The Open University

The future is open



Your
2026/2027

Science Prospectus

Welcome to the home of online learning



Have it all with The Open University and discover a more flexible way to achieve a career-boosting qualification.

Our globally recognised courses are designed to fit around you – your job, family and social life. Study flexibly online when and where you like, all with the support of dedicated tutors and the UK's biggest student community.

There's no limit to what you can achieve. Ready to unlock a world of possibilities?

The future is open

Rated gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework

TEF 2023 Gold

Top 3 in the UK for employability

uni compare 2026

Top 6 in the UK for course quality

uni compare 2026

Ranked in the top third of UK universities for research excellence

REF 2021



The experts in online learning

Study at a world-leading university known for teaching excellence.

Trusted

Join the largest UK university for undergraduate education.

Unrivalled flexibility

Learn online when and where suits you.

Choose your pace

Achieve a degree in three years[1] or take things slower – you decide.

Earn while you learn

Many students balance studies with their careers.

87% of alumni

Say the OU helped them achieve their career goals.

Tailored career support

To help you navigate your future.

[1] For more information on study time, see page 14.

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University that works for you

The Open University is truly open to all. We're proud to have pioneered a more flexible way of learning so that anyone, anywhere has the opportunity to transform their lives through top-quality education.

Study when and where suits you

We'll provide you with all the learning materials you need, so you can study online whenever and wherever you like.

Learn from the best

Join one of the UK's top six universities for course quality. You'll have a dedicated tutor supporting you from day one. These subject specialists will mark your assignments, provide meaningful feedback and keep you moving forward.

See your favourite subjects brought to life

Each week you'll work your way through a series of engaging, expertly-designed modules, all at your own pace. You'll also have an online study planner to keep on top of any deadlines and track your progress.

Be supported at every step

You'll have a whole community to support you from your first module to after you graduate. Connect with other students through tutorials and online forums, share ideas and cheer each other on. You can also turn to our friendly support teams for help with everything from balancing your studies to career planning.

See for yourself at a Virtual Open Day

Discover life-changing learning from your sofa. Book your spot at one of our online events to learn what it's like to study with us and hear from our inspiring students and support teams.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/open-days** to find out more.

> 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 student**



Why students choose the OU

Skills-boosting courses, tailored support and freedom you won't find anywhere else. Discover just a few of the reasons why millions have chosen the OU.

1

Award-winning teaching

We've spent over 55 years perfecting how to teach and support students wherever they are. Our courses are powered by the latest in learning innovation, from award-winning remote labs and our extended-reality studios, to skills-packed modules designed to inspire. It's why the OU is one of an elite group of universities to reach the gold standard of teaching excellence.

2

Courses that flex around real life

The OU gives you unrivalled flexibility to study online from home or on the move. With options to complete a degree in three years, take things at a slower pace, or even take a breather if you need to.

3

Earn a degree while earning a living

You'll have the flexibility to earn while you learn and study around your career. All with award-winning careers support and guidance from day one.

4

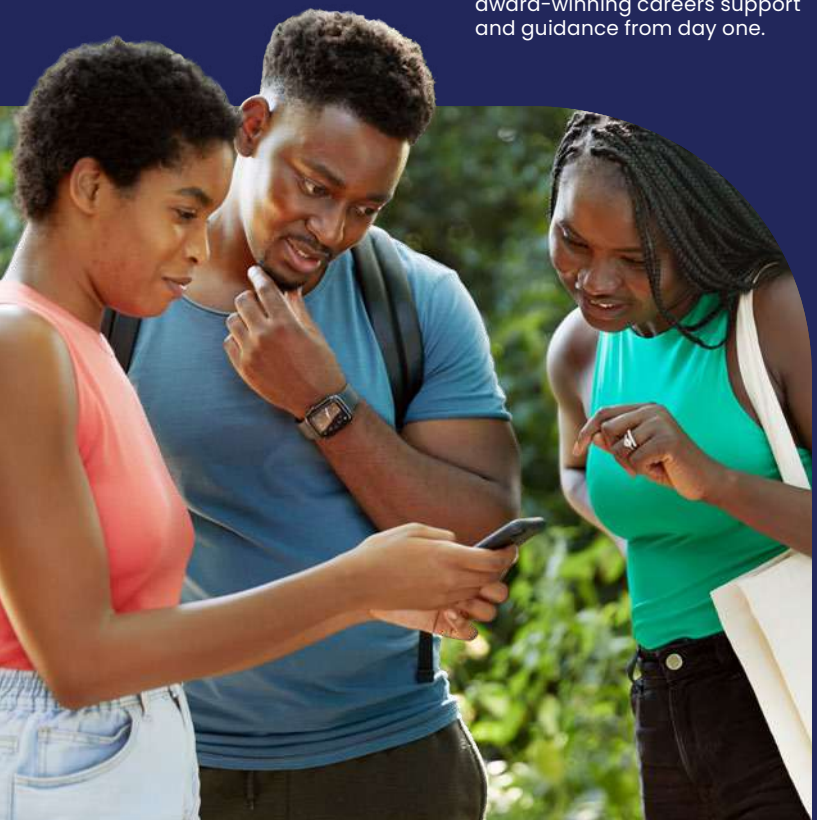
Top-quality education at an affordable price

Our tuition fees are among the most affordable in the UK. And with student loans, grants and scholarships, we can help you find the funding option that makes sense to you.

5

We're open to all

We believe that everyone should have the support and opportunity to transform their lives. That's why most of our undergraduate courses don't come with entry requirements. If you bring your ambition, we'll provide the support and guidance to help you achieve it. We also proudly welcome more students with disabilities than any other UK university and will help to make sure you have the support and tools to succeed, however you learn best.



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 interest or career.

Open Degree

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

Integrated Masters Degree

An integrated masters is an undergraduate degree that combines undergraduate and postgraduate study, giving you a deeper understanding of your subject.

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 that is 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.

Discover your ideal course

Find the course to match your ambition.

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

Shape your career

You'll gain so much more than a qualification with the OU. We'll help you develop the skills and confidence you need to thrive in your career – whether you're just starting out, changing direction or ready to progress.



> With the OU, you're not just improving your career prospects, you're learning about yourself at the same time. I have no doubt this degree will open doors for me in the future, it's already driven me forward professionally.

Jack Bristow
OU graduate

Award-winning careers guidance

You'll unlock award-winning careers support and resources from the moment you start studying. We'll help you plan your career goals, perfect your CV and navigate the jobs market.

Connect with hundreds of employers

Attend networking events and find local and national jobs, internships and volunteering opportunities from employers like HMRC, Network Rail and IBM.

Gain key employability skills

We work with employers and industry experts to embed employability into our teaching. You'll not only gain subject knowledge but also develop important problem-solving, communication and time management skills that will set you apart.

Put what you learn into practice right away

By studying flexibly online, you can apply what you learn to the real world, right away. It's why our students tell us they can gain new roles and even promotions, all while they're still studying.

Careers support after you graduate

All this support will continue up to three years after you finish your qualification. So you can feel confident taking that next step.

97% of users would recommend our award-winning careers services and tools

Top 3 in the UK
for employability

uni compare 2026

Discover the support, guidance and tools waiting for you.

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/careers**

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



My OU degree landed me my most recent role. The support and guidance to achieve are there, no matter your background or ambitions.

Jake Neller
OU graduate



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 Science

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) faculty teaches over 40,000 students on around 180 modules. With each module, you'll expand your knowledge and understanding, gaining new skills to help change your career and society.

By studying Science with us, you could:

- **explore a range of disciplines – from molecules to the cosmos – or specialise where your passion lies**
- **gain sought-after scientific and transferable skills: critical thinking, data analysis, scientific writing, problem-solving**
- **develop practical skills through online, virtual and optional hands-on laboratory and fieldwork**
- **achieve a professionally accredited or recognised qualification.**

Undergraduate

At undergraduate level, our subjects include:

- Astronomy and Planetary Science
- Biology
- Biomedical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Earth Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Physics.

Postgraduate

Our taught postgraduate qualifications develop critical, analytical and research skills, boosting your career or preparing you for further studies at doctoral level.

At postgraduate level, our subjects include:

- Mental Health Science
- Space Science.

OpenSTEM Labs

Many of our Science courses utilise our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs, which gained a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2023. The online laboratories include a wide array of experiments, from virtual microscopes to remote-access weather stations on our Milton Keynes campus and optical telescopes on Tenerife. So you can get practical from almost anywhere at any time.

