

**UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS (UHI)
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
PART ONE**

BETWEEN

ARGYLL COLLEGE UHI

HIGHLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE LIMITED

INVERNESS COLLEGE UHI

LEWS CASTLE COLLEGE UHI

MORAY COLLEGE UHI

NORTH HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI

ORKNEY COLLEGE UHI

PERTH COLLEGE UHI

SABHAL MOR OSTAIG

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE SCIENCE

SHETLAND UHI

WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

31ST JANUARY 2022

The University of the Highlands and Islands is an integrated university encompassing both further and higher education. We are not a traditional university. We are different. We are part of a new breed of tertiary institutions, the only one in Scotland and one of only a few in Europe.

Serving the communities of the Highlands and Islands, Moray and Perthshire, our distinctive partnership of independent colleges and research institutions is locally based and rooted in communities, but with national and international reach, as part of a regional university structure.

We have approximately 40,000 students enrolled across our partnership and we are measured by their success. Our curriculum portfolio across both further and higher education is designed to meet current and future local and regional needs and to attract other students to the region to study.

We the undersigned have agreed to enter into this Agreement to set out our intention to collaborate as members of the University of the Highlands and Islands Partnership and agree on the fundamental principles which underpin our respective rights and responsibilities to each other, and to identify our aims and aspirations for the future development and success of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

This Agreement includes:

- (a) the principles of our partnership.
- (b) the mutual responsibilities of the members of the University of the Highlands and Islands Partnership and their expectations of each other; and
- (c) the aims and aspirations of the members for the future development and success of the University of the Highlands and Islands Partnership

Part One of this agreement is not intended to be legally binding or to create enforceable legal rights between the members.

The Principles of Our Partnership:

We believe that our reputation is built on our innovative approach to learning and our distinctive research and curriculum that is enriched by the people, natural environment, economy, culture and heritage of our region and its communities. Accordingly, we have collectively agreed and are committed to operating in accordance with the following principles:

1. To work together to have a transformational impact on the prospects of our region, its economy, its people, and its communities.
2. To adhere to the following CORE values:
 - (a) Collaboration – We will encourage our staff to work willingly and actively with colleagues across the partnership on common tasks in order to build a more connected, streamlined and sustainable university partnership.
 - (b) Openness – We will be transparent and accountable for our actions and decisions, and we will create an environment within which colleagues and student’s voices are heard and contributions are valued.
 - (c) Respect – We will value others’ opinions, perspectives and backgrounds and we will focus attention on positive engagement and constructive challenge to develop a successful partnership that provides opportunities for all.
 - (d) Excellence – We will strive for excellence in everything we do and we will collectively celebrate the achievements of our partners, our staff our students and our graduands.
3. To uphold the values of being a single institution and not create internal competition amongst ourselves with third party organisations or stakeholders.
4. To proactively seek opportunities to work smarter, to implement efficiencies and share resources and or invest in projects to ensure that the University Partnership is financially sustainable and socially responsible.
5. To be a regionally focussed all-inclusive tertiary institution, offering all learners the opportunity to participate in the full range of further and higher education qualifications from access level to PhD.
6. To create a culture of sharing and exchange with each other with the aim of enhancing our learners experience at every point and to improve the partnership for mutual benefit.
7. To actively pursue the development and implementation of consistent and shared practices in relation to our students and services and to strive to deliver an excellent and equitable experience for all our learners whatever their study mode and wherever they choose to study from.

8. To actively pursue the development and implementation of shared practices and professional development opportunities for our staff, and to connect and empower staff to work with colleagues across the partnership and to promote the success of the University partnership for the benefit of our learners and the communities we serve.
9. To enhance our research impact within a progressive environment that delivers world-class research across a wide range of disciplines.
10. To actively participate in community planning, contributing to reduced inequality, improved services, enhanced training and skills development and the promotion of sustainable and socially responsible economic growth throughout our region and beyond.
11. To utilise points 1-10 to enhance our impact within a progressive environment that recognises, supports and celebrates all, irrespective of individual or group identity (eg. gender, race, belief, disability, sexual orientation).

1. Chair of Argyll College UHI	
2. Chair of Highland Theological College	
3. Chair of Inverness College UHI	
4. Chair of Lews Castle College UHI	
5. Chair of Moray College UHI	
6. Chair of North Highland College UHI	
7. Chair of Orkney College UHI	
8. Chair of Perth College UHI	
9. Chair of Sabhal Mor Ostaig	
10. Chair of Scottish Association for Marine Science	
11. Chair of Shetland UHI	
12. Chair of West Highland College UHI	
13. Chair of the University of the Highlands and Islands	