



The Open  
University

# Undergraduate Prospectus

.....

Getting started with  
The Open University  
2015/2016

.....  
Life-changing Learning  
.....



“Self belief...  
that’s what the OU gives you.”

KERRY PACE, OU GRADUATE



## Bring your prospectus to life

Download our FREE App and engage in a fantastic, interactive and informative experience about real students and OU learning.

Discover our interactive pages, where objects move and rotate with a simple touch, and explore the amazing possibilities and opportunities available when you study with the OU.

Download OU Alive from the App Store and scan the interactive pages where this symbol appears. Your mobile/tablet device will then enable you to interact with these pages and bring learning to life!



Download the OU Alive App at:



# Life-changing Learning

Everything you need to know to start your journey with The Open University is right here. Read on and find out why we have some of the most satisfied students in the UK, then follow these simple steps to join them.

## 1 Choose your qualification

First, choose a subject area, for example, arts and humanities, then decide on the qualification you want to study. For detailed information on your choice of qualification, visit our online prospectus at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug) or request one of our subject-based prospectuses, see page 49.

## 2 Register

To secure your place, you need to register – don't worry, there's nothing to pay at this stage. Register online at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug) or call +44 (0)300 303 5303 – once you've registered, we'll send you an email with login details so you can move on to the next step.

## 3 Choose your first module

Next, we'll ask you to select your first module(s) – some of the modules in your chosen qualification will be compulsory, others will be optional.

## 4 Sort out your funding

We can help you manage the costs, making study more affordable than you might think. Depending on where you live, we offer a variety of ways to fund your studies. Find out more on pages 10–15.

## 5 Complete your registration

Finally, we'll need your payment method, for example, your student loan reference number or information about your approved financial support application. And that's it, you're a fully fledged OU student and ready to get going.

## Contents

Wherever you're going, it starts here	2
There's nothing distant about us	4
How you study with us	6
A world-class education for anyone who wants it	9
Our fees – and helping you find the right way to pay them	10
What you can study	16
Getting started with an Access module	17
Open qualifications	19
Arts and humanities	20
Business and management	22
Computing and IT	24
Education, childhood and youth	26
Engineering, design and technology	28
Environment and development	30
Health and social care	32
Languages	36
Law	38
Mathematics and statistics	40
Psychology and counselling	42
Science	44
Social sciences	46
What else you should know	48
Ordering other prospectuses	49
Any questions about undergraduate study?	Back Cover

# Wherever you're going, it starts here

---

The launch of The Open University (OU) changed the landscape of higher education forever. The principle we were founded on – that the very highest standard of education should be accessible by the many, not the few – still drives everything we do. It's why we're experts in part-time study and why more adults choose the OU than any other university.



## We're the UK's largest university

We offer one of the widest choices of qualifications in a broad range of subjects. Four out of ten of all part-time undergraduate students in the UK study with us and over 1000 tutorials are held across the UK every week.

We've spent over 40 years honing our methods, harnessing new and emerging technologies, and drawing on an unrivalled level of practical experience to make sure every student has the best possible chance to learn, achieve and succeed.

## We're experts in flexible, part-time study

No-one understands how to help students succeed and make knowledge stick better than us – we're the leading expert in flexible higher education. To do what we do successfully, year after year, requires exceptional technology, methods and staff. The way we work, works – not least because it's flexible enough to work around you and your life.

So, whether you're a crofter in the Shetland Isles or an engineer on a nuclear submarine, a working parent or a retired grandparent, our methods are tried, tested and proven.

FACT

Someone logs onto our servers every 0.4 seconds – that's 1.5m every week.

## An OU qualification says 'employ me'

An OU qualification on your CV shows more than your level of knowledge about a subject. It demonstrates to employers that you're someone who is up for a challenge and committed to successfully seeing it through, with excellent time management and prioritising skills. Just the kind of person, in fact, that employers are looking for, which is why organisations like the Metropolitan Police Service, KPMG and Unilever work with our Careers Advisory Service to recruit OU graduates.

With us, you don't have to put your life on hold to get the qualification you need. Three-quarters of our students fit study around their job and busy, changing lives. Whether you want to start a new career or go further in your current job, we can help. Find out more at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

FACT

The OU is the first UK university to make all of its undergraduate study materials accessible by mobile phone.

## We offer outstanding value for money

We understand that when you're investing your time, effort and money into studying, you need to know that the qualification you get at the end is worthwhile. So ask anyone who knows us whether studying for an OU qualification is worth it. Ask our 360,000 alumni, or the 30,000 employers that have chosen us to develop their workforce – organisations like the NHS, John Lewis and O2. We're confident that their answer will be 'yes'.

And it isn't just about getting the most out of the money you spend. You save money with us too. You won't need to move away to a campus-based university, or pay extra travel expenses. And because you have the flexibility to carry on working, you can earn while you learn.

## We're one of the world's finest universities

Everything we do is grounded in the research we're internationally famous for – OU research changes the world. It's this combination of world-class teaching and research that makes our qualifications so highly respected and our study materials so sought after.

FACT

The OU is one of the UK's leading space research centres and is the home of the historic Rosetta mission's gas analysis instrument, Ptolemy, which carried out experiments on the surface of a comet in 2014.

## We're more local than you think

Many people are surprised to learn that there are 400 study locations right across the UK. We also have around 1100 local events each year so why not come and talk to us? You can find your nearest event at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/events](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/events).

## We're just a phone call away

Students get excellent study assistance from student support teams – specialist teams dedicated to helping students successfully complete their modules. Once you are registered as a student, you will have access to these specialist teams. If you'd like to find out more, contact our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**.

## Students love us

It's great to know we're doing things right in the eyes of the people that matter most – our students. That's why we're proud that we have achieved over 90 per cent for student satisfaction year in, year out, in the National Student Survey. We think it's a reflection of the unique study experience that we offer.

**"The OU not only gave me the chance to better myself, it helped me achieve my dreams."**

LISA WHENHAM-BOSSY, OU GRADUATE

# There's nothing distant about us

We've taken distance learning to a whole new level - helping thousands of ordinary people achieve extraordinary things.



Our unique method of 'Supported Open Learning' is different to other methods because it combines more one-to-one contact than distance learning with more flexibility than campus-based learning. We blend the best of technology and tutoring to let you decide how you want to study.

It's this unique combination of flexibility and support that makes Supported Open Learning such a successful way to learn. Whether you're at home, at work or on the move, your tutor, study advisers and other students are as close as you need them to be – online, on email, on the phone and face to face.

**FACT** Supported Open Learning has helped over 1.8 million students get to where they want to be.

## What's it like being part of the world's largest student community?

New students are often surprised by how social studying with the OU can be, but a large and lively student community is part and parcel of being the UK's biggest provider of part-time higher education. Whenever you log on, our online forums are alive with people like you, and the opportunity to socialise doesn't stop when you log off. Our students regularly get together, either to attend an OU tutorial or as part of a local study group.

We also have an active Students Association, so whether you see yourself being able to influence how the University is run or you'd like to socialise or volunteer, there's something for everyone. To find out more about the OU Students Association, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousa](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousa).

## Our world-class library is open all hours

As an OU student you'll have exclusive access to the OU's world-class online library to help you research and complete your assignments. There are thousands of online resources available including academic books, journals, magazine articles, newspapers, encyclopaedias and dictionaries. You can tap into these quality-assured and trusted resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whenever you need them and wherever you are.

Support on how to find and use information is available through our online training sessions, and we have services to guide you in today's increasingly digital world. For example, our *Being digital* activities are designed to provide advice and guidance on how to be more confident using the internet. Library helpdesk staff are also on hand seven days a week to give help and support whenever you might need it.

Find out more about our online library at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/library](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/library).

**"The unrivalled online access to journals and materials was instrumental to the success of my studies."**

STEPHEN MCGANN, OU GRADUATE

## Support that continues when your studies end

Once you've achieved your qualification, you'll be invited to join the OU Alumni Association. With 360,000 members, it's a vibrant community and a great way to connect and network with people like you.

## Employer sponsorship

When it comes to managing the cost of your study, you've got options – see pages 10–15 for more information – but have you thought about asking your employer to pay for some or all of your qualification?

There are many commercially sensible reasons for organisations to help you develop professionally and personally with us.

- **Outstanding value** – our qualifications draw on real workplace situations and are results-driven, so you can put your new skills and knowledge into practice immediately. This means your employer gets a good return on their investment from day one.
- **Up-to-date, commercially-focused qualifications** – many of our qualifications are designed by leading public- and private-sector industry experts and in conjunction with sector skills councils, professional bodies and employers.
- **Employer-friendly learning methods** – employers appreciate the flexible way we deliver our qualifications as much as our students do.

Your employer could pay module by module and sponsor you for the entire cost of your qualification, reimburse you for some or all of your costs – perhaps on successful completion – or share the costs with you. To find out more, call our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**.

**FACT** Over 80 per cent of FTSE 100 companies have funded their staff to study at the OU.



# How you study with us

---

The best thing about the OU is that, within reason, you call the shots.  
When you study, where you study - it's all up to you.

---

## Here's how it works

To achieve your chosen **qualification**, you need to build up a set number of **credits**.



You get credits by successfully completing a series of **modules**, each teaching specific skills – some modules are worth more credits than others. Some modules will be compulsory, others will be optional.



It is not necessary to plan your entire qualification up front. When you register on your qualification, we'll only ask you to choose the module(s) you intend to study in your first year.

## Choosing your qualification

### Degrees – 360 credits

An undergraduate or bachelors degree is a widely recognised higher-education qualification that can help you progress in your career. While you are studying for your degree you will learn about your chosen subject(s) and develop your analytical, intellectual and writing skills.

Degree-level study will demonstrate that you can understand complex information, meet deadlines, work independently and in a team, solve problems, and communicate with others effectively.

All our degrees are 'honours degrees'. Like all universities based in the UK, we'll 'grade' your degree into one of four classes: 1 (first – the highest level), 2.1 (upper second), 2.2 (lower second) or 3 (third).

We offer two different types of degree:

#### A degree in a named subject

For a degree in a named subject, for example in business management or humanities, you'll study mainly in your chosen subject, although you can usually include some modules from other subjects too.

#### An Open degree

Our most popular degree lets you tailor a qualification to your needs and interests, with a wider range of module choice. You can combine modules from similar or different subjects to suit either your particular career or personal interests. For further information, please see page 19 or click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open).

### Foundation degrees – 240 credits

Foundation degrees are equivalent to two thirds of an honours degree and focus either on a particular job or profession; they combine workplace learning with academic study. Designed and developed with external partners, you must be working either as a paid employee or as a volunteer in a related work setting. They aim to enhance the professional and technical skills of staff within a profession or those intending to go into that profession. Most of our foundation degrees are also offered as diplomas of higher education for those living and working in Scotland.

### Diplomas of higher education (DipHEs) – 240 credits

DipHEs are equivalent to two thirds of an honours degree and focus either on a particular job or profession, or academic study. DipHEs are designed to increase the professional and technical skills of staff within a profession or extend your knowledge and understanding of a particular subject. Like a foundation degree, a DipHE shows that you are capable of extended study at university level.

### Certificates of higher education (CertHEs) – 120 credits

CertHEs are equivalent to the first year of an honours degree and focus either on a particular job or profession, or academic study. A CertHE is a basic-level qualification and shows that you are capable of studying successfully at university level.

### Want to prepare for your qualification?

If you have little or no experience of higher education you could start with one of our Access modules. They provide a taste of what it's like to study with the OU at the same time as developing your study skills and building your confidence, you could even study for **free**. For more information about the Access modules we offer, see pages 17–18.

## Choosing your modules one stage at a time

Most qualifications have one, two or three stages. The modules that make up each stage are set at different 'levels', according to their relative complexity and/or depth of learning.

Qualification	Credits required at each stage			Total credits required
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	
Degree with honours	120	120	120	360
Foundation degree/Diploma of higher education	120	120	–	240
Certificate of higher education	120	–	–	120

**So, for a typical three-stage honours degree requiring 360 credits, you would study:**

- 120 credits at Stage 1, studying OU level 1 modules worth 30 or 60 credits
- 120 credits at Stage 2, studying OU level 2 modules worth 30 or 60 credits
- 120 credits at Stage 3, studying OU level 3 modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

## Planning your time

Most OU students study part time and how long it takes depends on how many credits you study in a year.

- It takes about 9 hours of study a week to gain 30 credits a year.
- You need to study around 18 hours a week to gain 60 credits a year.
- It takes 36 hours of study a week to earn 120 credits, the maximum you can study each year. This is equivalent to full-time study at a campus-based university.

If you're thinking of studying full time, you need to plan your studies carefully as it involves studying more than one module at a time – we don't recommend you take on more than two simultaneously. You also need to bear in mind that, depending on your chosen qualification, the modules for a given stage of study may not all be available within your study year or may not be studied together for academic reasons. If this is the case, you won't be able to study full time.

The table below gives you a rough idea of how long it will take to complete a qualification.

Qualification	Time required to complete	
	Studying part time 60 credits a year	Studying full time 120 credits a year
Degree with honours	6 years	3 years
Foundation degree/Diploma of higher education	4 years	2 years
Certificate of higher education	2 years	1 year

## Counting previous study

### Can previous study count towards an OU qualification?

You may be able to count credit from previous higher education towards an OU qualification, reducing the number of modules you need to complete.

If you'd like to apply to transfer credit you need to let us know as soon as possible, and certainly before you register for your chosen qualification. Contact us to find out whether your previous study counts.

