

Facts and Figures 2013/14



Headlines

About the OU: Operating at scale

Total number of students taught since 1969	1.89 million
Total number of students in 2013/14	187,338
OU's proportion of part-time undergraduates taught, in UK sector	40%
Students on validated programmes	32,057
FTSE 100 companies that have sponsored staff on OU modules	88

About the OU: We are global

Overseas students directly studying with the OU	10,191
Teachers who have benefitted from OU's TESSA project	500,000

About the OU: Our students

Percentage of OU students working full or part-time	75%
OU undergraduates who had no previous HE qualifications on entry	77%
OU UK undergraduates who live in the 25% most deprived areas	21%
New OU undergraduates aged under 25	30%

About the OU: Research and Enterprise

UK research position (based on REF 2014)	Top half
Research deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2014)	72%
Number of doctoral degrees awarded in 2013/14	167

About the OU: Innovation in learning

Downloads of OU material on iTunesU	67.1 million
Visits to OpenLearn website since launch in 2006	33.7 million

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Student and customer statistics*	2012/13	2013/14
Undergraduate-level students	155,315	140,056
Postgraduate-level students		
Taught	11,149	12,106
Research part-time	509	474
Research full-time	591	568
Initial Teacher Training	468	426
Collaborative	34	47
Students on non-credit-bearing courses	548	26
Overseas special scheme students	3,267	1,578
Students on validated programmes	31,579	32,057
Total Students	203,460	187,338
Study packs and materials sold	84	67
Total students and customers	203,544	187,405

*All student statistics are student headcount unless stated otherwise

Student distribution	2012/13	2013/14
UK students		
England	130,690	118,828
Scotland	15,293	14,655
Wales	8,335	7,711
Northern Ireland	4,168	3,896
Total UK students	158,486	145,090
Republic of Ireland	2,602	2,080
Other EU	6,949	5,878
Non-EU	3,844	2,233
Students on validated programmes	31,579	32,057
Total	203,460	187,338

International Students	2012/13	2013/14
Global Direct students in Europe	9,245	7,920
Global Direct students outside Europe	719	675
Total Global Direct students	9,964	8,595

Students by subject area (FTEs)*	2012/13	2013/14
Subjects allied to medicine	2,758	2,341
Biological and physical sciences	12,692	11,998
Mathematical sciences, computer sciences and engineering & technology	14,247	13,372
Social studies	15,526	15,154
Law	3,099	2,716
Business and administrative studies	7,274	7,391
Languages	7,139	6,209
Historical and philosophical studies	8,335	7,364
Creative arts and design	1,984	1,421
Education	5,189	5,561
Total	78,243	73,526

*Excludes non-credit-bearing modules, study materials, packs and validated programmes.

Features of Open University students	2013/14	
	UG level	PG level
Male:female ratio	40:60	46:54
Age profile		
17 and under	1%	0%
18-21	7%	0%
22-24	10%	4%
25-34	33%	30%
35-44	24%	35%
45-54	16%	24%
55-64	6%	6%
65 and over	3%	2%
Median age of new undergraduate-level students	29	

Ethnic origin of new undergraduate students*	2013/14
White	90%
Asian	4%
Black	4%
Mixed and Other	3%

*where ethnicity was disclosed.

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Qualifications on entry of undergraduate level students	2013/14
No formal qualifications	3%
A Levels - amount not specified	12%
1 A Level or lower	39%
2 A Levels or equivalent	24%
HE qualification	20%
Postgraduate qualification	3%

Other student information	2013/14
Number of students receiving help with fees	31,531
Number of students with disabilities	20,831
Number of credit transfer awards for prior study	6,733
Number of students working full/part time	106,291

Qualifications awarded	2013/14	1971 2013/14
Foundation degrees	992	4,383
First degrees	11,656	367,165
Higher degrees	2,600	61,452
Undergraduate certificates and diplomas	6,349	342,965
Postgraduate certificates and diplomas	1,630	69,199
Validated qualifications (under/post-graduate)	4,612	140,661

Student Assessment	2012	2013
TMA and CMA assignments submitted	1,014,436	920,802
Examinations taken	70,793	74,932
End-of-module assignments submitted	130,110	111,173

Student Contact	2012/13	2013/14
Number of telephone calls from students	600,299	463,746
Number of Emails received from students	311,579	226,375

Modules information	2013/14
Number of standard modules offered	
Undergraduate level	374
Postgraduate level	159
Overseas versions	44
Curriculum partnerships	20

Most popular undergraduate modules*	2013/14
DD101 - Introducing the social sciences	8,827
AA100 - The arts past and present	5,474
B120 - An introduction to business studies	4,980
DSE212 - Exploring psychology	4,341
TU100 - My digital life	3,756

*Based on number of students.

Validated Programmes	2012/13	2013/14
Number of validated programmes	265	294
Number of approved validated institutions worldwide	26	26
Total students to have achieved validated awards	7,866	4,612

Research and Enterprise	2013/14
Value of research grants and contracts awarded in year	£23.6m
Number of running research grant and contract awards	Approx. 450
Number of postgraduate research students registered for study	1,042
Major research and enterprise collaborations awarded in year	MKsmart: £8.0m
Open Research Online (ORO) UK ranking (Ranking Web of Repositories)	7th/150
Number of research outputs downloaded from Open Research Online (ORO)	818,067

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Media	2012/13	2013/14
Average daily usage of Moodle	37,000	35,610
Views of OU programmes via BBC	274 million	220 million
Accumulative years of OU/BBC partnership	42	43
Peak-time TV and radio co-produced programmes	27 series	32 series
Downloads from OU on iTunes U	8.7 million	3.4 million
Average weekly downloads from OU on iTunes U	167,307	66,200
Visitors (since launch) to OU on iTunes U	9.1 million	9.6 million
Countries accounting for over half of downloads from OU on iTunes U		
USA	31.1%	26.4%
UK	12.5%	12.2%
China	9.7%	15.2%
OU videos on YouTube	1,281	1,336
OpenLearn visitors		4.4 million
OpenLearn modules	742	798

Notes on fees and funding

The way higher education is funded is determined by each of the national governments of the UK, so the cost to students in each country reflects the amount of teaching grant the OU receives directly from each of these administrations and the support that is available to students to pay their fees.

Fees	2013/14
Undergraduate module (60 credit points)	
England and non-UK	£2,562
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£510 to £2,800
Undergraduate residential school	
England and non-UK	£641
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£540 to £670
Postgraduate taught module (60 credit points)	£1,255 to £2,750
Research degree	
Full-time	£3,900
Part-time	£1,984
Study packs and materials	£12.99 to £29.95

Cost of study	2013/14
Typical total fees for BA/BSc (Hons) degree	
England and non-UK	£15,372
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£4,530 to £5,460

Finance	2012/13	2013/14
Income	(£ millions)	(£ millions)
Funding body grants	198.1	149.0
Tuition fees and education contracts	206.5	213.1
Research grants and contracts	14.7	15.5
Other income	24.5	23.4
Endowment and investment income	3.7	3.2
Total income	447.5	404.2
Expenditure		
Staff costs	274.9	281.6
Depreciation	10.0	9.6
Other operating expenses	144.2	129.5
Interest payable	-0.4	0.4
Total expenditure	428.7	421.1

Staff statistics	2012/13	2013/14
Salaried academic staff	1,116	1,148
Academic-related staff	1,835	1,844
Support staff (secretaries, clerks, technicians etc)	1,732	1,742
Associate lecturers	6,397	5,921