

# University of the Highlands and Islands Graduation Video Script

**2021**

As Chancellor of the University of the Highlands and Islands, I would like to congratulate all of this year's graduates on successfully completing your studies. Almost two academic years of those studies have been done remotely and you have worked hard and shown great determination to get to where you are today.

Gaining qualifications always requires dedication, but again this year, students have faced additional challenges. As the Coronavirus pandemic swept across the world, all our lives changed in some way.

It has been a difficult and uncertain time for everyone, so I would like to commend the adaptability and creativity you have shown in completing your studies and the support to your fellow students, your friends, your family and your community.

Many of you volunteered in providing COVID information or volunteered in the frontline response. Adaptability, creativity and kindness are valuable attributes which will be particularly important as the world moves on from the challenges of this pandemic.

Graduation is a key milestone in a person's life, allowing you to reflect on our achievements.

And now is a good moment to take some time to reflect on your studies here and your achievements, no matter how small they may seem. Every contribution is significant.

This year is also an important year for our university. We have welcomed our new Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Todd Walker, and we are celebrating the university's tenth birthday. Our partnership now has the largest student population in Scotland, with nearly 40,000 students studying further and higher education courses with us each year.

The university was created to have a transformational impact on our region, economy, people and our communities, making the best use of technology to ensure the best delivery and experience of distance learning. I think we can be proud of the impact we've had across the Highlands and Islands. As graduates, you will play a vital role in supporting this mission, across our region and beyond.

As you begin a new chapter of your life, please go forward with confidence, knowing that all of us across the university partnership support you and wish you every success for the future.

Wherever life takes you, I encourage you to keep in touch with us in years to come. The university is always here for you, whether you are looking for career advice or thinking about another course to enhance your skills.

As a new member of our growing alumni community, you will always be part of the University of the Highlands and Islands family.

Congratulations and good luck.