



Your 2025/2026

Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport Prospectus



**The future is
open**



The future is open

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

- Gain a globally recognised, high-quality university education.
- Develop the skills and confidence employers are looking for.
- Get a step closer to your dream career.
- Explore your passion and what you're capable of.
- Start the next chapter in your learning journey.

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



Welcome to the home of distance and online learning

Achieve a career-boosting qualification with the experts in bringing university to you. For over 50 years, we've pioneered a more flexible way to learn and are a world leader in high-quality distance education.

Studying with the OU means you have the freedom to achieve a respected university qualification on your terms. You can learn whenever suits you, fitting study around your job, family, and social life. Plus, you'll get expert support from a dedicated tutor at every step, free careers advice, and be part of the UK's biggest student community.

When it comes to course quality, you'll be learning from the best. Named 'University of the Year for Teaching Excellence 2025' (Daily Mail University Guide), we're proud to be globally recognised for our teaching and part of an elite group of universities to achieve overall Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework. So whatever your goals, we're here to help you make them a reality.

Reasons to choose the OU

- Tried and trusted – join the largest UK university for undergraduate education.
- Boost your career – 87% of our alumni say studying with us helped them achieve their career goals.
- Reach your potential – we produce more CEOs and managing directors than any other UK university.
- Invest in your future – we're rated as one of the top three universities for employability and can support you with careers guidance, networking and more.
- Learn and earn – 69% of our students are already in work, balancing their careers with their studies.
- Gain a qualification employers respect – 72% of FTSE 100 companies have sponsored their staff to study with us.
- Be inspired – our amazing academics power the latest co-productions with the BBC – including *A Special School*, *Inside Our Autistic Minds* and Sir David Attenborough's iconic nature series *Planet Earth*.

Rated **Gold** in the
Teaching Excellence
Framework



University of the
Year 2025 for
Teaching Excellence



Top 3 in the UK
for employability



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University that works for you

Our courses are designed to flex around your life, so you can study in a way that suits you best. It's just one of the reasons why we're the most popular university for undergraduate students in the UK.

Learn on your terms

OU study is truly flexible. You can access your course materials 24/7 and study anytime, anywhere you like.

You'll also have the support of a dedicated tutor, plus our student support and careers teams are ready to guide you as soon as you start studying.

- Decide when and where you learn.
- Fit study around the rest of your life.
- Fund your studies in a way that suits you.
- Keep on earning while you learn.

Learn from the best

You'll have access to top-quality course materials and be taught by our network of more than 4,500 expert tutors, who are subject specialists. Many combine their teaching work with academic or industry roles, which means you'll receive teaching that's innovative and inspired by the latest insights.

Spark your imagination

See your favourite subjects brought to life with the latest in learning innovation. From textbooks to virtual learning environments, from home experiments to award-winning state-of-the-art remote labs, you'll study using a variety of digital and physical resources. So however you learn best, we'll keep you inspired.

Additional study support

Did you know we support more disabled students than any other UK university? We'll provide access to tools and guidance, and ensure you get the appropriate level of support to make the best of your studies.

Connect with like-minded students

There are lots of ways to connect with our active student community, including online discussion groups and tutorials. You can also connect with us on social media or join one of the many informal social media groups set up by OU students.

When you register, you'll become a member of our Students Association. It's a great way to meet other students, take part in societies and help influence University decisions. See how to get involved at oustudents.com.

Get social with us

-  @OUstudents
-  @OUstudents
-  @OUstudentslive



OU study has changed me as a person. It's made me realise that you can actually do anything you want to.



Misty Crew
OU graduate

How do we compare with other universities?

An OU qualification is just as rigorous and respected as one from a campus-based university and is highly valued by employers. What's different is that the OU gives you the flexibility to study around your job or other commitments.

Bringing university to you, wherever you are

We've continuously developed our teaching methods for over 50 years so that you can fit a high-quality university education around your busy life.

We're dedicated to giving you the very best experience and are proud to be recognised for our teaching – we're the *Daily Mail* University of the Year for Teaching Excellence and were awarded overall Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework.

We're respected by employers

An OU qualification is globally recognised and will give you the skills and confidence employers look for. Research shows that employers rate OU students as being work-ready, adaptable and self-starters – qualities that can help your CV to stand out from the crowd.

You can study around work and put what you learn into practice immediately, helping you to boost your career prospects long before you graduate. Plus, we'll help you to plan ahead with free careers advice, resources and networking opportunities as soon as you become an OU student.



We're open to all

We believe that with the right support, preparation and guidance, many people are capable of succeeding in higher education. That's why there are no formal entry requirements for most of our undergraduate courses.

Looking for postgraduate study? Find out the entry requirements at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-ready.

We're a thriving community

You'll be part of one of the most diverse, dynamic and inclusive student communities. Whatever your goals, we're here to help and champion you to fulfil your ambition.

More than 195,000 students study with us each year. Come and join them.

Get to know us

Find out what you can expect as an OU student.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/learning



Qualifications to suit you

With over 200 courses to choose from, whatever your goal, it's possible with The Open University. You can study towards a degree or start with a certificate or diploma and build on your studies as you go.

Undergraduate

Certificate of higher education

Get a general grounding or improve your understanding of a subject area.

Diploma of higher education

Expand your knowledge and improve your skill set in a specialised area.

Named degree

Complete modules in a specific subject to earn an honours degree and open doors to a new career or interest.

Open degree

Design your own honours degree and include modules from different subject areas to suit your needs and interests.

Postgraduate

Postgraduate certificate

Ideal for professional and career development, this is the first step towards a masters degree as well as being a valuable qualification in its own right.

Postgraduate diploma

Work towards a widely recognised qualification equivalent to two-thirds of a masters degree.

Masters degree

Study modules towards an internationally respected qualification while gaining specialist academic, professional, or technical skills.

Doctorate in Education

Work towards a practical and respected professional doctorate. This postgraduate research degree is designed for education practitioners.

Discover your ideal course

Find the course to match your ambition.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/course-
types**

Achieve your goals with us

We've been helping people like you realise their potential since 1969. Meet some of the incredible OU students and graduates who have used their studies to transform their futures.

There's lots of pressure to follow the same path as everyone else, but it's not the only way. The OU has helped me to achieve my career goals and given me the freedom to make my own decisions.

Eileanoir Blair
OU graduate



As a working mum, I knew that physically attending university wasn't possible – the OU is the perfect solution. I can get on with my life while I complete my studies.

Chido Manyande
OU student



I left school with few qualifications and, thanks to the OU, I'm on course to be a lawyer with a job offer from one of the best law firms in the world!

Thomas Barry
OU student



My career progression has been amazing – OU study equipped me for a successful career; I'd recommend it to anyone. If a CV came across my desk from someone with an OU degree, it would stand out straight away.

James Bransgrove
OU graduate



Chat with OU students

Find out more about the OU study experience by talking to some of our current students.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/ask-a-
student**



Welcome to Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport

Our School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport provides a ground-breaking curriculum and inspiring and engaging teaching methods. It also supports research that looks to influence practices, policies and debates – both nationally and internationally.

If you're thinking about developing your skills and understanding of sport and fitness, pursuing a career in education or early childhood, or broadening your academic knowledge, then the OU's Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport courses are ideal for you.

Here you'll:

- ▶ **benefit from over 50 years' experience as pioneers of social change and social justice**
- ▶ **be able to fit our flexible study around your work and other commitments.**

Undergraduate

Our undergraduate courses range from introductory Access modules (ideal for those who are new to university-level study), through to honours degrees.

Our qualifications include:

- BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies
- BA (Hons) Early Childhood
- BA (Hons) Education Studies (Primary)
- BSc (Hons) Sport, Fitness and Coaching.

