

HISA and the SVR system



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An Intro to HISA (Highlands and Islands Students' Association)

HISA is made up of students who put themselves up for nominations during nomination/elections period. Just like in “real life” elections, these students have to create a manifesto based on goals that they would like to achieve during their time as an officer. Some previous manifesto points have included: better housing support for students, mental health agreements, microwaves on campus, dairy free milk alternatives and improved PLSP support.

There are Local and Cross Campus Officers. Local Officers will work with their local campus to improve the student experience and complete their manifesto goals. Cross campus Officers will be responsible for all students across UHI – from (most the Thurso campus to the Strontian campus)

The local and cross campus officers make up the Executive Committee who discuss topics that will affect local and regional issues.

They are supported by the HISA staff. The local teams also work alongside SVRs to gather student feedback on a range of subjects.

What is an SVR?

- At HISA, we hope that these 3 goals are what reps will focus on in their time with us in this role, which for the majority, involves giving feedback- either in our SVR meetings or by popping into the office/send an email/pop something in the Teams spaces.

Amplify

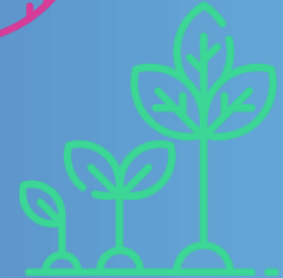
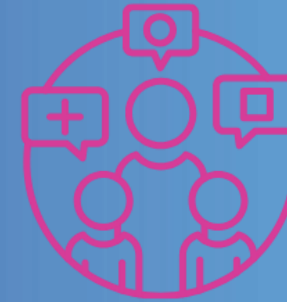
Voices that need to be heard

Represent

Your fellow students

Grow

Your confidence and skills



“The role of a Student Voice Representative (SVR) is to improve your own and your class’s learning experience in partnership with your Students Association and insert AP here. You will represent your classmates’ views and opinions on all matters relating to the student experience.

Providing feedback to your classmates is a vital part of the role. You will also provide both positive and negative feedback to insert college staff and act as a communication channel between staff and students. ”

- Extraction from the SVR job description on our [website](#)





Reps are expected to attend rep meetings, which occur once a month on average where we will discuss local & cross-campus HISA updates, we will ask for feedback on certain teaching topics as well as asking them to let us know of general issues/successes they are having

We will also use this space to let them know of any upcoming events that are happening at local campuses as well as any online activities (for example “Meet Your Local Team” or competitions)



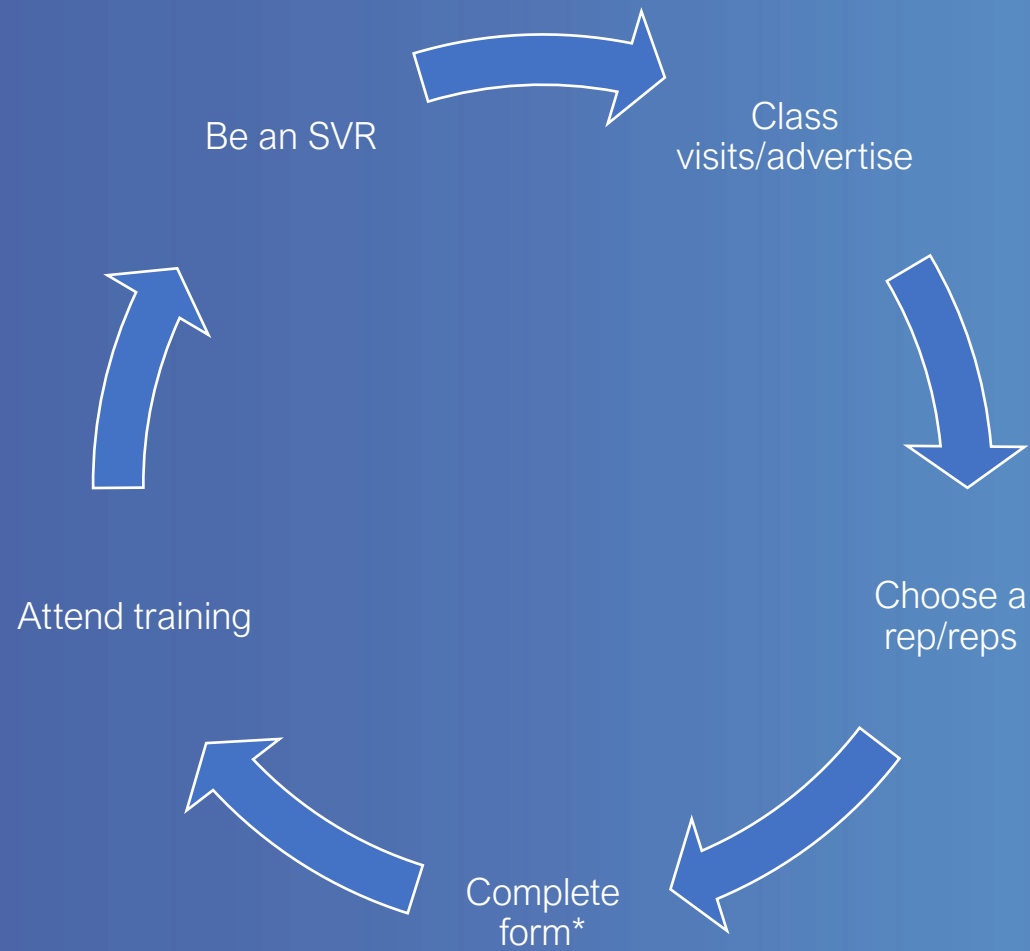
If students are unable to attend, they should let us know and we can ensure that they are sent a summary of the meeting and what was discussed. They can also ask to have specific topics be added to the conversation at these meetings



Recruitment of Reps

- At the start of the Academic Year, we advertise and recruit for the SVR role to students to allow us to get them trained and set up before the Autumn break. This is to allow us time to organise meetings across the all of the UHI partners.
- The most effective way to recruit across the board involves the local Teams carrying out class visits, online and in-person.
- We may also email students or put posters up as additional ways to advertise the role.
- Sometimes students will nominate themselves, some classes may prefer to do an unofficial election and choose someone that way if there are multiple students in the same class.





