

A person is standing on a large, dark, textured rock formation, viewed from below. The person is wearing a dark jacket and shorts, and has their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. They are surrounded by trees with sparse, yellowing autumn leaves against a bright sky. The scene is backlit by the sun, creating a warm, golden glow.

# Student Partnership and Engagement Strategy

Academic Years 2021/22 – 2025/26

**UHI | INVERNESS**

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# Academic Years 2021/22 – 2025/26

## How to use this Strategy

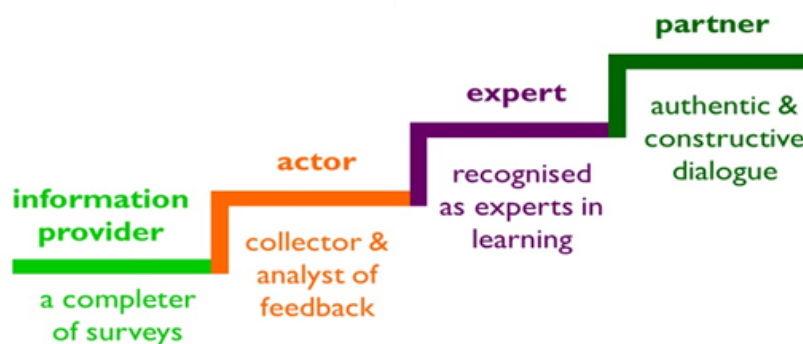
It is intended that this strategy will provide clear information to the Board of Management, staff, students and other stakeholders of UHI Inverness on our strategic approaches to working with students as partners in continuous improvement.

Staff should make use of this strategy when creating or amending policies and procedures, developing their quality enhancement plans and setting team objectives.

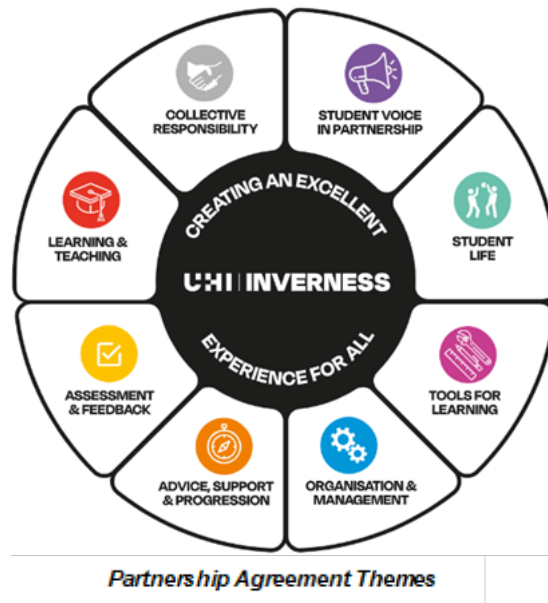
## Context

UHI Inverness recognises the importance of engaging with students as true partners in the goal of enhancing the quality of the student experience and continuous improvement. We recognise this means going beyond students simply giving feedback and instead involves engaging students in recognising any areas for development, in analysing data and evidence, and in identifying solutions and actions leading to improvement. The approaches support our way of working, where our students are empowered to work with us together as partners to achieve our shared goals.

### *Sparqs Student Partnership Staircase*



UHI Inverness recognises that students need to be actively involved on an equal basis in all aspects of our self-evaluation and improvement processes and to actively shape their experience across the student journey:



The strategy is underpinned by four objectives across the themes of:

- Supportive institution
- Influencing learning
- Culture of partnership and collective responsibility
- Supporting student representation

#### **Strategic Objective 1:**

**To ensure students feel part of a supportive institution maximising participation, transition, and progression**

We will achieve this by:

- Maintaining our partnership working with schools and external stakeholders to further enhance our transition planning arrangements ensuring all students are fully supported throughout their student journey.
- Further develop ways of communicating with applicants prior to admission, better identifying their needs, preparing them for their studies, and supporting their early student experience.
- Continuing to work with the students' association to ensure that the Highlands and Islands Student Association (HISA) are involved in welcoming new students during induction, providing them with information about being a member of HISA, the role of Student Voice Representatives, and wider student life.
- Providing students with a range of high-quality services that support their participation and success, including services related to funding, wellbeing, and learning support.
- Recognising and celebrating on-going student success in a variety of ways.

**Strategic objective 2:**

**To support students to engage and influence their own learning, developing the range of skills and attributes they need to be successful in work and life**

We will achieve this by:

- Providing the skills and opportunities for students to extend and enhance their learning through participation in activities such as peer review, structured reflection on progress and planning next steps.
- Providing opportunities for students to lead learning activities at all levels.
- Providing opportunities for students to feel empowered to reflect on and influence their learning.
- Embedding practice across the curriculum that supports the development of students' independence in learning.
- Providing high quality facilities and resources to support learning and skills development at curriculum and cross College levels.

**Strategic objective 3:**

**To develop a culture of partnership and collective responsibility among staff and students across the work and life of the college**

We will achieve this by:

- Further developing our partnership working with the students' association using the *Partnership Agreement* to steer collaboration on improvements across the student experience.
- Maintaining a variety of mechanisms to capture and analyse student views about their overall student experience, ensuring they are involved in identifying the areas for improvement and the actions required.
- Working with the students' association to ensure that Student Voice Representatives are recruited, prepared, and equipped to undertake their roles effectively.
- Supporting the students' association, to schedule and run effective Student Representative Council (SRC) meetings as a forum for students, the students' association, and UHI Inverness staff to engage with cross-college issues and facilitate open and productive discussion to support continuous improvement.

**Strategic objective 4:**

**To support student representation by ensuring compliance with quality and governance arrangements**

We will achieve this by:

- Continuing to support the students' association to maintain elections and democratic processes to underpin effective student representation at both class and college level.
- Continuing to provide support for the students' association elected officers and Student Voice Representatives (SVRs) to undertake their roles and responsibilities effectively,

including support to participate effectively in college forums, committees, and Board of Management.

- Providing informal and formal opportunities for students to liaise with the Principal and staff, while maintaining the independence and integrity of the student voice.
- Continuing to provide appropriate financial support and resources to the students' association
- Involving elected student representatives in key committees and on operational working groups to ensure the student voice contributes to and informs operational decision making.

### Key Performance Indicators

Our institutional key performance indicators are set annually and monitored against profiled targets on a monthly basis. KPI reports are accessible to all staff and are reviewed regularly by relevant Board committees, as a mechanism for monitoring progress against our strategies.

KPI Measures
Early Satisfaction & Engagement Survey (ESES)
National Student Survey (NSS) (previous AY)
Student Satisfaction & Engagement Survey (SSES)
Post Graduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)