To find out more, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/openstem-lab**.

When I started with the OU, I had quite low self-confidence, but now I feel much more confident in myself personally and professionally. The OU enabled me to apply for jobs within the NHS, and now I'm a Health and Wellbeing Coach and studying for a masters.

Amy Emery
BSc (Hons) Health Sciences

Professional accreditation

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)[1] and the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) accredit our Environmental Science qualifications, the Institute of Physics (IOP) accredits or recognises our physics degrees, the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) accredits our biology degrees, and the Society for Natural Sciences (SNS) accredits our natural sciences degrees.

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Accredited Course

IOP Institute of Physics

RSB Accredited Degree

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES ACCREDITED DEGREE

[1] Please note that at the time of printing, we're in the process of reaccrediting our qualifications with CIWEM. For the latest information, see our website.

Gain the skills employers need

With ever-increasing employer demand for skilled and qualified science graduates, an Open University Science qualification could be your starting point for various careers. In addition to scientific knowledge and methods, employers value Open University science students for skills such as problem-solving, collaboration, digital literacy, self-management and commercial awareness.

Studying Science at The Open University could be the first step towards professional training and careers in:

- practical science and laboratory work
- research and development
- science communication
- science management and consultancy
- teaching.

As well as the specific knowledge and skills gained from studying, you'll develop many transferable graduate attributes valued by employers across various industries.

Award-winning teaching, world-leading research

You can be confident in receiving insightful and innovative teaching materials developed by academics at the top of their fields.

As well as delivering courses, our staff are also actively involved in international research programmes.

Our academics work alongside the BBC to ensure programmes like the iconic *Frozen Planet* series are based on scientific research, including our own.

Committed to equality

Our School of Environment, Earth and Ecosystems Sciences' and School of Life, Health and Chemical Sciences' Athena Swan Bronze awards and our School of Physical Sciences' Silver award recognises their gender equity efforts. AdvanceHE's Athena Swan Charter framework supports and transforms gender equality within higher education and research.

Additionally, the Institute of Physics's Project Juno recognises departments that demonstrate action to address gender equality in physics. Our School of Physical Sciences holds its highest award – Juno Champion.

Athena SWAN Silver Award

Athena SWAN Bronze Award

IOP Institute of Physics Juno Champion

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 module[1]
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 Republic of Ireland.

Our integrated masters degrees have four stages. See pages 28 and 36 for further details.

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.

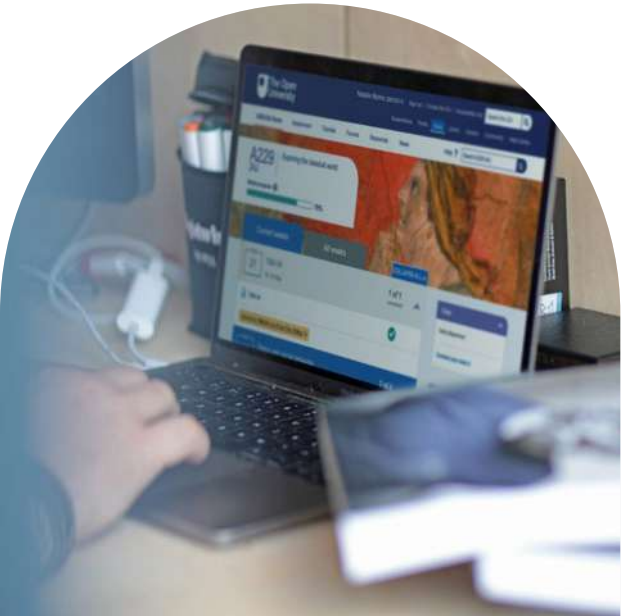
Postgraduate Certificate

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 success 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.

If you'd like to build confidence before starting a qualification, an Access module could be a great first step. It helps you understand what university study involves, and gives you the chance to refresh your skills and explore your interests. Many students who've felt unsure find it provides a strong foundation and sets them up to succeed in their future studies.

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 May and August, we also offer a fast-track option which allows you to complete your module in just 16 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 if you would like 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.

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

Grow your knowledge in technical subjects, including computing and IT, design, engineering, environment, mathematics and science.

As the foundation for further studies in these fields, this module will help build your confidence and prepare you for more OU study.

Also available as *Science, technology and maths Access: fast-track* (YXFT033).

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)
- *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module* (Y034) – also available as *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module: fast-track* (YXFT034).



You could study for free

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

To qualify, you must:

- be resident in the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man) or have a British Forces Post Office address
- be eligible to pay a UK fee
- meet the income threshold criteria, for more information visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access**
- have not completed one year or more of any full-time undergraduate programme at FHEQ or CQFW level 4/ SCQF level 7 or above, and not successfully completed 30 credits or more of OU study within the last 10 years.

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 £1,022
- the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, it's £1,105
- Ireland, it's £962
- Northern Ireland, it's £325
- Scotland, it's £334
- Wales, it's £359.

You can pay up front 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

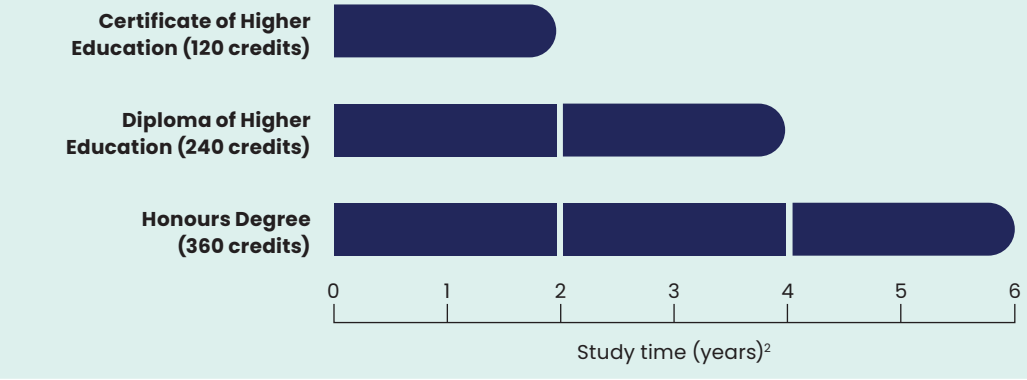
We give you the flexibility to choose the amount of study you want to take on each year. That means you can get the qualification you want in a timeframe that works for you.

Undergraduate qualifications

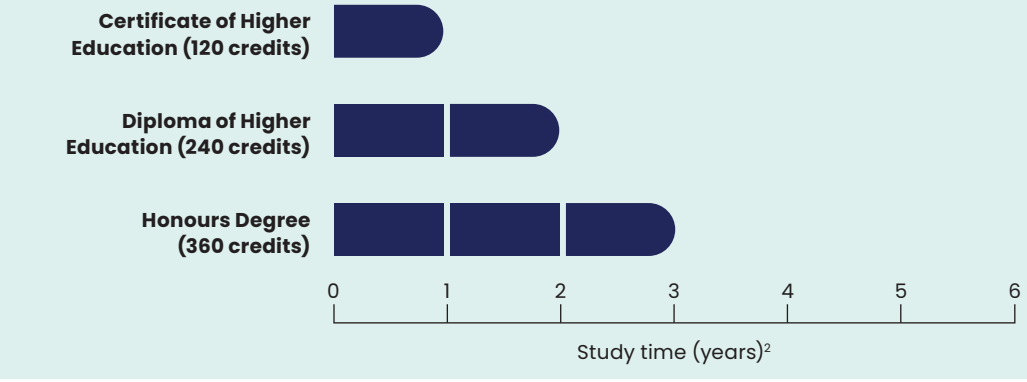
How long it will take to gain your qualification depends on the course you've chosen and the amount of credits you study each year. Studying 60 credits a year is half the rate of a full-time course at a campus-based university. To complete your studies at a pace equivalent to full-time, you'll need to 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 study[3] | 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.

