

UHI | ORKNEY



Senior Phase Brochure 2025-26

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INTRODUCTION

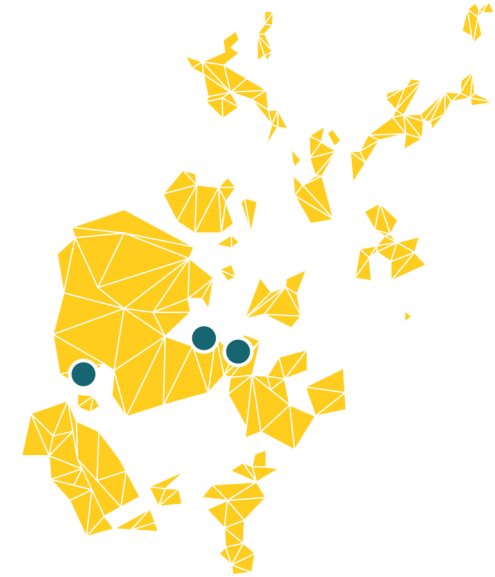
UHI Orkney delivers a variety of options, which comprise part of The Orkney Offer. The Orkney Offer is a diet of programmes, awards and units which allow you to personalise your learning pathway during the senior phase and where possible, combine part of your week out of school at both UHI Orkney and in the workplace.

Realise your potential at UHI ORKNEY

+ www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk



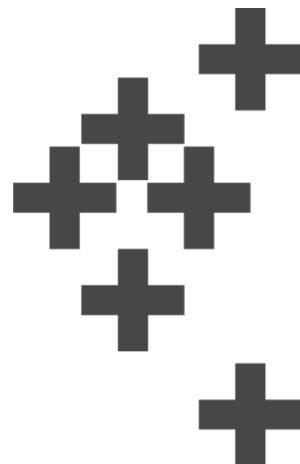
We are delighted that you are considering the Senior Phase options available to you from UHI Orkney and hope that there is a course in this booklet, which is of interest. We welcome the opportunity to discuss more fully the options available – please do get in touch to arrange an appointment.



(01856) 569 000 — info.orkney@uhi.ac.uk



scottish credit and
qualifications framework



The Scottish education system has changed over the years, and the SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) can help you understand and compare the wide range of Scottish qualifications. It covers programmes in school, college, university and in the workplace.

Throughout this brochure, you will see the **SCQF level** of each course. This may help you decide which learning programme is most suitable for you at this stage.

For more information on the SCQF, visit:



[Support for Secondary School Learners](#)



[Get to know the SCQF: A guide for parents and carers](#)

The image on the following page
illustrates the SCQF framework.

+ Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

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

SCQF LEVEL 4

courses available at UHI ORKNEY



Bakery

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 4

If you are a fan of 'The Bake Off' then you may be interested in this course which will help you develop skills in craft baking, bread making, cake decorating and pastry. At the end of this course, there will be the opportunity to take part in our own 'Bake Off' competition!

Typical entry requirement: National 4

Progression: Completion of this course may lead into Professional Cookery, Patisserie, Food Product Development or Events and Management.

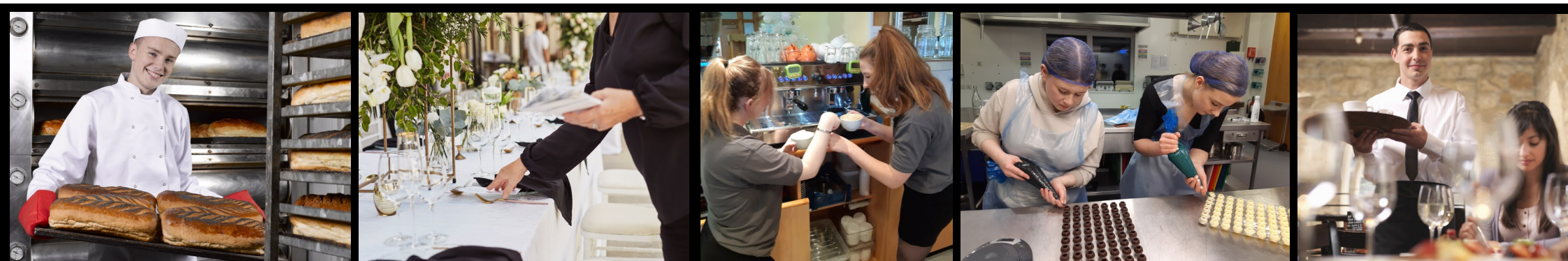
Events in Hospitality

Skills for Work (SFW) | SCQF Level 4

Want a career that's fast paced and varied? Looking for skills that can take you all over the world? From events management, working in bars and restaurants to serving celebrities and visitors to the island including your own family, a career in Hospitality gives you it all. With skills like Barista, Bar service, Planning and managing events and customer service, this course has something for everybody. Choose a course that gives you skills for life and can take you wherever you want to go!