We also offer a Top-up BA (Hons) Early Childhood degree that enables those with a relevant Higher National Diploma (HND), foundation degree or diploma to attain a degree in just one or two years.

Postgraduate

We offer a range of postgraduate qualifications, including:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Wales)
- MA/MEd in Education
- MA in Childhood and Youth
- MA in Online Teaching
- Doctorate in Education.

As part of our Masters degree in Education, MA in Childhood and Youth, and MA in Online Teaching qualifications, we'll direct you to complete one or two free OpenLearn courses. These will be relevant to your chosen qualification and include:

- *Becoming an ethical researcher*
- *Looking globally: the future of education*
- *The Online Educator: People and Pedagogy.*



The Open University has really developed my confidence, not only at work but also in my own abilities. Studying has opened up a whole new world to me.



Hazel Krolow
OU graduate

These OpenLearn courses contribute towards your qualification; you can complete them before or between your modules. You'll get both a taster of OU study and earn an OpenLearn digital badge before your module even begins.

Boost your career prospects

Our undergraduate Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport qualifications give you a foundation for a range of roles relating to primary or early childhood education, youth work and the sports education and recreation sector. They can help you prepare to apply for teacher training, either via the PGCE/PGDE route or with an in-school provider, though we advise you to check entry requirements with your preferred teacher education providers.

They also build your skills, such as initiative, communication and collaboration, which can be applied to other careers within childcare, health, education, online teaching, play work and working with families and young people.

Our postgraduate qualifications are practitioner-focused and help you to improve on your practice through deeper engagement with theory, critical analysis and research.

These qualifications enable you to engage with issues, concepts and debates to help you enrich your knowledge and improve your professional practice. They will help you develop the confidence to continue to innovate, and can even help you take your teaching online.

All our qualifications will give you the skills to pursue professional training, postgraduate study or entry-level roles in many career areas, including:

- childhood, youth and community
- children and young people's services
- early childhood education and care, such as play therapy and hospital play
- education
- local, national and international policy development
- sports and fitness
- performance analysis
- teaching
- training and development.

You're on your way

Take the next step by reading more about how you'll study, how long it takes and the support you'll receive.



Building your qualification

Undergraduate

You don't need to commit to a full degree. We offer certificates and diplomas too. Each qualification is valuable in its own right, so you can complete a certificate and stop there or use it as a stepping stone to a diploma or degree.

You'll need to build up credits to gain your qualification. Here's how it works:

Stages

You'll need to complete:

- one stage for a certificate of higher education
- two stages for a diploma of higher education
- three stages for an honours degree.

To complete each stage, you must build up a set number of credits.

Credits

- You'll need at least 120 credits to complete each stage.
- You gain credits by passing modules.

Modules

- With each module you pass, you'll earn a set number of credits, usually 30 or 60.
- Modules are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Access module¹

An optional module to build your confidence and prepare you for further study.

Stage 1

To complete Stage 1, you'll need 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

120 credits

Certificate of higher education

Stage 2

To complete Stage 2, you'll need a further 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

240 credits

Diploma of higher education

Stage 3

To complete Stage 3, you'll need a further 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

360 credits

Honours degree

¹ Only available in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How does it work?

Watch our quick guide on how credits work and how you can build your undergraduate qualification.



Visit
openuniversity.
co.uk/ug-qual

Postgraduate

Postgraduate qualifications are made up of credits.

You'll need:

- 60 credits to gain a postgraduate certificate
- 120 credits to gain a postgraduate diploma
- 180 credits to gain a masters degree.

You build up credits by passing modules. These are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Getting started

All you need to do is choose your qualification and register for a module that counts towards that qualification.

60 credits
at postgraduate level.

Postgraduate certificate

A further 60 credits at postgraduate level,
totalling **120 credits**.

Postgraduate diploma

A further 60 credits at postgraduate level,
totalling **180 credits**.

Masters degree



Learn more

Find out more about
postgraduate study at
the OU.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/pg-qual**

Prepare for study with an Access module

No matter your background or study experience, we're here to help you succeed. That's why we offer a choice of starting points depending on how confident you are in your study skills.

You can dive straight into a qualification, or if you want to try out university study or feel you need to learn how to get back into studying again, an Access module could be a great first step. It can also help you find out more about your interests and where you want your learning to take you.

Not sure where to begin? Find the best starting point for you by visiting **openuniversity.co.uk/ready**.

Access modules are only available to residents of the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How Access modules work

Each week you'll work through a mix of online and printed module materials, including online quizzes and written assignments. At the end, you'll demonstrate your learning by completing a final written assignment. There's no exam.

You'll have a dedicated tutor who'll provide academic support via email and one-to-one phone tutorials. Your Student Support Team will be on hand to help with everything else, from study advice to guidance on fees and funding.

Access modules start in February and October and typically require around nine or ten hours of study per week over 30 weeks. In February and May, we also offer a fast-track option which allows you to complete your module in 18 weeks by increasing your weekly study time.

What you need

You'll need a phone and a computer with internet access. You'll get access to your module website, and your books and other printed materials will be posted to you.

Visit our website for more information on what you'll need for your chosen course.

What you can study

Each Access module explores key topics and develops the skills you'll need as you continue your chosen qualification.

Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module (Y034)

Explore some of our most popular subjects such as psychology, childhood and youth, early years, health and social wellbeing, sport, education, and social sciences. Each area is introduced and explained at a gentle pace, perfect if you want to get to grips with something new.

Also available as *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module: fast track* (YXFT034).

We offer three other Access modules, which are more relevant to other subject areas:

- *Arts and languages Access module (Y031)* – also available as *Arts and languages Access module: fast track* (YXFT031)
- *Business and law Access module (Y035)* – also available as *Business and law Access module: fast track* (YXFT035) from February 2026
- *Science, technology and maths Access module (Y033)* – also available as *Science, technology and maths Access module: fast track* (YXFT033).



You could study for free

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

To qualify, you must:

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

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

How much does an Access module cost?

The cost depends on where you are resident. If you live in:

- England, it's £973
- the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, it's £1,023
- Ireland, it's £917
- Northern Ireland, it's £310
- Scotland, it's £318
- Wales, it's £328.

You can pay upfront by debit or credit card or by bank transfer. You can also spread the cost with an Open University Student Budget Account – there's more about this on page 21.

If you're studying an Access module as part of an OU qualification and you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you could cover the cost with a student loan – for more information, see pages 18–19.



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



Steven Sutherland
OU student



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

Learn more about Access modules



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access

How long your qualification will take

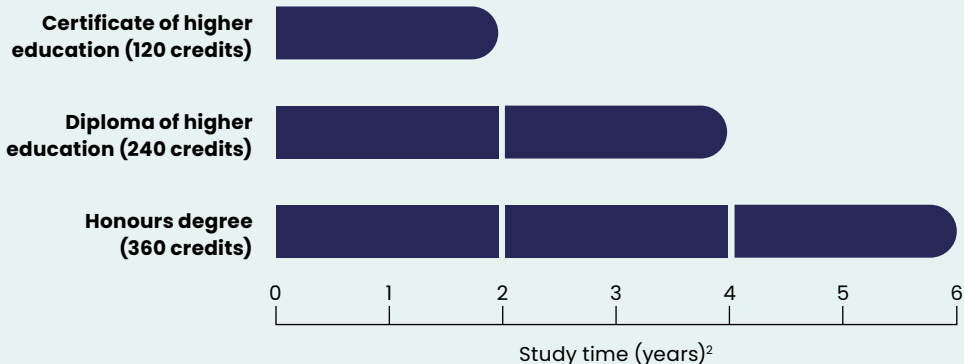
We give you the flexibility to choose the amount of study you want to take on each year. That means you can get the qualification you want in a timeframe that works for you.