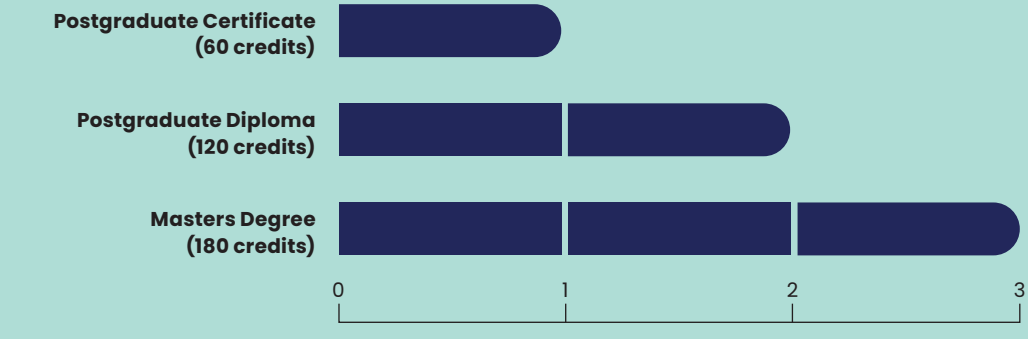
Postgraduate qualifications

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]

Part-time study | 60 credits a year | 16–20 study hours a week



[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 may be able to transfer the academic credit you've been awarded 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 Student Union, OU Community forums and range of societies and groups mean you're connected to one of the UK's largest student communities.

Your Student Union awaits

Open SU is the union for Open University students. Led by a team of enthusiastic student leaders, it exists to represent, support, and connect the student community. You'll automatically become a member, and there's no fee.

Open SU is on a mission to make a positive difference for all OU students. Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- Join a club, society, or support group to find like-minded students.
- Explore discounts, past exam papers, and a shop with OU merchandise.
- Have your say and boost your skills through volunteer opportunities or by becoming a student representative.
- Take part in any of our online or in-person events taking place throughout the year.

To find out more, visit **oustudents.com**.

Open SU

> 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
- use the tutorial booking system
- 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
- 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, visit **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 up front. We've given you an idea of the costs below:

Where you live	Cost per year		Total cost at current prices		
	60 credits a year	120 credits a year	Certificate of Higher Education (120 credits)	Diploma of Higher Education (240 credits)	Honours Degree (360 credits)
England[1]	£4,088	£8,176	£8,176	£16,352	£24,528
Northern Ireland[2]	£1,300	£2,600	£2,600	£5,200	£7,800
Scotland[2]	£1,336	£2,672	£2,672	£5,344	£8,016
Wales[2]	£1,436	£2,872	£2,872	£5,744	£8,616
Ireland[2]	£3,848	£7,696	£7,696	£15,392	£23,088
Outside the UK and Ireland[2]	£4,420	£8,840	£8,840	£17,680	£26,520

[1] 2026/27 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. In England, fees are subject to fee limits, as set out in the University's Fee Rules (openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules).
[2] 2026/27 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
A Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan is a popular way to fund your undergraduate studies, and it's available regardless of your income. In fact, 85% of OU students in England fund their studies this way.

You don't have to pay anything up front. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £25,000.

For courses starting from January 2027, student finance is changing. For more information visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees**.

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'll likely 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
A Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan is a popular way to fund your undergraduate studies, and it's available regardless of your income. In fact, over 80% of OU students in Wales fund their studies this way.

You don't have to pay anything up front. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £29,385.

Already have an undergraduate degree?

If you already hold an honours degree or higher-level qualification and you're looking to re-skill or up-skill, you could still be eligible for funding to study eligible qualifications.

Maintenance grants
You could be eligible for up to £4,590 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
If you're under 60, 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 Scholarship[3]
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' Scholarships Fund[3]
If you are, or have recently been, an unpaid carer, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Disabled Students' Allowance[3]
You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund[3]
If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship
Your employer could partially or fully pay your module fees.

Sanctuary Scholarship[3]
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 Students[3]
If you identify as being from a Black background, you could study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Study-related costs[3]
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.

[3] 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 loan of up to £13,206 from Student Finance England or up to £19,635 from Student Finance Wales.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- The money is paid directly to you and can be used towards your course fees and living costs.
- You'll get your first instalment after you've self-funded 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:

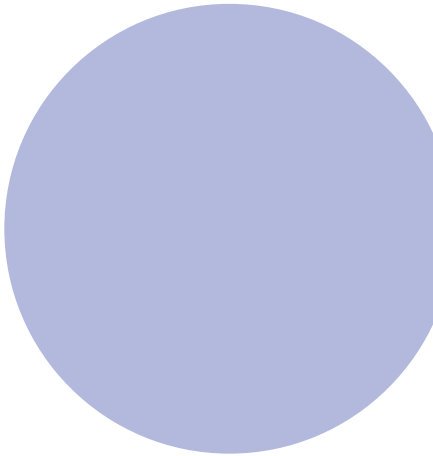
- be resident in England or Wales
- be under 60 years old
- be studying a masters degree that can be completed in no more than three years in England and no more than four years in Wales
- not currently have a masters degree or equivalent
- be studying your qualification from the beginning.

OUSBA postgraduate-linked loan
If you're eligible for a postgraduate loan from Student Finance England or Wales, you'll receive your funding in instalments. However, you'll only start receiving these instalments after you've paid your tuition fees and no sooner than two weeks after the module starts. This means you'll need to cover your fees before you receive your loan.

An Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA) postgraduate-linked loan can help. It lets you pay your tuition fees upfront so you can register for your course. You can then use the instalments from your government postgraduate loan towards your OUSBA payments.

This loan is provided to any eligible student by Open University Student Budget Accounts Limited, which is a subsidiary firm of the University.

For more information, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/ousba-linked**.



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 £32,745 in Scotland).
- You'll repay 9% of your income over the threshold. So, for example, if you earn £36,000 and live in Scotland, you'll repay only £292.95 that year (9% of £3,255). That's just £24 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' Allowance[1]
You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund[1]
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.

OU bursaries[1]
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 costs[1]
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, the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, or the 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**.

Open University Student Budget Accounts Limited is a subsidiary firm of The Open University.

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

Biology

BSc (Hons) Biology (R58) 24

Biomedical sciences

BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences (R87) 26

Environmental science

Master of Environmental Science (M05) 28

BSc (Hons) Environmental Science (Q52) 30

Health sciences

BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Q71) 32

Natural sciences

BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences (Q64) 34

Physical sciences

Master of Physics (M06) 36

BSc (Hons) Physics (R51) 38

BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Physics (Q77) 40

Certificate in Astronomy and Planetary Science (S10) 42

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Open qualifications

BA/BSc (Hons) Open (QD) 44

BSc (Hons) Combined STEM (R28) 46



BSc (Hons) Biology

If you're fascinated by life in all its forms, this degree takes you from the microscopic to the global scale.

You'll explore the building blocks of life, the physiology and behaviour of organisms, and the ecosystems that sustain them. Evolution, diversity, and survival are key themes as you study everything from cells and genes to whole populations and habitats. With hands-on investigations and up-to-date scientific insight, you'll develop a rounded understanding of biology and the skills to apply it in research, conservation, education or healthcare.

Why this qualification?

- Gain a contemporary understanding of biology alongside scientific methods.
- Acquire biological data handling, statistical analysis and technical report-writing skills.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.
- Undertake practical home and field investigations.

Accreditation

Our biology degree is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB).

RSB Accredited Degree

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Biology (W89)
openuniversity.co.uk/w89

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Questions in science* (S111) (60 credits)
- *Science: concepts and practice* (S112) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Natural Sciences (T11)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Biodiversity: survival in a changing world* (S286) (30 credits)
- *Cell and molecular biology* (S296) (30 credits)
- You'll choose 60 credits from:
  Brain, mind and mental health (SK298) (30 credits)
  Environmental science (S226) (60 credits)
  Human biology (SK299) (30 credits)
  Investigative approaches in biology and chemistry (S285) (30 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Biology (W89)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- *Biological science: from genes to species* (S317) (60 credits)
- *Evaluating contemporary science* (S350) (30 credits)
  OR
  Infectious disease and public health (SK320) (30 credits)
  OR
  Signals and perception: the science of the senses (SD329) (30 credits)
  OR
  Terrestrial ecosystems (S397) (30 credits)
- *Science project module: biology* (SXB390) (30 credits)

BSc (Hons) Biology

Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualifications
Option modules
Awarded qualification

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

At a glance

Course code R58

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- 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
The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

