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| “If it wasn’t for the cupboards I wouldn’t have had dinner for 2 days last week” *“*I would say that the larder is such an amazing idea, it's really helped me and my family in a time where we had nothing, it's a massive support and I couldn't be more grateful for it”. “It is a great support for students.   I can pick up food at college because often I don't get a chance to after class as it's late when I get home so the snacks are so handy.  UHI Inverness has the best support for students in terms of food and clothing supplies which is a great help.”The Larder and The CubbyUHI InvernessW | **Goal:** To support students and help ease the burden of financial anxiety, ensuring the impact of the cost-of-living crisis does not disrupt their studies.**Submitted by:** Kelly MacKenzie **Project:** To provide a stocked food pantry which allows students to help themselves to free food and toiletries. The project also includes two similar cupboards in the student accommodation, with plans to provide another at the School of Forestry campus. **Benefit to:** All students

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| ****Key message: Support students who are struggling financially****  |
| Ease the financial burden on students |
| Engage with the local community and connect with other food groups in the area |
| Reduce food waste |
| Increase student retention |
| Allow students to focus on their studies, without disruption |
| **Project delivery**  |  |
| The Larder was supported by the sale of old IT equipment initially, then by a Highland Council grant of £9,999 |
| The Cubby is stocked via donations, both of items and cash to purchase them |
| Fundraising events regularly take place, including Workroom Cake Days. Donations have also been received from external foundations |
| The cupboards are stocked with basic food items and other essentials |
| The team liaise with external organisations such as the Co-op, Tesco, Morrisons, and FareShare |

**Impact:**  Thanks to fundraising efforts and individual donations, the team spent £1,150 on toiletries and £8,325 on food during the 12-month period. A Students in Poverty working group has also been convened to look at other ways to support students in the current financial climate. |

Retention of students who would otherwise have left their studies | Reduce food waste | Allow students to focus on their studies | Engage with the local community and external organisations | Raise funds to continue provision of the service | Ensure all students have access to basic supplies