Typical entry requirement: National 4

Progression: Completion of this course may lead into Events Management, Specialised Hospitality Service, Customer Service, Tourism or Professional Cookery.



Coastal Navigation with Dayskipper Theory

National 4 | SCQF Level 4



This course builds on the short chart-work module in National 5 Skills for Work Maritime and is an ideal course for those who have completed Skills for Work and intend to continue their studies in Maritime subjects, or for those wishing to continue a career at sea. The programme combines classroom-based study with practical boat work and by the end of the course, you will be able to bring a boat to a point at sea from co-ordinates. Incorporates Dayskipper Theory cert which is part of a commercial skipper's qualification used in many inshore occupations when added to an additional practical exam – not included.

This course is based at the Stromness Maritime Centre.

Construction Craft & Technician

National 4 | SCQF Level 4

Interested in construction or design & crafts? This could be the course for you!

Working with our supportive and skilled instructors in the college's joinery and bricklaying workshops you'll create projects such as pictures frames, garden benches or even a hen house! We'll also introduce you to some of the other roles available in design and construction, such as architecture, surveying or civil engineering. You will need to attend college for a minimum of 3 hours per week for 1 year. For students who are interested, there will be opportunities for work experience with a variety of construction employers at the end of this course.

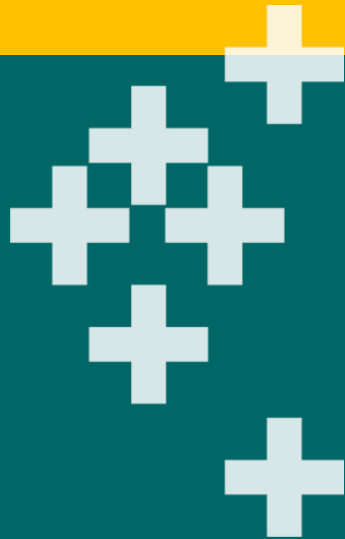


SCQF LEVEL 5

courses available at UHI ORKNEY



**Please note that further to what's noted in this section, we also offer a level 5 'Intro to a career in social care' course detailed later in the booklet, on page 31. Level 5 work placements are also available, information on page 30.*



Rural Skills: Agriculture

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 5

This course develops some of the underpinning employability and practical skills necessary to work in the land-based industries such as farming, crop production and animal husbandry. A key feature of this course is the emphasis on experiential learning, studying units in Rural Business Investigation, Crop Production and Livestock Production. This means learning through practical experience and learning by reflecting on experience visiting rural businesses. Includes option to do Enterprise and Employability – National Progression Award (SCQF Level 5)

Typical entry requirement:

National 4

Progression: Completion of this course may lead into an NC in Agriculture or a Modern Apprenticeship or SVQ in Agriculture at SCQF Level 6.



Access to an apprenticeship in Land-Based Engineering (Agriculture)

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 5

Upon successful completion, learners will gain an internationally recognised qualification which guarantees that they have the skills, knowledge and abilities required to access an Engineering Apprenticeship upon leaving school. The course will also include a suitable work placement in addition to time in the UHI Orkney workshop. An assessment will be carried out during the work placement.



Engineering

Skills for work (SFW) | SCQF Level 5

This SCQF Level 5 course provides a basis for progression into Further Education or for moving directly into training. The course focuses on the broad areas of Mechanical, Fabrication, Electrical, Electronic, Maintenance, and includes Design and Manufacture.

Typical entry requirement: 4 x National 4's including Maths and English.

Construction Skills

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 5

This award follows on from the SCQF Level 4 Construction Crafts and Technology course and is designed to prepare you for a Modern Apprenticeship - or higher-level study - in jobs such as joinery, bricklaying, architectural technology or surveying.

Working on new projects, with modern workshop equipment, you'll be guided by our instructors to extend the skills and knowledge you've learned in SCQF Level 4 (which you must have successfully completed) to become a more confident craftsperson. You will need to attend college for a minimum of 3 hours per week for 1 year.