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

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Meet the experts

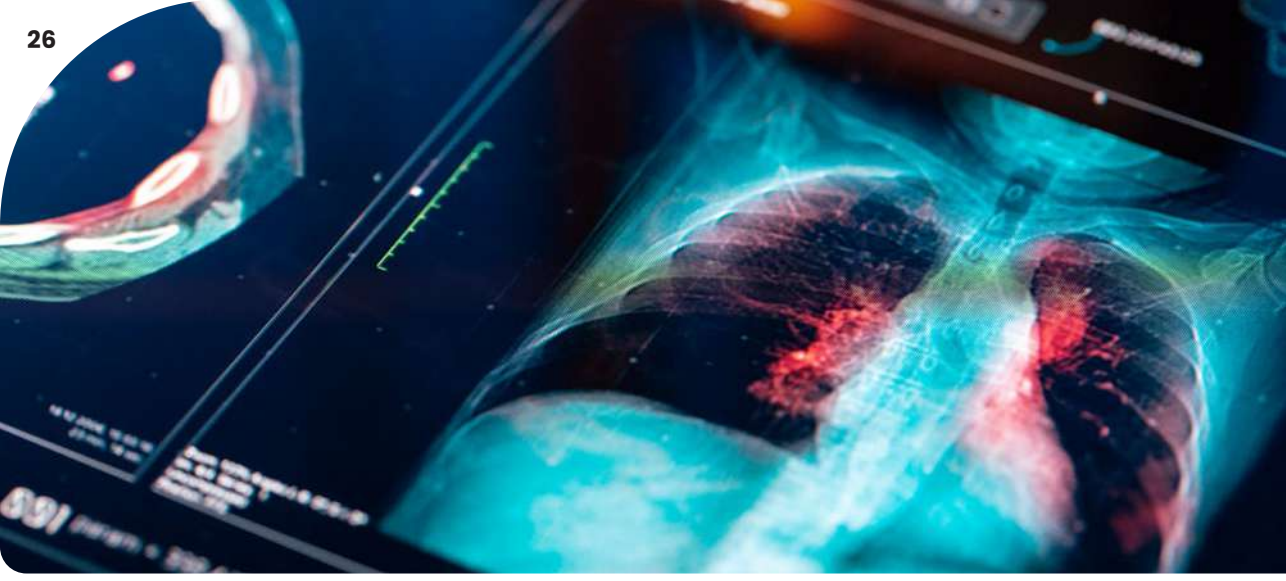
Dr Vicky Taylor is a Senior Lecturer in Biology and a physiology researcher.

Read her examination of human–animal interactions enabling positive animal welfare at **openuniversity.co.uk/welfare**.

More online

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

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r58
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences

Biomedical sciences is a broad area of modern science and underpins much of contemporary medicine. By studying a biomedical sciences degree, you'll understand how the human body works and how illnesses are diagnosed and treated. You'll explore how cells, tissues, organs, and body systems function together and their impact on health and disease.

You'll learn about the functions of the human body by studying anatomy and physiology, and how we prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses. Our biomedical sciences degree will also teach you practical skills through our award-winning OpenSTEM Labs and, in some cases, extended reality.

Why this qualification?

- Gain a contemporary understanding of the biomedical sciences.
- Explore health and disease from a multidisciplinary, evidence-based perspective.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM labs.
- Participate in innovative online collaborative and virtual experiences.
- Develop transferable skills that enhance your employability in a variety of settings.

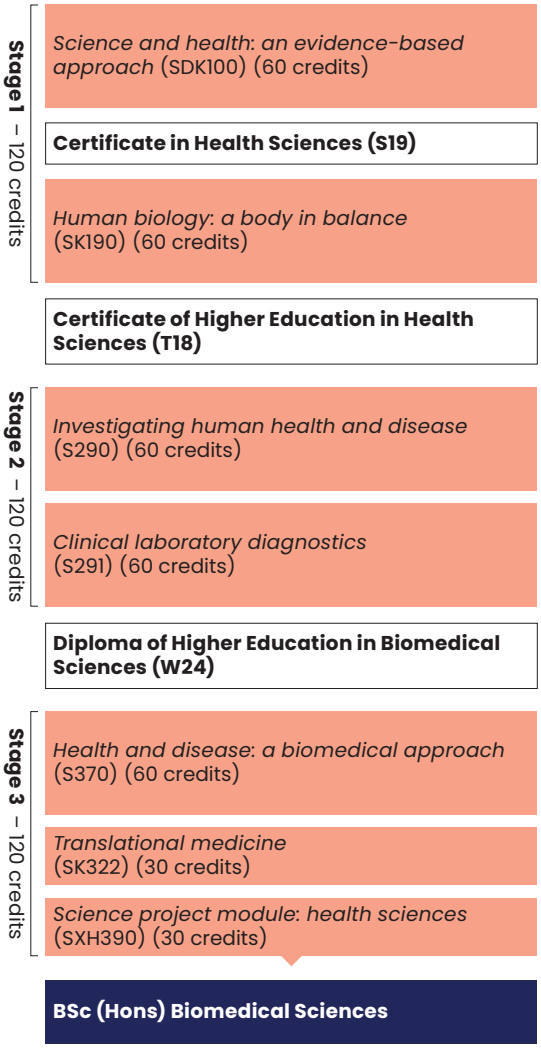
Bring learning to life

Our immersive Open XR Studio lets you explore concepts, interact with simulations, and practise real-world skills – all remotely and flexibly. Extended Reality (XR) makes your learning more engaging, hands-on, and accessible wherever you study.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Biomedical Sciences (W24)
openuniversity.co.uk/w24

Qualification structure



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

At a glance

Course code R87

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

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
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

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

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r87
Call
0300 303 5303



Master of Environmental Science

An integrated masters is an undergraduate degree combining undergraduate and postgraduate study. The Master of Environmental Science (MEnv) takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding, managing and protecting the environment.

You'll explore conservation, ecology, ecosystems, environmental management, and renewable energy, while addressing global challenges like climate change, sustainability, and biodiversity loss. The MEnv also covers socio-economic, political, and ethical dimensions. You'll gain scientific knowledge, technical skills in remote sensing and climate modelling, and transferable skills in communication, project management, and research. By the end of your degree, you'll be equipped to assess environmental issues and propose effective, science-based solutions.

Why this qualification?

- Gain essential skills for addressing environmental management issues.
- Develop your planning, organising, data collecting, analysing and writing skills.
- Acquire fieldwork skills at a field school (virtual and residential options).
- Conclude with a substantial independent study or an in-depth research project.
- Extend your knowledge of recent scholarships as preparation for a research degree.

Accreditation

- Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)[1]
- Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
Accredited Course

CHES ACCREDITED ies

[1] Please note that at the time of printing, we're in the process of reaccrediting our qualifications with CIWEM. For the latest information, see our website.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Science (W47)
openuniversity.co.uk/w47

Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)
openuniversity.co.uk/t16

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Environment: journeys through a changing world (U116) (60 credits)

Science: concepts and practice (S112) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Environmental science (S226) (60 credits)

You'll choose 60 credits from:
Biodiversity: survival in a changing world (S286) (30 credits)
Earth science: understanding our planet (S229) (60 credits)
Energy and sustainability (T213) (30 credits)
Environmental management: systems and sustainability (T220) (30 credits)
Environment: inhabiting a changing planet (DST216) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Science (W47)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

Evaluating contemporary science (S350) (30 credits)

Terrestrial ecosystems (S397) (30 credits)

You'll choose 60 credits from:
Environment: responding to change (SDT306) (60 credits)
Environmental management: pathways to sustainability (T330) (30 credits)
Geology and sustainability (S319) (30 credits)
Renewable energy (T313) (30 credits)

Stage 4 – 120 credits

Environmental science challenges (S831) (30 credits)

Environmental monitoring and protection (T868) (30 credits)
OR
Making environmental decisions (T891) (30 credits)
OR
Sustainable organisations: theory and practice (T892) (30 credits)

Project for Master of Environmental Science (S840) (60 credits)

Master of Environmental Science

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

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

At a glance

Course code M05

Total credits 480

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration
Part-time study: 8 years
Full-time study: 4 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/m05
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Environmental Science

This degree explores the disciplines needed to understand, manage and protect our planet. Assess environmental problems, propose solutions, and gain a comprehensive understanding of the natural environment.

You'll study topics including conservation, ecology, ecosystems, environmental management and renewable energy. Develop your scientific and technical knowledge and skills, and learn how to apply them to environmental challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainability. As a valued environmental science graduate, you'll be able to pursue a career in a range of fields.

Why this qualification?

- Develop your scientific, interpretive and creative-thinking skills.
- Investigate the complexities of the natural environment and our relationship with it.
- Explore the problems we face with sustainable living.
- Acquire fieldwork skills at a field school (virtual and residential options).
- Follow an environmental management route if applicable to your role or aspirations.

Accreditation

- Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)[1]
- Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
Accredited Course

CHES ACCREDITED ies

[1] Please note that at the time of printing, we're in the process of reaccrediting our qualifications with CIWEM. For the latest information, see our website.