To find out more, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer), call an adviser on **+44 (0)300 303 5303** or email [credit-transfer@open.ac.uk](mailto:credit-transfer@open.ac.uk).

### What if you don't want to commit to a full qualification?

If you're not yet ready to commit to registering for a qualification, you can still study with us. Most of our modules are available on a standalone basis, and for each module you successfully complete, you'll earn credits that you could count towards an OU qualification. To find out more, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/modules](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/modules).

# A world-class education for anyone who wants it

At the OU, we believe it doesn't matter where you start from – it's where you want to be and how committed you are to getting there that matters.

We also believe that the grades you got at school aren't the only measure of ability, which is why you don't need any previous academic qualifications to study with us. You may even discover the skills you've gained through working will help your studies. If you want it badly enough, we'll do everything we can to help you achieve a qualification – perhaps that's why more people choose us every year than any other UK university.

## There are no entry requirements but you do need:

- **A computer and reliable internet access** – they're an essential part of our study programmes. Depending on where you live and how much you earn, you could receive financial help to buy a computer.
- **A good grasp of the English language** – our modules are taught in English and you need to be a competent user of the English language to study at higher-education level. If you're not sure, help and guidance are available at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/englishlanguage](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/englishlanguage).

## Feeling a bit rusty when it comes to studying?

If you're lacking confidence or haven't studied for a while, you may want to consider starting your studies with one of our introductory Access modules. These modules are designed to help you build confidence, develop study skills and prepare you for further study. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

## Our students come from all walks of life

- Over 140,000 students study with us at undergraduate level.
- Over 42 per cent of these don't have the formal qualifications they'd need to apply to a campus-based university.
- At last count, we had over 12,000 postgraduate students.
- Last year we supported around 22,000 disabled students.
- Over three quarters of our students fit study around their job.

## Free tasters

The free taster courses at [www.open.edu/openlearn](http://www.open.edu/openlearn) are there to help you prove you can do it. There are over 800 to choose from, ranging from introductory to postgraduate level, each taking between one and 50 hours to complete.

Our expertise also powers FutureLearn, the UK's largest provider of free online courses. Click, [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) for more information.

## We support disabled students

The unrivalled personal support we offer combined with our multimedia learning methods and the ability to study at your own pace means we're perfectly placed to make study accessible to almost everyone. You may also be eligible for extra help with study and travel costs. To find out more, call our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303** or click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/disability](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/disability).



# Our fees – and helping you find the right way to pay them

Working out how you'll pay for it is a big part of deciding to study. We work hard to keep the cost of study as low as possible and will help you find a way to pay that suits your circumstances. Fees, and the funding options available to you, vary according to where you live.

Remember, fees are paid on a module-by-module basis – you won't have to pay for the whole of your qualification up front.

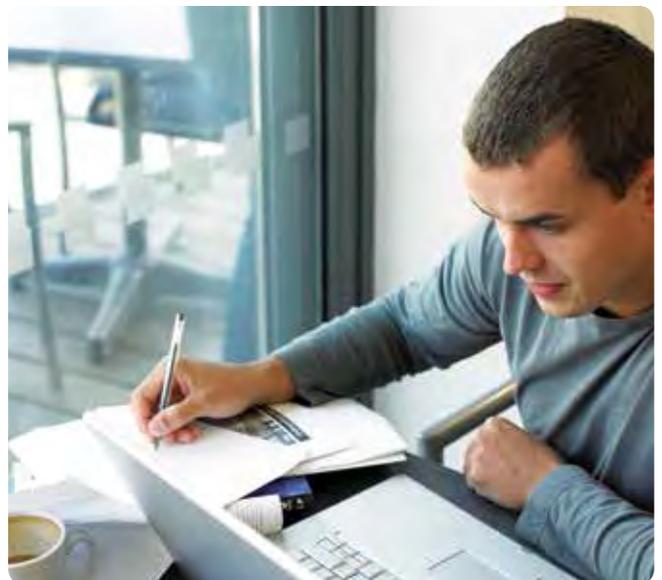
## How much will it cost if you live in England?

Our standard fee for 2015/2016 is £5400 – based on 120 credits of study – which is equivalent to a year's full-time study at a campus-based university. If, like most of our students, you choose not to study 120 credits a year, the price you'll pay each year will be a proportion of this fee:

Credits studied each year <sup>1</sup>	Percentage of standard fee	Cost per year	Time taken to complete a 360-credit honours degree
30 credits a year	25%	£1350	12 years part-time study
60 credits a year	50%	£2700	6 years part-time study
120 credits a year	100%	£5400	3 years full-time study

**At today's prices the total cost of a 360-credit honours degree would be £16,200.**

<sup>1</sup>For illustrative purposes only – in most cases, you can vary the number of credits you study each year. Most OU students study an average of 60 credits a year.



## Can I pay by student loan?

Yes – for many people, a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan (student loan) is the best way to fund study, regardless of age or income. Part-Time Tuition Fee Loans are the most popular payment method for first-time undergraduate students.

### Part-Time Tuition Fee Loans in a nutshell

- Nothing at all to pay up front.
- Nothing to pay for up to four years.
- Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe and are deducted automatically by your employer through the UK tax system.
- You only start making repayments when your salary exceeds the income threshold, currently £21,000.
- If your salary stops or drops below £21,000, your payments stop too.
- Interest is applied to your balance at the Retail Price Index (RPI) plus up to three per cent, once the University confirms that you are participating on your qualification.
- You're not committed to borrowing the cost of a full degree – you only borrow what you need to cover the coming year's fees.
- You can pay a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan off early if you want to.
- After 30 years, any remaining balance you owe is written off, no matter how much is left.

So, based on the current threshold of £21,000, say you earn £25,000 a year, you'll only need to pay back nine per cent of your income above £21,000, which works out at £30 a month. Not insignificant, but achievable for many people, especially as your payments stop if at any time your income falls below £21,000.

### Example repayment amounts (for illustrative purposes only)

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment
Up to £21,000	£0
£22,000	£7
£25,000	£30
£30,000	£67

To qualify, you'll need to study at a pace that's equivalent to at least 25 per cent of a full-time student, which means at least an OU module worth 30 credits every year.

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loans are provided by Student Finance England. For more information about Part-Time Tuition Fee Loans, including eligibility requirements, speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.



## What if I want to pay by instalments?

You can spread the cost of your studies and pay as you go. Find out more about an account with Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA) and the option of paying for your study in instalments as you go at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba). You must be at least 18 years of age and credit is subject to your financial circumstances and status.

## Are there any other ways to pay?

Yes – the OU offers a range of other ways to pay your tuition fees:

**Pay up front for each module** – by credit/debit card or by bank transfer.

**Get employer sponsorship** – if your study will help you at work your employer may be willing to sponsor you by paying some or all of the fees. To find out more, speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.

## Do I qualify for any financial support?

If you're on a low income or are on certain benefits you could be eligible for a free place on an Access module and/or be entitled to support from the Study Support Fund:

**Access modules** – if you're on certain benefits or have an annual household income of less than £25,000 and have little or no experience of higher education, you may be eligible for a **free** place on one of our Access modules if you study the module as an additional preparatory stage towards an OU qualification.

**Study Support Fund** – means tested, discretionary support is available to help pay for study-related costs such as travel, childcare and internet access.

### Am I eligible for financial support?

To find out more, click

[www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport) or speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.

## How much will it cost if you live in Northern Ireland?

The price you pay depends on the number of credits you study each year.

Credits studied each year <sup>1</sup>	Typical cost per year <sup>2</sup>	Time taken to complete a 360-credit honours degree
30 credits a year	£452–£702	12 years part-time study
60 credits a year	£833–£1076	6 years part-time study
120 credits a year	£1666–£2152	3 years full-time study

**At today's prices the typical cost of a 360-credit honours degree would be between £4998–£6456.**

<sup>1</sup>For illustrative purposes only – in most cases, you can vary the number of credits you study each year. Most OU students study an average of 60 credits a year.

<sup>2</sup>Fees for professionally relevant programmes of study (e.g. law) may be significantly higher than the ranges quoted.

### Do I qualify for any financial support?

There are two grants available to people living in Northern Ireland and, depending on your income and your course of study, you could apply for both. You may also be eligible for a free place on an Access module and for extra help from Support Funds to help pay for study-related expenses:

**Fee Grant** – if you are on certain benefits or have an annual household income not exceeding £25,420<sup>1</sup> you can apply for a Fee Grant to go towards or even cover the cost of the modules you study. The amount it's worth depends on how much you earn and how many credits you're studying for, but it could be as much as £1230<sup>1</sup>.

**Course Grant** – if you are on certain benefits or have an annual household income not exceeding £28,067<sup>1</sup> a year, you could be eligible for a Course Grant to help you pay for other costs of study, like a laptop, internet access or travel to tutorials – it's worth up to £265<sup>1</sup>.

You need to be studying between 30 and 120 credits' worth of modules to qualify (usually with a minimum of 30 credits for any one module).

If you have a partner who is financially dependent on you, or you have children, allowances are made that mean you can earn more and still be eligible for both of these grants. These allowances are £2000 for a partner, £2000 for your first child and £1000 for each further child.

So, if you have a partner and two children who are financially dependent on you, you could have a household income of up to £33,067<sup>1</sup> and be entitled to receive some financial support. If you live with your parents, their income will not be included in any assessment of your household income.

<sup>1</sup>Based on 2014/2015 figures.

**Access modules** – if you're on certain benefits or have an annual household income of less than £25,000 and have little or no experience of higher education, you may be eligible for a **free** place on one of our Access modules if you study the module as an additional preparatory stage towards an OU qualification.

**Support Funds** – means tested, discretionary support is available to help pay for study-related costs such as travel, childcare and internet access.

#### Am I eligible for financial support?

To find out more, click

[www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport)  
or speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.

### What if I want to pay by instalments?

You can spread the cost of your studies and pay as you go. Find out more about an account with Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA) and the option of paying for your study in instalments as you go at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba). You must be at least 18 years of age and credit is subject to your financial circumstances and status.

### Are there any other ways to pay?

Yes – the OU offers a range of other ways to pay your tuition fees:

**Pay up front for each module** – by credit/debit card or by bank transfer.

**Get employer sponsorship** – if your study will help you at work your employer may be willing to sponsor you by paying some or all of the fees. To find out more, speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.

# How much will it cost if you live in Scotland?

The price you pay depends on the number of credits you study each year.

Credits studied each year <sup>1</sup>	Typical cost per year <sup>2</sup>	Time taken to complete a 360-credit honours degree
30 credits a year	£452–£702	12 years part-time study
60 credits a year	£833–£1076	6 years part-time study
120 credits a year	£1666–£2152	3 years full-time study

**At today's prices the typical cost of a 360-credit honours degree would be between £4998–£6456.**

<sup>1</sup>For illustrative purposes only – in most cases, you can vary the number of credits you study each year. Most OU students study an average of 60 credits a year.

<sup>2</sup>Fees for professionally relevant programmes of study (e.g. law) may be significantly higher than the ranges quoted.

## Do I qualify for any financial support?

Depending on your income and your course of study, you could be eligible to apply for a Part-Time Fee Grant, Individual Learning Account, a free place on an Access module or for help to pay for study-related expenses:

**Part-Time Fee Grant** – if your personal income is £25,000 or less a year, or you're on certain benefits, you can apply once each year to have your module fees paid if you are studying between 30–120 credits a year. The date to apply for the fee grant is usually a week earlier than the final enrolment date of your module.

**Skills Development Scotland Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs)** – these are for people who are 16 or over and living in Scotland. If you have an income of £22,000 a year or less, or you are on benefits, you may be eligible to get up to £200 towards the costs of learning or training, which you can use towards the fees of certain OU modules, including those under 30 credits. You must ensure that your ILA application is completed by the final enrolment date of the module you'd like to study.

**Access modules** – if you have little or no experience of higher education and have a personal income of £25,000 or less, you may be eligible for a **free** place on one of our Access modules.

**Discretionary funds** – means tested, discretionary support is available to help pay for study-related costs such as travel, childcare and internet access.

### Am I eligible for financial support?

To find out more, click

[www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport)  
or speak to an OU adviser on **0131 226 3851**.

## What if I want to pay by instalments?

You can spread the cost of your studies and pay as you go. Find out more about an account with Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA) and the option of paying for your study in instalments as you go at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba). You must be at least 18 years of age and credit is subject to your financial circumstances and status.

## Are there any other ways to pay?

Yes – the OU offers a range of other ways to pay your tuition fees:

**Pay up front for each module** – by credit/debit card or by bank transfer.

**Get employer sponsorship** – if your study will help you at work your employer may be willing to sponsor you by paying some or all of the fees. To find out more, speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.



## How much will it cost if you live in Wales?

The price you pay depends on the number of credits you study each year.

Credits studied each year <sup>1</sup>	Typical cost per year <sup>2</sup>	Time taken to complete a 360-credit honours degree
30 credits a year	£452–£702	12 years part-time study
60 credits a year	£833–£1076	6 years part-time study
120 credits a year	£1666–£2152	3 years full-time study

**At today's prices the typical cost of a 360-credit honours degree would be between £4998–£6456.**

<sup>1</sup>For illustrative purposes only – in most cases, you can vary the number of credits you study each year. Most OU students study an average of 60 credits a year.

<sup>2</sup>Fees for professionally relevant programmes of study (e.g. law) may be significantly higher than the ranges quoted.

### Can I pay by student loan?

Yes, for many people, a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan (student loan) is the best way to fund study, regardless of age or income.

