UHI | ARGYLL

Where learning means more

Tarbert Academy



Study at college while at school



Welcome to UHI Argyll

UHI Argyll works closely with local authorities, our partners and secondary schools to deliver a wide range of qualifications to school pupils.
Senior phase pupils in S4, S5 and S6 can study a College course as part of your normal school timetable.

Our aim is to ensure young people have access to work-relevant educational experience to enable them to make informed and ambitious choices about the career route that's right for them.

Our courses help you progress in your chosen career path by developing life and work skills.

They aim to: -

- broaden your curriculum choices
- enrich your educational experiences
- help you to develop knowledge and skills for employment and further study, such as analysing and problem solving
- help ease your transition from school to further learning or employment
- help you with life skills such as responsibility, attendance, punctuality and independent travel

Types of study

UHI Argyll is different from traditional universities and colleges.

We offer highly flexible, multi-level access to further and higher education. That means it's easy to join and leave at just about any stage in your academic, professional or personal journey.

No matter how many semesters or years you spend at UHI Argyll, each course you take will offer a clear pathway for progression to the next level, or to the world of work.

Further education (FE)

+ FE includes courses with a strong work focus, like National Qualifications (NQs), National Certificates (NCs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs). NQs and NCs prepare students for work and act as stepping-stones to higher education, while SVQs provide opportunities to gain qualifications while in work.

Higher education (HE)

+ HE is the term for study beyond school and FE level. HE courses include Higher National Certificates and Diplomas, and BA, BSc and BEng Honours degrees.
+ If you have the right entry qualifications you can go straight into an HE course with us, but if you need to, you can take an FE course first to prepare.

Skills for Work (SfW)

+ These courses focus on employability skills needed for success in the workplace. The courses offer learners opportunities to learn these skills through a variety of practical experiences that are linked to vocational areas. Skills for Work courses help young people to develop their self-confidence. They also aim to provide a very positive learning experience. A chance to work on practical skills that relate to the world of work provides real benefits to learners.