Undergraduate qualifications

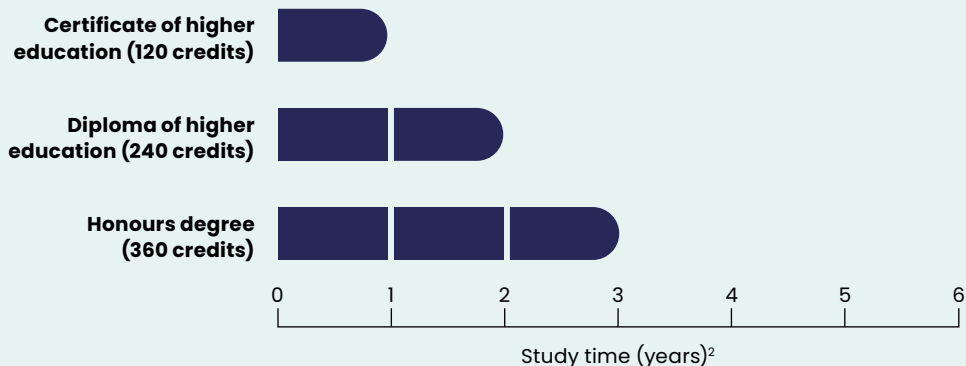
How long it will take to gain your qualification depends on the course you've chosen and the amount of credits you study each year. Studying 60 credits a year is half the rate of a full-time course at a campus-based university. To complete your studies at a pace equivalent to full-time, you'll need to gain 120 credits per year.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.¹

Part-time study | 60 credits a year | 16–18 study hours a week



Full-time study³ | 120 credits a year | 32–36 study hours a week



¹ Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.

² Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.

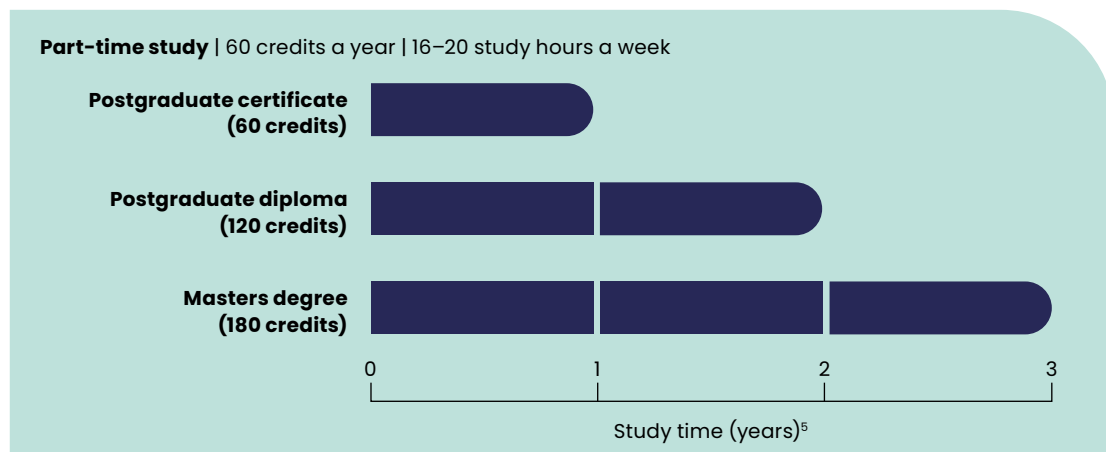
³ All OU students are considered part-time students. This remains the same even if you study at a pace that's equivalent to full-time.

Postgraduate qualifications

The time it takes to get your qualification depends on how it's structured and the number of credits required. All of our postgraduate courses are offered as part-time study, and the typical timescales for individual module completion are shown below.

- 15–30 credit module – five months.
- 60 credit module – nine months.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.⁴



⁴ Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.

⁵ Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you could count this study towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the modules you need to study.

Visit openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer to find out more.

Plan your time

Find out more about the time you need to study.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/time**



Supporting you to succeed

You're never alone when you're studying with The Open University. You'll be part of our global community of students, expert tutors and advisers, all ready to help you get the most out of your journey.

For each module, you'll have a dedicated tutor who'll be your first point of contact for any queries. They'll lead regular tutorials, mark your assignments, provide detailed written feedback, and give study support through email, online, or over the phone. Expert advisers from your Student

Support Team can help with any other support needs you experience as an OU student.

Our Students Association, OU Community forums and range of societies and groups mean you're connected to one of the UK's largest student communities.

Your Students Association awaits

The Open University Students Association is a lot like a student union. It's run by students, for students, and can help you make the most of your OU experience. You'll automatically become a member and there's no fee. Here are just a few ways you can get involved:

- Find like-minded students by joining a club, society or support group.
- Meet other students online or at an in-person meet-up near you.

- Take part in our Welcome events where you'll meet other members of the OU community.
- Volunteer or become a student representative to have your say.

Your Association is led by a team of elected students and is supported by hundreds more, all dedicated to creating a wonderful community and representing all OU students.

To find out more, visit oustudents.com.



There is a community at The Open University. Everyone supports each other. One tutor that really inspired me was Michael. His words of encouragement gave me a confidence boost. My grades just kept on improving and improving.

Joe Acaye
OU student



Join our community

Find out more about how you'll be supported during your studies.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/community

How you'll learn

With regular tutorials and an online hub to manage your studies, you'll have everything you need to succeed.

Once you've registered, you'll have access to StudentHome, where you'll be able to:

- see an overview of your course and the modules you're studying
- submit your assignments
- visit our Help Centre
- access your virtual learning environment
- choose and enrol on your next module.

The virtual learning environment or 'module website' contains all the online study resources you'll need, including:

- a week-by-week study planner
- an assessment section, giving details of your assignments and their due dates
- the tutorial booking system
- your online tutorial room
- module forums where you can discuss topics with other students and complete collaborative work
- PDF and accessible formats of your module materials and resources.

Our assessment methods

Depending on your course, we'll use a blend of written assignments, oral and practical assessments, projects, exams, dissertations and portfolios. For more on assessments, visit openuniversity.co.uk/assessment.

What you need

To study with us, you'll need:

- a computer with internet access. If you haven't got access to one right now, you could receive financial support to help buy one
- a basic level of digital skills, such as using a web browser or working with documents and applications. Find out more about the computing skills you'll need, visit openuniversity.co.uk/computer-skills
- a good grasp of the English language. We teach our courses in English. If you're not sure whether your English is at the right level, go to openuniversity.co.uk/englishlanguage for help and guidance.



Nearly there

Read on to discover more about how we can help you fund your studies and the qualifications you could achieve.

Undergraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, so you won't have to pay for your whole qualification upfront.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN ENGLAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ¹
60	£3,892
120	£7,784

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £23,352.

¹ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. In England, fees are subject to the part-time fee limit, as set out in section 5 of the University's Fee Rules (openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules).

FOR THOSE LIVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ²
60	£1,240
120	£2,480

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,440.

² 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN SCOTLAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ³
60	£1,272
120	£2,544

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,632.

³ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN WALES

Credits each year	Cost per year ⁴
60	£1,312
120	£2,624

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,872.

⁴ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ⁵
60	£3,666
120	£7,332

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £21,996.

⁵ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE THE UK AND IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ⁶
60	£4,092
120	£8,184

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £24,552.

⁶ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Our module fees include your module materials, tuition, assessment, and exams. However, there are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.

- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction books or a language dictionary.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, there may be an additional cost. You'll also need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

The best way to fund your undergraduate studies, regardless of age or income, might be with a student loan. In fact, 85% of OU students in England fund their studies this way.