#### Part-Time Tuition Fee Loans in a nutshell

- Nothing at all to pay up front.
- Nothing to pay for up to four years.
- Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe and are deducted automatically by your employer through the UK tax system.
- You only start making repayments when your salary exceeds the income threshold, currently £21,000.
- If your salary stops or drops below the income threshold, your payments stop too.
- Interest is applied to your balance at the Retail Price Index (RPI) plus up to three per cent, once the University confirms that you are participating on your qualification.
- You're not committed to borrowing the cost of a full degree – you only borrow what you need to cover the coming year's fees.
- You can pay a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan off early if you want to.
- After 30 years, any remaining balance you owe is written off, no matter how much is left.

So, based on the current threshold of £21,000, say you earn £25,000 a year, you'll only need to pay back nine per cent of your income above £21,000, which works out at £30 a month. Not insignificant, but achievable for many people, especially as your payments stop if at any time your income falls below £21,000.

#### Example repayment amounts (for illustrative purposes only)

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment
Up to £21,000	£0
£22,000	£7
£25,000	£30
£30,000	£67

To qualify, you'll need to study at a pace that's equivalent to at least 25 per cent of a full-time student, which means at least an OU module worth 30 credits every year.

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loans are provided by Student Finance Wales. For more information about Part-Time Tuition Fee Loans, including eligibility requirements, speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.

### What if I want to pay by instalments?

You can spread the cost of your studies and pay as you go. Find out more about an account with Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA) and the option of paying for your study in instalments as you go at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba). You must be at least 18 years of age and credit is subject to your financial circumstances and status.

### Are there any other ways to pay?

Yes – the OU offers a range of other ways to pay your tuition fees:

**Pay up front for each module** – by credit/debit card or by bank transfer.

**Get employer sponsorship** – if your study will help you at work your employer may be willing to sponsor you by paying some or all of the fees. To find out more, speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.

### Do I qualify for financial support?

There are several grants available to people living in Wales depending on your income and your course of study:

**Course Grant** – if you are on certain benefits or have an annual household income less than £28,180<sup>1</sup> a year, you could be eligible for a Course Grant to help you pay for other costs of study, like a laptop, internet access or travel to tutorials – it's worth up to £1155<sup>1</sup>. Eligibility is dependent on the number of credits you study.

If you have a partner who is financially dependent on you, or you have children, allowances are made that mean you can earn more and still be eligible for this grant. These allowances are £2000 for a partner, £2000 for your first child and £1000 for each further child.

So, if you have a partner and two children who are financially dependent on you, you could have a household income of up to £33,180<sup>1</sup> and be entitled to receive some financial support. If you live with your parents, their income will not be included in any assessment of your household income.

<sup>1</sup>Based on 2014/2015 figures.

**Other grants** – there is also some additional means-tested support to help with study-related costs as well as the Adult Dependants' Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance and Childcare Grant.

#### Access modules

If you're on certain benefits or have an annual household income of less than £25,000 and have little or no experience of higher education, you may also be eligible for a **free** place on one of our Access modules if you study the module as an additional preparatory stage towards an OU qualification.

#### Am I eligible for financial support?

To find out more, click

[www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/financialsupport)  
or speak to an OU adviser on **0300 303 5303**.

## How much will it cost if you live outside the UK?

Undergraduate fees for students living outside the UK are the same as those for students in England, see page 10 for details.

### Do I have to pay up front?

Not if you don't want to – you can spread the cost of your studies and pay as you go. Find out more about an account with Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA) and the option of paying for your study in instalments as you go at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba). You must be at least 18 years of age and credit is subject to your financial circumstances and status.

### Are there any other ways to pay?

Yes – the OU offers a range of other ways to pay your tuition fees:

**Pay up front for each module** – by credit/debit card or by bank transfer.

**Get employer sponsorship** – if your study will help you at work your employer may be willing to sponsor you by paying some or all of the fees. To find out more, speak to an OU adviser on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**.



# What you can study

## Choose from our wide and varied curriculum

You may be looking for a flexible approach to getting a qualification, in which case you'll find our Open qualifications provide you with a unique way to tailor study to your needs and interests.

Or, if you'd like to focus on a subject but are unsure of which one, the introductions to the thirteen subjects we offer may help you decide.

<b>Getting started with an Access module</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Open qualifications</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Subjects</b>	
Arts and humanities	20
Business and management	22
Computing and IT	24
Education, childhood and youth	26
Engineering, design and technology	28
Environment and development	30
Health and social care	32
Languages	36
Law	38
Mathematics and statistics	40
Psychology and counselling	42
Science	44
Social sciences	46

## Key Information Set (KIS)

KIS is a set of data that has been collated to provide you with information about higher education courses offered throughout the UK. Because the information is available for courses offered at all higher education institutions, it also allows you to compare various aspects of courses such as student satisfaction, teaching and assessment, and employability. To access the KIS for our courses, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug) and go to your chosen qualification.

# Getting started with an Access module

Increase your confidence, improve your skills, and prepare yourself for further study.

The OU offers a range of Access modules that have been specially designed to help you find out what it's like to study with the OU, get a taste for the subjects we offer, develop your study skills, build your confidence, and prepare you for further study towards a nationally recognised qualification. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying and use the same high-quality study materials and study support we're famous for.

FACT

Students who prepare by taking an Access module are more likely to be successful in their future studies.

## Is an Access module right for me?

Do you have little or no experience of university-level study?

Do you want to develop or refresh your study skills?

Do you want to increase your confidence about studying?

Are you unsure about studying with The Open University?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the questions above, and you live in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or have a BFPO address, an Access module may be the ideal starting point for you.

### You could even study for free

If you meet certain criteria you could be eligible to study an Access module for **free**, for more information see page 18.

## What kind of support will I receive?

You'll have your own personal tutor who will provide regular one-to-one telephone tutorials and support throughout your study, along with providing written feedback on your work. Our dedicated Access support team will help with any general queries about your studies and you'll be able to exchange ideas with other students using our active online forums.

## How will I be assessed?

There aren't any examinations to sit. Instead, there are four short written assignments and a number of online quizzes to complete.

## What can I study?

We offer a choice of three Access modules:

### Arts and languages Access module (Y031)

This fascinating module explores a wide range of subjects, including art history, English, English language studies, history, modern languages and also touches on the areas of creative writing and religious studies. The different subject areas are linked through the theme of popular protest. Your exploration of language will include the study of a First World War poem, hip-hop and song. In history you'll examine the debates surrounding the Chartist and Suffragette movements, and examples of graffiti feature in your exploration of art. This module provides you with lots of opportunities to develop both your study skills and your subject knowledge in the arts and languages.

### People, work and society Access module (Y032)

This module draws from a range of disciplines: children and young people; health; law; management; psychology; and social science. The module is divided into four blocks, each of which deals with a specific theme: *Individuals; Families and relationships; Organisations and communities; and Society*. Within each block, you will explore the theme from the perspective or point of view of each discipline allowing you to develop both your subject knowledge and your study skills. As a student you will be well prepared for further study on a wide variety of Open University qualifications.

### Science, technology and maths Access module (Y033)

This module introduces a range of subjects, including science; engineering and design; environment; mathematics; and computing and IT. There are three blocks. In *Life* you'll explore biology, ecology and how humans interact with and change the environment. In *Water* you'll investigate how water has shaped our planet and our lives. And in *Home* you'll be introduced to design, engineering and computing. Throughout each block you'll develop your understanding of the key mathematical ideas and techniques that underpin the study of science and technology.

Continued on page 18

## When can I start?

Access modules start in October and February each year.

## How much time will I need to study?

These modules are studied over a period of 30 weeks and during that time you should expect to spend approximately nine hours per week on your studies.

You don't need to attend face-to-face tutorials and can fit your studies around your work and family life. You fix your telephone tutorials at times that are mutually convenient to you and your tutor.

## What do I need to begin my studies?

You'll receive a complete set of study materials in the post. There will be study books and other printed material, as well as a DVD. All of these materials are included in the fee.

You will require access to equipment that plays DVDs, a phone and the use of a computer with internet access. You don't need to rush out and buy a computer as you could use one at a library or drop-in centre.

## What will I get at the end?

On successful completion of an Access module you'll gain an OU Access Module Certificate and will be well prepared to continue your studies with us.

You'll gain valuable knowledge and skills you can apply straight away, at the same time as developing your confidence and giving your CV a real boost.

If you choose to study the module as part of a qualification, the credit gained will be in addition to the other credit required for the qualification.

## How much will it cost?

You could be eligible to study your module for **free** if you meet the criteria set out below. In order to qualify you must:

- be resident in the UK or have a BFPO address outside the UK (excludes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man)
- be studying an Access module as an additional preparatory stage towards an OU qualification (doesn't apply if you live in Scotland)
- have a household income (personal income if you live in Scotland) of less than £25,000 (or be in receipt of qualifying benefits)
- have not completed any more than one year on a full-time undergraduate programme at NQF Level 4/SCQF Level 7 or above, or completed 30 credits or more of OU study.

## What if I don't meet the criteria?

The fee you pay is determined by where you are ordinarily resident:

- If you live in England, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man the fee is £675.
- If you live in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales the fee is £230.

## How can I pay?

If you don't meet the criteria for a free place set out below left, there is a range of ways you can pay.

### Can I pay by student loan?

If you live in England or Wales, you may be able to cover the cost of your studies with a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan if you study an Access module as an additional preparatory stage towards an OU qualification (see pages 11 and 14 for further information).

### What if I want to pay by instalments?

You can spread the cost of your studies and pay as you go. Find out more about an account with Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA) and the option of paying for your study in instalments as you go at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba). You must be at least 18 years of age and credit is subject to your financial circumstances and status.

### Are there any other ways to pay?

You can pay up front and in full by debit/credit card or by bank transfer.

## Your next step

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access)

Call our Student Recruitment Team  
on **+44 (0)300 303 0069**

Request a copy of our *Access Module Certificates*  
prospectus – see page 49

# Open qualifications

With an Open qualification – a certificate of higher education (CertHE), diploma of higher education (DipHE) or degree (BA or BSc Hons) – you can build a qualification that's unique to you.

It's the most flexible programme of study in the UK because you can study any subjects you like, in any combination. You can:

- design your own qualification to suit your personal and professional needs, interests and aspirations
- easily change direction if your study interests change
- gain knowledge and skills in a wide range of subjects
- count credit from university-level studies you've already completed elsewhere
- enhance your employability.

## Study modules that interest you

For an Open qualification, there is nothing to stop you doing some psychology modules then studying modules in the humanities, or combining mathematics and science. Many students complete a broadly based arts or sciences qualification. Alternatively, you could concentrate on literature, but also do some French and geography – the choice is yours.

## Get credit for previous study

Any previous higher education study you've successfully completed elsewhere could count towards your Open qualification (degree and diploma only). Through credit transfer you could reduce the number of modules you'll need to take, lessen the time needed to complete your qualification and also make a saving in terms of the cost. Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer) to find out more.

## Career relevance

Highly regarded by employers, Open qualifications equip you with a wide range of expertise, skills and capabilities that are much sought after in today's highly competitive job market.

An Open qualification on your CV shows more than your level of knowledge about a subject. It demonstrates to employers that you're someone who is up for a challenge and committed to successfully seeing it through, with excellent time management and prioritising skills.

To find out more about career opportunities with an Open qualification, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-open](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-open).

## What Open qualifications do we offer?

- **Certificate of Higher Education Open (T09)** (120 credits)
- **Diploma of Higher Education Open (W34)** (240 credits)
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open Degree (QD)** (360 credits)

We also offer you the option of graduating with an Open degree without honours. It can take less time to study because you only need 300 credits. However, you are likely to need a degree with honours to pursue further study and for many career paths.

## The Open degree with honours study route

### Stage 1 – 120 credits

Start with 60 credits from a wide and varied choice of key introductory modules (worth 30 or 60 credits) specially selected to develop your subject knowledge and study skills in preparation for OU level 2 study – click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open) for details.

#### Plus

60 credits of free choice from a wide range of OU level 1 modules.



### Stage 2 – 120 credits

120 credits of free choice from a wide range of OU level 2 modules.

Stage 2 offers an opportunity to focus on your subject(s) of interest and to explore further some of the topics you will have encountered at Stage 1. At the end of Stage 2 you will have enhanced your critical thinking and analytical skills.



### Stage 3 – 120 credits

120 credits of free choice from a wide range of OU level 3 modules although we recommend that you choose those that build on your OU level 2 study.

Stage 3 is focused on the study of specialist topics and issues. During this stage you will develop significantly as an independent learner and acquire high-level thinking skills in preparation for graduate-level employment or postgraduate study.



## BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open (QD)

## Your next step

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug-open)

Call our Student Recruitment Team  
on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# Arts and humanities

Arts and humanities is a rewarding and enjoyable area to study. Exploring and analysing human culture and history, from ancient civilisations through to the twenty-first century, gives us a deeper insight into the world we live in and how we got here.

## Inspired by people, places and history?

Maybe you're intrigued by ideas about human existence, the world's religions, civilisations and their histories; or perhaps you'd like to explore people's ideas and beliefs, their cultural practices and the objects they have made. Our arts and humanities programme covers many different aspects of culture and allows you to study at degree, diploma or certificate level. The OU has been ranked in the top 100 in the world for arts and humanities.