Study modes

Face to Face

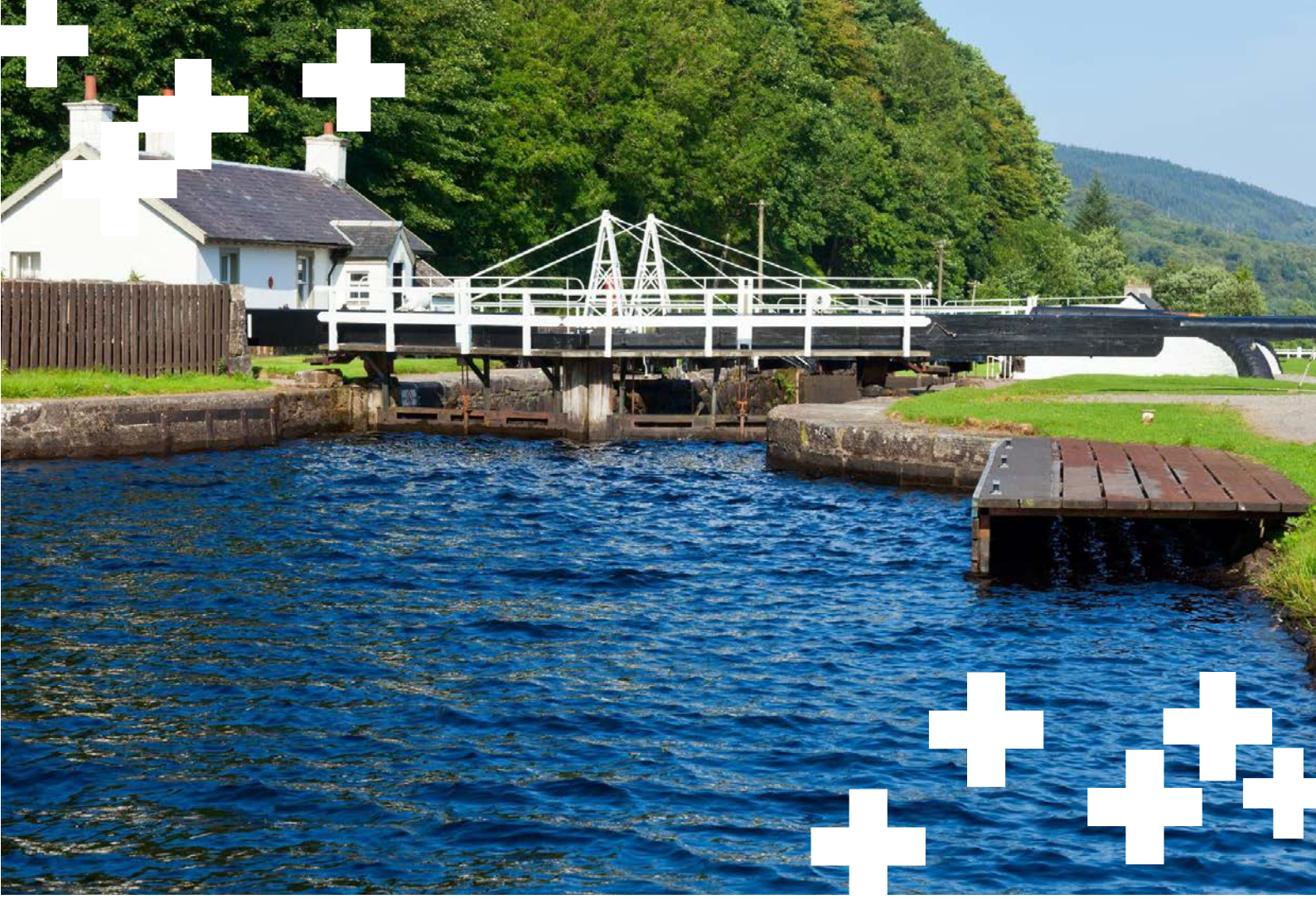
+ These classes are face to face on campus by a lecturer with student participation.
+ Depending on which course you may come to your local college centre or take your class in your school building.

Online

+ Pupils learn through online study, supported by lecturers usually in a 'live' online timetabled class in our virtual learning environment.

Blended

+ Pupils learn through a combination of online and face to face delivery. Online may be via video conference tutorials with a lecturer and/or online study via our virtual learning environment Brightspace.



Types of courses

If you're still at school, UHI Argyll could help you get a head start into further or higher education, or the world of work.

Our Senior Phase Programme allows school students in S4, 5 or 6 to study with us.

You could access a subject that's not available at your school, try out a course for size, or do a Foundation Apprenticeship (available for S5 and S6) alongside your Nationals and Highers.

If you're about to leave school you might be thinking of studying for a degree, or taking a shorter course which will help you enter the world of work. We offer a flexible structure in most subjects - so you can begin with a one-year NC course, for example, then progress to HNC, HND or degree level study if it's right for you.

Full time courses generally require you to attend classes for about 20 hours a week, though subjects vary.

We also offer a Modern Apprenticeship programme, where students study towards nationally recognised qualifications while in work.

In some areas we also offer access and introduction courses that can help you make the leap from school to college or university.

Advanced studies

Pupils moving into S6 now have greater choice and flexibility over subjects to study.

Along with our partners across UHI, there are a wide range of Degree Level Modules available to you that can be studied at anytime from anywhere.

These modules are fully online and will be delivered from one of twelve institutions that make up the University of the Highlands and Islands.

You will have a dedicated Personal Academic Tutor who is available for course support throughout your studies.



This is a great opportunity to experience university level study before taking the leap from school into Higher education.

Make your UCAS application stand out or help build your CV if moving onto employment.

National 5 and Highers

+ S5 and S6 pupils can apply for National 5 and Higher courses at College that may not be available on their school curriculum.

National Progression Award (NPA)

+ Delivered by partnerships between schools, colleges and employers, NPAs assess skills in specialist vocational areas like construction, childcare and digital literacy.
+ They also link to National Occupational Standards, which are the basis of SVQs.

