



Your 2024/2025

Access Modules Prospectus



The future is open

There's no limit to what you can achieve with The Open University. Unlock a world of possibilities – wherever you are and wherever you want to go.

- Get a step closer to your dream career.
- Gain a globally recognised, high-quality university education.
- Explore your passion and what you're capable of.
- Create a better life for you and your family.
- Start the next chapter in your learning journey.

Over two million people have already transformed their futures with us. Now it's your turn.

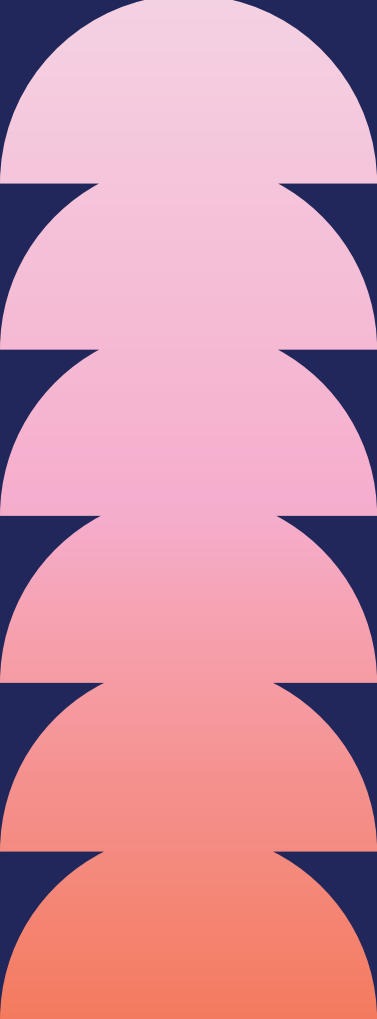
Welcome to The Open University

We bring university to you. For over 50 years, we've pioneered supported distance learning and are proud to be a world leader in high-quality distance education.

Our flexible approach means you can learn at a time that's convenient to you, fitting study around your job, family and other commitments, so you can gain a recognised qualification without putting your life on hold. Plus, there's plenty of support to help you succeed. You'll be guided by our expert tutors, and join our thriving community of learners in the UK and across 157 countries worldwide.

Since 1969, the quality of our teaching has been at the heart of everything we do, and we are proud to be globally recognised and respected as a leader in distance education, achieving an overall Gold rating in the 2023 Teaching Excellence Framework.





Contents

Explore Access

Why Access?	2
-------------	---

Fees and funding

Fees and funding	4
------------------	---

Choose what to study

Arts and languages Access module (Y031)	6
Business and law Access module (Y035)	8
Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module (Y034)	10
Science, technology and maths Access module (Y033)	12

Get in touch

Useful information	Back cover
--------------------	------------



Why Access?

Boost your confidence with an Access module

An Access module is a great place to start if you want an introduction to Open University study. It can also help you find out more about your interests and where you want your learning to take you.

There are four broad subject areas you can choose from. Each is perfect preparation for an Open University qualification:

- *Arts and languages Access module* (Y031), also available as a fast-track module (YXFT031)
- *Business and law Access module* (Y035)
- *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module* (Y034), also available as a fast-track module (YXFT034) from February 2025
- *Science, technology and maths Access module* (Y033), also available as a fast-track module (YXFT033).

For more details about what you'll study in these modules, see pages 6–13.

You're in control of your starting point

We're different to other universities because we're open to people based on their potential rather than their prior qualifications. Most of our qualifications have no formal entry requirements and our students come from a diverse range of educational backgrounds. So, we offer a choice of starting points depending on how confident you are in your study skills.

You could dive straight into a qualification, or if you want to try out university study, or you feel you need to learn how to get back into studying again, an Access module could be a great first step. You just need to live in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Ireland, or have a British Forces Post Office address.

If you aren't sure where to start, you can find more information on the best starting point for you on our website, visit openuniversity.co.uk/ready. Or, speak to one of our advisers, call **0300 303 0069**.

Study that fits into your life

We've been experts in distance learning for over 50 years. Our flexible style of learning means you can study whenever and wherever suits you.

Two ways to study Access

Access modules start in February, May and October. In February and May we also offer a fast-track version of most modules which gives you a choice of how long the module takes you to complete.

