



Tertiary Education Strategy

Academic Years 2021/22 – 2025/26

UHI | INVERNESS

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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 identified five strategic themes in its Strategic Plan 2022-2025. Each theme has a strategic aim and objectives that will inform operational planning throughout the strategic plan cycle. The five strategic themes are:

- Tertiary Education
- Organisational Development
- Research and Innovation
- Student Experience
- Finance & Sustainability

This Tertiary Education strategy aims to deliver an innovative, adaptive and flexible curriculum, capable of delivering the education and training needs for growing sector requirements in the region, and to address global and local challenges. The strategy for tertiary education shares a vision with the Research and Innovation strategy and this shared vision inspires the way we will deliver an ambitious, bold and creative learning environment.

Vision for the Tertiary Education and Research environment

We will be nationally and internationally recognised for impactful, interdisciplinary research and teaching in biodiversity, ecology, sustainability, culture, equity and social justice that informs innovative tertiary education. This will deliver on sustainable development goals which address the biodiversity and climate emergencies and empower communities across our region.

Our curriculum teams will work towards delivery of the strategy through PARCS:

Pathways

Creating innovative pathways to and through our tertiary curriculum, ensuring seamless progression and preparation for continuing and onward careers.

Academic Excellence

Developing an embedded culture of academic success through our quality enhancement approaches in evaluation, review and continuous improvement in all areas of our tertiary curriculum

Research Informed Curriculum

Embedding research and scholarship into the tertiary curriculum, offering routes for staff development and student engagement in research, and ensuring new discoveries and insights through research are enlivening and informing the curriculum at all levels.

Community

Ensuring opportunities for learning reach all people from our local communities and stakeholders

Sustainability

Providing innovative ways in which sustainability is an integral part of learning throughout our Tertiary curriculum

Strategic Aim:

To increase our reputation and reach by offering a progressive and accessible tertiary curriculum that is relevant and attractive to local, national and international students, and which enables personal development, economic growth and social cohesion.

Strategic Objective 1:

To become a destination of choice for local, national and international students, supporting inclusive sustainable development and encouraging inward investment.

We will achieve this by:

- Promoting diversity, inclusion and accessibility throughout our curriculum.
- Creating and informing through research excellence and knowledge exchange unique and high-profile discipline expertise.
- Continuing our active collaborations with sectors and employers ensure our students can contribute to development of sustainable economies.
- Ensuring our curriculum offer for senior phase school pupils is ambitious and creative and provides access to tertiary education.
- Growing our international student community through a unique curriculum offer and excellent student experience.

Strategic objective 2:

To engage with stakeholders to develop a tertiary curriculum which meets the emerging skills, employment and cultural needs of our communities

We will achieve this by:

- Working with our sector advisory groups to identify knowledge and skills gaps.
- Review and implementation of our sector development plans.
- Contributing to national and regional review of curriculum pathways.
- Embedding enterprise and entrepreneurship skills throughout our curriculum.
- Facilitating the growth of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships through our research centres and with sector stakeholders, identifying areas for emerging skills and education needs

- Ensuring that knowledge creation and exchange with our research Centres fully informs and enhances our vibrant and diverse curriculum

Strategic objective 3:

To deliver a stimulating and innovative tertiary curriculum, informed by research, professional best practice and a recognition of our changing world.

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring that excellent professional practice is embedded across our tertiary curriculum.
- Enabling our staff to engage in research and scholarship, informing our pedagogy and discipline knowledge.
- Being ambitious and bold in promoting the expertise and excellence of our research informed teaching.
- Delivering education and training that address the twin challenges of the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Strategic objective 4:

To continually evolve our tertiary curriculum, to provide flexible opportunities for life-long learning.

We will achieve this by:

- Annually reviewing and analysing the curriculum plan with data and modelling.
- Creating opportunities and pathways for training and education enabling our students to fulfil their ambitions.
- Promoting our curriculum, and enthusing communities and sectors with our ambitious, innovative and interdisciplinary approach to education and training.
- Embedding the principles and practice of sustainability throughout our curriculum.
- Ensuring our education and training delivery is flexible and adaptive to fit the needs of life-long learners.

Strategic objective 5:

To ensure that our tertiary curriculum equips every student with the attributes and skills, to support their success in learning, life and work

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring our learning pathways are inspiring and filled with opportunities for career enhancement and personal enrichment.

- Maintaining and developing a matrix of essential skills across our curriculum including in sustainability, critical analysis and circular economy.
- To embed the evolving needs of learners from our priority groups in all aspects of our curriculum planning and design.
- Enabling our students through their learning journey to connect and contribute to the heart of their communities.

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
HE Active applications (next AY - Measure from Dec - Jul)
FE Active applications (next AY - Measure from Dec - Jul)
FE Credits
Apprenticeship starts (contract year)
Apprentices in Learning (average in year)
Apprenticeship Income (Excluding T&A)
FWDF Income
Commercial Short Course Income
HE enrolments (head count)
HE enrolments (year one starts)
HE PPF FTE (from Oct)
FE progression to further FE study
FE progression to HE - actual
FE FT Engagement - Insight