Maritime Skills

Skills for work (SFW) | SCQF Level 5



This course comprises five units and includes a wide range of maritime skills and knowledge. The programme is both practical and theoretical and offers an excellent start if you are considering a career in the maritime industry. The course includes practical work on the water as well as classroom sessions to include Seamanship; Small Boat Engineering; Careers at Sea; Chart work; Weather and Boat handling. The course also incorporates health and safety training and opportunity to gain STCW Personal Survival Techniques and STCW Elementary First Aid certificates.

This course is based at the Stromness Maritime Centre.

Energy

Skills for work (SFW) | SCQF Level 5

This energy course provides an excellent background knowledge of the energy and renewables industry, which prepares the learner for moving directly into training or employment within the energy sector.

Learners explore the various UK-based energy industries and develop practical skills by building a small-scale solar hot water system and wind turbine. They also develop their employability skills and review their strengths and weaknesses — which are then used to help suggest the most appropriate career for them within the energy sector.

There is an opportunity to specialise in one subject area such as analysing their own carbon footprint, or developing a deeper knowledge of renewables or learning more about the conventional energy generation systems used in the UK.

Typical entry requirement: 4 x National 4's including Maths and English.



Games Design & Development

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 5

Embedded in this course is a recognised SQA National Progression Award (NPA) in Games Design. Students will be required to play and evaluate existing games as well as becoming proficient Unreal Engine developers through our partnership with Epic Games. By the end of the module, students will be able design and create a game using their own graphics, sounds and animations which they will be able to take home and play and potentially use as part of a portfolio of work for future studies or interviews.



**UNREAL
ENGINE**



Social Media Productions

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 5



Fancy yourself as an influencer? Have you ever watched YouTube live streams and wondered “how do they do that?” Then this course is right for you! Built around your ideas and interests, you will be taken through the software and processes required to create a social media presence utilising video editing, image editing as well as audio engineering. Whether it be on fast cars to makeup, cooking to football or anything in between, your channel content is based around your own interests and ideas, let UHI Orkney guide you on how to get it out to the world!

Systems Hacking & Forensics

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 5



Using hacking techniques, you will gain unauthorised access to computer systems, which you create yourself. Any compromised systems will be analysed forensically to determine what the hacker has been up to. Recovery techniques will then be used to restore and secure those systems. As part of the course, you will set up your own computer network, configure the security, and compare the resilience of secure and insecure networks during a network penetration test using ethical hacking tools. You will also use Kali Linux to conduct ethical hacking, penetration testing, web testing, and wifi hacking! Our main objective is to identify security vulnerabilities in computer systems and implement security measures to reduce the risk of a future incident. Finally, computer forensics and investigation will provide an understanding how to conduct investigations to correctly gather, analyse and present digital evidence to both legal and business audiences. These skills can be used to detect and backtrack 'Black Hat Criminal' techniques explored during ethical hacking.



Early Learning & Childcare

Skills for work (SFW) | SCQF Level 5



National 5 Skills for Work: Early Learning and Childcare is an introductory qualification that develops the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for work in the early years and childcare settings. The qualification covers areas such as the Development and Wellbeing of Children and Young People, Play in Early Learning and Childcare and Working in Early Learning and Childcare.

At National 5, learners begin to prepare for working in the sector. They also develop transferable employability skills, including:

- An understanding of the workplace and the employee's responsibilities (e.g. time-keeping, appearance, customer care)
- Self-evaluation skills
- Positive attitude to learning
- Flexible approaches to solving problems
- Adaptability and positive attitude to change
- Confidence to set goals, reflect and learn from experience
- Skills to become effective job-seekers and employees

At SCQF Level 5, learners work alone or with others on straightforward tasks with support.

Psychology

National 5 | SCQF Level 5

Psychology continues to be a popular subject choice and this programme covers the use of appropriate psychological concepts, theories, research methods and evidence to investigate and explain human behaviour in a range of contexts.

Typical entry requirement: Four National 4's, including English.

Psychology

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 5

The Psychology NPA offers an introduction to psychology and research methods. It provides a learning pathway for school pupils who wish to enter the field of psychology and/or broader health and social sciences. The NPA provides an opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification for a range of learners and results in a formal qualification that enables access to further and higher education courses as well as future career opportunities.

The NPA allows learners to develop communication and critical evaluation skills as well as gain SQA units without the additional pressure of closed-book examinations.



SCQF LEVEL 6

courses available at UHI ORKNEY



**Please note that further to what's noted in this section, we also offer two level 6 apprenticeships detailed later in the booklet, from page 26. Level 5 work placements are also available, information on page 30.*



Travel and Tourism

National Progression Award (NPA) | SCQF Level 6

The main aim of the National Progression Award (NPA) in Travel and Tourism is to provide a small, flexible qualification that supports a broad range of learners wishing to enter or progress into entry-level employment in the sector or to progress to further and higher education. The NPA is also an entry point for some learners who could join learners from the NC Island Tourism and Tourist Guiding course. The NPA includes Travel and tourism in the UK along with a choice of two further units common with the NC.