Interested in combining environmental science with geography? Take a look at our BSc (Hons) Geography and Environmental Science. Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/r16**

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Science (W47)
openuniversity.co.uk/w47

Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)
openuniversity.co.uk/t16

Qualification structure

You'll choose a route from:

- **environmental management**
- **environmental science**.

The example below shows the **environmental science** route. Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/q52** for information on the environmental management route.

Example route

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Environment: journeys through a changing world (U116) (60 credits)

Science: concepts and practice (S112) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Environmental science (S226) (60 credits)

You'll choose 60 credits from:
Biodiversity: survival in a changing world (S286) (30 credits)
Earth science: understanding our planet (S229) (60 credits)
Energy and sustainability (T213) (30 credits)
Environmental management: systems and sustainability (T220) (30 credits)
Environment: inhabiting a changing planet (DST216) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Science (W47)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

Terrestrial ecosystems (S397) (30 credits)

You'll choose 60 credits from:
Environment: responding to change (SDT306) (60 credits)
Evaluating contemporary science (S350) (30 credits)
Renewable energy (T313) (30 credits)

Science project course: environmental science practical project (SXE390) (30 credits)

BSc (Hons) Environmental Science

Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualifications
Option modules
Awarded qualification

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

At a glance

Course code Q52

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

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/q52
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Health Sciences

Delve into the science of human biology and uncover the building blocks of what makes our brains and bodies work.

Through our health sciences degree, you'll study the cause, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases and other health conditions – from cancer and COVID-19 to dementia and autism. With a focus on transferable career skills, you'll learn to think and communicate like a scientist, using the latest research to evaluate and debate global health issues. You'll gain practical experience conducting experiments from home in our award-winning online labs. Perfect if you already work in a health-related profession or want to.

Why this qualification?

- Explore topics across human biology, infectious disease, mental health, neuroscience and more.
- Study cutting-edge scientific research and gain practical research skills.
- Develop critical thinking, communication and analytical skills to boost your employability.
- Conduct experiments from home through our online OpenSTEM labs.

Interested in combining health sciences with healthcare? Take a look at our BSc (Hons) Healthcare and Health Science. Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/q96**

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Health Sciences (W44)
openuniversity.co.uk/w44

Certificate of Higher Education in Health Sciences (T18)
openuniversity.co.uk/t18

Certificate in Health Sciences (S19)
openuniversity.co.uk/s19

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Science and health: an evidence-based approach* (SDK100) (60 credits)
- **Certificate in Health Sciences (S19)**
- *Human biology: a body in balance* (SK190) (60 credits)
- **Certificate of Higher Education in Health Sciences (T18)**

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Brain, mind and mental health* (SK298) (30 credits)
- *Infection, immunity and public health* (SK297) (30 credits)
- *Investigating human health and disease* (S290) (60 credits)
- **Diploma of Higher Education in Health Sciences (W44)**

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- *Evaluating contemporary science* (S350) (30 credits)
- *Signals and perception: the science of the senses* (SD329) (30 credits)
- *Translational medicine* (SK322) (30 credits)
- *Science project module: health sciences* (SXH390) (30 credits)

- **BSc (Hons) Health Sciences**

Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualifications
Awarded qualification

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

At a glance

Course code Q71

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- 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
The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

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

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

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

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q71
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences

Tackling today's complex societal challenges requires an interdisciplinary approach. Our natural sciences degree, accredited by the Society for Natural Sciences, prepares you to meet that need by exploring a wide range of scientific disciplines.

You'll begin with a broad introduction to modern science, building a strong foundation across key areas. As you progress, you can maintain a broad-based approach or specialise in a single field. Practical experience is supported through our OpenSTEM Labs, which enable online experiments, while some modules also offer optional hands-on laboratory work and fieldwork to deepen your scientific understanding.

Why this qualification?

- Study an interdisciplinary, broad-based route and pick modules across the science curriculum.
- Or pick a specialist route and focus on one of six branches of science.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.
- Practice hands-on laboratory work and fieldwork (with online options).

Accreditation

- The Society for Natural Sciences (SNS) accredits all routes.
- The biology route is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB).
- The Institute of Physics (IOP) accredits the physics route.

SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES
ACCREDITED DEGREE

RSB Accredited Degree

IOP Institute of Physics

Teaching chemistry

If you want to teach chemistry up to Key Stage 4 and your background is in another science, or you're thinking about training to be a chemistry teacher, find out more about our Professional Certificate in Chemistry at **openuniversity.co.uk/s34**.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Natural Sciences (W37)
openuniversity.co.uk/w37

Certificate of Higher Education in Natural Sciences (T11)
openuniversity.co.uk/t11

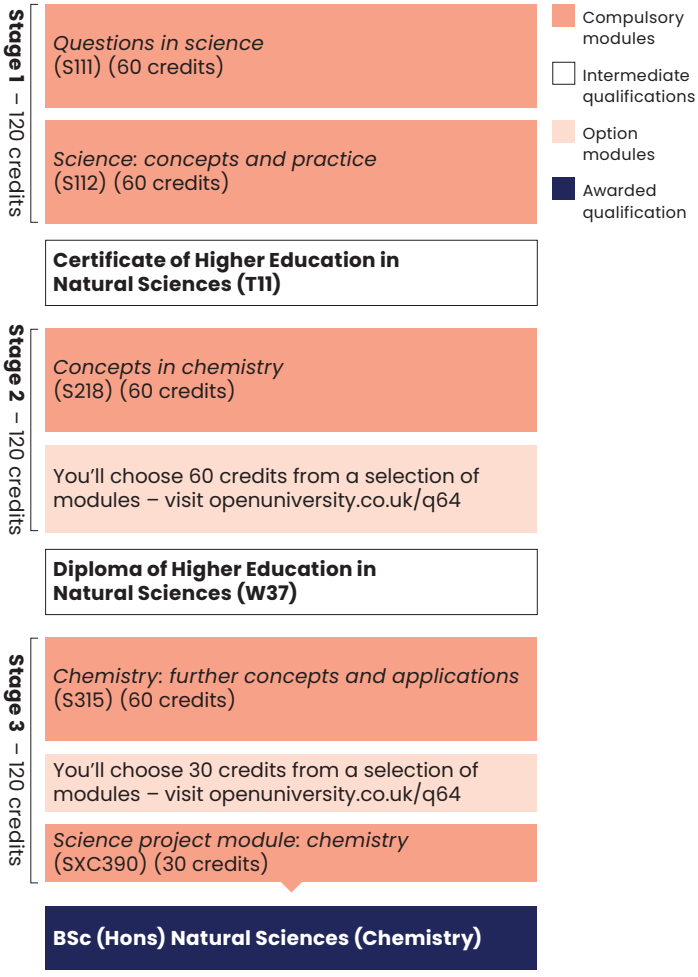
Qualification structure

You'll choose a route from:

- **broad**
- **astronomy and planetary science**
- **biology**
- **chemistry**
- **Earth sciences**
- **environmental science**
- **physics**.

The example below shows the **chemistry** route.
Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/q64** for information on the other routes.

Example route



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

At a glance

Course code Q64

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

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/q64**
Call **0300 303 5303**



Master of Physics

An integrated masters is an undergraduate degree that combines undergraduate and postgraduate study. Our Master of Physics (MPhys), provisionally accredited by the IOP (Institute of Physics), develops your knowledge and skills to explore the smallest and largest scales of the Universe.

You'll learn to objectively and quantitatively describe, analyse, test, and explain phenomena in our physical world and the wider Universe, applying experimental, observational and numerical methods and developing mathematical and programming skills. Choose a start that suits your knowledge and understanding, pick a route that meets your interests, and conclude with a project on physics, astrophysics or space science.

Why this qualification?

- Choose from a standard, basic maths or advanced start, – whatever suits you best.
- Specialise in either physics or astrophysics with space science.
- Gain mathematical and data-handling skills, plus apply models and analyse data using a modern programming language.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.
- Extend your understanding of core physics concepts and processes, and demonstrate your ability to conduct novel and exciting research.

Accreditation

- Provisionally accredited by the Institute of Physics (IOP).

IOP Institute of Physics

Remote telescopes

Among many experiments, our OpenSTEM Labs include remotely operated optical telescopes on Tenerife. Students on our astrophysics module can access the telescopes from anywhere in the world.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Physics (W82)
openuniversity.co.uk/w82

Qualification structure

Choose your starting point: **basic maths**, **standard** or **advanced**. For more information about the best starting point for you, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/m06**.