## Career opportunities

Studying arts and humanities gives you an adaptable set of skills that can lead to a vast range of career opportunities. It shows that you can work independently, think critically and read analytically, organise information, and write clearly and coherently. This makes you an effective communicator, enhancing your career prospects, as well as giving you more confidence in other areas of your life. Arts and humanities graduates are particularly good at utilising their creative problem-solving abilities and expertise in connecting different ideas and concepts, which are valued employability skills.

These key skills can be put to use in virtually any organisation, across many different employment sectors. For example, you could work in public administration such as local government, the civil service, art institutions, social services, education, journalism, publishing or public relations. Many business and political leaders have arts and humanities backgrounds. Other popular career paths include human resources, the creative industries, or working for charities and campaigning organisations.

To find out more about career opportunities related to arts and humanities, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## What can you study in arts and humanities?

- Art history
- Classical studies
- Creative writing
- English language
- English literature
- History
- Music
- Philosophy
- Religious studies

## What qualifications can you get in arts and humanities?

### Degrees

- **BA (Hons) Classical Studies (Q85)**  
Learn about the history, culture, society and languages of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds, as you develop the high-level skills valued by employers.
- **BA (Hons) English Language and Literature (Q39)**  
Learn about the English language, how it's used around the world, study a wide range of literary texts, and develop skills highly valued by employers.
- **BA (Hons) English Literature (Q66)**  
Explore aspects of English as an academic subject, and acquire skills in critical analysis of different kinds of literature.
- **BA (Hons) English Literature and Creative Writing (Q86)**  
Learn to interpret literature from different historical periods and develop your writing skills in several genres including fiction, poetry and life writing.
- **BA (Hons) History (Q01)**  
Explore a diverse selection of places, periods and people, including empire, twentieth century Europe and the history of medicine, while developing key skills.
- **BA (Hons) Humanities (Q03)**  
Combine different aspects of the arts – what people thought, made and practised – their meaning and values in the past and today in a highly-valued degree.
- **BA (Hons) Humanities specialising in Art History, Classical Studies, Creative Writing, English Language, English Literature, History, Music, Philosophy, Religious Studies, French, German or Spanish (Q03)**  
This flexible degree allows you to study a range of subjects, or to specialise in one or two subjects in a variety of combinations, providing you with an adaptable set of skills for a vast range of careers.
- **BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies (Q43)**  
Explore concepts, theories, methods and debates in philosophy and psychology relevant to a broad range of careers, including advertising and marketing, social services, administration and management.
- **BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Q45)**  
This internationally recognised combination of subjects provides you with skills and understanding particularly

relevant to many areas of public service, including civil and diplomatic services and local government.

- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**

Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study arts and humanities along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

#### Diploma of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Humanities (W35)**

Provides a broad introduction to the arts and humanities with an opportunity to study one or two subjects in greater depth.

#### Certificate of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Humanities (T07)**

## Working towards a qualification

The example below illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Humanities (Q03). With this qualification, you can study a broad-based humanities degree or choose to study either one or two specialist subjects from a wide range of subjects, including: art history; classical studies; creative writing; English language; English literature; history; music; philosophy; religious studies; French; German; and Spanish. Our example shows music and religious studies.

#### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

### Broad-based humanities degree

### Music and Religious Studies specialist subjects

#### Stage 1 – 120 credits

Stage 1 covers a wide range of topics, periods and approaches with the aim of giving you a broad-based grounding in the study and enjoyment of the arts and humanities, as well as honing your critical and analytical skills and preparing you for OU level 2 study.



#### Stage 2 – 120 credits

You can choose modules from a wide range of subjects including:

- art history
- classical studies
- classical languages
- creative writing
- English literature
- music
- English language
- philosophy
- history
- religious studies
- French
- German
- Spanish.



#### Stage 2 – 120 credits

At Stage 2 you will begin to focus on your chosen specialist subjects as you are introduced to the principles of music and the study of religions.

In Stage 2 you'll develop your critical thinking, writing and analytical skills, and begin to work and think more independently.



#### Stage 3 – 120 credits

At Stage 3 you will:

- build on your Stage 2 choices from the full range of OU level 3 modules in arts and humanities
- work more independently
- explore topics and issues in greater detail.



#### Stage 3 – 120 credits

You will continue with your study of music and religious studies in Stage 3, focusing on working with music and the controversial issues connected to religion.

Stage 3 allows you to work more independently and explore topics and issues in greater detail.



### BA (Hons) Humanities (Q03)

### BA (Hons) Humanities (Music and Religious Studies) (Q03)

## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Arts and Humanities Prospectus* – see page 49 Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# Business and management

It's easy to see why business and management is such a popular study choice among our students, and why hundreds of leading employers each year sponsor their staff to study with the OU.

A competitive global economy means a good grounding in business is becoming more and more useful if you want to get ahead in life – whether you're running your own company or focusing on a corporate career.

Whatever your starting point or background, The Open University Business School offers high quality qualifications that each year help over 25,000 students across 86 countries acquire the capabilities and confidence to achieve business goals in both the private and public/not-for-profit sectors.

Through your studies you'll learn about the way businesses operate, how they develop winning strategies, make decisions and manage risk. You'll also gain valuable insight into key business functions such as finance, human resources, ICT, and sales and marketing. In acquiring this real-world knowledge, which you can apply immediately in your professional life, you'll also develop a wide range of general business skills in communication, numeracy and presentation, which are valued by employers.

To find out more about career opportunities related to business and management, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## What qualifications can you get in business and management?

### Degrees

- **NEW BA (Hons) Business Management (Q91)**  
This is a flexible degree that's accessible and relevant to your workplace. You'll study how organisations work, how they're managed and the external world in which they operate.
- **BA (Hons) Business Management (Sport and Football) (Q88)**  
This unique qualification will develop your skills and understanding of business, management, training and sport with a focus on the football industry.
- **BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Business (Q67)**  
This flexible joint honours degree offers the chance to focus on an area of computing and IT combined with a second, equal element of study in business.

- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**

Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study business and management along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Diplomas of higher education

- **NEW Diploma of Higher Education in Business Management (W51)**  
This qualification will suit you if you want to develop your business and management skills and boost your career.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Business Management (Sport and Football) (W49)**  
This innovative diploma will develop your understanding of the wider business world using case studies and examples from the football industry.

### Certificates of higher education

- **NEW Certificate of Higher Education in Business Management (T27)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Business Management (Sport and Football) (T25)**

### OU certificates

OU certificates in accounting and management, ranging from 60 to 70 credits, are specially designed Open University qualifications that you can use to enhance or progress your current career.

- Professional Certificate in Accounting (S25)
- Professional Certificate in Management (S01)

## Working towards a qualification

The example opposite illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Business Management (Q91). With this degree, you can study a broad-based business management degree or choose to study business management with one specialist subject. Five specialist subjects are available: accounting; economics; innovation and enterprise; leadership practice; and marketing. Our example shows economics.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

## Broad-based business management degree

## Economics specialist subject

## Stage 1 – 120 credits

In Stage 1 you'll be introduced to the nature of business and its functions and select from a range of modules that includes:

- management practice
- retail management and marketing
- communication skills
- statistics
- mathematics
- personal finance.



## Stage 2 – 120 credits

In Stage 2 you'll focus on the essential organisational functions of:

- human resources
- operations management
- information management
- marketing
- accounting and finance.

And you'll select options from:

- business and their environments
- economics
- leadership and management
- accounting and finance.



## Stage 2 – 120 credits

In Stage 2 you'll focus on the essential organisational functions of:

- human resources
- operations management
- information management
- marketing
- accounting and finance.

And for your chosen specialist subject, you'll investigate a wide range of issues relevant to running the economy.



## Stage 3 – 120 credits

At Stage 3 you will focus your studies on the fascinating world of strategy.

And you'll select options from:

- management
- marketing
- accounting
- organisational collaboration
- entrepreneurship.



## Stage 3 – 120 credits

At Stage 3 you will focus your studies on the fascinating world of strategy.

You'll follow this with further studies in your specialist subject that cover the economic theories that explain the behaviour of people in households, firms, markets and governments.



**BA (Hons) Business Management (Q91)**

**BA (Hons) Business Management (Economics) (Q91)**

## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Business and Management Prospectus* – see page 49

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

# Computing and IT

Virtually everything we do involves computing and IT – from booking tickets online and emailing friends, to paying by credit card and using household appliances.

At the heart of digital devices are computers – ranging from the small embedded processor in your mobile phone, to the personal computer you use at home or work, and the large servers that support ecommerce and the internet. Most of us simply take this technology for granted, yet understanding how it works is fascinating.

Whether you simply have an enquiring mind, or want to learn more about this fast-growing field in order to change career direction or improve your prospects, the OU offers a wide choice of study options to meet your needs. And the great advantage of OU study is you don't need to take a career break or sacrifice earning a living while you study.

## Career opportunities

Employment in the computing and IT sector is highly rewarding and there are plenty of ways to get involved. Designing and writing the software that drives computers, building and testing systems, and keeping networks up to date and functioning smoothly all present different challenges.

Computing and IT professionals with a strong skills set are very much in demand today, by both IT providers and user organisations, particularly in areas such as retail, financial services, manufacturing and the public sector. An OU qualification will help you to get where you want to be, whether that's in development or operations, or perhaps in technical support or consultancy. And for those already working in a computing or IT role, OU study will ensure you remain at the cutting edge and give you a vital competitive advantage as you progress in your career.

Our honours degrees in computing and IT are currently accredited by BCS – The Chartered Institute for IT.

To find out more about career opportunities related to computing and IT, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).



## What qualifications can you get in computing and IT?

### Degrees

- **BSc (Hons) Computing and IT (Q62)**  
This flexible degree offers a variety of study options, giving you the opportunity to focus on digital technologies, software development, solutions development, computer science, or networking.
- **BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and a second subject (Q67)**  
With this flexible joint honours degree you can focus on an area in computing & IT and combine it with a second subject: business, design, mathematics, applied psychology or statistics.
- **Top-up BSc (Hons) Computing and IT Practice (Q68)**  
If you've already completed the Foundation Degree in Computing and IT Practice (or an equivalent approved by the University), this top-up will give you a full honours degree.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study computing and IT along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Foundation degree/Diplomas of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Computing and IT (W36)**  
This flexible diploma will provide you with a broad-based foundation for a variety of careers relating to computing and IT.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Computing & IT and a second subject (W42)**  
This diploma combines a broad introduction to computing and IT with one specialist option and either business, design, mathematics, applied psychology or statistics as a second subject.
- **Foundation Degree in Computing and IT Practice (X15) or Diploma of Higher Education in Computing and IT Practice (W15)**  
If you work with computers, this qualification will develop skills directly relevant to your work, and give you academic knowledge valued by employers.

### Certificates of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Computing & IT (T12)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Computing & IT and a second subject (T13)**

## Working towards a qualification

The example below illustrates how you can work towards the BSc (Hons) Computing and IT (Q62) with a software development focus. Other study options are available depending on your interests or career aspirations: digital technologies, networking, solutions development, and computer science.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

### Stage 1 - 120 credits

Stage 1 is common to all study options for this degree. It offers you hands-on experience of designing, building and programming the small, ubiquitous computers that will become increasingly common over the next decade, and provides an opportunity to develop essential skills in:

- computer networking, robotics and the Linux operating system
- mathematics.



### Stage 2 - 120 credits

In your study of software development you'll learn how to specify and design computer programmes and develop your programming skills using the object-oriented programming language Java.

You'll complete Stage 2 with a choice of options in computer science, digital technologies, networking, or solutions development.



### Stage 3 - 120 credits

You will select from a range of optional modules to develop further your knowledge and understanding of the topics you studied at Stage 2.

Stage 3 ends with an individual project on a topic of your choice. You will research, develop and write up your findings in a substantial report that you can show employers as a portfolio of your work.



## BSc (Hons) Computing and IT (Q62)



## Your next step

Request a copy of our  
*Computing and IT Prospectus* – see page 49  
 Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)  
 Call our Student Recruitment Team  
 on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

# Education, childhood and youth

Looking at the world from the point of view of others isn't always easy. You can increase your awareness and appreciation of what it really means to grow up, learn and work in today's rapidly changing world by studying with the OU.

## Up to date and relevant

You may be working with – or plan to work with – children, young people, families or learners, and be interested in obtaining vocational or professional qualifications to help you fulfil your ambitions. If so, we offer nationally recognised qualifications that are flexible with well-marked stepping stones for you to follow at your own pace – from entry level, through to foundation degrees and diplomas to honours degrees. High-quality content and teaching build directly on our research work in education; psychology; social sciences; health and social care; and youth work.

In addition to the new knowledge, skills and confidence you will gain, OU study opens up many worthwhile career and personal opportunities. There is a demand for well-qualified people in education, childcare, youth and community work, research, and the voluntary sector, as well as local, national and international policy development.

Education, childhood and youth are increasingly high-profile areas of social policy, where many radical changes in practice, service provision and training are taking place across all sectors. Our leading approach will bring you right up to date with the latest thinking, ideas and research, giving you a real edge.

To find out more about career opportunities related to education, childhood and youth, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).