For the standard Access module, you'll need:

- **8–10 hours study a week, over 30 weeks.**

You can complete the module more quickly if there is a **fast-track** option available, which needs:

- **16–20 hours study a week, over 18 weeks.**

Whichever option you choose, you'll explore the same subjects and benefit from the same tutor support, but if you have more time to dedicate to study each week, the fast-track option means you may be able to fit in an Access module before you start your first module towards your qualification.



Fast-track modules available where you see this symbol



If you haven't studied before, do an Access module. It gives you a chance to get a view of the subjects, and it will certainly help going forward.



Steven Sutherland
OU student

Distance, not distant

You won't be alone. When you study an Access module you'll have:

- one-to-one tutorials with a dedicated tutor, who can tailor their approach to your individual needs. Your personal phone tutorials take place at a time that suits you, and you'll get written feedback on your work
- a Student Support Team staffed by specialist advisers, able to help with any issues you might experience while studying with us
- the opportunity to share ideas with other students through our online forums.

Designed to inspire you

You'll explore a range of broadly related subjects within one module. That means you'll have the time and space to discover what subjects you are interested in before settling on your ultimate qualification goal. It gives you a solid foundation to build on – it may even spark your interest in something completely new.



Students who start with an Access module are more likely to be successful when they advance to their next course.

Skills development built in

Our study materials will develop not only your knowledge but your skills and confidence too. They're designed specially to help with things like:

- refreshing your study techniques – it might have been a while since you last studied, or you might prefer getting to grips with online and distance learning before committing to a qualification. Whatever your circumstances, an Access module is excellent preparation for the next step of your student journey
- using computers – if you're not confident with computers, an Access module gives you lots of help and advice as it guides you through tasks such as internet searches, online quizzes and talking to fellow students through our online forums.

No exam

Your work on the Access module will be assessed through short written assignments and some activities online.

All study materials included

We'll send you all your study materials, including books and other printed materials, plus a link to your module website.

You'll start studying with the printed resources provided before moving to online study, so you'll need access to a computer with a good internet connection. You'll also need a phone to talk to your tutor.

For more information on what you'll need for your chosen course, visit our website.

Expert support

Careers and study advice

If you're studying to open up your job prospects, or looking to change career, our Careers and Employability Service can make sure you're on the right track.

Find out more at openuniversity.co.uk/careers.

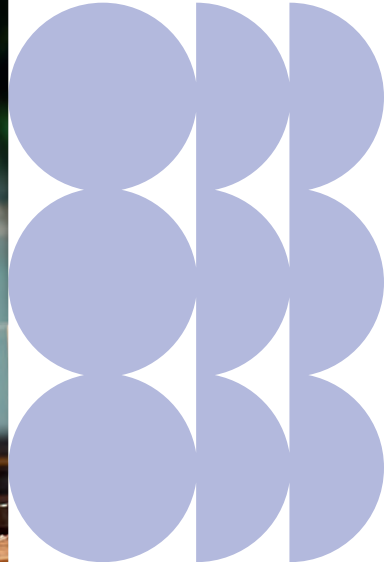
Accessibility all the way

Last year we supported over 36,000 students with disabilities or additional needs. We'll do our best to make your studies accessible, with help by phone, web or email.

See if you qualify for extra financial help towards study costs, visit openuniversity.co.uk/disability or call 0300 303 5303.

Affordable payment options

We try to make OU study as affordable as possible, and you could study an Access module for **free**. Find out more about fees and funding on pages 4-5.



Fees and funding

Our fees cover everything. There's nothing else to pay. And your studies might even be free.

You could study for free

Depending on eligibility and availability of places, you could apply to study your Access module for free.

To qualify, you must:

- live in the UK (excluding the Channel Islands and Isle of Man) or have a British Forces Post Office address, and
- meet the income threshold criteria, for more information visit openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access, and
- have **not** completed one year or more on any full-time undergraduate programme at FHEQ or CQFW level 4/SCQF level 7 or above, and
- have **not** completed 30 credits or more of OU study.

Once you've started the registration process, either online or over the phone, we'll contact you about your payment options. This will include instructions on applying to study for free if you are eligible and funded places are still available.

For further information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access.

Do you live in England?

An Access module costs £909.

Get a student loan

If you can't study for free, you might qualify for a student loan.