Care

Higher | SCQF Level 6

This course is designed for those who are considering a career in the health or social care sector.

The main purpose of the course is to enable you to understand and explain why people use care services. You will develop an understanding of human development using psychological and sociological theories and the values expected for contemporary care practice for health and social care settings.

Typical entry requirement: Two national 5 awards, one of which must be English



Childcare & Development

Higher | SCQF Level 6

This course is designed for those considering a career working with children & young people within education, healthcare or social service settings.

In this course you will study child development and the roles and responsibilities of practitioners, other professionals and parents/carers in meeting the needs of children from pre-birth to 16.

Typical entry requirement: Two national 5 awards, one of which must be English




Psychology

Higher | SCQF Level 6

This popular course serves as an introduction to the discipline of psychology, and encourages development of more in-depth knowledge and understanding, and research skills. The three units cover Social Behaviour, Individual Behaviour and Research.

Typical entry requirement: Two national 5 awards, one of which must include English and a science or social science.

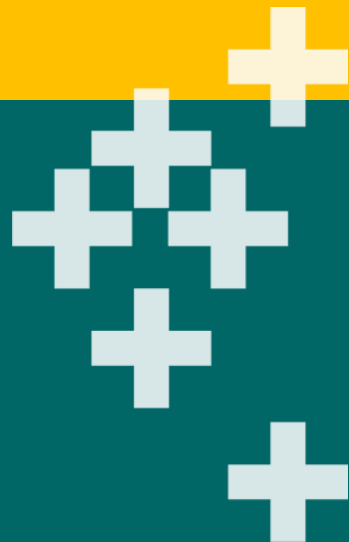


Don't forget to
also check out the
level 6 foundation
apprenticeships
from page 24.



SCQF LEVEL 7

courses available at UHI ORKNEY



Preparing to Start a Business

Higher National Certificate (HNC) Unit | SCQF Level 7

This choice is aimed at learners who already have qualifications at Higher level and may wish to start their own business or wish to understand the process involved in the initial preparations of starting a business. The Unit enables learners to work through the main processes involved in the initial stages of starting a new business. It provides the learner with the knowledge and skills needed to start planning a business venture and construct a suitable initial business plan.



FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS*

available at UHI | ORKNEY



**Foundation Apprenticeships (FAs) are a work-based learning opportunity for senior phase secondary pupils. You can begin a Foundation Apprenticeship at SCQF Level 6 in S5, where you can spend time out of school at Orkney College and with a local employer, gaining valuable real-world experience while studying alongside other subjects such as National 5s and Highers. A one year 'fast track' option is also available on some frameworks, typically for S6 pupils. SQA is the awarding body. Upon successful completion, you will achieve a joint qualification certificate for both the Foundation Apprenticeship as well as certification for each of the component parts, National Progression Award (NPA) and SVQ Units. An FA can lead straight into a job, further study at college or university, or a fast-track Modern Apprenticeship (MA).*



Social Services and Healthcare

Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) | SCQF Level 6

This programme was designed for individuals interested in pursuing a career in the Care sector. This growing sector currently employs one in every thirteen people in Scotland. In Orkney, NHS Orkney and Orkney Islands Council (Orkney Health and Care) are the largest employers of staff in both healthcare and social services.

The course content comprises a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services and Healthcare (SCQF level 6) and SVQ units in Social Services and Healthcare. This course can be taken as a **fast-track option** over one year, or as a **two year route**:

YEAR 1 (fast track): This option will be discussed at interview.

YEAR 1:

- Social Services in Scotland
- Communication in Care Relationships
- Safeguarding People
- Human Development and Social Influences
- Safe Practice and Wellbeing in Social Services
- Work placement (fast track students only)*

YEAR 2:

Four units of the SVQ Social Services and Healthcare as follows:

- Communicate with, and complete records for individuals
- Support the health and safety of yourself and individuals
- Develop your knowledge and practice
- Ensure your own actions support the care, protection and well-being of individuals
- Work placement

**Fast track students will start SVQ units from June*



Entry requirements: There are no formal entry requirements for studying a Foundation Apprenticeship however as this is a level 6 SCQF award, you should be working towards achieving at this level. The Course Leader will be able to provide individual guidance. You will also need to have a clear check for working with Protected and Vulnerable Groups (PVG)

Progression: Upon successful completion the following are examples of what you are able to do next:

- Progression into employment
- Progression onto a Modern Apprenticeship
- Progression to University programmes.