## What can you study in education, childhood and youth?

- Childhood and youth studies
- Early years
- Primary education
- Secondary education

## What qualifications can you get in education, childhood and youth?

### Degrees

- **BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies (Q23)**  
This degree is for those who work or intend to work with children and young people, or for those with more general interests in the interdisciplinary field of childhood and youth studies.
- **BA (Hons) Early Years (Q51) (also available as a 'top-up' if you've got a Foundation Degree in Early Years from another university (Q60))**  
Gain the specialist knowledge you need to work with children from birth to seven years old in early years and education settings with this degree.
- **BSc (Hons) Mathematics and its Learning (Q46)**  
This degree combines the study of pure and applied mathematics and statistics with the theory of the learning and teaching of mathematics.
- **BA (Hons) Youth Justice Studies (England and Wales) (Q63)**  
If you work with young people in the youth justice system, this qualification will increase your skills and knowledge and have a real impact on your practice.
- **BA (Hons) Youth Work (Q55)**  
This degree enables you to qualify as a professional youth worker and is for practitioners working with young people (13–19) in informal educational settings.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study childhood, youth and education along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Foundation degrees/Diplomas of higher education

- **Foundation Degree in Early Years (X01) or Diploma of Higher Education in Childhood Practice (W01)**

If you're an experienced practitioner working with children from birth to seven years old in an early years setting, this qualification will further your knowledge and skills.

- **Foundation Degree in Primary Teaching and Learning (X02) or Diploma of Higher Education in Primary Teaching and Learning (W02)**

This qualification develops the professional knowledge and skills required by teaching assistants or classroom assistants supporting children's learning in primary schools.

- **Foundation Degree in Working with Young People (X03) or Diploma of Higher Education in Working with Young People (W03)**

This qualification develops the skills and knowledge of those working with, and leading work with, young people (13–19) to support their informal education.

### Certificates of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Early Years Professional Practice (T19)**

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Primary Schools (T20)**

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Working with Young People (T15)**

#### OU certificate and diploma

Our 60-credit OU certificate and 120-credit OU diploma are specially designed Open University qualifications that you can use to enhance or progress your current career.

- Certificate in Working Together for Children (S23)
- Graduate Diploma in Mathematics Education (V14)

## Working towards a qualification

The example opposite illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies (Q23).

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

## Stage 1 – 120 credits

Stage 1 begins with a module introducing childhood studies and child psychology before offering you a range of options depending on whether you wish to focus your study on: understanding the relationship between theory, policy and practice; the early years and primary years; youth and young people's lives; or further investigations in psychology.



## Stage 2 – 120 credits

Stage 2 begins with a look at the differences and similarities between children and young people's lives in diverse communities across the world.

Your choice of options builds on the focus of your Stage 1 study: working with children, young people and families; the psychology of childhood and youth; or equality, participation and inclusion for children and young people.



## Stage 3 – 120 credits

Stage 3 offers a range of modules to build on your Stage 2 study, including modules focusing on: the practical implications of modern policy and ideas about childhood; children's literature; and the influence of social policy on personal lives.

The final module at Stage 3 focuses on: the particular issues related to undertaking research with children and young people; what different methods you might use; and the theories you might draw upon.



## BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies (Q23)

## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Education, Childhood and Youth Prospectus* – see page 49

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team  
on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# Engineering, design and technology

If you enjoy solving problems and have a good imagination, you'll find engineering, design and technology stimulating and challenging fields of study.

A qualification in any one of the subject areas we offer can bring real benefits in your professional life such as:

- exciting employment opportunities in business and industry, as well as in the public and voluntary sectors – your knowledge and expertise will be valued in the UK, Europe and around the world
- higher than average earnings, particularly if you follow up your degree to become a Chartered or Incorporated Engineer
- a skill set that's in high demand – employers in many sectors seek people with the numerical skills, creativity, scientific knowledge and team-working experience that engineering, design and technology graduates possess.

Our cutting-edge qualifications enable you to explore how to design, engineer and manage situations where technology and people interact. You'll benefit from the highest quality teaching supported by our active research, where we have particular strengths in design, sustainable technologies and structural integrity.

To find out more about career opportunities related to engineering, design and technology, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## What qualifications can you get in engineering, design and technology?

### Degrees

- **Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Q65)**  
An opportunity to study general engineering, with options in engineering design, environmental technologies, mathematical methods or energy and sustainability.
- **Top-up Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Q78)**  
If you've already completed a foundation degree in engineering or materials fabrication and engineering (or equivalent), this top-up will give you a full honours degree.
- **NEW Master of Engineering (M04)**  
This integrated masters degree begins with undergraduate study in an engineering discipline, and concludes at postgraduate level with options in mechanics and materials; environmental engineering; engineering management; or engineering: modelling and applications.

- **BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Design (Q67)**  
With this flexible joint honours degree you can focus on an area of computing & IT and combine it with the study of design.
- **BA or BSc (Hons) Design and Innovation (Q61)**  
By thinking like a designer, understanding and addressing the many challenges that members of design teams face, you will learn about design and innovation issues.
- **BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Technology (Q72)**  
This degree will develop your understanding of the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of managing complex inter-relationships between human activity and environmental systems.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study engineering, design and technology along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Foundation degree/Diploma of higher education

- **Foundation Degree in Engineering (X11) or Diploma of Higher Education in Engineering (W11)**  
Combine your work in engineering with the study of engineering including mathematics, mechanics and design. You'll undertake work-based study as well as personal development planning.

## Working towards a qualification

The example below illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Design and Innovation (Q61) alongside the study of business as a second subject. Three other study options are available for this degree, allowing you to combine the study of design and innovation with the arts, environment or engineering design.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

### Stage 1 – 120 credits

Whichever study option you choose, you'll begin your studies with an inspiring module that will teach you to think creatively and productively in producing design prototypes. You'll develop your natural creativity and learn the basics about the design process while producing a portfolio of work in an online design studio environment.

The second half of your Stage 1 study will be in your chosen second subject – business.



### Stage 2 – 120 credits

At Stage 2 you'll go further into the details of design, exploring the more professional side of designing and creativity.

You'll complete Stage 2 with study in your chosen second subject – business.

At the end of Stage 2 you will have developed your design skills and critical thinking considerably, and be well on your way to understanding the inter-relationship between design and business.



### Stage 3 – 120 credits

In Stage 3 you'll concentrate on concepts of innovation: how it happens, how it develops and how it is received.

You'll complete Stage 3 with study in your chosen second subject – business.



### BA (Hons) Design and Innovation (Q61)



## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Engineering, Design and Technology Prospectus* – see page 49

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

# Environment and development



Climate change, global trade, energy supply, pollution, cultural conflict, biodiversity loss and poverty are defining issues at local, national and international levels. These issues are interlinked and find a common focus in environment and development.

More than ever we're living in an interconnected world where governments, organisations and individuals are all encouraged to think about the impact of their actions in international terms. Against this background, our qualifications give you the opportunity to explore the significance of some of the most challenging trends and developments that are shaping our world.

On a personal level you'll gain a clear appreciation of how these issues are seen around the world, helping you to become a more enlightened and engaged global citizen. On a professional level, you'll acquire skills and knowledge that are increasingly valued in careers relating to the environment and development in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

## A rewarding combination

Our qualifications draw upon the OU's teaching excellence in science, social sciences and technology. You'll be able to tap into our academics' latest research in areas as diverse as biotechnology; social development; Earth sciences; politics and international studies; economics; engineering; geography; life sciences; and technologies and innovation. Much of their cutting-edge work is internationally recognised. Coupled with their enthusiasm about, and commitment to, the wellbeing of present and future generations, this creates an innovative, multidisciplinary programme that will provoke thought and debate.

Professionals with a degree in this subject area can find employment across the range of public, private and voluntary sectors. Many employers and organisations are concerned with their contribution to environmental change. These qualifications can lead to many exciting career options, particularly in areas where there is strong demand for up-to-date expertise in policy making, corporate responsibility and delivery of environmental services and technologies.

To find out more about career opportunities related to environment and development, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## What qualifications can you get in environment and development?

### Degrees

- **BSc (Hons) Environmental Science (Q52)**  
This degree develops the scientific knowledge and techniques required for understanding fundamental environmental patterns and processes and understanding how environmental science relates to society.



- **BA (Hons) Environmental Studies (Q19)**  
This degree will develop your knowledge and understanding of the social, political, economic, scientific and technological issues at the heart of contemporary environmental problems.
- **BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Technology (Q72)**  
This degree will develop your understanding of the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of managing complex inter-relationships between human activity and environmental systems.
- **BA (Hons) International Studies (Q11)**  
This degree will enable you to analyse contemporary international issues; grasp key political, economic, environmental and cultural aspects of the international order; and understand international institutions, politics and policy.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study environment and development along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

#### Diplomas of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Management and Technology (W48)**  
This interdisciplinary diploma combines aspects of science, management, technology and social science to help you understand and act within the environmental systems in which we live and work.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Science (W47)**  
Develop the knowledge and skills required to investigate the science of our environment, and explore local and global environmental issues.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Studies (W46)**  
This interdisciplinary diploma will give you knowledge and understanding of the social, political, economic, scientific and technological issues at the heart of contemporary environmental problems.

#### Certificate of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)**

## Working towards a qualification

The example opposite illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Environmental Studies (Q19).

#### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

## Stage 1 – 120 credits

Stage 1 covers study in both environment and social sciences.

**Environment** – drawing together subjects from the social sciences, science and technology you'll study an absorbing introduction to contemporary environmental topics.

**Social sciences** – you will continue your investigation of the issues that face contemporary society and focus in greater depth on areas of social science of particular interest to you.



## Stage 2 – 120 credits

You will begin Stage 2 with an introduction to a wide range of issues brought about by environmental changes, exploring and debating our responses to them and investigating their scientific, technological and social backgrounds.

Depending on your interests, you will complete Stage 2 with one or two modules from a choice of options in environmental science, environmental technology or international development.



## Stage 3 – 120 credits

This stage begins with further study either in social sciences, focusing on international environmental policy, or in science, focusing on environmental change.

You can choose to study both these options or just one and select further study from subjects as diverse as economics, science and technology.



## BA (Hons) Environmental Studies (Q19)

## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Environment and Development Prospectus* – see page 49

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team  
on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

# Health and social care

Health and social care is a vast service sector undergoing radical and rapid change. Priorities on government healthcare agendas include support and development for those caring for vulnerable people, improvements in dementia care, and preventing illness by promoting public health.



The focus in frontline health and social care is giving service users more independence, choice and control. These developments mean there's greater demand for well-trained and multi-skilled people across a range of rewarding employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors.

Providing help and care for those in need or who are vulnerable offers a unique sense of personal and career fulfilment. Through OU study you can become part of this essential and worthwhile sector, or build on your existing professional experience and progress your career in a particular area of health and social care.

## Flexible study options

Our wide-ranging qualifications cover today's topical and most important issues, and are expertly designed to inspire and challenge you. Some offer a broad-based background exploring principles and approaches to caring across the health and social care sector, while others cover specific policies and approaches, or focus on a particular aspect of provision, such as mental health, children and families, end-of-life care, or dementia. All draw on the latest research and the experience of practicing professionals to provide you with valuable insight and real-world skills and knowledge.

Each year around 12,000 people study health and social care with us. Our students are a mix of employees and employers from private, public and voluntary organisations working in this sector, as well as service users, and friends and families involved in their care.

Our success ranks us as one of the UK's largest providers of employment-based social work training. We also present the Pre-registration Nursing Programme to healthcare support workers in many regions across England, as well as in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Students tell us how much they value studying with the OU and how it transforms their lives, practice and experience in relation to health and social care.

To find out more about career opportunities related to health and social care, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).



## What can you study in health and social care?

- Children, young people and families
- Health and social care
- Health sciences
- Nursing and healthcare practice
- Social work
- Sport and fitness

## What qualifications can you get in health and social care?

### Degrees

- **BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing (Q73) and BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing (Q74)**  
To register for these degrees you must meet the entry requirements specified by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) for entry to pre-registration nurse education and be offered a place on the programme following a selection process. You must also be working in healthcare practice in a caring role and be sponsored by your employer.
- **BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies (Q23)**  
This degree is for those who work or intend to work with children and young people, or for those with more general interests in the interdisciplinary field of childhood and youth studies.
- **NEW BSc (Hons) Healthcare and Health Science (Q96)**  
This degree will provide you with the skills required for working in health science and with the ability to apply scientific-related theories and methods to health-related issues.
- **BA (Hons) Health and Social Care (Q18)**  
This practice-focused, interdisciplinary degree will develop your knowledge about a variety of health and social care settings that work with child and adult client-groups.
- **BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Q71)**  
A broad degree exploring a variety of topics including human biology; long-term conditions; infectious disease; cellular and analytical biology; neurobiology; cognitive psychology; and mental health.
- **BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice (Q53)**  
If you're a practising registered nurse, you can gain this honours degree while cultivating a person-centred approach to your work with patients, their carers and families.
- **BA (Hons) Social Work (England/Scotland/Wales) (Q32/Q41/Q42)**  
Qualify as a social worker with this work-based degree, offered in partnership with employers – who must register you on the programme (in England your employer must also sponsor you). In Scotland, if you already have a degree, there is a graduate entry route available – Q50.
- **BSc (Hons) Sport, Fitness and Coaching (Q76)**  
With this degree you'll develop your understanding of sports science, training, coaching and leadership principles, as well as increasing your current skills.
- **BA (Hons) Youth Justice Studies (England and Wales) (Q63)**  
If you work with young people in the youth justice system, this qualification will increase your skills and knowledge and have a real impact on your practice.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study health and social care along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Foundation degrees/Diplomas of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Health Sciences (W44)**  
Study the science behind our health – from what we can do as individuals to stay healthy, to global health issues such as epidemics and the spread of disease.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Social Care (Scotland) (W31)**  
Deepen your insight of social care and social work in Scotland, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to support vulnerable adults and children.
- **Foundation Degree in Counselling (X09) or Diploma of Higher Education in Counselling (W09)**  
This qualification will prepare you to become a professional counsellor, equipping you with the theoretical understanding and practical skills required to work in this field.
- **Foundation Degree in Early Years (X01) or Diploma of Higher Education in Childhood Practice (W01)**  
If you're an experienced practitioner working with children from birth to seven years old in an early years setting, this qualification will further your knowledge and skills.
- **Foundation Degree in Healthcare Practice (X16) or Diploma of Higher Education in Healthcare Practice (W16)**  
Study themes such as children and young people, long-term conditions, mental health, health and wellbeing, end-of-life care or a mix from across all these areas. You must be supported by your employer for the work-based modules.
- **Foundation Degree in Sport and Fitness with *either* Exercise Instruction or Coaching (X07) or Diploma of Higher Education with *either* Exercise Instruction or Coaching (W07)**  
Build knowledge and skills needed by sport and fitness instructors/coaches, focusing on developing insights into the scientific, instructional and management principles that underpin these roles.