Foundation Apprenticeships (FA)

+ These aim to give young person experience of the world of work and gain industry knowledge while you're still at school. There are various subjects to choose from and all were designed in partnership with employers.

Professional Development Awards (PDA)

+ PDAs are flexible qualifications and can be used to either extend or broaden professional and vocational skills.

Degree Modules

+ These courses give you a taste of what studying at degree level is like by allowing you to study a module from one of our degree courses.

Short courses

+ As a learning hub for the whole Argyll community, we offer a wide range of short courses to help local people and businesses attain their immediate goals, for work and for life.
+ These courses include First Aid, IT skills and more.

Entry requirements and progression routes

Some courses have specific entry requirements. Entry to all other courses will be based on your application form and/or interview.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The SCQF Framework allows you to compare levels across different awards, build a progression route to your desired qualification, and transfer credit from one award to another.

For more information please visit the SCQF website at: www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework.

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12				Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11				Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10				Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9			Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher				Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5				Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award		SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3				
2	National 2, Awards				
1	National 1, Awards				

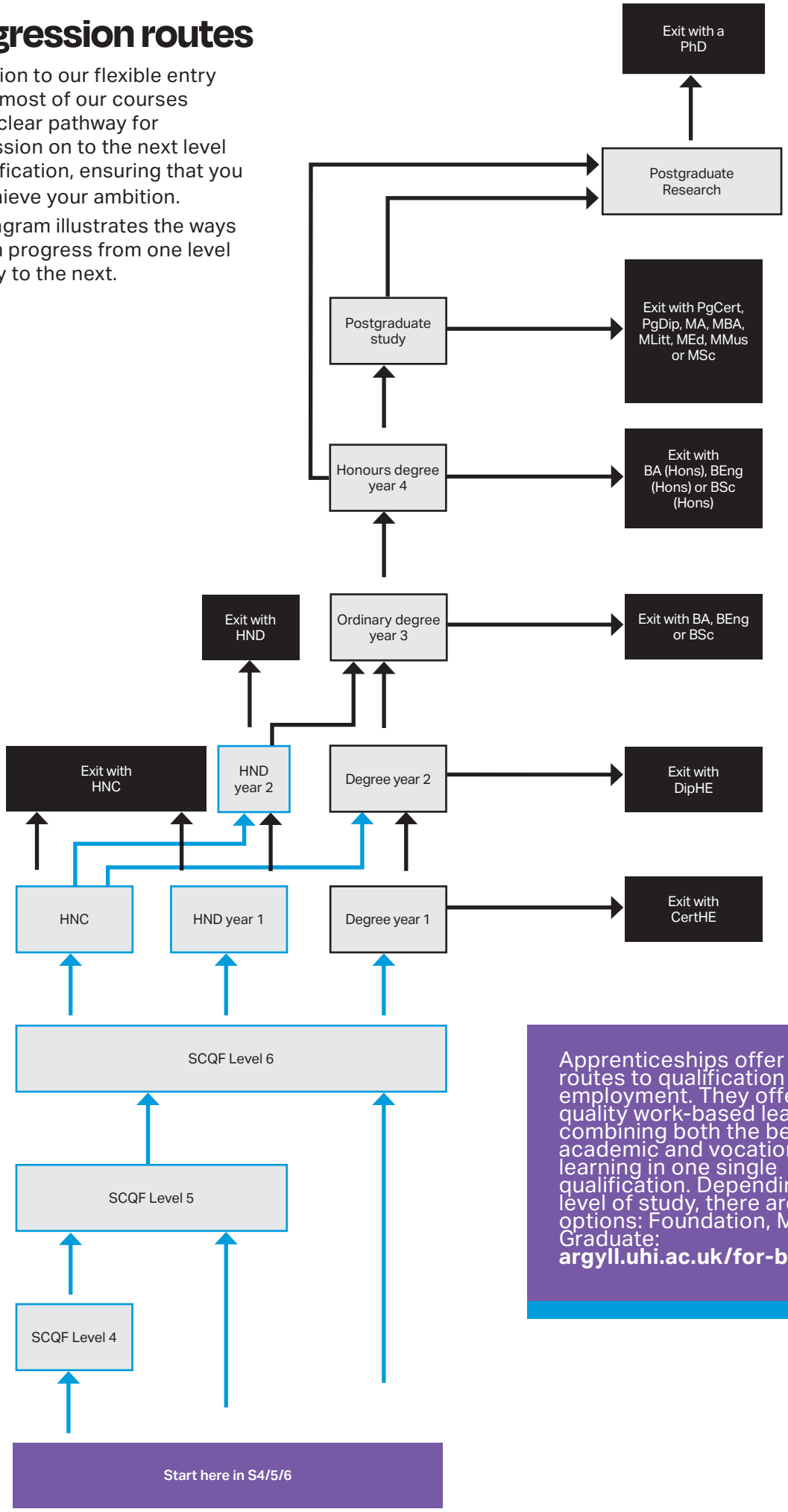
Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)