Social Services (Children & Young People)

Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) | SCQF Level 6

This programme was designed for individuals interested in pursuing a career working with children and young people. You will learn how children develop, play and learn as well as child protection.

The course content comprises a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services Children & Young People (SCQF level 6) and SVQ units in Social Services Children & Young People). This course can be taken as a **fast-track option** over one year, or as a **two year route**:

YEAR 1 (fast track): This option will be discussed at interview.

YEAR 1:

- Play for Children and Young People
- Communication with Children and Young People
- Safeguarding of Children and Young People
- Wellbeing and Safety of Children and Young People
- Development of Children and Young People
- Work placement (fast track students only)*

YEAR 2:

Four mandatory SVQ units from Social Services Children & Young People as follows:

- Support effective communication
- Support the health and safety of yourself and individuals
- Develop your knowledge and practice
- Support the safeguarding of children
- Work placement

**Fast track students will start SVQ units from June*



Entry requirements: There are no formal entry requirements for studying a Foundation Apprenticeship however as this is a level 6 SCQF award, you should be working towards achieving at this level. The Course Leader will be able to provide individual guidance. You will also need to have a clear check for working with Protected and Vulnerable Groups (PVG).

Progression: Upon successful completion the following are examples of what you are able to do next:

- Progression into employment
- Progression onto a Modern Apprenticeship
- Progression to HNC Childhood Practice
- Progression to University programmes.

Business

Foundation Apprenticeship (FA) | SCQF Level 6

This programme is designed for those interested in pursuing a career within the business or service sector, or who intend to progress into further study in this area. To enrol on this programme you must also be studying **Higher Business Management** at school since units from the Higher form part of the programme.

The course comprises of the following:

- National Progression Award (NPA) in Business Skills (comprising six units including two units from Higher Business Management)
- SVQ Level 3 Business and Administration (four units)
- Work placement

Entry requirements for the programme: There are no formal entry requirements for studying a Foundation Apprenticeship however as this is a SCQF Level 6 award, you should be working towards achieving at this level and studying Higher Business Management. The Course Leader will be able to provide individual guidance.

Study Mode: This is a one year course available on a case by case basis and will be discussed at interview.

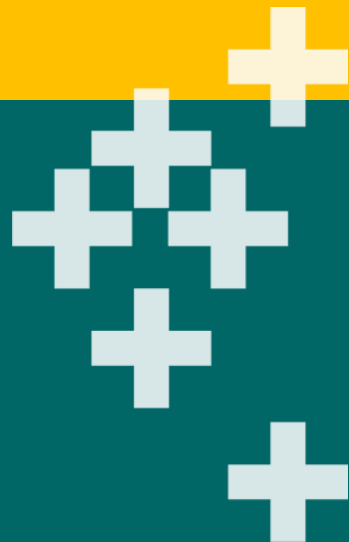


Progression: Upon successful completion students may progress into employment, on to an HNC in Business, on to other university programmes, or on to a Modern Apprenticeship. (By completing the four remaining units from the SVQ Business and Administration; this will lead to the award of the full SVQ in Modern Apprenticeship Business and Administration)

OTHER

courses available at UHI ORKNEY

+



PRACTICAL SKILLS ACADEMY

offer at UHI ORKNEY

+ SCQF Levels 4, 5 or 6

New

New for 2025- 26!

This course choice will involve practical skills courses in the nature based learning department at UHI Orkney (Agriculture, Horticulture and Hairdressing), providing learners with the opportunity to develop the skills required by future employers. Courses will change each term and can include Hairdressing, Beauty, Dry stone dyke building, Growing crops, Nature & Rural Environment, Arts/Crafts. Learners will qualify with a National Progression Award in Enterprise & Employability at the appropriate SCQF level.



Introduction to a Career in Social Care

UHI Orkney Certificate | SCQF Level 5

This course is ideal for people who are interested in working in social care.

Participants will be able to work through online learning materials at their own pace, extending their learning through videos and links to further information. A college tutor will be available to provide support and encouragement to ensure participant engagement with all the topics, and to monitor progress. At the end of the course your online tutor will help you to decide what to do next, either into employment, or further courses. You will be awarded a Certificate which will help support you with your next steps.

- ✚ Free 6 week course
- ✚ No prior qualifications or experience required
- ✚ Gain an SCQF Level 5 qualification certificate
- ✚ Offers links to employment opportunities within the social care sector

🖱 [Find out more about this course on our website](#)