- **Foundation Degree in Working with Young People (X03) or Diploma of Higher Education in Working with Young People (W03)**  
This qualification develops the skills and knowledge of those working with, and leading work with, young people (13–19) to support their informal education.

### Certificates of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Adult Health and Social Care (T23)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Children and Families (T24)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Healthcare Practice (T01)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Healthcare with Health Science (T28)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Health Sciences (T18)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care (England/Scotland/Wales) (T02/T03/T04)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Sport, Fitness and Management (T05)**

### OU certificates

Our 60-credit OU certificates are specially designed Open University qualifications that will help you enhance or progress your current career.

- Certificate in End-of-Life Care (S30)
- Certificate in Health and Social Care (S31)
- Certificate in Health Sciences (S19)
- Certificate in Promoting Public Health (S13)
- Certificate in Working Together for Children (S23)



## Working towards a qualification

The example below illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Health and Social Care (Q18) with a focus on health and wellbeing. Other study routes are available which focus on: mental health; older adults; and work with children, young people and families.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

### Stage 1 - 120 credits

In Stage 1 you will be introduced to the study of health and social care where you'll examine the experience of giving and receiving care in a variety of settings.

You will then begin to focus on three important areas: health and wellbeing; mental health; and ageing and later life.



### Stage 2 - 120 credits

In Stage 2 you'll examine health policy and practice relating to different models of health and illness care.

You will also consider how health and social care is everyone's business – not just that of care sector professionals.



### Stage 3 - 120 credits

In Stage 3 you will begin by developing your knowledge and critical analysis of public health.

To complete Stage 3, you can choose to learn about either frontline leadership and management roles or the challenges posed by the emergence of an ageing society.



## BA (Hons) Health and Social Care (Q18)



## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Health and Social Care Prospectus* – see page 49  
Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)  
Call our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

# Languages

Whether it's for general interest or to further your career, learning a new language is an enjoyable and rewarding experience that opens up new horizons. Learning with the OU means you'll be studying with the UK's largest provider of open-entry, part-time language degrees.

## Study for all abilities

We offer qualifications with modules in Chinese, English language, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Whether you're a complete beginner or want to develop your existing skills and are looking for a qualification, we can provide a flexible and step-by-step way of achieving your learning goals.

If you want to learn about the history, spread and impact of the English language, you can combine this with the study of French, German or Spanish as part of our qualifications in language studies. You can also study languages in our Open degree and some of our other named degrees.

## How you'll learn

You'll learn independently at home using a variety of printed and interactive media, including online resources, and with other students at tutorials, either online, face-to-face or by telephone conferencing. Some modules also offer you a week at a residential school in a country where the language you are learning is spoken. Throughout your studies, your personal tutor will provide encouragement and feedback on your progress, either in person, online or by telephone.

You'll develop proficiency in all four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Imagine the sense of achievement and self-confidence that comes from being able to ask for directions, read newspapers or negotiate with international business partners in a new language. If you decide to include English language in your studies, you'll also hone your ability to analyse and express your points of view clearly and persuasively.



## Passport to a new career

Learning a language and about how languages work, including the English language, opens doors to other cultures and communities, giving you an experience of the world that goes deeper than the average tourist trip. It can also provide a key to the global workplace.

Languages may be central to some occupations, such as the diplomatic service, interpreting, journalism, teaching, tourism and translating, but in today's global economy they are also a real asset that will set you apart in almost any sector from health and social work, finance, sales, marketing and IT to education – even basic language skills can make a huge difference.

Studying languages will improve your written and oral communication skills, and will help you to gather, assess and interpret information, as well as develop your confidence. These skills are highly valued in the global job market and will be appreciated by employers in whatever career you enter.

To find out more about career opportunities related to languages, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## What can you study in languages?

- Chinese
- English language
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish



## What qualifications can you get in languages?

### Degrees

- **BA (Hons) Language Studies (Q30)**  
Study two modern languages, choosing from French, German or Spanish, or combine English language studies with one modern language.
- **BA (Hons) Humanities with English Language, French, German or Spanish (Q03)**  
You can combine modules on different aspects of the arts – what people thought, made and practised – and their meanings and values in the past and today, with the study of a specialist language of your choice.
- **BA (Hons) English Language and Literature (Q39)**  
Learn about the English language, how it's used around the world, study a wide range of literary texts, and develop skills highly valued by employers.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study languages along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Diploma of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Language Studies (W41)**  
With this diploma you'll gain a broad grounding in undergraduate language study and specialise in two languages (from English, French, German and Spanish).

### Certificates of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Language Studies (T21)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Humanities (T07)**

## Working towards a qualification

The example opposite illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Language Studies (Q30) by combining the study of English with French. Other study routes are available which allow you to combine any two languages from a choice of English, French, German or Spanish.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

## Stage 1 – 120 credits

You begin your studies with an introductory module exploring key concepts relating to languages, language learning and intercultural communication before studying French at both beginners and intermediate level. This will develop your proficiency and confidence in understanding, writing and speaking French, as well as your knowledge of French speaking culture. For the remaining credits in Stage 1, you can study a module choosing from Chinese, German, Italian and Spanish, or develop your English academic writing and speaking skills.



## Stage 2 – 120 credits

At Stage 2 you'll expand your ability to use the French language, deepen your cultural knowledge and continue to develop your study skills.

Topics include:

- lifestyle
- housing
- culture
- the environment
- politics
- science and technology.

You will also explore how English has evolved in the British Isles, how it has diversified as it spread around the world and how it is evolving in response to social, cultural and technological change.



## Stage 3 – 120 credits

At Stage 3 you'll develop intercultural awareness, analytical skills, and the ability to write for an academic audience and become an effective communicator in French.

For English, you will study one of two options:

- how the English language is used in a wide range of contexts, including the media, fiction, academic writing, social media and everyday conversation
- creativity in different varieties of English, from everyday conversation to 'high culture' literary language and new kinds of media texts.



## BA (Hons) Language Studies (Q30)

## Your next step

Request a copy of our  
*Languages Prospectus* – see page 49  
Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)  
Call our Student Recruitment Team  
on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# Law

Law is a fascinating subject, with a great tradition and a dynamic future. It is a foundation stone of society and plays an increasingly important and visible role in all areas of modern life. Social and environmental responsibilities, the way businesses operate, and international codes of conduct are all determined and upheld by legal systems.

Studying law is stimulating in its own right but it's also a smart career move. A law degree is a first and necessary step if you want to practise law professionally. It's also an asset for many careers that are not directly related to law. For instance, roles in finance, human resources, local government or general management all benefit from a legal background, whether in corporate business, local and central government, or the voluntary sector.

If your goal is to work as a professional lawyer, then studying our Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (LLB) is a great starting point. Completion within six years (or five years for graduates) counts as a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD) in England and Wales, which satisfies the professional bodies' first stage of training as a solicitor or barrister.

## FACT

Our LLB is the UK's most popular undergraduate taught law degree programme.

To find out more about career opportunities related to law, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).



## What qualifications can you get in law?

### Degrees

- **Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (LLB) (Q79)**  
This highly regarded degree will enable you to pursue a career in the legal professions or improve your legal understanding in your current career.
- **Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (graduate entry) (Q80)**  
This graduate-entry route to a law degree enables you to enter our LLB directly at Stage 2.
- **NEW BA (Hons) Criminology and Law (Q92)**  
This fascinating degree takes a critical and analytical view of the legal system, and examines its relationship with crime, justice and criminal behaviour.
- **NEW BSc (Hons) Psychology and Law (Q93)**  
You'll gain an understanding of how we think, act and interact with each other, together with the legal awareness needed to understand and apply the law.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study law along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Diplomas of higher education

- **NEW Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Law (W52)**  
If you're fascinated by the role of the legal system and why people engage in criminal behaviour, this diploma is for you.
- **NEW Diploma of Higher Education in Psychology and Law (W53)**  
In this diploma you'll tackle fascinating questions such as why people do harm to others, and what role law plays in regulating justice within society.

## Working towards a qualification

The example below illustrates how you can work towards the Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (LLB) (Q79).

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

### Stage 1 - 120 credits

Stage 1 gives you a broad and absorbing introduction to the study of the law and demonstrates how legal rights and responsibilities are applied. In addition, Stage 1 will develop your study skills and prepare you for Stage 2.



### Stage 2 - 120 credits

Stage 2 will develop your knowledge of the legal system in England and Wales and introduce you to the study of the seven Foundations of Legal Knowledge required for your LLB. It will also develop your legal skills and legal understanding.



### Stage 3 - 120 credits

In Stage 3 you will explore the final Foundations of Legal Knowledge and enhance your legal research and thinking skills.

You'll complete your degree by choosing an optional module that focuses on either law, culture and society or legal boundaries.



## Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (LLB) (Q79)



## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Law Prospectus* – see page 49

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**



# Mathematics and statistics

Mathematics and statistics play a part in almost all daily activities. They are at the heart of advances in science and technology, as well as being indispensable problem solving and decision making tools in many aspects of life.

Forecasting the weather or movements in the stock market, planning travel timetables, or calculating how much water is needed to fill a swimming pool; all rely on mathematics or statistics.

Do you:

- Need numerical and analytical skills to enhance your job performance and prospects?
- Relish the intellectual challenge of learning the techniques and powerful abstract structures used by professional mathematicians and statisticians?
- Want to be well ahead of your children's learning?

Whatever your reasons for studying, the OU offers a great choice. Our programmes include specialised degrees and other qualifications, as well as modules to support your studies in areas such as computer science, economics, engineering, physics and mathematics education.

Your undergraduate studies may also provide an excellent grounding for our masters degree in mathematics, which attracts the largest number of students of any mathematics masters degree in the UK.

## A clear career asset

A qualification in mathematics or statistics will always count in your favour whatever you do, or plan to do, in your career. There's particularly strong demand in teaching, finance, ICT and market research for people with training in these subjects. There's also plenty of scope to use your skills in other sectors, with health, psychology, and sales and marketing being popular employment options.

We're the UK's largest provider of higher education teaching in mathematics and statistics, with around 15,000 students studying at any one time.

To find out more about career opportunities related to mathematics and statistics, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## What qualifications can you get in mathematics and statistics?

### Degrees

- **BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Mathematics (Q67)**  
With this flexible joint honours degree you can focus on an area of computing & IT and combine it with the study of mathematics.
- **BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Statistics (Q67)**  
With this flexible joint honours degree you can focus on an area of computing & IT and combine it with the study of statistics.
- **BSc (Hons) Economics and Mathematical Sciences (Q15)**  
You'll gain a good grounding in a broad range of mathematical, statistical and computational skills, as well as an understanding of economic theory and issues.
- **BSc (Hons) Mathematics (Q31)**  
Gain a secure understanding of mathematics with this degree that looks at topics in mathematics, from pure mathematics to how mathematics is used in the real world.
- **BSc (Hons) Mathematics and its Learning (Q46)**  
Combine the study of pure and applied mathematics and statistics with the theory of the learning and teaching of mathematics.
- **BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Physics (Q77)**  
You'll obtain an understanding of the concepts in modern physics together with the mathematics that underlies them.
- **BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Statistics (Q36)**  
Mathematics with a focus on probability and statistics, combined with either pure or applied mathematics.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study mathematics and statistics along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Diploma of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Mathematical Sciences (W43)**  
Combine the study of two strands, from pure or applied mathematics, and statistics, to develop the skills and knowledge required for a wide range of jobs.