The SQA is the public body responsible for accrediting educational awards in Scotland. The table shows the levels and credit points for SQA units, courses and group awards.

Progression routes

In addition to our flexible entry points, most of our courses offer a clear pathway for progression on to the next level of qualification, ensuring that you can achieve your ambition.

This diagram illustrates the ways you can progress from one level of study to the next.



Apprenticeships offer alternative routes to qualification and employment. They offer high quality work-based learning, combining both the best of academic and vocational learning in one single qualification. Depending on your level of study, there are three options: Foundation, Modern and Graduate:
argyll.uhi.ac.uk/for-business

Computing & Digital

NPA Cyber Security

SCQF Level 5

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

This course will raise your awareness of cyber security. You will improve your cyber hygiene and enable you to identify security weaknesses safely, legally, and ethically.

What units will I study?

- Data Security
- Digital Forensics
- Ethical Hacking

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 4 qualifications, one of which must be English. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

Assessments will be undertaken throughout the course and will require written submissions, open and/or closed book assessments conducted under exam conditions.

Where will it take me?

Once you have successfully completed the course, you may wish to consider the PDA at SCQF Level 7 in Cyber Resilience.

SCQF Credit Points 18

NPA Computer Games Development

SCQF Level 6

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

This course will introduce you to the concepts and fundamental principles of digital game planning and design, helping you understand the differences between a range of gaming platforms, environments and genres.

As you explore the role of the games designer, you will plan and design a level for a digital game while learning about the media assets required for game development and how to create them for use within a development environment.

You will also gain an understanding of the processes involved in the final stages of development, using your chosen game development environment to bring all elements together into a working game.

Finally, you will learn about evaluation techniques before planning, creating and delivering a promotional activity.

What units will I study?

+ Computer Games: Design
+ Computer Games: Development
+ Computer Games: Media Assets

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 5 qualifications, preferably including a computing, administration or IT subject. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

You will be assessed on a portfolio of your work which you will compile as you undertake this course.

Where will it take me?

Successful completion of this award could count towards an NC Computing with Digital Media or eventually HNC in Interactive Media or support your application into direct employment within the Web Development Sector.

SCQF Credit Points 18

NPA Creative & Digital Media

SCQF Level 6

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

The NPA in Creative and Digital Media is about creativity from day one. You'll respond to real creative briefs, pitch your own ideas, build mood boards the way designers do for clients, and shoot and edit short-form video.

You'll also write creative briefs yourself, so you learn to think like the person commissioning the work, not just the person making it.

You'll hear directly from people who do this for a living. Previous guest speakers include a TikTok creator, a YouTuber, a videographer and a digital marketer, sharing how they got started, what the work is really like, and what they look for in new talent.

Whether you're aiming for film, TV, games, publishing or social media, this is where you start building a portfolio, and the confidence to use it.

What units will I study?

+ Creative industries: an introduction - Scotland
+ Storytelling for the creative industries
+ Understanding the creative process
+ Understanding a creative brief

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 5 qualifications, preferably including a computing, administration or IT subject. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

You will be assessed on a portfolio of your work which you will compile as you undertake this course.