You'll choose a route from:

- **physics**
- **astrophysics with space science**.

The example below shows the **standard** start and the **astrophysics with space science** route. Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/m06** for information on other routes.

Example route

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Questions in science* (S111) (60 credits)
- *Essential mathematics 1* (MST124) (30 credits)
- *Physics and space* (SM123) (30 credits) OR *Essential mathematics 2* (MST125) (30 credits)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Core physics* (S227) (60 credits)
- *Mathematical methods* (MST224) (30 credits)
- *Remote experiments in physics and space* (SXPS288) (30 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Physics (W82)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- *Quantum physics: fundamentals and applications* (SM380) (30 credits)
- *Electromagnetism* (SM381) (30 credits)
- *Astrophysics of stars and exoplanets* (S384) (30 credits)
- *Cosmology and the distant Universe* (S385) (30 credits)

Stage 4 – 120 credits

- *Space science* (S818) (60 credits)
- *Masters level project in physical sciences* (S841) (60 credits)

Master of Physics (Astrophysics with Space Science)

Compulsory modules
Option modules
Intermediate qualification
Awarded qualification

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

At a glance

Course code M06

Total credits 480

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration
Part-time study: 8 years
Full-time study: 4 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/m06**
Call **0300 303 5303**



BSc (Hons) Physics

Our Institute of Physics (IOP)–accredited degree takes you from a broad appreciation of science to the cutting edge of contemporary physics, combining modern technology and traditional media developed by passionate academics and active researchers.

Using mathematical tools and experimental methods, you'll learn to describe, analyse, test and explain phenomena in the physical world objectively and quantitatively. By applying the concepts of classical physics, quantum physics and relativity to the study of radiation and matter, from subatomic particles to supermassive black holes, you'll develop the knowledge and skills to explore the smallest and largest scales of the Universe.

Why this qualification?

- Choose from a standard, basic maths or advanced start – whichever suits you best.
- Gain mathematical and data-handling skills, plus apply models and analyse data using a modern programming language.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.
- Extend your understanding of core physics concepts and processes that underpin a wide range of phenomena.

Accreditation

Accredited by the Institute of Physics (IOP).

IOP Institute of Physics

Meet the experts

Senior Lecturer Dr Silvia Bergamini's research involves cooling down atoms to ultra-low temperatures using lasers and arranging them using 'tweezers' made of light.

To watch Dr Bergamini discussing her work, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/lasers**.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Physics (W82)
openuniversity.co.uk/w82

Qualification structure

Choose your starting point: **basic maths**, **standard** or **advanced**. For more information about the best starting point for you, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/r51**.

The example below shows the **standard** start.

Example route

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Questions in science* (S111) (60 credits)
- *Essential mathematics 1* (MST124) (30 credits)
- *Physics and space* (SM123) (30 credits) OR *Essential mathematics 2* (MST125) (30 credits)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Core physics* (S227) (60 credits)
- *Mathematical methods* (MST224) (30 credits)
- *Remote experiments in physics and space* (SXPS288) (30 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Physics (W82)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

- *Electromagnetism* (SM381) (30 credits)
- *Quantum physics: fundamentals and applications* (SM380) (30 credits)
- *Astrophysics of stars and exoplanets* (S384) (30 credits) OR *Computational applied mathematics* (MST374) (30 credits) OR *Cosmology and the distant Universe* (S385) (30 credits) OR *Deterministic and stochastic dynamics* (MS327) (30 credits) OR *Mathematical methods and fluid mechanics* (MST326) (30 credits)
- *Science project course: radiation and matter* (SXP390) (30 credits)

BSc (Hons) Physics

Compulsory modules
Option modules
Intermediate qualification
Awarded qualification

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

At a glance

Course code R51

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

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/r51**
Call **0300 303 5303**



BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Physics

Our Institute of Mathematics (IMA)-accredited and Institute of Physics (IOP)-recognised mathematics and physics degree develops your knowledge and understanding of theoretical physics and the underpinning mathematics, exploring fundamental concepts, including Newtonian mechanics, special relativity, electromagnetism and quantum mechanics.

You'll learn to use applied mathematics tools, including mathematical methods, modelling and numerical techniques, and relevant software, plus develop skills in communicating clear and concise arguments and conclusions. A mathematics and physics degree can let you access professional training or entry-level roles in various career areas, such as data analysis, research and development, science communication, and teaching.

Why this qualification?

- Start at a point that suits your level of mathematical knowledge.
- Combine the concepts of modern theoretical physics with applied mathematics.
- Expand your critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.

Accreditation and recognition

- Accredited by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA)
- Recognised by the Institute of Physics (IOP)

INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS & ITS APPLICATIONS

IOP Institute of Physics

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Mathematics and Physics (W22)
openuniversity.co.uk/w22

Certificate of Higher Education in Mathematics and Physics (T53)
openuniversity.co.uk/t53

Qualification structure

Choose your starting point: **standard** or **basic mathematics**. For more information about the best starting point for you, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/q77**.

The example below shows the **standard** start.

Example route

Stage 1 – 120 credits

- *Questions in science* (S111) (60 credits)
- *Essential mathematics 1* (MST124) (30 credits)
- *Essential mathematics 2* (MST125) (30 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Mathematics and Physics (T53)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

- *Core physics* (S227) (60 credits)
- *Mathematical methods, models and modelling* (MST210) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Mathematics and Physics (W22)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

You'll choose two from:
- *Astrophysics of stars and exoplanets* (S384) (30 credits)
- *Cosmology and the distant Universe* (S385) (30 credits)
- *Electromagnetism* (SM381) (30 credits)
- *Quantum physics: fundamentals and applications* (SM380) (30 credits)

You'll also choose two from:
- *Applications of probability* (M343) (30 credits)
- *Complex analysis* (M337) (30 credits)
- *Computational applied mathematics* (MST374) (30 credits)
- *Deterministic and stochastic dynamics* (MS327) (30 credits)
- *Graphs, games and designs* (MST368) (30 credits)
- *Mathematical methods and fluid mechanics* (MST326) (30 credits)

BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Physics

Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualifications
Option modules
Awarded qualification

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

At a glance

Course code Q77

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

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
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

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

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/q77**
Call **0300 303 5303**

Certificate in Astronomy and Planetary Science

This OU Level 2 certificate covers fundamental astronomy and planetary science. You'll study the Solar System, stars, galaxies, exoplanets and the search for life in the Universe.

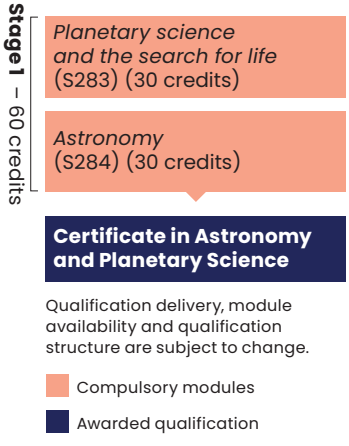
Learn how astronomers 'measure' the Universe using spectroscopy, imaging and time-variability as observational tools. You'll study the physical processes that drive the birth and evolution of stars and galaxies. Learn about the formation and development of the Solar System and other planetary systems. Consider how life arose on Earth and whether life has arisen beyond Earth. You'll look at planetary processes, the structure of planets and their atmospheres, and asteroids, comets and meteorites.

Why this qualification?

- Gain a firm scientific foundation in astronomy and planetary science.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.
- Gain skills of reason and logic, highly prized in the workplace.

Qualification structure

This certificate has only one stage



At a glance

Course code S10

Total credits 60

Start date
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements. However, having studied physics and maths to A-level standard and/or *Physics and space* (SM123) would significantly improve your readiness

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- Examinations

Study duration
Part-time study: 1 year

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
Optional

Collaborative work
Optional

More online

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

Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/s10
Call
0300 303 5303



Certificate in Physics

Discover how physics explains the workings of the Universe while building practical scientific skills.

This certificate introduces classical mechanics, thermal physics, fields, waves, relativity, and quantum physics of solids, atoms, and nuclei, often set in their historical context. You'll gain experience of experimental physics and develop the ability to analyse and communicate scientific ideas clearly. This certificate provides a solid foundation for further study or developing a career in science and engineering. Endorsed by the Institute of Physics, this certificate also provides sufficient subject knowledge to support secondary school physics teaching to A-Level.

Why this qualification?

- Acquire a solid scientific foundation in physics.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art, multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.
- Gain reasoning and logic skills.