Key facts

- You don't have to pay anything upfront. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £25,000.
- Repayments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- You can pay off the loan early without any penalties.
- Any balance outstanding will be written off after 40 years.

Here's how your monthly student loan repayments could look:

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment ⁷
Up to £25,000	£0
£27,000	£15.00
£30,000	£37.50

⁷ Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £25,000. For example, if you earn £27,000, you'll repay £180 that year (9% of £2,000). That's just £15.00 per month.

Already have an undergraduate degree?

You may still qualify for a student loan. You just need to be living in England or Wales and looking to study an eligible qualification.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Grant

You could be eligible for up to £1,230 a year. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

If you're not eligible for the grant, or if it doesn't cover the full cost of your tuition fees, you can pay in full or in part using an alternative payment method, such as a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan.

Course Grant

You may also be eligible for a non-repayable Course Grant of up to a maximum of £265 a year. It's intended to help with course-related costs, such as a computer, internet access or stationery.

SCOTLAND

Part-Time Fee Grant

You could qualify for a Part-Time Fee Grant and top-up funding to cover 100% of your course fees. You're likely to be eligible if your personal income is £25,000 or less, or you're on certain benefits, and you're studying at least 30 credits a year. The fee grant and top-up funding aren't loans, so you won't need to pay any of it back.

WALES

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

The best way to fund your undergraduate studies, regardless of age or income, might be with a student loan. In fact, 80% of OU students in Wales fund their studies this way.

Key facts

- You don't have to pay anything upfront. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £27,295.
- Repayments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- You can pay off the loan early without any penalties.
- Any balance outstanding will be written off after 30 years.

Here's how your monthly student loan repayments could look:

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment ⁸
Up to £27,295	£0
£29,000	£12.79
£34,000	£50.29

⁸ Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £27,295. For example, if you earn £29,000, you'll repay £153.45 that year (9% of £1,705). That's just £12.79 per month.

Already have an undergraduate degree?

You may still qualify for a student loan. You just need to be living in Wales and looking to study an eligible qualification.

Maintenance grants

You could be eligible for up to £4,500 a year to help with living costs. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Maintenance loans

You'll also be eligible to apply for a non-means-tested maintenance loan, should you need it, to 'top-up' the financial support you've received from grants.

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for student loan or grant funding, or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan

Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See page 21 for more information.

Card payments

Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments

Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Care Experienced Scholarship⁹

If you have been in the care of a Local Authority at any stage of your life and are 30 or under, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Carers' Scholarship Fund⁹

If you are, or have recently been, an unpaid carer, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Disabled Students' Allowance⁹

You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund⁹

If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship

Your employer could partially or fully pay your module fees.

Sanctuary Scholarship⁹

If you've been displaced from your homeland for political, economic, ethnic, environmental, or human rights pressures, you could be eligible to study for free.

Scholarship for Black Students⁹

If you identify as being from a Black background, you could study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Study-related costs⁹

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

⁹ UK residents only.

Find out more

Find out more about undergraduate fees and funding.



Visit
openuniversity.
co.uk/ug-fees
Call
0300 303 5303

Postgraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, which means you won't have to pay for your whole qualification upfront. To find the total fee for your qualification, visit our website.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Your module materials, tuition, assessment and exams are all included in our module fees.

There are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.
- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction or theory books.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, you'll need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND AND WALES

Postgraduate loan

You could be eligible for a maintenance loan of up to £12,858 from Student Finance England or up to £19,255 from Student Finance Wales.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- The money is paid directly to you.
- You'll get your first instalment after you've paid for your first module and started studying.
- Payments are spread across two or three years.
- Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £21,000).
- You'll repay 6% of your income over £21,000. So, for example, if you earn £25,000, you'll repay only £240 that year (6% of £4,000). That's just £20 a month.
- Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- Any balance outstanding after 30 years is written off.

To be eligible you must:

- be resident in England or Wales
- be under 60 years old
- be studying a masters degree that can be completed in no more than three years
- not currently have a masters degree or equivalent
- be studying your qualification from the beginning.

NORTHERN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

Postgraduate loan

You could be eligible for a tuition fee loan of up to £6,500 from Student Finance Northern Ireland or up to £7,000 from the Student Awards Agency Scotland.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- There's no upper age limit.
- Payments are spread over the duration of your studies.
- Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £24,990 in Northern Ireland and £31,395 in Scotland).
- You'll repay 9% of your income over the threshold – so, for example, if you earn £35,000 and live in Scotland, you'll repay only £324.45 that year (9% of £3,605). That's just £27 a month.
- Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.

To be eligible, you must be:

- resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland
- studying for an eligible postgraduate qualification.

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for loan or grant funding or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan

Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See right for more information.

Card payments

Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments

Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Disabled Students' Allowance¹

You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund¹

If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship

Your employer could partially or fully pay for your module fees.

Grant funding

We offer access to a database of over 600 non-OU funding bodies offering grants for postgraduate students studying for or looking to study a masters, PGCE, or research degree.

OU bursaries¹

If you've already completed an OU undergraduate degree, you could receive a bursary to help lower the cost of your postgraduate study.

Study related costs¹

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

¹ UK residents only.

Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA)

Some students fund their studies through a loan from OUSBA. You'll be offered this option when you register with us, as long as you're a resident of the UK, European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, or Vatican City State.

Here's how it works

OUSBA will pay your fees to The Open University. You can then choose to repay OUSBA:

- in a single sum before your course starts. There's no interest to pay with this option
- in monthly instalments of up to a year. With this option, interest does apply.

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

If you're worried about affordability or a poor credit history, you can apply for a joint loan application with a third party. This could be with a partner, sibling or friend, for example.

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

To find out more about OUSBA, visit openuniversity.co.uk/ousba.

Find out more

Find out more about postgraduate fees and funding.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees
Call
0300 303 5303



Find your undergraduate course

Childhood and youth studies

BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies (Q23)	24
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Early childhood

BA (Hons) Early Childhood (Q89)	26
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Top-up BA (Hons) Early Childhood (Q90)	28
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Education studies (primary)

BA (Hons) Education Studies (Primary) (Q94)	30
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Sport and fitness

BSc (Hons) Sport, Fitness and Coaching (Q76)	32
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BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies

What makes young people tick? What shapes and influences children's development? How can the adults who work with children and young people support them more?

Childhood and youth studies is a rich and exciting topic and we're a pioneer in this field. Our interdisciplinary degree remains the only one in the UK that integrates psychology with sociology and other disciplines from your very first module. You'll explore fascinating topics affecting the lives of children and young people including mental health, digital childhoods, disability and global childhoods among many others. This wide-ranging interdisciplinary degree is suitable whether you're already working with children and young people, or you hope to in the future, but also if you have a general interest in the field.

Why this qualification?