To get a loan you need to be studying your Access module as part of an OU qualification.

It comes from the government. There's nothing to repay for up to four years. And after that, only once you're earning more than the annual income threshold of £25,000.

What might the repayments look like?

EXAMPLE REPAYMENT AMOUNTS

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment ¹
Up to £25,000	£0
£27,000	£15.00
£30,000	£37.50

¹ Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £25,000. For example, if you earn £27,000, you'll repay £180 that year (9% of £2,000). That's just £15.00 per month.

Pay your own way

If you don't qualify for free study or a loan, you can pay your own way instead.

An Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA) will let you pay by instalments, see opposite.

Or you can pay in full by debit card, credit card or by bank transfer.

Do you live in Wales?

An Access module costs £328.

Get a student loan

If you can't study for free, you might qualify for a student loan.

To get a loan you need to be studying your Access module as part of an OU qualification.

It comes from the government. There's nothing to repay for up to four years. And after that, only once you're earning more than the annual income threshold of £27,295.

What might the repayments look like?

EXAMPLE REPAYMENT AMOUNTS

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment ²
Up to £27,295	£0
£29,000	£12.79
£34,000	£50.29

² Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £27,295. For example, if you earn £29,000, you'll repay £153.45 that year (9% of £1,705). That's just £12.79 per month.

Pay your own way

If you don't qualify for free study or a loan, you can pay your own way instead.

An Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA) will let you pay by instalments, see right.

Or you can pay in full by debit card, credit card or by bank transfer.

Do you live in Scotland?

An Access module costs £297.

Pay your own way

If you don't qualify for free study, you can pay your own way instead.

An Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA) will let you pay by instalments, see right.

Or you can pay in full by debit card, credit card or by bank transfer.

Do you live in Northern Ireland?

An Access module costs £290.

Pay your own way

If you don't qualify for free study or a loan, you can pay your own way instead.

An Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA) will let you pay by instalments, see right.

Or you can pay in full by debit card, credit card or by bank transfer.

Do you live in the Channel Islands or Isle of Man?

An Access module costs £934.

You won't be able to get a free place or a student loan. But you can pay by instalments with an Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA), see right.

Or you can pay upfront by debit card, credit card or by bank transfer.

Do you live in Ireland?

An Access module costs £873.

You won't be able to get a free place or a student loan. But you can pay by instalments with an Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA), see right.

Or you can pay in full by debit card, credit card or by bank transfer.

Are you at a British Forces Post Office (BFPO) address?

If you're based at a BFPO address, the cost of your Access module and your payment options will be the same as they are for the country you'd otherwise be living in.

Other support

Study related costs

If you're resident in the UK and on a low household income or receive certain benefits, you might be eligible for additional funding for study-related costs, such as travel, internet access and stationery.

Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA)

When you enrol with us, you'll be offered the opportunity to pay your fees through a loan from OUSBA.

OUSBA will pay your fees to The Open University, and you repay OUSBA either in a single sum before your module starts – in this case there's no interest – or in monthly instalments of up to a year – in this case, interest does apply.

The interest rate is fixed for the duration of the course (representative APR 5.1%).

If you're worried about affordability or a poor credit history, you can apply for a joint loan application with a third party, e.g. partner, sibling, friend, etc.

As a responsible lender, OUSBA carries out affordability checks as part of the application process.

Find out more about OUSBA at openuniversity.co.uk/ousba.

Next steps

Find out more about your funding options or start your registration.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/access-modules
Call
0300 303 0069



Arts and languages

Access module (Y031)

Kick-start your learning with a broad introduction to arts, humanities, language and culture.



Fast-track version available

Through the central theme of 'protest' you'll explore the fascinating and interrelated areas of arts, humanities and language. You'll develop knowledge of topics including:

- history
- art history
- English literature
- English language studies.

You'll also touch on areas of popular music, modern languages, classical studies, creative writing and religious studies.

Each subject will be introduced and explained at a comfortable pace, ideal if you have little or no prior knowledge.

The module is divided into three blocks:

Block 1: Finding your voice

Focusing on English literature and English language, block 1 develops your understanding of both your own and other people's voices.

The block explores how language is:

- used to communicate
- adapted for different purposes
- used to persuade and engage
- employed as a means of cultural expression.

Through the theme of protest, you'll be introduced to language in its various spoken and written forms, including protest poetry.