Qualification structure

This certificate has only one stage

Stage 1 – 90 credits

- *Core physics* (S227) (60 credits)
- *Remote experiments in physics and space* (SXPS288) (30 credits)

Certificate in Physics

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

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

At a glance

Course code S20

Total credits 90

Start date
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Entry requirements
No specific requirements. However, having studied physics and maths to A-level standard or *Physics and space* (SM123) would significantly improve your readiness

Assessment
Based on a mix of:
- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration
Part-time study: 2 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/s20
Call
0300 303 5303



BA/BSc (Hons) Open

No two students or career paths are the same. That's why our Open degree puts you in charge.

Some of the most important challenges in the world today demand expertise across a range of subjects. Multidisciplinary study has always been at the heart of The Open University, and our Open qualifications let you bring together different areas of study in a completely flexible way to develop knowledge and skills you can apply anywhere.

The BA/BSc (Hons) Open lets you choose modules from a wide range of subject areas, helping you connect ideas, broaden your thinking, and shape a degree that reflects your ambitions. You could, for example, combine science modules with modules from other disciplines, such as mathematics or technology. It's a degree with a difference. Free from the restriction of a subject-specific specialism, you're in control of the direction of your learning – and where it can take you.

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

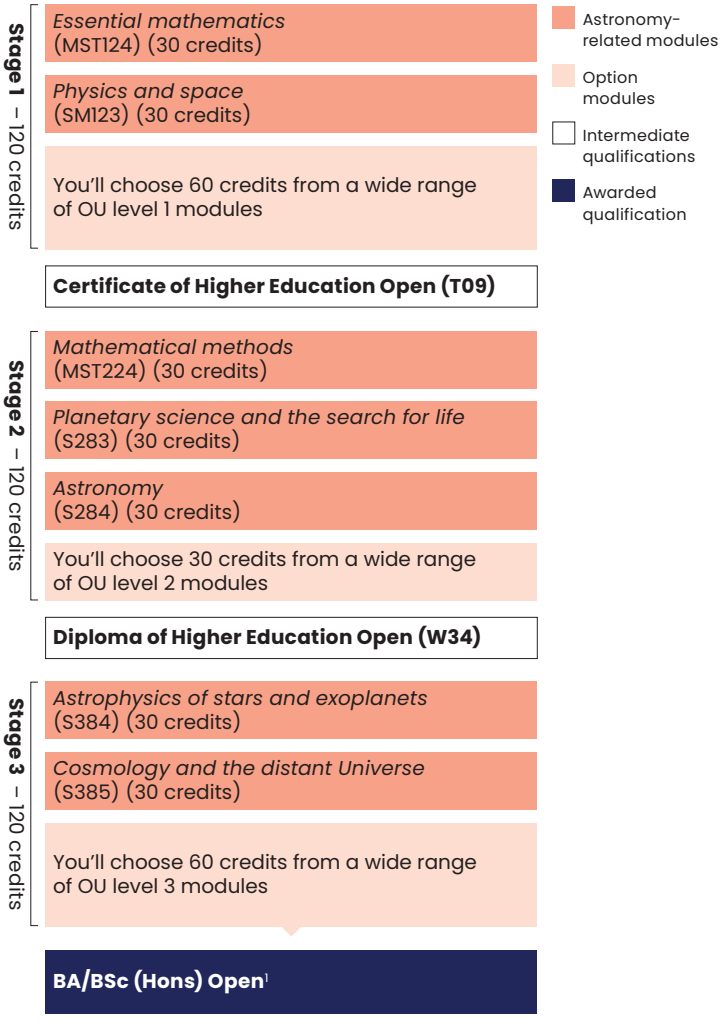
Certificate of Higher Education Open (T09)
openuniversity.co.uk/t09

How you can focus your Open degree on astronomy

This selection of modules shows how you can focus on an aspect of science, such as astronomy, in combination 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 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

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:

- Computer-marked assignments
- Tutor-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**



BSc (Hons) Combined STEM

This flexible degree combines science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Build your degree from a variety of STEM modules and study routes to create a unique qualification.

Our BSc (Hons) Combined STEM allows you to study more than just one STEM subject – to fit your personal and professional needs, interests and aspirations. The flexibility of this degree makes it relevant to a wide range of jobs and industries – many of which require proficiency in a range of STEM-based skills. It can help you develop your existing career or start a new one.

Why this qualification?

- Choose modules from across STEM subjects or focus on one or two areas.
- Include up to 60 credits from other subjects, such as business or a language, at Stages 1 and 2.
- Switch direction if your needs or interests change.
- Count university-level credits you've gained from elsewhere.

Study routes if you want to focus on a subject related to science

- Astronomy and planetary science
- Biology
- Biomedical sciences
- Chemistry
- Earth sciences
- Environmental science
- Health sciences
- Physics

Meet the experts

To keep our teaching materials fresh, topical and relevant, we fortify them with home-grown OU research – not just by the faculty academics. The experts we rely on include a thriving community of postdoctoral investigators and PhD students who drive cutting-edge research projects. Their work enriches our teaching and your learning.

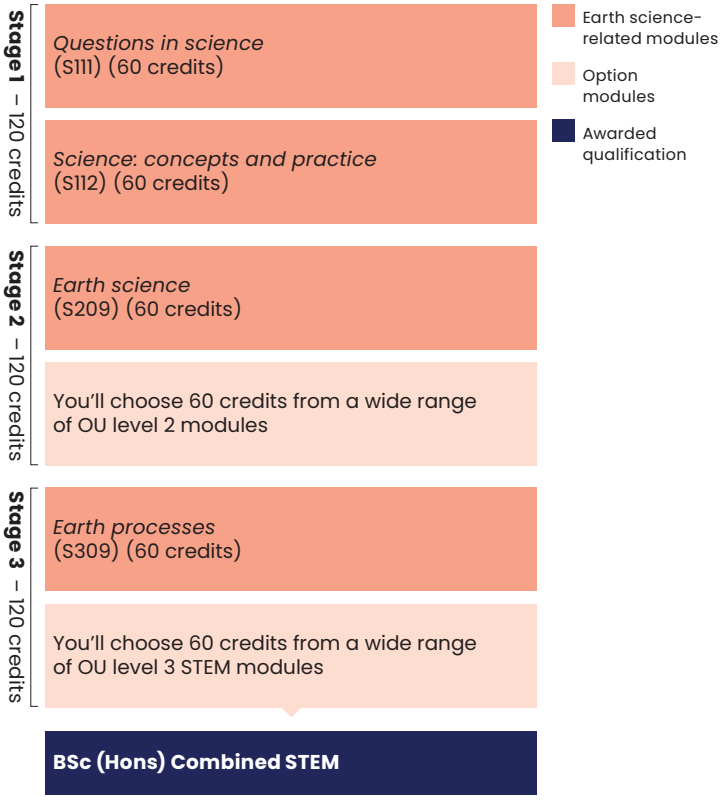
In her article 'How old is a mountain range?', former PhD geology student Eleni Wood explains how geologists can effectively use the science of geochronology to measure the life expectancy of a mountain range.

Read and watch at **openuniversity.co.uk/stem-earth-science**.

How to focus your combined STEM degree on Earth sciences

This selection of modules shows how you can focus on Earth sciences. It's just one example of the many combinations you can study, you're not restricted to this route.

