



MRes Community Engagement

Full-time: 12 months

Part-time: 24 months

Subject area: Applied Social Sciences

Offered at UHI Inverness'

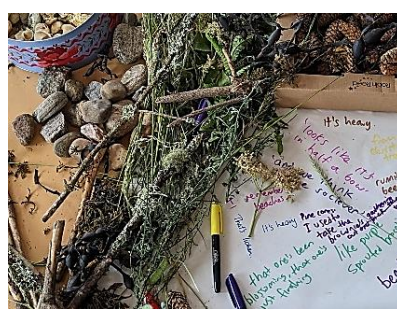
Centre for Living Sustainability

About the course

Community-engaged research is in increasing demand across public, private and third sectors as *place-based approaches* are crucial for sustainable development.

This timely research degree in applied social sciences will develop your capacity to work *with* local communities to address key issues for social and environmental sustainability.

Upon completion of this programme, you will be able to confidently design and manage socially responsive community-engaged research – a skillset in high demand for development practitioners, community workers, social researchers, and social policy analysts.



Programme structure

The main output on the MRes Community Engagement is a research thesis of up to 40,000 words. Your supervisory team will support you to develop your own community engaged research project and develop connections with relevant community organisations.

Flexible delivery – the programme can be followed on campus or by distance and is designed to meet busy schedules, while providing ample opportunity to engage with a vibrant group of researchers, community representatives, and professionals. Students following the programme on campus or visiting the region will have access to in-person networking events and desk space at UHI Inverness.

The programme includes an optional taught module delivered on campus:

Participatory social research and sustainability: Concepts, methods and practice (20 credits, SCQF 11) led by Prof. Vicky Johnson.

In this module you will develop confidence facilitating place-based processes and gain hands-on skills with tools and practices for community-engaged research. Learning activities include Action Learning Project sets, training workshops and practice with facilitation techniques and case studies.

Course content

Students will develop their own learning profile and area of specialisation, drawing on a wide range of expertise at the Centre for Living Sustainability.

Topic areas include:

- local economic development
- environmental management
- child and youth rights
- digital inclusion
- equitable social services
- well-being and identity
- creative economy

You will have access to a wealth of online learning materials, bespoke training from specialists in your chosen field, and a seminar series connecting you with socially engaged researchers and professionals.



Why study with us?

UHI Inverness is one of the largest partners of the University of the Highlands and Islands, a partnership of 12 colleges and research institutions comprising Scotland's newest university. UHI Inverness is at the heart of the community. Working closely with businesses and stakeholders, our curriculum and research capacity is designed to support the strengths and ambitions of the region. The Centre for Living Sustainability situated at the Inverness Campus works with underrepresented communities across the Highlands and Islands and internationally to amplify their voices. Researchers at the Centre take an interdisciplinary and creative approach to research and innovation to understand complexity, change and uncertainty.

Programme staff at the Centre for Living Sustainability have years of experience at the forefront of community engagement theory and practice. We partner with community organisations in the Highlands and Islands and globally, with well-established connections across a range of fields, including farming and land management, youth empowerment, health and social services, and cultural heritage. Our international fieldwork locations span South Africa, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Japan, Canada, Italy, France, Brazil, Argentina, among others.

Why an MRes - Masters by Research?

Gaining your masters through research allows you to focus on a specialist area and build on the existing knowledge of your subject, developing transferable skills that will put you in a strong position for further research study and your future career. Research degrees at masters level involve independent in-depth study, working on a research topic of your own choice, or a pre-defined project. You can dive into a subject you are passionate about.

You will collaborate with an expert supervisory team who will provide support as you enhance your research skills, write your thesis, and prepare for your oral examination (viva voce). This programme will equip you with the skills needed to confidently conduct community engaged research, important for careers in local development, community work, and social research and policy analysis. This degree also provides a strong basis for further academic work, and the hands-on research experience you will gain through this programme will bolster your application for funded PhD studentships, such as our PhD Sustainability programme connected with the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences.

When can I start?

This research degree can be started at any point throughout the year. You will develop and follow a personalised training plan with your supervisory team.

Students will have opportunity to network with academics at the Centre for Living Sustainability and their peers at a synchronous seminar offered each semester.

Tuition fees

www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/how-much-will-it-cost/research-postgraduate-tuition-fees/

Entry requirements

- A master's degree at postgraduate level of a University in the United Kingdom or equivalent, or
- A first or upper second-class honours degree of a University in the United Kingdom or equivalent, or
- Other qualifications or experience that, in the opinion of the Research Degrees Committee and upon the recommendation of the Academic Partner Principal (or equivalent), affords sufficient evidence of their availability to benefit and study at the academic level required.

Candidates for whom English is not their first language will need to have IELTS of overall score of 6.5 or higher, with no element below 6.0.

Application process

Contact the Programme Leader, **Dr Sarah Wagner (sarah.wagner.ic@uhi.ac.uk)** for more information.

The first step will be to develop a short research proposal (approx. 300 words) outlining your research interests in community engagement, and a specific topic you would like to undertake for your MRes project.

Following an informal interview to discuss your research interests you will then work with programme staff to develop a full research proposal for submission to the Research Degrees Committee.