Where will it take me?

On completion of this course, you may progress onto HNC or HND in Digital Media

SCQF Credit Points 30

FA Creative & Digital Media

SCQF Level 6

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

The Foundation Apprenticeship takes everything from the NPA and puts it to work. You'll work on live projects for real clients, so what you make actually gets used.

You'll write social media posts and design the images that go with them, create posters for live events, and edit video content for clients to publish. You'll come up with ideas for physical products sold online, and pitch creative plans to businesses showing how they could improve their social media.

Projects are completed in class, with support, so you get real client experience without it taking over your life outside college.

If you've got an idea of your own, we'll back it. Entrepreneurship is encouraged here, and some students go on to create and market their own digital product.

Whether you're heading for film, TV, games, publishing or social media, you'll finish with a portfolio of published work for real businesses, which is what employers and universities actually want to see.

What units will I study?

- Work effectively with others in the creative industries
- Ensure responsibility for actions to reduce risks to health and safety
- Communicate using marketing/sales channels
- Use digital and social media in marketing campaigns
- Edit audio and video material
- Media project
- Foundation Apprenticeship certification unit

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 5 qualifications, preferably including a computing, administration or IT subject. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

Assessments will be undertaken throughout the course and will require written submissions, observations of you participating in (mock) workplace scenarios and open and/or closed book assessments conducted under exam conditions.

Where will it take me?

On completion of this course, you may progress onto HNC or HND in Digital Media

SCQF Credit Points 63

Business

NPA Business & Marketing

SCQF Level 5

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

This NPA (National Progression Award) provides knowledge and skills in Business and Marketing. It covers areas like market research, promotion, event organisation, customer care, and selling skills. It's directly relevant to current practices and will enhance your understanding of the business sector.

What units will I study?

- Understanding Business
- Management of People and Finance
- PC Passport: IT Software — Word Processing and Presenting Information
- PC Passport: IT Software —Web Apps: Spreadsheets

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 4 qualifications, one of which must be English. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

Assessments will be undertaken throughout the course and will require written submissions and observations of you participating in (mock) workplace scenarios.

Where will it take me?

- Foundation Apprenticeship in Business Skills - at school
- Modern Apprenticeship in Business and Administration – work-based

SCQF Credit Points 30

Aquaculture

NPA Aquaculture

SCQF Level 4

What skills will you gain?

This course will give you a broad introduction to aquaculture in Scotland and will give you the aquaculture and employability skills, knowledge and qualification you need for progression to an apprenticeship in aquaculture.

Topics covered include Fish species identification and the environments in which they can be farmed. Impacts of aquaculture on communities. Fish dissection and anatomy.

Fish holding and husbandry techniques. Fishing and fish processing methods.

Business and marketing of aquaculture companies. Preparation for, completion of and review of an aquaculture work placement.

The course will include at least three visits to local aquaculture sites.

What units will I study?

- North European Aquaculture: An Introduction
- Aquatic Environment: Local Investigation
- Aquaculture: An Introduction to Finfish Production
- Scottish Sea Fisheries: An Introduction
- Business and Marketing: An Introduction
- Establishing a Business Identity
- Work Placement

Entry requirements

You should be able to demonstrate previous successful independent study at SCQF level 3.

You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

A mixture of written and practical with assessment being ongoing throughout the year.

Where will it take me?

- Modern Apprenticeship in Aquaculture

SCQF Credit Points 24

Construction

FA Construction

SCQF Level 4

What skills will you gain?

You'll learn a broad range of hands-on, practical skills and gain an understanding what is required within a trade or technician background to enable you to decide if a career in construction could be for you.

What units will I study?

- Understanding Industry
- Personal Development: Self and Work
- Carpentry and Bench Joinery: An Introduction
- Painting and Decorating: An Introduction
- Brickwork: An Introduction
- Construction Operatives: An Introduction & Employability skills
- Work Based skills

Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for this course.