You'll also study different examples of poetry to develop an understanding of how poems create meaning, including pieces by Wilfred Owen and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Block 2: Speaking out

Block 2 widens your study of language to consider popular culture and the wider language of protest evident within:

- music
- media
- politics
- sport.

You'll consider what impact dialect and pronunciation have on how meaning is produced by looking at contemporary contexts, drawing particularly on examples from hip hop and song.

Your focus will then move to history and the struggle for the vote in Britain, and the protest movement that surrounded it. This includes investigating the role of protest in politics and the media.

You'll develop new skills for approaching historical sources which will expand on the literary analysis you applied in block 1.

Block 3: Visions of protest

Block 3 moves on to consider the relationship between art and protest.

You'll be introduced to the study of visual arts by looking at a selection of works that have been nominated for the Turner Prize. By uncovering the techniques used by art critics, you will learn how to interpret the message, identity, and voice of the artist.

You'll then explore some diverse case studies, including:

- A painting by Picasso.
- A display at St. Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art.
- Graffiti as street art.
- Symbolism and language used in football banners.

These case studies will give you the opportunity to build on what you have learnt so far and incorporate a wider range of academic disciplines such as history, art history, religious studies and linguistics.

You will also be able to participate in activities which will help you to make decisions about your future study plans.

Choosing a qualification

Our *Arts and languages Access module* is ideal preparation for studying towards a wide range of qualifications. A small selection is shown here, but for more information about all the qualifications we offer, go to openuniversity.co.uk/ug.

Arts and Humanities

- BA (Hons) Arts and Humanities (R14)
- BA (Hons) English Language and Literature (Q39)
- BA (Hons) History (Q01)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Arts and Humanities (W59)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Arts and Humanities (T32)

Languages

- BA (Hons) Language Studies (Q30)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Language Studies (W41)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Language Studies (T21)

Open qualifications

In addition to our named qualifications, we also offer three Open qualifications, including a degree.

As our most popular programme, the Open degree, diploma and certificate of Higher Education offers you the flexibility to build a qualification that suits your ambitions, so if you're unsure which path to choose right now, an Open qualification may be the choice for you.

For more information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open.



Fast-track available

Arts and languages Access module: fast-track (YXFT031)

Our standard Access modules last 30 weeks, but you have the choice to **complete this module more quickly** with the fast-track option. This is ideal if you want to fit in an Access module before you start your first Stage 1 module or qualification.

You'll explore the same fascinating subjects and benefit from the same tutor support, but you'll complete the module in less time by studying **16–20 hours a week, over 18 weeks**.

Not sure which option is right for you? Chat with one of our friendly advisers, call **0300 303 0069**.

You could study for free

Depending on eligibility and availability, you could study this module for **free**. For more information, see page 4.

Even if your end goal isn't a qualification, you can continue your studies with standalone modules. For more information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/modules.



Next steps

To register or discuss your options



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/y031
Call
0300 303 0069



Business and law

Access module (Y035)

Explore what makes a business soar, and how laws affect our everyday lives. Immerse yourself in some of the key areas of business and law.

Each subject will be introduced and explained at a comfortable pace over 30 weeks, ideal if you have little or no prior knowledge. For anything you're unsure of, you'll have the specialist and dedicated support you'd expect from The Open University.

The module is divided into three blocks:

Block 1: Business, law and everyday life

You'll start the module by meeting your case study characters. By following them through their first steps of setting up a business and learning about the legal system, you'll develop exciting insights into how business affects their lives, and what roles business and law play in our everyday.

You'll consider who counts as a 'legal person' and what that means for businesses, plus the differences between criminal and civil law. You'll delve into what makes something a crime, learn to work with real legal materials and explore how to start a new business.

In this block, there's also an emphasis on developing your study habits. Skills such as using a computer, researching, and academic writing will lay the foundation for your future study.

Block 2: Resolving differences and working together

Block 2 has a wider theme of addressing ways of resolving differences and working together; it builds on your study from block 1. The block explores parts of the UK legal system by considering when an individual might find themselves in court, why a business might choose to avoid court, and where they turn for legal advice. You'll also learn the significance of age in law – and business – and if someone is in trouble with the law, what the purposes of punishing them are.