### Certificate of higher education

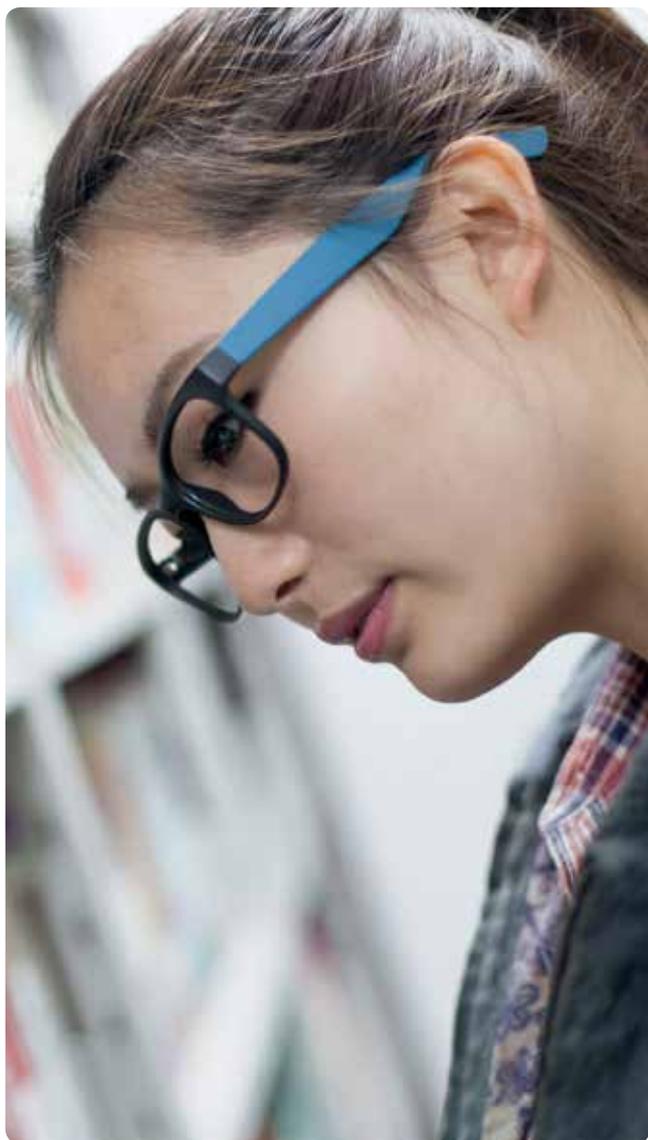
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Mathematical Sciences (T14)**

## Working towards a qualification

The example opposite illustrates how you can work towards the BSc (Hons) Mathematics (Q31) with a standard start. We also offer a gentle start for this qualification that we recommend if you are not confident in your understanding of mathematics or if you have not studied mathematics for some time and need to refresh your skills.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.



### Stage 1 – 120 credits

Stage 1 begins with a broad introduction to various topics in pure mathematics, applied mathematics, and statistics. You will develop a variety of skills including problem solving, how to develop and present a mathematical argument and how to represent and interpret statistical data.

To complete this stage, you can choose from options in a range of subjects, including: engineering, personal finance, IT studies, social sciences, and modern languages.



### Stage 2 – 120 credits

Stage 2 will develop your skills and knowledge acquired in the following areas:

- pure mathematics: formal proof, abstract structures, linear algebra, analysis, group theory
- mathematical methods: differential equations, linear algebra, vector calculus.



### Stage 3 – 120 credits

At Stage 3 you will study from a range of more advanced mathematical topics. These currently include:

- complex analysis
- graphs, networks and designs
- group theory
- optimization
- metric space theory
- mathematical methods
- number theory
- fluid mechanics
- quantum physics
- electromagnetism
- waves, diffusion and variational principles.



## BSc (Hons) Mathematics (Q31)

### Your next step

Request a copy of our *Mathematics and Statistics Prospectus* – see page 49

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team  
on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

# Psychology and counselling



We're all interested in what makes us who and what we are; how we think, act and interact with others. That's why psychology – the science of human mind and behaviour – and counselling are interesting in their own right.

They can also help develop a range of widely applicable transferable skills. Studying psychology with the OU will enable you to gain an understanding of ideas, theories and methods in psychology; learn how to analyse and evaluate psychological concepts; and develop skills in assessing and using different kinds of evidence. It is also an applied science with relevance to many social and global issues.

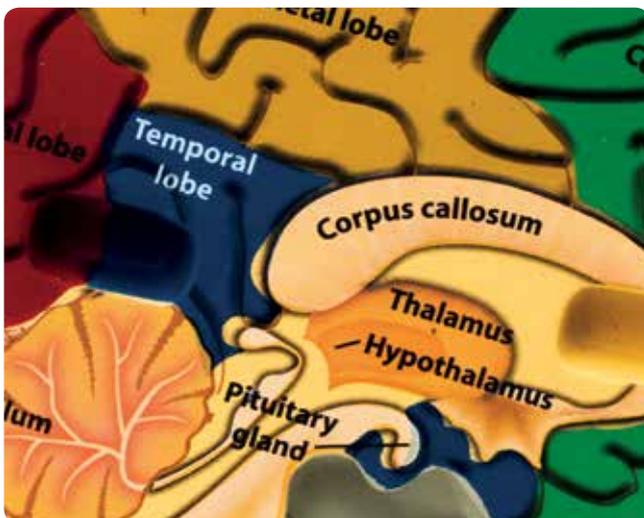
You can also study theoretical perspectives in counselling, either as part of your psychology study or combined with courses from other providers to become a professional counsellor. You can use the knowledge and skills you develop as an OU psychology and counselling student or graduate to take advantage of exciting and challenging job opportunities in areas such as education, industry, the health professions, management, advertising and marketing, human resources, research, counselling, and social services.

To find out more about career opportunities related to psychology and counselling, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## Learn with a leader

The OU is Europe's largest provider of university-level education in psychology. Around 10,000 students study with us each year. As well as a wealth of experience, studying psychology with us brings you other important benefits:

- **Integration** – through teaching a diverse range of psychology topics within larger modular frameworks, we achieve excellent levels of integration and cohesion across our highly acclaimed modules.



- **Quality** – our teaching is supported by an active research agenda, and OU students are highly regarded by employers.
- **Recognition** – our degrees in psychology (Q07), social psychology (Q83), forensic psychology (Q82), and psychology with counselling (Q84) are designed to deliver the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS), providing the recognised foundation for further training to become a professional psychologist.
- **Specialisation** – we have national and international experts specialising in areas such as psycho-social studies; developmental psychology; discourse analysis; cognitive psychology and neuropsychology; and forensic psychology.

## What qualifications can you get in psychology and counselling?

### Degrees

- **BSc (Hons) Psychology (Q07)**  
Gain fascinating insights into the workings of the mind along with skills valued across a broad range of careers.
- **BSc (Hons) Forensic Psychology (Q82)**  
Explore important issues in psychology, crime and justice, relevant to a range of careers, including prison and probation services, victim support, crime prevention and social justice.
- **BSc (Hons) Social Psychology (Q83)**  
Explores issues in psychology, intergroup and interpersonal relations e.g. crowd psychology and attitude change. Relevant to careers in public policy, management, social justice and media.
- **NEW BSc (Hons) Psychology and Law (Q93)**  
You'll gain an understanding of how we think, act and interact with each other, together with the legal awareness needed to understand and apply the law.
- **BSc (Hons) Psychology with Counselling (Q84)**  
Explore the fascinating world of psychology and the workings of the mind, with a specific focus on counselling and how it can help people change.
- **BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and Applied Psychology (Q67)**  
With this flexible joint honours degree you can focus on an area of computing and IT and combine it with the study of applied psychology.

- **BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychological Studies (Q48)**  
Our society is fascinated by crime and punishment. This degree will help you understand the complex issues behind the headlines.
- **BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies (Q43)**  
Explore concepts, theories, methods and debates in philosophy and psychology, relevant to a broad range of careers, including advertising and marketing, social services, administration, and management.
- **BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences (Psychology) (Q69)**  
Develop a rich synthesis of knowledge and skills drawn from the breadth of social science subjects with a special interest in psychology.
- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study psychology and counselling along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

#### Foundation degree/Diplomas of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Combined Social Sciences (W40)**  
This diploma offers you a good knowledge and understanding of society and how it is structured, handling concepts, evidence and ideas from a range of specialist disciplines.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Computing & IT and Applied Psychology (W42)**  
This diploma combines a broad introduction to computing and IT with one specialist option together with the study of applied psychology as a second subject.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Psychological Studies (W39)**  
This diploma investigates a variety of theories and evidence regarding behaviour, the mind and criminality in the context of the wider society, of which people are part.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Psychology (W45)**  
This diploma offers a good knowledge of how psychologists investigate the human mind and behaviour, and how psychological research addresses real-life issues.
- **NEW Diploma of Higher Education in Psychology and Law (W53)**  
In this diploma you'll tackle fascinating questions such as why people do harm to others, and what role law plays in regulating justice within society.
- **Foundation Degree in Counselling (X09) or Diploma of Higher Education in Counselling (W09)**  
This qualification will prepare you to become a professional counsellor, equipping you with the theoretical understanding and practical skills required to work in this field.

#### Certificates of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Computing & IT and Applied Psychology (T13)**
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Psychology (T22)**

## Working towards a qualification

The example below illustrates how you can work towards the BSc (Hons) Psychology (Q07).

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

### Stage 1 – 120 credits

Stage 1 starts with either a fascinating study of social sciences – psychology, social policy, criminology, geography, environment, politics, international studies, economics and sociology, or you can choose a module focusing on childhood studies and child psychology.

You'll complete Stage 1 by exploring how psychologists investigate our thinking and behaviour and how academic research can be applied to real-life settings.



### Stage 2 – 120 credits

Stage 2 begins with a range of options in applied psychology, child development, counselling, health psychology and sport and exercise psychology.

You'll then build on your Stage 1 psychology study covering cognition, developmental psychology, psychobiology, social psychology, research methods and practical work.



### Stage 3 – 120 credits

You'll start Stage 3 with an option from counselling, forensic or social psychology, research with children and young people, or sports psychology.

To complete your degree, you'll further develop your study of psychology, introduced and developed at Stages 1 and 2.



## BSc (Hons) Psychology (Q07)

### Your next step

Request a copy of our *Psychology and Counselling Prospectus* – see page 49

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team  
on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# Science



Science is about creativity, discovery and problem solving and offers the chance to improve our world's future.

Advances in areas such as global health, the natural environment, communications, food production, healthcare and transport all depend on fresh knowledge emerging from science's many disciplines.

Study science with the OU and you'll enhance your understanding of the world and enrich your intellectual and personal development.

You may be looking to change or progress your career, or you may simply want to explore a subject that really interests you. The depth and breadth of our science programmes attract over 15,000 students each year, so whatever your motivation there's sure to be a qualification to challenge and reward you.

You'll benefit from the highest quality teaching, fed by our active involvement in international research programmes ranging across the biological sciences; chemistry; Earth sciences; environmental science; planetary and space sciences; and physics and astronomy.

## Career choices

You can use your science knowledge and skills in many different careers and sectors. Ecology, journalism, education, agriculture and health are just a few. And by extending your interests and studying for a degree, you're likely to increase your lifetime earnings significantly.

To find out more about career opportunities related to science, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

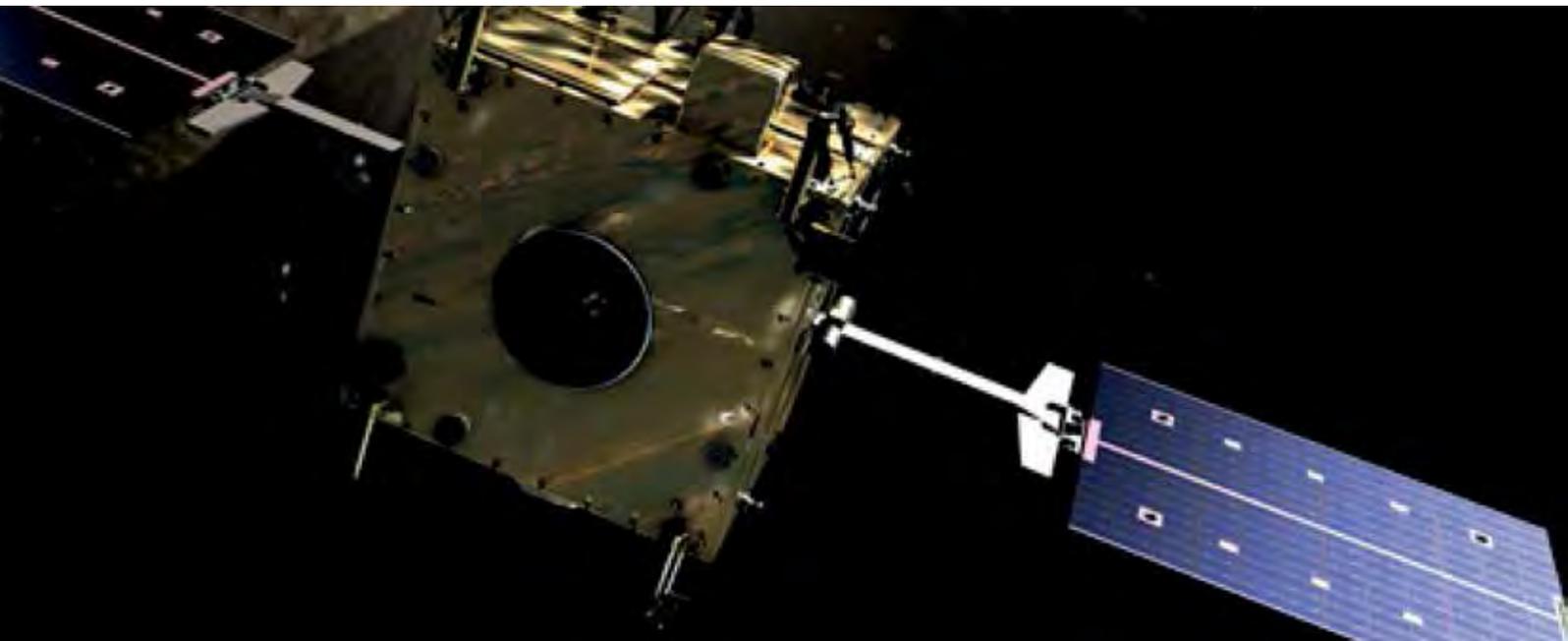
## What can you study in science?