How will I be assessed

Assessments will be undertaken throughout the course based on observations of you carrying out practical tasks, and your written and verbal responses to questions

Where will it take me?

- A Modern Apprenticeship in Construction

SCQF Credit Points 21

Social Sciences

Psychology

National 5

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

Psychology is defined as 'the scientific study of the mind and behaviour'. Assessment is by exam which is worth 70% of your marks. The question paper will allow you to demonstrate the following skills knowledge and understanding: psychological concepts, theories and terminology; explain human behaviour; using research evidence to explain human behaviour; interpret basic descriptive statistics in psychological research, including the ability to calculate the mean, median and mode. The assignment which is worth 30% of your final mark requires you to produce a report based on background research on a topic in psychology. You are not required to carry out the research for this assignment.

What units will I study?

+ Individual behaviour
+ Research
+ Social Issues

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 4 qualifications, one of which must be English. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

You are required to submit a project assignment in April which will be worth 30% of your total mark, and undertake a formal written exam at the end of the course worth 70% of the overall mark.

Where will it take me?

On completion of this course, you may progress onto:

+ Higher Psychology
+ Further study in other academic and vocational subjects

SCQF Credit Points 24



Higher Sociology

SCQF Level 6

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

An understanding of society through gaining knowledge and understanding of sociological perspectives, theories and concepts.

The ability to challenge common-sense explanations about human social behaviour using sociological understanding and evidence.

An understanding of cultural and social diversity, including the significance of relationships among individuals, groups and institutions in a changing social world.

An understanding of the role of sources of information, research evidence and research methods used in sociology.

Research skills, including the ability to select, organise, analyse and evaluate information and thinking and communication skills used in sociology.

What units will I study?

+ Human Society
+ Culture and identity
+ Social Issues

Entry requirements

You must already have Higher English, plus three National 5 qualifications which would ideally include Nat 5 Psychology. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

Assessments will be undertaken throughout the course and will require written submissions.

Where will it take me?

Higher Sociology is suitable preparation for entry to higher education courses in Social Sciences or further study in other academic and vocational subjects.

SCQF Credit Points 24

Higher Psychology

SCQF Level 6

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

Psychology is defined as 'the scientific study of the mind and behaviour'. As well as a basic interest in human behaviour, you should have a basic grasp of scientific principles and the ability to analyse and evaluate theories and research studies. Assessment will involve describing relevant knowledge, analysing and evaluating this knowledge in terms of its scientific content, practical applications, ethical considerations etc. You will design an experiment/non-experiment based on a SQA candidate brief and write up a research report. This is worth 40% of the final mark and is marked externally. There is also a requirement to complete one piece of practical coursework.

What units will I study?

+ Individual Behaviour
+ Research
+ Social Behaviour

Entry requirements

You must already have Higher English, plus three National 5 qualifications which would ideally include Nat 5 Psychology. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

You are required to submit a project assignment in April which will be worth 40% of your total mark, and undertake a formal written exam at the end of the course worth 60% of the overall mark.

Where will it take me?

Higher Psychology is suitable preparation for entry to higher education courses in psychology or further study in other academic and vocational subjects.

SCQF Credit Points 24

Health & Social care

Health Sector

National 5

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

The Health Sector is one of the largest employers in the country and provides employment opportunities through a varied range of disciplines. Primary and secondary care in the NHS are the most common routes to employment, but this course will cover other areas such as complementary therapies, the retail pharmaceutical industry and the community and voluntary sectors.

You will learn about the services provided by the Health Sector in your local area, the life sciences industry and their role in the diagnosis and treatment of illness, the importance of promoting a healthy lifestyle and the structure and function of the cardiovascular system.

You will also look at the health and safety risks to workers in the Health Sector and learn about the range and diversity of careers in non-clinical roles in the Health Sector.

What units will I study?

+ Working in the Health Sector
+ Life Sciences Industry and the Health Sector
+ Improving Health and Wellbeing
+ Physiology of the Cardiovascular System
+ Working in Non-Clinical Roles

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 4 qualifications, one of which must be English. You will be invited for an interview.