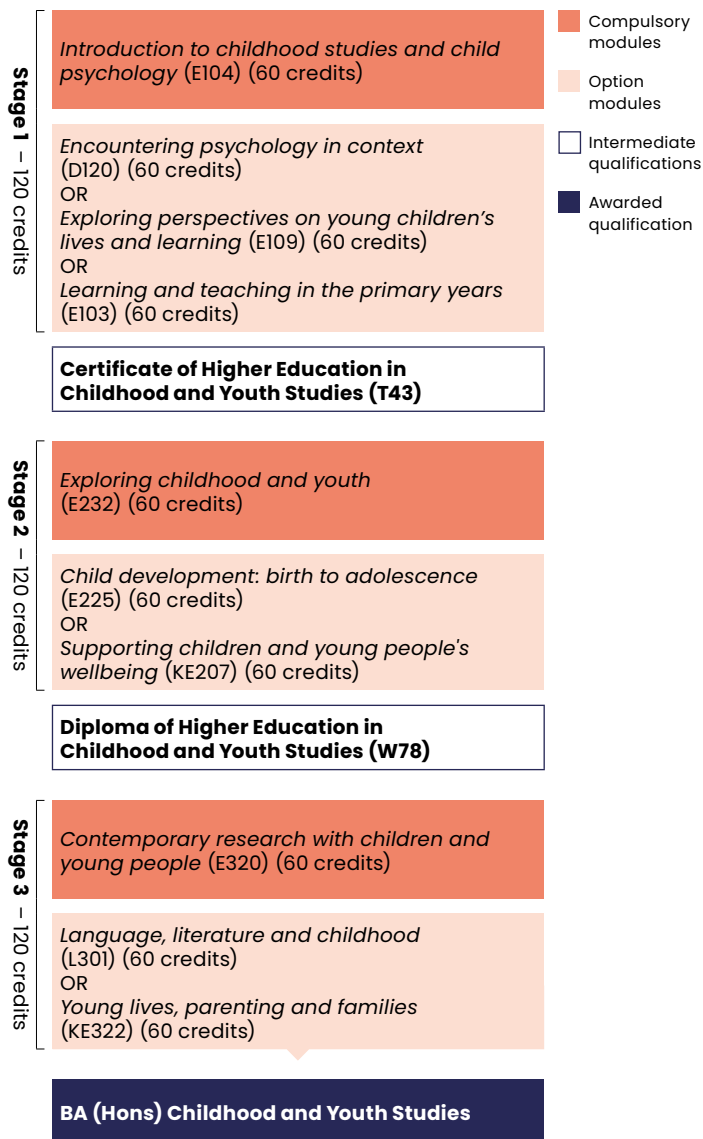
- Spans the entire age range, from birth to early adulthood 0–24.
- Topics include the psychology of childhood and youth, child development, mental health, digital childhoods, and global childhoods.
- Explore children and young people's lives from different perspectives.
- Relevant to a wide range of careers in childcare, education, health and social care.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Childhood and Youth Studies (W78)
openuniversity.co.uk/w78

Certificate of Higher Education in Childhood and Youth Studies (T43)
openuniversity.co.uk/t43

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q23

Total credits 360

Start date

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q23
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Early Childhood

Discover more about young children's lives and experiences. This degree is particularly suitable if you work with children aged from birth to 7 years or want to learn more about young children's lives and experiences.

You'll investigate early childhood from both national and international perspectives, exploring how children learn, their rights, the importance of play, and their physical and emotional wellbeing. There's a focus on the central importance of children's voices and the participatory nature of young children's experiences. You'll also study early childhood in different social, cultural and multidisciplinary contexts.

This is not a practice-based qualification and cannot be considered full and relevant for the purpose of being counted in staff-to-child ratios within early years settings (England) and is not suitable for those seeking lead practitioner or manager level registration with SSSC (Scotland). However, it is an excellent foundation for entry to a range of careers working with and for young children and their families.

Why this qualification?

- Professionally and vocationally relevant across many early childhood contexts.
- Takes a holistic approach to understanding early childhood from a range of perspectives.
- Covers young children's play and creativity within the context of the family and early childhood settings.
- Encourages critical understanding and reflection on contemporary issues and debates in early childhood.

Entry requirements

You do not need to be working with young children to study. However, to enhance your learning in the practice-focused modules we recommend that you seek opportunities to gain direct experience of working with young children (birth to 7 years). This can be in an employed or voluntary capacity. You'll also need to obtain the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks relevant for the setting and country you'll be working in.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Early Childhood (W50)
openuniversity.co.uk/w50

Certificate of Higher Education in Early Childhood (T26)
openuniversity.co.uk/t26

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Exploring perspectives on young children's lives and learning (E109) (60 credits)

Young children's play and creativity (E110) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Early Childhood (T26)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Listening to young children: critical reflections (E229) (60 credits)

Child development: birth to adolescence (E225) (60 credits)

OR

Developing subject knowledge for the primary years (E209) (60 credits)

OR

Exploring childhood and youth (E232) (60 credits)

OR

Supporting children and young people's wellbeing (KE207) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Early Childhood (W50)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

Young lives, parenting and families (KE322) (60 credits)

Contemporary research with children and young people (E320) (60 credits)

BA (Hons) Early Childhood

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

- Compulsory modules
- Intermediate qualifications
- Option modules
- Awarded qualification

At a glance

Course code Q89

Total credits 360

Start date

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q89
Call
0300 303 5303



Top-up BA (Hons) Early Childhood

Gain our Top-up BA (Hons) Early Childhood in one to two years.

If you're an experienced early years practitioner, this top-up route lets you count previous study in a relevant subject towards our Top-up BA (Hons) Early Childhood. You'll need to have a Foundation degree, Higher National Diploma or Diploma of Higher Education in Early Years/Early Childhood.

Building on your prior study and experience, you'll advance your professional development by completing two additional modules. They'll cover working with children, and research with children and young people. This means you can achieve your degree in less time, while also gaining an excellent foundation for a career working with young children.

Why this qualification?

- Fast-track route to gaining our BA (Hons) Early Childhood.
- Critically understand and reflect on contemporary issues and debates.
- Prepare for further research, study, enquiry and practice.

Qualifications in related subjects may also be eligible, but please note accepted qualifications must carry 240 credits.

Please contact us at
FELS-EY-General@open.ac.uk
for further advice.

Entry requirements

You will need to be an experienced early years (birth–7 years) practitioner and have achieved either a Foundation degree, HND or Diploma of Higher Education within the last five years in one of these accepted subjects:

- Early Childhood
- Early Childhood Learning and Development
- Early Childhood Studies
- Early Years.

At a glance

Course code Q90

Total credits 120

Start date

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Entry requirements

A Foundation Degree, HND or Diploma of Higher Education in Early Years/ Early Childhood (awarded within the last five years)

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

Full-time study: 1 year

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Qualification structure

This qualification begins at Stage 3 – your existing qualification will make up Stages 1 and 2.

Stage 3 – 120 credits

Young lives, parenting and families
(KE322) (60 credits)

Contemporary research with children and young people (E320) (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

BA (Hons) Early Childhood

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q90
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Education Studies (Primary)

Are you interested in the education of children aged between 3 and 12? Are you thinking about a career in education or becoming a primary school teacher?

This degree will give you a sound foundation for further study towards a range of roles in education. You'll develop your understanding of policy and practice in primary education, gaining the knowledge and skills needed to work collaboratively and equitably in a range of settings.

If you're looking to move into a teaching role, you'll need to undertake initial teacher training or further study following completion of this qualification. If you live or work in Wales, our Postgraduate Certificate in Education in Wales is ideal – see page 41.

Why this qualification?

- Practice-focused for professional learning about primary school education.
- Suitable for people working, volunteering or seeking to work in the wider education sector, cultural institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations.
- Supports theory and evidence-based practice and professional development.
- Collaborate with other students, and debate on teaching and learning from around the globe.

Entry requirements

There are no specific entry requirements for this qualification; you do not need to be volunteering or employed in a primary school to study. However, if you're not working in a school regularly, you may seek opportunities to spend some time in a formal educational

setting for children aged 3–12 to observe learning and teaching and gain exposure to a practice context.