*It should be noted that if a lecturer/staff member completes the form on the students' behalf, the student will need to check their emails and confirm that they are accepting the role and confirm code of conduct. They will not be registered if they do not complete this process.



Registering a Student Voice Rep



Completing the form will involve selecting which campus fits best and then if you are filling out the form or if it's the students. The form will then branch off into different sections depending on the previous answer.

UHI Staff member completion:

- Student name and email
- Name of course
- Course Code
- Have they been an SVR before?

An email will then go to the student to ask them to confirm code of conduct and that they're signing up to be a rep

Student completion:

- Student name and email
- Name of course
- Course code
- Have you been an SVR before?
- Do you agree to follow the SVR code of conduct
- Confirm that you are signing up to be a rep



Recruitment number of student reps over a 2-year period

AP	25/26 SVRs	24/25 SVRs	+ /-	Consent % 25/26	Consent % 24/25	+/-	25/26 Resignations	24/25 Resignations	+/-
Argyll	20	16	4	90 / 90	88 / 88	2%	0	3	-3
CfRHS	7	3	4	100 / 100	100 / 100	0	0	0	0
HTC	6	0	6	100 / 100		n/a	0	n/a	n/a
Inverness	114	121	-7	71.05 / 71.05	91 / 91	- 19.95 %	5	8	-3
Moray	121	89	3 2	90.08 / 90.08	78 / 78	12%	3	5	-2
NWH	46	48	-2	86.96 / 86.96	85 / 85	1.96 %	1	0	1
Orkney	9	1	8	100 / 100	100 / 100	0	0	0	0
Perth	223	205	1 8	82.06 / 82.06	72 / 72	10.06 %	3	5	-2
SAMS	16	11	5	100 / 100	100 / 100	0	1	0	1
Shetland	11	21	- 1 0	90.91 / 90.91	81 / 81	9.09 %	0	2	-2
Grand Total	573	515	5 8	479	414	65	13	23	-10



Training of student reps over a 2-year period

AP	25/26 Total	25/26 %	24/25 Total	24/25 %	+/-Total	+/- %
Argyll	14	70	7	44	7	26%
CfRHS	4	57.1	2	67	2	-9.80%
HTC	4	80	0	0	4	n/a
Inverness	55	48.25	75	62	-20	-15.75%
Moray	94	78.33	23	26	71	52.33%
NWH	21	45.65	16	33	5	25.65%
Orkney	1	10	1	100	0	90%
Perth	108	48.43	86	42	22	6.43%
SAMS	15	88.24	8	73	7	15.24%
Shetland	5	45.45	3	14	2	-31.45%
Total	321	57.15%	221	42.00%	100	13.00%





- As you can see from the previous 2 slides, there is a discrepancy in numbers between trained student voice reps and registered student voice reps, which with the new training, we are hoping to have more of an even level or registered and trained reps over the next academic year.
- This year, we will have in-person training for new SVR's and Brightspace modules for returning SVRs, as well as a module for the Student Learning Experience model.
- Returning reps can attend the new rep training as well as complete the Brightspace module, or they can simply complete the module.
- The in-person training now takes anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour.



Brightspace Modules



We have been developing different modules and will continue to work on the following over this academic year:

- Core (for new reps)
- Returning
- ESOL
- ASN
- Transformation
- Student Learning Experience Model
- TQEF

We are considering creating other modules including:

- Asking the right questions
- Meeting Skills
- SVR Experience for Employability
- Training based on study level (FE/HE/PG)
- Online SVR
- Apprentice SVR
- Students Rights





Our question to you is – what modules do you think would be beneficial for your students? Is there anything you've heard from previous reps that you think we could offer training wise?



Withdrawal from role



- We hope that all SVRs enjoy the role, but if they indicate that they are thinking of stepping down from the role, they follow these simple steps:
 - Reach out to their local HISA team to get an understanding of their reasons for stepping down. We may be able to support them in the role
 - If they are firm in their decision then they will need to tell their lecturer(s) so a new person can step up and work with HISA
- It doesn't matter why they are stepping down – sometimes it's more than they expected on top of studies and general life, we get it! We simply want to keep our records accurate (and so we don't send them SVR related emails)



Class visits and Feedback



- If you would like a class visit from your local HISA team, please do just send an email to rep.hisa@uhi.ac.uk and we will be happy to connect you to your local teams
- You can also find details of your local team through our [website](#)
- If you would like to give any feedback on the SVR system, you can let us know [here](#)



Staff Guide to SVRs



- We have a staff guide to SVRs on our website, which you can find [here](#) – you will find links to:
 - The role descriptor
 - Registration form
 - A quick guide to the SVR processes