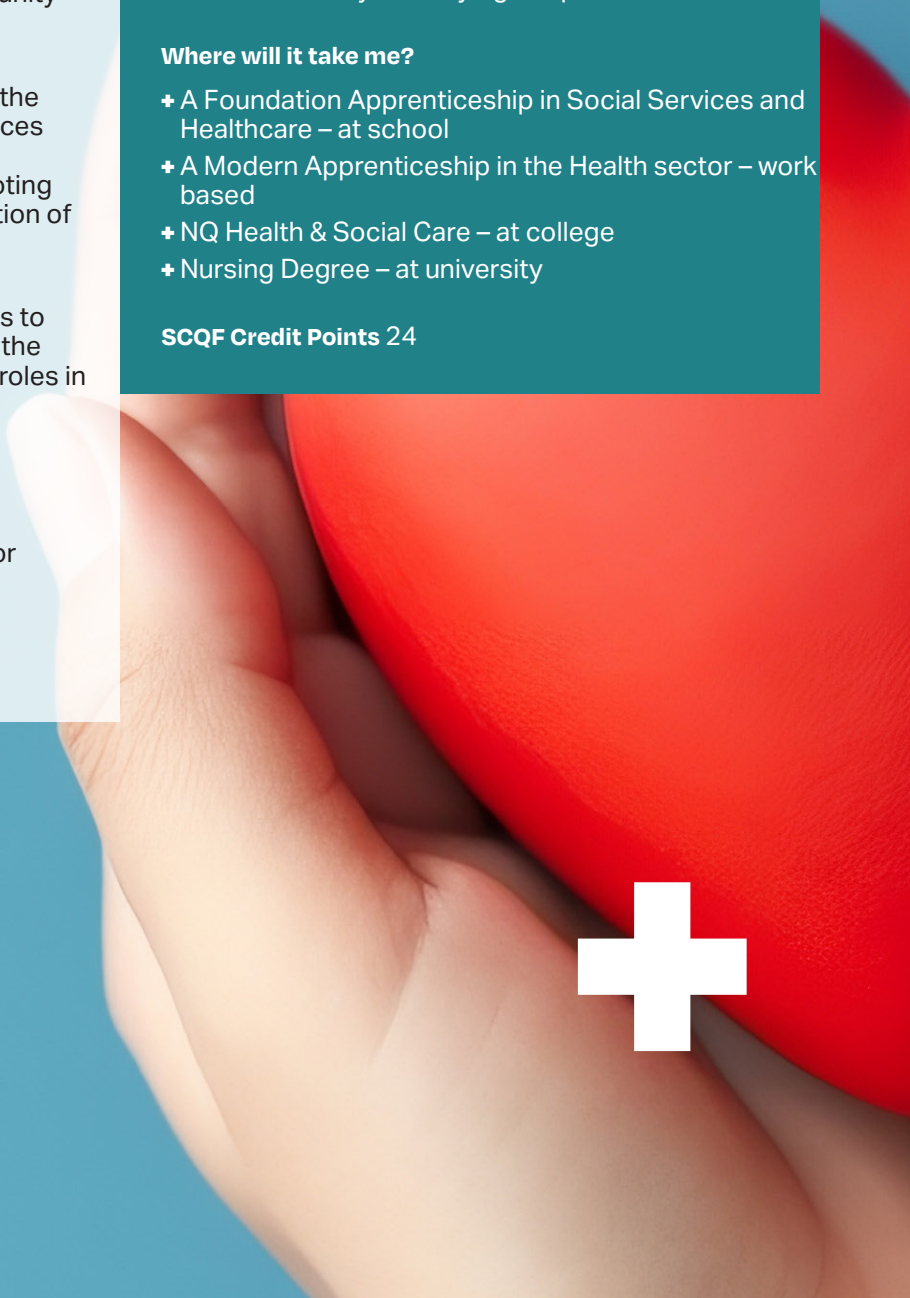
How will I be assessed

Assessments will be undertaken throughout the course and will require written submissions and observations of you carrying out practical tasks.