If you cannot spend time in practice settings, the study materials will provide examples of children's learning across a range of phases and contexts. You'll need to obtain the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks relevant to the setting and country in which you will be working.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Education Studies (Primary) (W54)
openuniversity.co.uk/w54

Certificate of Higher Education in Education Studies (Primary) (T29)
openuniversity.co.uk/t29

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Learning and teaching in the primary years (E103) (60 credits)

Introduction to childhood studies and child psychology (E104) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Education Studies (Primary) (T29)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Developing subject knowledge for the primary years (E209) (60 credits)

Child development: birth to adolescence (E225) (60 credits)

OR

Exploring childhood and youth (E232) (60 credits)

OR

Listening to young children: critical reflections (E229) (60 credits)

OR

Supporting children and young people's wellbeing (KE207) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Education Studies (Primary) (W54)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

Comparative and international studies in primary education (E309) (60 credits)

Contemporary research with children and young people (E320) (60 credits)

BA (Hons) Education Studies (Primary)

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

- Compulsory modules
- Intermediate qualifications
- Option modules
- Awarded qualification

At a glance

Course code Q94

Total credits 360

Start date
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory
Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q94
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Sport, Fitness and Coaching

Are you an aspiring or practising leader of sport or fitness activities? Develop your skills and understanding of sports science, training, coaching and leadership with our sport, fitness and coaching degree.

It'll enhance your awareness of your role, increasing your effectiveness in sport and fitness settings. You'll apply science and theory to practice, reflecting on case studies and work situations. You'll focus on the all-round physical and psychological needs of sports and exercise participants. You'll also develop your communication and analytical skills – further boosting your career prospects.

Why this qualification?

- Flexible learning fits around your sport, fitness and work commitments.
- Extensive use of audiovisual case studies.
- Innovative technology.
- Preparatory step towards teaching physical education.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Sport and Fitness (W07)
openuniversity.co.uk/w07

Certificate of Higher Education in Sport, Fitness and Management (T05)
openuniversity.co.uk/t05

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Active bodies: introducing the study of sport and exercise (E114) (60 credits)

Working with people in sport and fitness (E119) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Sport, Fitness and Management (T05)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Applying sport and exercise sciences to coaching (E236) (60 credits)

Sport and exercise psychology in action (E235) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Sport and Fitness (W07)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

Athletic development: a psychological perspective (E312) (60 credits)

Contemporary sport and exercise issues (E315) (60 credits)

BSc (Hons) Sport, Fitness and Coaching

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

Compulsory modules

Intermediate qualifications

Awarded qualification

At a glance

Course code Q76

Total credits 360

Start date
Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration
Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study
The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q76
Call
0300 303 5303



BA/BSc (Hons) Open

Do you want the freedom to study a range of subjects that interest you? Then our Open qualifications are ideal.

Some of the key questions in the world today require expertise from a range of subjects.

Multidisciplinary study has always been at the heart of The Open University and our Open qualifications allow you to bring together different areas of study in a completely flexible way to develop knowledge and skills.

The BA/BSc (Hons) Open allows you to choose modules from a wide range of subject areas so you can, for example, combine childhood and youth modules with modules from other disciplines, such as science or humanities. It is a degree with a difference. Free from the restriction of a subject-specific specialism, you're in control of the direction of your learning.

Why this qualification?

- Tailor your qualification to suit your needs.
- Create your own unique multidisciplinary degree and skill set.

- Adapt your study plans to match your evolving aspirations.
- Count previous university study towards your qualification.

Open qualifications and your career

Our Open qualifications equip you with a wide range of expertise, skills and capabilities through multidisciplinary study. These qualities are 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; employers know that you are flexible and adaptable, potentially having studied across a range of topics. You'll have a highly employable set of skills and attributes, including:

- self-management and resilience
- critical thinking
- analysis and problem-solving.



The flexibility of the Open degree helped keep things new and exciting. Plus, studying all these different topics means I now have a skill set that's unique to me.



Luke Simmons
BSc (Hons) Open

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education Open (W34)
openuniversity.co.uk/w34

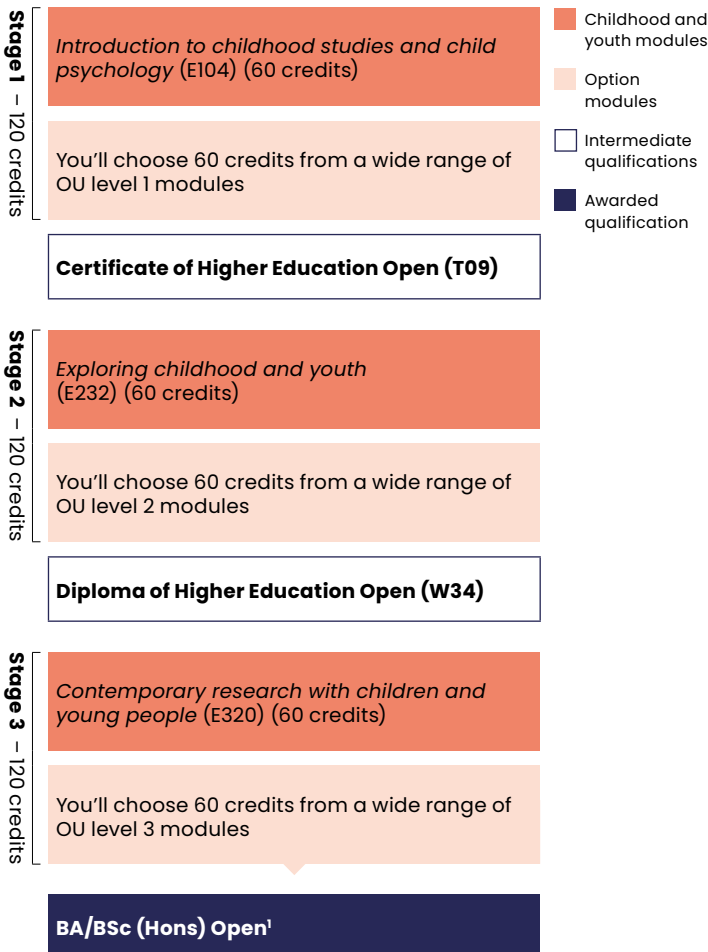
Certificate of Higher Education Open (T09)
openuniversity.co.uk/t09

How you can focus your Open degree on childhood and youth studies

This selection of modules below shows how you can focus on aspects of childhood and youth studies and combine them with other subjects that are of particular interest to you.

However, this is just one example of the many combinations you can study and you're not restricted to this route.

Example route



¹ Whether you qualify for a BA or BSc (Hons) Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for a BA or for a BSc.

At a glance

Course code QD

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Depending on the modules you choose to study, you may be assessed in any or all of the following ways:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

As the BA/BSc (Hons) Open can be made up of a range of different modules, the learning materials provided, use of online forums and inclusion of collaborative work will depend on the modules you choose to study

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/qd
Call
0300 303 5303



Find your postgraduate course

Education

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Childhood and youth studies

MA in Childhood and Youth (F55)	42
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Professional doctorate

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Masters degree in Education

You can tailor your Masters degree in Education (or related postgraduate certificate or diploma) to the subject content most appropriate to your professional area of interest.

This flexible qualification offers three specialist routes with the option to change specialism after Stage 1, giving you the chance to study two areas in one qualification. You'll engage with issues, concepts, and debates in the area that supports your professional development, choosing from three specialist routes:

- inclusive practice
- leadership and management
- learning and teaching.

In the final stage of your masters, you'll expand your research and communication skills through the multi-disciplinary dissertation. Depending on your individual circumstances, you'll undertake either a small-scale inquiry or an extended literature review and research proposal. This offers the opportunity to engage with research that is relevant to a range of contexts and professional circumstances.

While this qualification does not confer Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), it is a strong foundation, and additional study could help you meet further professional requirements.

