



CHI | INVERNESS

A guide to HNCs for pupils going into sixth year

A wide selection of HNCs will open for applications in January 2026. Pupils going into sixth year in August 2026, who are likely to meet the necessary entry requirements, are welcome to apply.

Our HNC schools programme presents an exciting pathway to study. An HNC qualification is equivalent to studying three Advanced Highers or the first year of an undergraduate degree. For that reason, pupils should not commit to any other studies during their sixth year due to the commitment needed to complete an HNC over an academic year.

All HNCs are delivered in **person on campus** so pupils must be able to travel independently to Inverness on their timetabled days*

Subjects you can study at HNC level

HNC Accounting

HNC Contemporary Art Practice

HNC Acting and Performance

HNC Engineering Systems (Next Gen)

HNC Administration and Information Technology

HNC Fitness, Health and Exercise

HNC Applied Sciences

HNC Forestry

HNC Architectural Technology

HNC Social Science

HNC Business

HNC Soft Tissue

HNC Beauty Therapy

HNC Sports Coaching and Development

HNC Civil Engineering

HNC Visual Communication

HNC Computing

*Transport costs are not provided by UHI Inverness or Highland Council

Why study an HNC at UHI Inverness during sixth year?

- + Experience college life – study an HNC at our modern campuses, up to three days a week, during your sixth year at school.
- + Learn from the best – you can choose from a broad range of subjects taught by experts with industry experience.
- + Develop independent study skills and transition into university study techniques.
- + Get ahead early – you'll gain a qualification that's the equivalent of the first year of a degree before you leave school.
- + Broaden your options – an HNC is a great addition to your CV. Use it to go straight into a job, move onto an HND or progress to university study.
- + Fast track into uni – an HNC can gain you entry straight into an HND or into the second year of a degree at many universities, including UHI.
- + Open to all – our HNC courses are open to all Highland pupils starting sixth year in August 2026. You must be able to travel independently to campus for classes three days a week.
- + Stay connected with school – you'll still be part of your school community. You'll be able to stay in contact with classmates and take part in social activities.
- + Connect with industry – our links with industry will introduce you to employers and real-world work experiences. An HNC can also be the springboard into a Graduate Apprenticeship (work-based degree).
- + Proven success – an amazing 95% of the schools' pupils who studied an HNC with us in 2024/25 passed their course. More than half of them progressed onto university level study, many staying in UHI. Most of the remainder progressed into related employment.
- + Join a growing community – last year 21 school pupils gained an HNC at UHI Inverness. This year 27 pupils have enrolled on HNC courses and are loving their experiences so far.

Degree modules available to pupils going into sixth year in **August 2026**

If the HNC is not the right course for you, then UHI Inverness also has a choice of bite-sized part time degree modules that will prepare sixth year pupils for university study.

Degree module	Delivery schedule	Starting Semester
Introduction to Business Law	Face-to-face via Brightspace* Monday 1-3pm	Semester 1
Introduction to Enterprise and Marketing	Face-to-face via Brightspace* Monday 9-11am	Semester 1
Economics for Business	Face-to-face via Brightspace* Wednesday 1-3pm	Semester 1
Introduction to Financial Accounting	Face-to-face via Brightspace* Monday 9-11am	Semester 2
Introduction to Operations Management	Face-to-face via Brightspace* Wednesday 11-1pm	Semester 2
Introduction to Human Resource Management	Face-to-face via Brightspace* Monday 1-3pm	Semester 2
Early Childhood Philosophy and Practice	Online self-directed (study anytime)	Semester 2
Introduction to Health and Social Policy	Online self-directed (study anytime)	Semester 1
Psychology of Individual Differences	Online self-directed (study anytime)	Semester 2
Questions in Psychology	Online self-directed (study anytime)	Semester 1
Nature of Health	Online self-directed (study anytime)	Semester 1
Introduction to Architectural Technology	Face-to-face via Brightspace* Friday 9-1pm	Semester 1

* Brightspace is the university's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). All students will be able to access Brightspace once they have been enrolled on their units/modules.

Our academic year at UHI Inverness is split into two semesters.

- + Semester 1 runs from August (including inductions) through to the December break.
- + Semester 2 begins in January and continues until June.

For HNC Applicants:

Pupils who are applying for an HNC while at school are invited to attend one of two information and selection days.

Friday 6 March 2026, 3.30pm–4.30pm

Wednesday 27 May 2026, 2pm – 3pm

The information day is a great opportunity to ensure you are making the right choice. Meet lecturers and current students, ask questions you may have about the HNC, tour the campus and learn more about the course and department.

Important information: Please use the schools page on the UHI Inverness website (not the main course page) to make your application for an HNC. We are unable to transfer applications if they are made via the main course page.

For all students:

Open Evening | Wednesday 21 January, 4pm - 7pm

Open Evening (With Employers) | Wednesday 11 March 4pm - 7pm

Applicant and Information Day | Saturday 16 May, 10am to 2pm

If you are still undecided and require more information before choosing your path, all applicants and prospective students are welcome to come along.

For all Schools Programme options, **online applications open on Monday 12 January.**



Check our schools pages for further information about courses offered to S4 to S6 pupils.