Where will it take me?

+ A Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services and Healthcare – at school
+ A Modern Apprenticeship in the Health sector – work based
+ NQ Health & Social Care – at college
+ Nursing Degree – at university

SCQF Credit Points 24



FA Social Services and Healthcare

SCQF Level 6

ONLINE

What skills will you gain?

The care sector has one of the fastest growing workforces in Scotland with over 199,600 social service workers in Scotland today working in a range of settings. One in 13 people employed in Scotland work in social services.

There are many different career opportunities and career pathways across this range of settings. Job roles in adult services include personal assistant, care assistant, support worker, supervisor, senior care worker, team leader, care home manager, centre manager and service manager.

Social Services offer a challenging and rewarding career providing support and help to people who need it, helping them to live full and valued lives in the community.

What units will I study?

- Social Services in Scotland
- Safeguarding People
- Communication in Care Relationships
- Safe Practice and Wellbeing in Social Services
- Human Development and Social Influences

Entry requirements

You should already have three National 5 qualifications, one of which must be English. You will be invited for an interview.

How will I be assessed

Assessments will be undertaken throughout the course and will require written submissions, observations of you participating in (mock) workplace scenarios and open and/or closed book assessments conducted under exam conditions.

Where will it take me?

Successful completion of the Foundation Apprenticeship could provide progression to advanced entry to a Modern Apprenticeship in Social Services and Healthcare.

SCQF Credit Points 61

Schools Link Student of the Year

UHI Argyll is proud to announce the winners of the 2026 Schools Link Student of the Year Awards, recognising exceptional achievement, commitment, and personal growth across our partner schools and subject areas. The awards celebrate young people who have embraced college-level learning while still at school, developing confidence, practical skills, and a clearer sense of their future pathways.

Schools Link courses offer pupils the chance to broaden their horizons, experience new subjects, and strengthen applications for further study or employment. This year's winners represent the very best students across our region, showing dedication, resilience, and a positive influence on their classmates and learning environments.

Congratulations to all of the Schools Link Student of the Year nominees

Alicia Bell, Dunoon Grammar

Morgan Brownlee, Islay High School (Winner)

Chloe Cowan, Lochgilphead Joint Campus

Roxanne Devlin, Lochgilphead Joint Campus

Blair Gillies, Lochgilphead Joint Campus

Jayden Hall, Oban High School

Lily Keir, Arran High School

Indie Lush, Lochgilphead Joint Campus

Cortana MacDonald, Dunoon Grammar

Rhys McCloskey, Tarbert Academy

Neith McKellar, Lochgilphead Joint Campus

Anya McNeillie, Campbeltown Grammar

Anzhelika Mohammad, Rothesay Academy

Corran Muir, Islay High School

Bethan Neil, Oban High School

Emma Walker, Oban High School

Ivor Warren, Dunoon Grammar

Morgan Brownlee

Schools Link Student of the Year 2026



Schools Link Student of the Year
Morgan Brownlee

Morgan Brownlee has been awarded UHI Argyll's Overall Schools Link Student of the Year 2026, standing out in a highly competitive field of students from across Argyll and Bute, and Arran. Nominated by his lecturer, Craig Walker, Morgan studied both the Skills for Work Rural Skills National 4 and Construction Craft and Technician NPA Level 4.

Having moved to Islay only recently, Morgan has settled into college life exceptionally well, quickly becoming a valued member of his class and a natural leader among his peers. He consistently produces work of an outstanding academic standard, demonstrating a strong work ethic, intellectual curiosity, and clear potential for further study.

Alongside his academic achievements, Morgan is known for his positive attitude, maturity, and willingness to support those around him. He approaches his studies with enthusiasm and determination, treating staff and fellow students with kindness, respect, and consideration. His encouragement of others and ability to lead by example have helped create a supportive and welcoming learning environment.

Morgan's commitment to excellence, combined with his thoughtful and community minded approach, has made a lasting impression on classmates and lecturers alike. He is a highly deserving recipient of this award and an excellent ambassador for the Schools Link programme.

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