Related qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Studies in Education (E88)
openuniversity.co.uk/e88

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Education (K27)
openuniversity.co.uk/k27

Qualification structure

You'll choose 180 credits from one of three specialisms:

Inclusive practice

Modules	Credits	Code
<i>Equity, inclusion and social justice in educational practice¹</i>	60	EE844
<i>Social justice, equity and equality: inclusive practice for all</i>	60	EE845
<i>Masters multi-disciplinary dissertation: education, childhood and youth</i>	60	E822

Leadership and management

Modules	Credits	Code
<i>Educational leadership: concepts, change and challenges¹</i>	60	EE841
<i>Exploring educational leadership: values, context and strategy</i>	60	EE842
<i>Masters multi-disciplinary dissertation: education, childhood and youth</i>	60	E822

Learning and teaching

Modules	Credits	Code
<i>Learning and teaching: educating the next generation¹</i>	60	EE830
<i>Learning and teaching: understanding your educational practice</i>	60	EE831
<i>Masters multi-disciplinary dissertation: education, childhood and youth</i>	60	E822

Masters degree in Education²

Option modules

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

¹ Recommended option module.

² On completion, you can choose which designation to accept: Master of Arts in Education (MA Ed) or Master of Education (MEd).

At a glance

Course code F70

Total credits 180

Start date

Oct 2025

Register by 18 Sep 2025

Entry requirements

UK bachelors degree or equivalent

Study duration

Part-time study: 3 years

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f70
Call
0300 303 5303

MA in Online Teaching

Study the theory and practice of online and blended teaching.

This masters degree offers you the unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of online teaching and learning that blends face-to-face and distance education.

Created by distance learning experts from our Institute of Educational Technology, you'll explore a range of teaching, assessment design and course design strategies suitable for online, blended and technology-enhanced learning settings.

You'll learn how online teaching and technology-enhanced learning can address equity, accessibility, and inclusion related to disability, mental health, race, gender identity, gender, and socioeconomic status.

You'll study ways in which new media, innovative pedagogies and cutting-edge educational technologies can be used equitably to engage diverse learners and meet their needs, and will learn how research and scholarship can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of online, blended and technology-enhanced learning.

Qualification structure

Modules/ Microcredentials	Credits	Code
<i>Technology-enhanced learning: foundations and futures</i>	60	H880
Postgraduate Certificate in Online Teaching (K43)		
Choose either four 15-credit postgraduate microcredentials/modules or one postgraduate module totalling 60 credits. For a full list of choices, go to openuniversity.co.uk/f98		
<i>Research and scholarship in digital education</i>	60	H890

MA in Online Teaching

- ☒ Compulsory modules
- ☐ Intermediate qualification
- ☐ Option modules
- ☒ Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

At a glance

Course code F98

Total credits 180

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 15 Jan 2026

March 2026

Visit openuniversity.co.uk/f98 for more information.

Entry requirements

UK honours degree or equivalent

Study duration

Part-time study: 3 years

What are microcredentials?

OU microcredentials are online professional development short courses designed to help you quickly build in-demand career skills to get ahead. For more details, visit openuniversity.co.uk/counting-microcredentials.

Related qualification

Postgraduate Certificate in Online Teaching (K43)
openuniversity.co.uk/k43

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f98
Call
0300 303 5303

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in Wales

Employability-focused PGCE that prepares you for the teaching profession.

To become a teacher in Wales, you need to attain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through an accredited provider. Our PGCE qualifies you to work at either primary or secondary school level and is designed for teaching in Wales and for the Welsh curriculum¹.

You'll study through online learning, live online seminars, and experience teaching in two different schools through practice learning. You'll have the option of studying in either Welsh or English and a choice of two routes, salaried or part-time, depending on your circumstances.

Salaried route

If you already work in a school, as a teaching assistant or in a non-teaching role, the salaried route enables you to study around your current duties.

Part-time route

If you've always wanted to be a teacher, but you have existing life or work commitments, our part-time route offers you the opportunity to get the qualification you need while balancing your other responsibilities.

¹ The PGCE can be used to teach in England.

Qualification structure

Modules	Credits	Code
Salaried route		
PGCE 1 and 2	60	EE306
PGCE 3	60	EE806
Part-time route		
PGCE 1 and 2	60	EEXP306
PGCE 3	60	EEXP806
Postgraduate Certificate in Education		

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

The PGCE is accredited by the Education Workforce Council.

Want to know more?

Contact us at wales-pgce@open.ac.uk, or order a copy of our Postgraduate Certificate in Education in Wales prospectus at openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus.

At a glance

Course code K36

Total credits 120

Start date

Sep 2025

Register by 30 June 2025

Entry requirements

- UK honours degree or equivalent (with subject relevance for secondary)
- GCSE Mathematics at Grade C (or equivalent)
- GCSE English or Welsh at Grade C (or equivalent)
- GCSE Science at Grade C (for primary)
- This is a sample of the academic requirements you must meet. Visit openuniversity.co.uk/k36 for the comprehensive entry requirements

Study duration

2 years

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/k36
Call
029 2002 0354



MA in Childhood and Youth

This masters degree delivers an interdisciplinary approach to studying childhood and youth, covering aspects of theory, policy and practice.

It's well suited if you work with, or aspire to work with, children and young people. Or if you want to advance academically or in your profession. It's designed for graduates working in (or in some cases, aspiring to work in) childhood and youth studies, sociology, health and social care, anthropology, psychology, or education.

In the final stage of your masters, you'll expand your research and communication skills through the multi-disciplinary dissertation. Depending on your individual circumstances, you'll undertake either a small-scale inquiry or an extended literature review and research proposal. This offers the opportunity to engage with research that is relevant to a range of contexts and professional circumstances.

While this qualification does not provide professional recognition, it is a strong foundation, and additional study could help you meet further professional requirements.

Related qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma
in Childhood and
Youth Studies (E93)
openuniversity.co.uk/e93

Postgraduate Certificate
in Childhood and
Youth Studies (K32)
openuniversity.co.uk/k32

Qualification structure

Modules	Credits	Code
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<i>Children and young people's worlds</i>	60	E808
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Postgraduate Certificate in Childhood and Youth Studies (K32)

<i>Frameworks for critical practice with children and young people</i>	60	E809
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Postgraduate Diploma in Childhood and Youth Studies (E93)

<i>Masters multi-disciplinary dissertation: education, childhood and youth</i>	60	E822
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MA in Childhood and Youth

Module availability is subject to change.

- Compulsory modules
- Intermediate qualifications
- Awarded qualification

At a glance

Course code F55

Total credits 180

Start date
Oct 2025
Register by 18 Sep 2025

Entry requirements
UK bachelors degree or equivalent

Study duration
Part-time study: 3 years



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f55
Call
0300 303 5303



Doctorate in Education

The Doctorate in Education (EdD) is an innovative programme of part-time study. It's for specialists working in education, and related areas, who want to make an original contribution to our knowledge and understanding of professional practice.

A growing number of professionals regard the EdD as a more appropriate vehicle for their development than a traditional PhD. It's a prestigious qualification that demonstrates skill in applied research and strong professional development.

Research areas

The EdD programme has five research areas:

- Child and youth studies.
- Curriculum, equity and assessment.
- Educational leadership, management and development.
- Language and literacy.
- Technology-enhanced learning.

Programme of study

This is a structured programme of study and research: two years taught (Stage 1) and two years research (Stage 2). You'll engage with online teaching materials and a series of supporting online seminars. We'll allocate you two supervisors – your main one in year 1 and a co-supervisor in year 2. The programme website and forums will connect you to other students and their supervisors. You'll have face-to-face supervision, teaching input and student interaction through annual residential weekends.