Example route



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

At a glance

Course code R28

Total credits 360

Start dates
Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
No specific requirements

Assessment
Depending on the modules you choose, we may assess you in some or all of the following ways:

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

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

Mode of study
As the BSc (Hons) Combined STEM can be made up of a range of modules, the learning materials provided, use of online forums and inclusion of collaborative work will depend on the modules you choose

More online

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

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/r28**
Call **0300 303 5303**



Find your postgraduate course

Mental health science

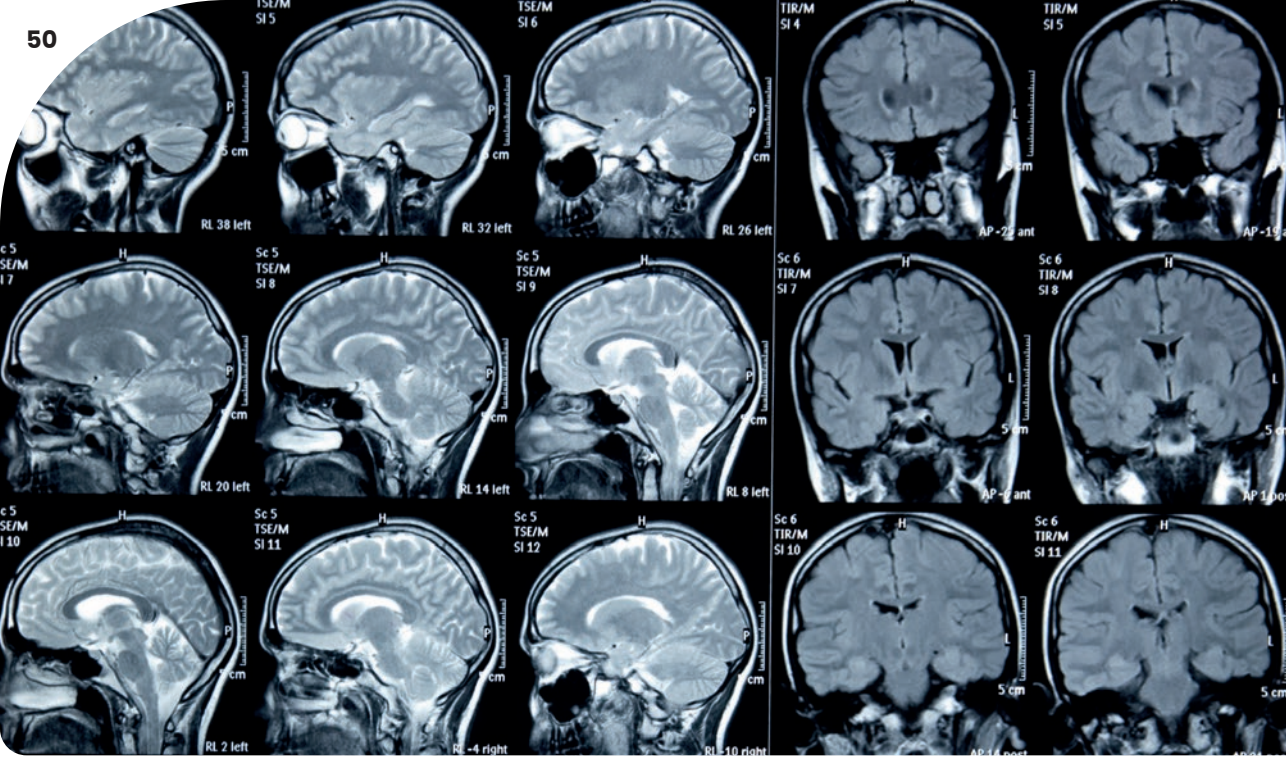
MSc in Mental Health Science (F78) 50

Space science

MSc in Space Science and Technology (F77) 52

Open masters

MA/MSc Open (F81) 54



MSc in Mental Health Science

This MSc looks at the biological and psychological underpinnings of mental health science. Examine anxiety, depression, psychosis and dementia from a biopsychosocial perspective.

You'll gain advanced knowledge and understanding of contemporary topics in mental health science, acquiring the skills to evaluate literature critically, discuss issues and communicate your understanding. In addition, you'll plan and carry out an academically rigorous research project, plus develop skills and knowledge relevant to further research, employment and professional practice.

Meet our academics

Dr Payam Rezaie has, for many years, researched brain development, neurogenetic diseases and, more recently, the neurobiology of autism.

To watch and listen to Payam talk about his teaching experience, what you'll study as part of our MSc in Mental Health Science and how you'll apply your learning in real-world contexts, visit **openuniversity.co.uk/mhs**.

Related qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Science (E91)
openuniversity.co.uk/e91

Postgraduate Certificate in Mental Health Science (K46)
openuniversity.co.uk/k46

Qualification structure

Introduction to mental health science (S826) (60 credits)

Postgraduate Certificate in Mental Health Science (K46)

Core topics in mental health science: psychosis and dementia (SD816) (60 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Science (E91)

MSc project module for MSc in Mental Health Science (SXH890) (60 credits)

MSc in Mental Health Science

Compulsory modules
Intermediate qualifications
Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

At a glance

Course code F78

Total credits 180

Start date
Feb 2027
Register by 14 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
You must have either:

- a UK honours degree (or equivalent) in a science-related subject – including psychological sciences, health science, mental health nursing or medicine, or a BPS-accredited psychology degree. Ideally, your degree included the study of FHEQ level 5 and 6 neuroscience or biological/cognitive psychology
- evidence of other study or experience you believe equips you to take this qualification

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/f78**
Call **0300 303 5303**



MSc in Space Science and Technology

This qualification explores space science and the underpinning technology. Developed with the UK Space Agency and leading space industry partners, it prepares you for a career or further research in the space sector.

You will conduct scientific investigations independently and collaboratively using space-based instrumentation and programming tools, gaining insight into scientific measurement in the space environment and the design of spacecraft systems and instrumentation.

Option modules let you tailor your studies across applied mathematics, computing and IT, engineering, environmental management, project management, physical sciences and systems thinking. You will also complete a major research project in space science or technology.

Moon dust has landed at the OU

The Open University is the only UK university to receive precious moon dust samples from China's Chang'e 5 mission. Professor Mahesh Anand's team will be exploring the Moon's composition, formation, and what it tells us about the evolution of our own planet.

Related qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Space Science and Technology (E90)
openuniversity.co.uk/e90

Postgraduate Certificate in Space Science (K28)
openuniversity.co.uk/k28

Qualification structure

Space science
(S818) (60 credits)

Postgraduate Certificate in Space Science (K28)

You'll choose one from:

Information security
(M811) (30 credits)

Digital forensics
(M812) (30 credits)

Software development
(M813) (30 credits)

Software engineering
(M814) (30 credits)

Data management
(M816) (30 credits)

Network security
(T828) (30 credits)

IT systems: planning for success
(TM353) (30 credits)

Communications technology
(TM355) (30 credits)

Applied statistical modelling
(M348) (30 credits)

Calculus of variations and advanced calculus
(M820) (30 credits)

Advanced mathematical methods
(M833) (30 credits)

Coding theory
(M836) (30 credits)

Deterministic and stochastic dynamics
(MS327) (30 credits)

Mathematical methods and fluid mechanics
(MST326) (30 credits)

Computational applied mathematics
(MST374) (30 credits)

Geology and sustainability
(S319) (30 credits)

Astrophysics of stars and exoplanets
(S384) (30 credits)

Cosmology and the distant Universe
(S385) (30 credits)

Quantum physics
(SM380) (30 credits)

Electromagnetism
(SM381) (30 credits)

Quantum and statistical mechanics of matter
(SM880) (30 credits)

Electronics: signal processing, control and communications
(T312) (30 credits)

Mechanical engineering
(T329) (30 credits)

Nanoscale engineering
(T366) (30 credits)

Manufacture materials design
(T805) (30 credits)

Finite element analysis: principles and applications
(T808) (30 credits)

Environmental monitoring and protection
(T868) (30 credits)

You'll choose another module from above or from:

Strategic capabilities for technological innovation
(T849) (30 credits)

Technology and innovation management
(TB801) (30 credits)

Project management
(M815) (30 credits)

Making strategy with systems thinking in practice
(TB871) (30 credits)

Managing change with systems thinking in practice
(TB872) (30 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma in Space Science and Technology (E90)

Masters level project in physical sciences
(SXS841) (60 credits)

MSc in Space Science and Technology

Module availability is subject to change.

At a glance

Course code F77

Total credits 180

Start date
Feb 2027
Register by 14 Jan 2027

Entry requirements
UK honours degree (or equivalent) in physics, astronomy, geosciences, chemistry, engineering or mathematics

Study duration
Part-time study: 3 years

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

More online

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

Visit **openuniversity.co.uk/f77**
Call **0300 303 5303**

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 in 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** in 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 in one of the following broad study areas	Study a **minimum of 120 credits** in 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**		

At a glance

Course code F81

Total credits 180

Start dates
Sep 2026
Oct 2026
Nov 2026
Feb 2027
May 2027

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

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 certain 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.



More online

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

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



How to apply

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. 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 your evidence has been assessed and approved, your registration will be 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 may be able to transfer the academic credit you've been awarded towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the number of modules you need to study with us.

Learn more at **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 us on **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 the age of 16.

Call us on **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**.

Responsible Futures
accredited institution

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. Please 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
- Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport
- Geography, Environment and Development
- Health and Social Care
- Languages and Applied Linguistics
- Law
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Psychology and Counselling
- 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**

openuniversity.co.uk

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

- Visit **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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