



In this news flash from Scottish Union Learning, you will find a selection of the latest news and events. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for daily updates!

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Scottish Union Learning Highlands and Islands Learning Conference Success

Scottish trade unions gathered at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness on Friday, 8 June for the 11th Annual Scottish Union Learning Highlands and Islands Learning Conference.



Delegates from trade unions and workplaces across the Highlands and Islands came together to explore the theme: 'Union Learning: Opening Doors, Changing Lives' through workshops and listening to invited speakers. The Conference was addressed by Grahame Smith, STUC General Secretary, Fiona Bruce, Dounreay Women's Network, and Priscilla Maramba of UNISON, winner of the Scottish Union Learning Learner of the Year Award, 2017.

Grahame Smith, STUC General Secretary, said:

"The Fair Work Framework notes that 'Access to training that leads to employment is not equally accessible to all'. Through Scottish Union Learning, we aim to redress the balance, and in working with learning providers who share our ethos, we can facilitate more opportunities for workers who face barriers of poverty, distance and inequality.

"We can see in the work of unions in the Highlands and Islands that there is deepening engagement with employers, particularly in the areas of equality, mental health and employability. In 2017/18, 68 courses were delivered across the

Highlands and Islands from Lerwick to Oban, Kirwall to Invergordon, with 669 learners on courses supported by the Learning Fund. Sixty-nine percent of these learners were given paid release from work to participate in learning. A further 275 learners participated in courses organised by unions and funded from other sources.

"In the Highlands and Islands, the vital role of the ULR is seen very clearly behind every Development Fund project, and ULRs are working to promote learning, asking and listening to what their colleagues need to move forward in their career and in life."

Eleanor Adam, Scottish Union Learning Development Officer – Highlands and Islands, said:

"Trade unions offer dedicated support to workers in the Highlands and Islands, many of whom have additional struggles not experienced elsewhere in Scotland, such as distance and remoteness. That's why the theme of this year's Conference addresses how workers can access and overcome traditional and additional barriers to learning, such as a lack of finance, paid time off, and inequality, with a specific focus on the needs of learners in the Highlands and Islands."

Some of the feedback from participants included:

"Excellent day and all talks were useful with real information. Priscilla is a star! Made a contact in Gavin Smith (GMB) to look at partnership working LGBT+ in Highland!"

"Workshops much improved from last year. One hour is about right."

"Nice mix of listening and participation, good timings for sessions sections. Refreshments and lunch were great. Well done!"

"An excellent day. Informative and helpful. Excellent facilities."

"Very interesting day – never knew that UNISON did so much with regards to learning and will definitely share the information amongst my colleagues and manager."

"Fantastic conference! Many thanks to all involved, especially the Scottish Union Learning team."

"It was a well organised event and very helpful."

"Great day (as usual), well worth coming, looking forward to next year!"

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Gallery: 2018 Scottish Union Learning Highlands and Islands Learning Conference

Can you spot yourself in the photos taken by [John Paul](#) during the Highlands and Islands Learning Conference?

View the gallery on the [Scottish Union Learning website!](#)

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BECTU Vision Managers showcase Scottish film & tv skills with Outlander studio tour for Scottish Union Learning team

Recently appointed to Co-Managers of BECTU Vision, Linda Fraser and Amy Shaw were pleased to accompany Scottish Union Learning's Director Wendy Burton and Development Officers John Slaven and Catherine Garvie on their recent tour of the Wardpark Studios in Cumbernauld where *Outlander* Season 4 is currently in production. 

BECTU Vision provides free short training courses for film and television practitioners in Scotland through funding from Scottish Union Learning, supported by the Scottish Government. The training courses cover a variety of topics which are designed to deliver a framework for safer and fairer workplaces with freelance, management and specialist skills short courses.

Linda and Amy said "We are delighted to work with Scottish Union Learning who have supported 1,500 training places through BECTU Vision since its inception in 2010. *Outlander* is one of the best examples of high-end television production in the UK and it was great to see so many practitioners who've benefited from our courses putting their specialist skills into action.

Our thanks go to *Outlander* Co-producer, and former BECTU Vision Manager, Michael Wilson for the tour. "

More information can be found by visiting the [BECTU website](#).

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Mark your calendar...

Scottish Union Learning organises and attends many events throughout the year.

Events and conferences are aimed at Union Learning Reps, union officials, partners and others interested in lifelong learning and everyday skills. Visit the [Events](#)

[Section](#) of the Scottish Union Learning website to access booking forms, directions, and contact details. Please note that attendance and release for Scottish Union Learning is arranged by your own trade union, and is not the responsibility of the STUC.

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