- Astronomy and planetary science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth sciences
- Environmental science
- Medical sciences
- Physics

## What qualifications can you get in science?

### Degrees

- **BSc (Hons) Environmental Science (Q52)**  
This degree develops the scientific knowledge and techniques required for understanding fundamental environmental patterns and processes and understanding how environmental science relates to society.
- **BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Q71)**  
A broad degree exploring a variety of topics including human biology; long-term conditions; infectious disease; cellular and analytical biology; neurobiology; cognitive psychology; and mental health.



- **BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Physics (Q77)**

You'll obtain an understanding of the concepts in modern physics together with the mathematics that underlies them.

- **BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences (Q64)**

Study a broad range of subjects or choose to focus on astronomy and planetary science, biology, chemistry, Earth sciences, environmental sciences or physics.

- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**

Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study science along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Diplomas of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Science (W47)**

Develop the knowledge and skills required to investigate the science of our environment, and explore local and global environmental issues.

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Health Sciences (W44)**

Study the science behind our health – from what we can do as individuals to stay healthy, to global health issues such as epidemics and the spread of disease.

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Natural Sciences (W37)**

This diploma offers a broad introduction to science study and includes astronomy and planetary science, biology, chemistry, Earth sciences, environmental science, and physics.

### Certificates of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)**

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Health Sciences (T18)**

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Natural Sciences (T11)**

#### OU certificates

Our 60- to 90-credit OU certificates are specially designed Open University qualifications that you can use to enhance or progress your current career, or gain greater knowledge and understanding of a subject you are interested in.

- Certificate in Astronomy and Planetary Science (S10)
- Certificate in Health Sciences (S19)
- Certificate in Physics (S20)

## Working towards a qualification

The example opposite illustrates how you can work towards the BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences (Q64) with a focus on physics. Study routes are also available for astronomy and planetary science; biology; chemistry; Earth sciences; and environmental sciences, or you could opt for a broad-based interdisciplinary science degree to give yourself a wide choice of study options.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

## Stage 1 – 120 credits

You'll begin Stage 1 with a broad and absorbing introduction to a range of science subject areas, including:

- astronomy and planetary science
- biology and health sciences
- chemistry and analytical science
- Earth and environmental sciences
- physics.

This stage includes an introduction to practical science and an opportunity to develop the mathematical skills that will underpin your later study.



## Stage 2 – 120 credits

In Stage 2 you'll begin by learning more about physics and its applications, including topics such as classical mechanics; electric and gravitational fields and potentials; electromagnetism and relativity; waves and optics; thermal and statistical physics; quantum physics and an introduction to its applications to solids, atoms and nuclei.

You'll continue with more studies in mathematics to prepare you for Stage 3.

You'll complete this stage with a practical science module in physics and astronomy.



## Stage 3 – 120 credits

Stage 3 begins with study focusing on electromagnetism and quantum theory, followed by a choice of options in astrophysics, cosmology, relativity or applied mathematics.

The final part of this degree is a project where you'll undertake individual investigations within a range of defined topics.



## BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences (Q64)

## Your next step

Request a copy of our  
*Science Prospectus* – see page 49  
 Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)  
 Call our Student Recruitment Team  
 on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# Social sciences

Thousands of students study social sciences with the OU each year. The appeal is broad because the many subjects that come under the social sciences umbrella provide fascinating insights into everyday life in our communities, families and workplaces.

By studying the ways that people, groups and institutions exercise power and respond to political and economic forces you'll be able to make sense of what's happening in our ever changing world. Is there a link between poverty and crime? Why do people smoke when they know the risks? Findings on social questions such as these provide invaluable information for many of those – civil servants, business executives or charities, for example – who want to make decisions based on the best evidence.

On a professional level, social sciences studies equip you with a range of skills that will appeal to potential employers and enhance your career prospects. People with a social sciences background are found in just about every occupation and sector. Education, central and local government, finance, health and social care, law, the media, public services, and research are frequent career choices.

To find out more about career opportunities related to social sciences, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers-subjects).

## Quality and flexibility

A certificate of higher education, diploma of higher education or honours degree in social sciences – with a strong focus on skills highly valued by employers – could be just the qualification you need to climb the career ladder. However far you decide to take your studies, learning with the OU brings many advantages:

- Quality of teaching – we are widely recognised as delivering teaching of the highest quality.
- Employability – the skills you gain will translate very well into your workplace.
- Research – our teaching is supported by a thriving research agenda that shapes study content, producing modules which reflect developments at the frontiers of research.

## What can you study in social sciences?

- Criminology
- Economics
- Geography
- International studies
- Politics
- Social policy
- Sociology

## What qualifications can you get in social sciences?

### Degrees

- **BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences (Q69)**  
Develop a rich synthesis of knowledge and skills drawn from the breadth of social science subjects: criminology; economics; geography; politics; psychology; sociology; and social policy.
- **BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences (Criminology, Economics, Geography, Politics, Psychology, Social Policy or Sociology) (Q69)**  
The above degree can be studied with a specialist option of your choice to develop a rich synthesis of knowledge and skills drawn from the breadth of social science subjects.
- **NEW BA (Hons) Criminology and Law (Q92)**  
This fascinating degree takes a critical and analytical view of the legal system, and examines its relationship with crime, justice and criminal behaviour.
- **BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychological Studies (Q48)**  
Our society is fascinated by crime and punishment. This degree will help you understand the complex issues behind the headlines.
- **BSc (Hons) Economics and Mathematical Sciences (Q15)**  
You'll gain a good grounding in a broad range of mathematical, statistical and computational skills, as well as an understanding of economic theory and issues.
- **BA (Hons) International Studies (Q11)**  
This degree will enable you to analyse contemporary international issues; grasp key political, economic, environmental and cultural aspects of the international order; and understand international institutions, politics and policy.
- **BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies (Q43)**  
Explore concepts, theories, methods and debates in philosophy and psychology, relevant to a broad range of careers, including advertising and marketing, social services, administration and management.
- **BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Q45)**  
This internationally recognised combination of subjects provides you with skills and understanding particularly relevant to many areas of public service, including civil and diplomatic services, and local government.
- **BA (Hons) Social Policy and Criminology (Q57)**  
Prepare for a career in welfare, government, public health or criminal justice agencies with this degree, which examines the historical and contemporary development of social policy and criminology.

- **BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)**  
Our Open degree provides a flexible way to study social sciences along with other subjects, either to suit your particular interests, or to complete studies you have started elsewhere (see page 19).

### Diplomas of higher education

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Combined Social Sciences (W40)**  
This diploma offers you a good knowledge and understanding of society and how it is structured, handling concepts, evidence and ideas from a range of specialist disciplines.
- **NEW Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Law (W52)**  
If you're fascinated by the role of the legal system and why people engage in criminal behaviour, this diploma is for you.
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Psychological Studies (W39)**  
This diploma investigates a variety of theories and evidence regarding behaviour, the mind and criminality in the context of the wider society, of which people are part.

- **Diploma of Higher Education in Social Policy and Criminology (W38)**  
Explore the debates that lie behind key questions in this fascinating subject and discover the concepts and theories that underpin contemporary criminology and social policy.

### Certificate of higher education

- **Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences (T06)**

## Working towards a qualification

The example below illustrates how you can work towards the BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences (Q69). With this qualification, you can choose to study a broad-based degree in combined social sciences or study one of the specialist options, for example, in criminology.

### Worried about your ability?

Designed to prepare you for Stage 1, our Access modules will help you develop your study skills and build your confidence. They are perfect for new learners with little or no knowledge or experience of studying. To find out more, see pages 17–18.

### Broad-based degree in combined social sciences

### Criminology specialist subject

#### Stage 1 – 120 credits

Stage 1 will provide you with a sound foundation in the social sciences and the skills required for further study. You'll begin with a broad introduction to this subject, followed by an opportunity to either look further, and in more depth, at those areas of social science which are of particular interest to you or study an introduction to psychology.



#### Stage 2 – 120 credits

In your Stage 2 studies you'll develop your analytical skills and ability to apply social science concepts to issues of ethical, political and public concern. You can choose from a wide range of subjects including: economics; geography; politics; social policy; criminology; psychology; international relations; and environment.



#### Stage 2 – 120 credits

In your Stage 2 studies you'll develop your analytical skills and ability to apply social science concepts to topics and policy debates in crime and social justice. The final part of Stage 2 will be in your chosen specialist subject – criminology.



#### Stage 3 – 120 credits

Your Stage 3 studies will give you the opportunity to explore topics and issues encountered in Stage 2 in greater detail.



#### Stage 3 – 120 credits

The first part of Stage 3 will be in your chosen specialist subject – criminology. To complete Stage 3, you can choose from options in: politics; social policy; sociology; and international relations.



### BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences (Q69)

### BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences (Criminology) (Q69)

## Your next step

Request a copy of our *Social Sciences Prospectus* – see page 49 Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# What else you should know

---

## Studying outside the UK and the Republic of Ireland

Wherever you are in the world, you may be able to study directly with the OU or through one of our educational partners.

### Direct study

For information on available qualifications, your study experience, and what the OU can offer international students click [www.openuniversity.edu](http://www.openuniversity.edu), or call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**.

### Study with an educational partner

As an alternative to direct registration, the OU has many educational partners around the world. You may be able to study in your preferred language, study for a dual award or get face-to-face support from your local provider. For more information, click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/contact](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/contact).

## Equality and diversity

We are committed to fulfilling our vision of a fair and just society. We are creating an inclusive university community and a society where people are treated with dignity and respect, where inequalities are challenged and where we anticipate and respond positively to different needs and circumstances so that everyone can achieve their potential. For more information, see our Equality Scheme on our Equality and Diversity website at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/equality](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/equality).

## Students under the age of 16

Very exceptionally, the University will consider applications from particularly gifted students who are under the age of 16. Acceptance will be at the discretion of the University.

## Data protection

We record your personal information when you contact us and use this to manage registration, study, examination and other services. When you register, we'll tell you more about how we process and use your personal information. We may record our phone calls with you to make sure that we've carried out your instructions correctly and to help us improve our services through staff training.

## OU Careers Advisory Service

Before you start studying you can explore your career opportunities and get help with all aspects of your career planning on our website [www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/careers).

Once you start studying you can access our full range of services, including:

- online forums offering support from careers advisers and other OU students
  - careers advisers providing individual careers consultations
  - links with employers offering a range of vacancies open to OU students and graduates
  - advice on gaining work experience or internships
  - access to online resources to help enhance your employability.
-

# Ordering other prospectuses

This prospectus is one of a series of publications. If you would like to find out more about our other study opportunities, please order one of the prospectuses listed below:

## Access Module Certificates

We offer a choice of three multidisciplinary Access modules designed to prepare you for study towards a nationally recognised qualification with the OU. On successful completion of one of these modules you will gain an Open University Access Module Certificate.

## Postgraduate study

To find out more about our postgraduate qualifications in your choice of subject, choose from our range of subject-specific prospectuses listed right. Alternatively, visit our online postgraduate prospectus at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/pg](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/pg).

## Subject-specific prospectuses

### For undergraduate study

Languages Prospectus  
 Psychology and Counselling Prospectus  
 Social Sciences Prospectus

### For undergraduate and postgraduate study

Arts and Humanities Prospectus  
 Business and Management Prospectus  
 Computing and IT Prospectus  
 Education, Childhood and Youth Prospectus  
 Engineering, Design and Technology Prospectus  
 Environment and Development Prospectus  
 Health and Social Care Prospectus  
 Law Prospectus  
 Mathematics and Statistics Prospectus  
 Science Prospectus



To download or order  
 a printed prospectus

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus)

Call our Student Recruitment Team  
 on +44 (0)300 303 5303

# Any questions about undergraduate study?



The Open University

## In England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and BFPO addresses outside the UK

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

Call our Student Recruitment Team on **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

Lines are open (UK time):

Monday to Friday 08:00 to 20:00 Saturday 09:00 to 17:00

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

Email us from our website at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/contact](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/contact)

## In Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Click [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug)

### In Northern Ireland

Call our Belfast office on **028 9032 3722**

Email [northernireland@open.ac.uk](mailto:northernireland@open.ac.uk)

### In the Republic of Ireland

Call our Enquiry and Advice Centre in Dublin on

**(01)6785399** or our Belfast office on **+44 28 9032 3722**

Email [ireland@open.ac.uk](mailto:ireland@open.ac.uk)

## All other countries

Click [www.openuniversity.edu](http://www.openuniversity.edu)

Call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**

## For Welsh speakers

If you would prefer to discuss your study needs in Welsh, please contact:

The Open University in Wales,  
18 Custom House Street, Cardiff, CF10 1AP

Call **029 2047 1170**

Email [wales@open.ac.uk](mailto:wales@open.ac.uk)

## 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 **029 2047 1170**

Ebost [wales@open.ac.uk](mailto:wales@open.ac.uk)

## Other ways to read this prospectus

You may find it easier to access information from our website at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ug).

If you would like this prospectus electronically, please call **+44 (0)300 303 5303**

or email us from our website at [www.openuniversity.co.uk/contact](http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/contact).

Other formats are available on request.

### Student Recruitment Team

The Open University

PO Box 197

Milton Keynes

MK7 6BJ

United Kingdom

The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England & Wales, and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302). The Open University is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

While we have done everything possible to make sure the information in this publication is accurate, it may change due to regulations or policy, or because of financial or other reasons.

Designed by Matrix. Printed by Belmont Press.

Copyright © 2015 The Open University.



When you have finished with this prospectus please recycle it.

SUP 042874