Through the business focus of block 2, you will explore the practical and ethical issues small businesses face in sourcing and marketing their products, and key considerations, such as:

- how might a small business raise money?
- does it matter where a business is located?
- how do people in large organisations work together?

While exploring these concepts, your online learning skills are developed, including reading and note-taking, and there's a focus on constructing an essay.

Block 3: Business and law case studies

Finally, you'll explore some in-depth case studies to develop the topics you studied in blocks 1 and 2. You'll focus on key questions surrounding business and law such as:

- what is the importance of the age of criminal responsibility? How do we decide what it is and why does it differ across the UK?
- how do we protect consumers – and businesses – from fake online reviews?
- what happens when a business causes harm?

By looking at these issues and what you've studied over 30 weeks, you'll develop academic skills of critical evaluation and comparison, and you'll have the opportunity to plan and write an essay to consolidate these essential skills for further study.

Choosing a qualification

Our *Business and law Access module* would be ideal preparation for studying towards a wide range of qualifications. A small selection is shown here, but for more information about all the qualifications we offer, go to openuniversity.co.uk/ug.

Business and Management

- BA (Hons) Business Management (Q91)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Business Management (T27)

Law

- Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (LLB) (R81)
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Law (Q92)

Open qualifications

In addition to our named qualifications, we also offer three Open qualifications, including a degree.

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For more information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open.

You could study for free

Depending on eligibility and availability, you could study this module for **free**. For more information, see page 4.

Even if your end goal isn't a qualification, you can continue your studies with standalone modules. For more information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/modules.

The Access module really helped equip me with the necessary skills, which in turn gave me the confidence to study at degree level.

Tim Walker
Bachelor of Laws (Hons) LLB

Next steps

To register or discuss your options



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/y035
Call
0300 303 0069



Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module (Y034)

Get an introduction to the wide-ranging topics that make up the social sciences.



**Fast-track version
available from
February 2025**

You'll develop a solid foundation for future study in areas such as:

- psychology
- childhood and youth studies
- health and social wellbeing
- sport
- education
- social sciences.

Each subject will be introduced and explained at a comfortable pace, ideal if you have little or no prior knowledge.

The module is divided into three blocks:

Block 1: Who am I?

You'll consider the overarching question of '*Who am I?*', including an introduction to genetics and demographics. You'll explore how these assigned or biological factors combine with social elements such as gender, class and our psychological outlook on life to form the concept of identity.

Block 2: Is it fair?

In this block, you'll address the topic of fairness in several different ways and investigate how these differences affect our life chances: from the places we are born and the environment in which we are raised, to the physical, practical and psychological differences of our bodies and minds. All these differences mean that our 'playing field' may not always be equal.

Block 3: What can be done?

The tensions between nature and nurture, and the dynamic society in which we live, mean that there are choices we can all make in our homes, neighbourhoods, countries, and the planet as a whole to effect change. However, some of these changes may not be as simple as they appear. In block 3 you'll examine how the key issues you've studied in blocks 1 and 2 can be put into practice.

You will also be able to participate in activities which will help you to make decisions about your future study plans.

Choosing a qualification

Our *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module* is ideal preparation for studying towards a wide range of qualifications. A small selection is shown here, but for more information about all the qualifications we offer, go to openuniversity.co.uk/ug.

Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport

- BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies (Q23)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Education Studies (Primary) (W54)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Sport and Fitness (W07)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Early Childhood (T26)

Health and Social Care

- BA (Hons) Health and Social Care (R26)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Health, Wellbeing and Social Care (T52)

Psychology and Counselling

- BSc (Hons) Psychology (Q07)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology (T22)

Social Sciences

- BA (Hons) Social Science (R23)
- BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Q45)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences (T06)

Open qualifications

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For more information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open.



Fast-track available from February 2025

Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module: fast-track (YXFT034)

Our standard Access modules last 30 weeks, but you have the choice to **complete this module more quickly** with the fast-track option. This is ideal if you want to fit in an Access module before you start your first Stage 1 module or qualification.

You'll explore the same fascinating subjects and benefit from the same tutor support, but you'll complete the module in less time by studying **16–20 hours a week, over 18 weeks**.

Not sure which option is right for you? Chat with one of our friendly advisers, call **0300 303 0069**.

You could study for free

Depending on eligibility and availability, you could study this module for **free**. For more information, see page 4.