At a glance

Start date

Oct 2025
Applications close
31 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

- A masters degree in education or a related discipline, from a UK or EU university or another recognised degree-awarding body
- If you don't have a masters degree, you must demonstrate your suitability for postgraduate-level research. We can consider an alternative qualification, professional experience, publications, written reports or other evidence of previous research
- At least two years of relevant professional experience

Study duration

Part-time study: 4 years

Stage 1 (Taught)

The first stage takes two years and centres on a literature review and a research proposal. During this period, you'll have access to online resources, forums and seminars for advice on theories, methods and ethics of research. You'll complete two formative assessments in both year 1 and year 2, and get feedback on them. There's also a summative assessment at the end of each year. This work forms the basis for the thesis work in Stage 2.

Stage 2 (Research)

Provided you make satisfactory progress in Stage 1, you'll begin supported and supervised research for another two years. You'll follow a more independent and individual programme, with the continuing support of your supervisors.

We'll monitor your progress through regular written drafts, culminating in your submission of a thesis of up to 65,000 words. We'll assess the thesis element by viva-voce.

The main criteria for assessment are:

- Demonstration of reflection on the relationship between theory and practice in education.
- Significant contribution to the theory and practice of education.
- High level of critical analysis.
- Ability to select and apply appropriate research methods.

On meeting these criteria, we'll award you the Doctorate in Education (EdD), entitling you to use the title 'Doctor'.

More online

To find out more about how the EdD works, entry requirements, funding, and how to apply.



Visit
openuniversity.
co.uk/edd
Call
01908 653 806

MA/MSc Open

This innovative masters degree gives you the opportunity to create a personalised postgraduate qualification.

You'll expand your discipline-related knowledge at masters level, gain broader subject-specific knowledge and pursue further professional development in areas suited to your professional needs and personal interests.

To gain this qualification, you need **180 credits**.

Route 1: You can study **180 credits** and specialise within one of the following broadly related study areas:

- Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
- Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law.

Route 2: You can choose to study a **minimum of 120 credits** within one study area (chosen as your specialism) and take **up to 60 credits** from any other study area, including:

- Further professional development.

On completion

When you've achieved a minimum of 180 credits, you'll be awarded either a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MSc) degree. Whether you qualify for the MA Open or MSc Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for the MA or MSc.

Qualification structure

Route 1	Route 2	
Study 180 credits specialising within one of the following broad study areas	Study a minimum of 120 credits within one study area	60 credits from any other study area
Arts, Humanities, Music and Language	Arts, Humanities, Music and Language	Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare	Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare	Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law	Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law	Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law
		Further professional development
MA/MSc Open	MA/MSc Open	

Planning your studies

Our online study plan can help you map your route through the MA/MSc Open. Find the modules and microcredentials that best suit your study interests and career objectives at openuniversity.co.uk/f81.

Some restrictions or prerequisites apply to particular modules and microcredentials within this qualification. Refer to their individual entry requirements and descriptions to ensure you're adequately prepared before registering.

Our Student Support Team can provide support and information to help you make an informed decision about your education and future career. Visit openuniversity.co.uk/contact.

Please note: module availability is subject to change.

At a glance

Course code	F81
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Total credits	180
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Start dates

Sep 2025
Oct 2025
Nov 2025
Feb 2026
May 2026

Entry requirements

Entry to this qualification will typically require a UK honours degree or equivalent qualification relevant to your intended specialist area of study.

If you have other study or experience that you believe equips you to take this qualification, you can still apply but must supply evidence of your study or experience.

Study duration

Part-time study: 2–3 years



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f81
Call
0300 303 5303



Register for your course

We recommend registering as early as possible to secure your place. Once you're registered, you'll have access to our learning tools, materials and student support to help you get started.

Undergraduate study

1. Register

Go to your chosen qualification webpage, select your start date and click 'Register now'.

2. Choose your module(s)

Select the module(s) you want to study in your first year. Some may be compulsory, while you may select others from a list of options.

3. Organise your funding

Tell us how you'll be funding your chosen module(s). You'll find all your options at openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees.

4. Complete your registration

Confirm your funding method.
That's it – you're ready to start learning.

Learn more about how to apply at openuniversity.co.uk/ug-apply.

Postgraduate study

To work towards a postgraduate qualification, register on a module that counts towards it.

1. Choose your qualification

Once you've decided on a qualification, go to our website for the full course details and entry criteria you'll need to meet.

2. Register on your first module(s)

Modules within postgraduate qualifications have more detailed entry requirements, so make sure you've read these before registering.

3. Arrange your funding

You'll find all your options at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees.

4. Send us evidence that confirms you meet the entry requirements

Once we've assessed and approved your evidence, your registration is complete.

Learn more about how to apply at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-apply.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you might be able to count that study towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the modules you need to study with us.



Learn more at
[openuniversity.co.uk/
credit-transfer](https://openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer)

Useful information

Study from outside the UK

You could study with the OU wherever you are in the world.

Find out more by visiting **openuniversity.co.uk/international** or call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**.

Students with additional study needs

When you register, we'll ask if you have a physical or mental health disability, health condition, or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia) that could affect your study. If you do, we'll give you more detailed information about how we can help.

For more information, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/disability** or call **0300 303 5303**.

Equality and diversity

We're committed to creating an inclusive university community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

We do this by challenging inequality, celebrating diversity and ensuring everyone has the support needed to achieve their goals.

Find out more by visiting **openuniversity.co.uk/equality**.

Students under the age of 16

Very exceptionally, we accept applications from gifted students under 16.

Call **0300 303 5303** if you'd like to apply.

Sustainability and the OU

We embed sustainability across all aspects of your learning. Equipping you with science-based knowledge for social and environmental justice, transformational skills and the courage and confidence to be a force for regenerative practices in all areas of your life.

For more information, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/sustainability**.



Data protection

We record your personal information when you contact us. We use this to manage enquiries, registration, study, examination and other services. We may record calls to help us improve our service to you. When you contact us, we'll tell you more about how we treat your personal information.

For more information, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/privacy**.

Other ways to read this prospectus

You may find it easier to access information from our website at **openuniversity.co.uk**.

We can supply this prospectus as a printed booklet, PDF and in other formats.

Call **0300 303 5303** or email us from our website at **openuniversity.co.uk/contact**.

Explore our other prospectuses

Learn more about the qualifications we offer in other subject areas.

Subject-specific prospectuses

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Management
- Computing and IT
- Design, Engineering and Technology
- Geography, Environment and Development
- Health and Social Care
- Languages and Applied Linguistics
- Law
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Psychology and Counselling
- Science
- Social Sciences

Other prospectuses

- Access Modules
- Open Qualifications
- Postgraduate Courses
- Undergraduate Courses

We have made all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this prospectus is accurate at the time of publication. However, we shall be entitled, if we consider it reasonably necessary (including in order to manage resources and improve student experience), to make changes, including to the availability of modules and qualifications, to qualification structure and to our regulations, policies and procedures. For current information, please refer to our online prospectus at **openuniversity.co.uk/courses**.

If you require further information about the circumstances in which we may make changes, please contact us or refer to the Academic Regulations on our website at **openuniversity.co.uk/academic-regulations**.

Request a prospectus

Download or order a prospectus.



Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus**

Get in touch

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

- Email us from our website **openuniversity.co.uk/contact**
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **0300 303 5303**

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

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

In Northern Ireland

- Email **northern-ireland@open.ac.uk**
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **028 9032 3722**

In Ireland

- Email **ireland@open.ac.uk**
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **(01) 6785399**

All other countries

- Go to **openuniversity.co.uk/contact**
- Call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**

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**
- E-bost **cymorth-cymru@open.ac.uk**

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