Board of Management!

There's **one space available in Moray and one in Perth** for students to join their college's Board of Management. The Board sets the college's priorities and direction, making it a great opportunity to influence decisions that shape your student experience. Interested? **Find out more on our website.**

Join our team!

Looking for a paid role where you can make a real difference to student life? Join HISA as a Student Intern at UHI Fort William, earning £13.45 per hour for 14 hours a week. You'll help bring students together, support clubs and societies, work alongside Student Officers and make sure student voices are heard in decisions that affect them. If you're enthusiastic about building a welcoming campus community and improving the student experience, we'd love to hear from you! Apply by 8th November 2026. **Apply here!**

Get Involved at HISA!

One of the best ways to make the most of your time as a UHI student is to get involved in HISA! We have lots of different opportunities from voluntary roles to paid internships and elected office, which all help you grow your skills and confidence, meet new people and improve the student experience at UHI.

So why not check out these possibilities? If you're already doing one of them, you could think about another - this year or next year!
We add new opportunities from time to time, so do keep coming back to this page and follow our socials for updates. **https://hisa.uhi.ac.uk/about/getinvolved/**

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!

Email us at hisa@uhi.ac.uk with the subject line: "NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK - OCT26" to tell us your thoughts!

HISA