Even if your end goal isn't a qualification, you can continue your studies with standalone modules. For more information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/modules.



Next steps

To register or discuss your options



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/y034
Call
0300 303 0069



Science, technology and maths Access module (Y033)

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are broad and fascinating subjects that challenge and excite.



**Fast-track version
available**

With a mix of theoretical study and some practical experiments, this Access module helps you build up the skills to be successful at further OU study in STEM subjects, no matter where you're starting from.

You'll gain a base knowledge in subjects such as:

- science
- engineering and design
- environment
- mathematics
- computing and IT.

Each subject will be introduced and explained at a comfortable pace, ideal if you have little or no prior knowledge.

The module is divided into three blocks:

Block 1: Life

Block 1 starts with biological and ecological ideas and uses varied examples to describe relationships between plants, animals and the wider environment. You'll learn about the unique role of humans, exploring how farming and conservation have changed the environment to suit our needs. You'll consider how we can tell what effect current lifestyles have on the environment, through the introduction of the ecological footprint model, sustainable living and species conservation.

This block also introduces key mathematical ideas and techniques to help you tackle everyday mathematical problems.

Block 2: Water

Water is essential for life and key to how we live. Block 2 investigates how water has shaped our planet and our lives. Through this focus on water, you'll learn and develop skills that will aid your practical understanding of a variety of tools used in science.

Using home experiments, you'll develop key skills to enable you to carry out practical science enquiries. For example, you will investigate the presence of water in potatoes and how water is required for yeast to respire. From this practical work, you'll learn about using experimental data to develop and refine hypotheses. Underpinning this are some essential mathematics and further computing skills.

Block 3: Home

Block 3 will give you the chance to explore subjects of design, engineering and computing around the central concept of home. You'll find out how homes are designed and can be improved using engineering and computing. In this practical block, you'll have the opportunity to complete several design, engineering, and computing activities and experiments.

You'll record a portfolio of your work in an online design studio while continuing to learn mathematics and IT skills to support your study of computing and engineering concepts.

Towards the end of the module, activities will become available to help you make decisions about your future study plans.

Choosing a qualification

Our *Science, technology and maths Access module* would be ideal preparation for studying towards a wide range of qualifications. A small selection is shown here, but for more information about all the qualifications we offer, go to openuniversity.co.uk/ug.

Computing and IT

- BSc (Hons) Computing and IT (Q62)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Computing and IT (W36)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Computing and IT (T12)

Engineering, Design and Technology

- BA/BSc (Hons) Design and Innovation (Q61)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Q65)

Environment

- BSc (Hons) Environmental Science (Q52)

Mathematics and Statistics

- BSc (Hons) Mathematics (Q31)
- BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Statistics (Q36)
- Diploma of Higher Education in Mathematical Sciences (W43)

Science

- BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences (Q64)
- BSc (Hons) Biology (R54)
- BSc (Hons) Physics (R51)

Open qualifications

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Fast-track available

Science, technology, and maths Access module: fast-track (YXFT033)

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Next steps

To register or discuss your options



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/y033
Call
0300 303 0069



At first, when I looked at the Access module, I was unsure if I'd be able to do it, but I decided to go for it. And now here I am, on the way to a BSc!

Deborah Butler
OU student



Get in touch

If you're in England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or have a British Forces Post Office address

- Email us from our website openuniversity.co.uk/contact
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **0300 303 0069**

Lines are open (UK time)
Monday to Friday: 08:00–17:30

Calls are charged at the local rate when calling from a UK mobile phone or landline.

In Northern Ireland

- Email northernireland@open.ac.uk
- Call our Belfast office on **028 9032 3722**

In Ireland

- Email ireland@open.ac.uk
- Call our Enquiry and Advice Centre in Dublin on **(01) 6785399** or our Belfast office on **+44 (0)28 9032 3722**

I siaradwyr Cymraeg

Os ydych yn siarad Cymraeg a byddai'n well gennych drafod eich anghenion astudio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, cysylltwch â:

Y Brifysgol Agored yng Nghymru
18 Heol y Tollty
Caerdydd
CF10 1AP

- Ffoniwch ni ar **029 2047 1170**
- E-bost cymorth-cymru@open.ac.uk

Mae fersiwn o'r prosiectws hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg.

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