

# SWAP NEWSLETTER

WIDENING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION



## HOW RETURNING TO EDUCATION CHANGES LIVES

Last summer we caught up with SWAP graduate students, Tony, Karen, Kerriann, Melanie and Beverley. In [this](#) short film, produced by Scott Willis and the award-winning [Aarol Films](#), they talk about their educational journey with SWAP, from college to university and beyond.

## SWAP PROGRAMMES DOING WELL IN THE NORTH

In 2018 there were no SWAP students north of Angus, now nearly a third of all SWAP East students are in the north-east and the Highlands. SWAP Director, Lesley Dunbar, writes [here](#) about this very successful development.

## FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE OFFERING SWAP PROGRAMMES AGAIN

Forth Valley College will be offering a new Access to Nursing programme, which will be delivered from September at the Stirling campus, creating new opportunities for adults living in the local area. Read more [here](#).

## COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY: THE DIFFERENCES

Making the transition from college to university is challenging and SWAP students often wonder what the differences will be between the two. Here's what some who have made the transition have to say about it: [read](#) and [watch](#).



## Full-time study as a single parent

Twenty eight per cent of all SWAP students are single parents. Rachael Carswell shares some of her experiences on the Access to Nursing programme at UHI-Inverness College [here](#).

**Rachael: “Being a single parent and starting college was a little bit daunting for me, juggling homework, the time to study, childcare, and housework felt a little overwhelming. However, I made the decision to apply and I’m glad I did.”**

## Ukrainian students' lives turned upside down

Read the inspiring stories of Ukrainian refugees, Alisa and Mariia (pictured on the right), and how Alisa's hopes of becoming a vet, and Mariia's, of becoming a doctor, are still very much alive.

**Mariia: "Despite pain and hardship and improbable odds ... my destiny is mine."**



## INNOVATION AT ARGYLL COLLEGE: ONE PROGRAMME, SEVEN CENTRES AND LOTS OF SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS!

As part of a development project to bring more opportunities to adult returners living in remote areas of Scotland, SWAP worked with UHI-Argyll to develop a programme for people in the Argyll area. The result was an innovative Access to Nursing programme, deliverable to students attending through seven different local learning centres, making the most of video and online learning technology to engage and teach. Since 2019, over 70 students have enrolled and the majority have successfully completed and progressed to university. Read more [here](#).

## TAKING THE HN ROUTE TO UNIVERSITY

SWAP students also have the option of moving on to HN study after their access programme and then, from there, applying to university. Aimee Stewart, a SWAP access student, articulated into Year 3 at Queen Margaret University after completing her HND in Childhood Practice at West Lothian College. Read why she chose to return to education, and the appeal of the HN route [here](#).

