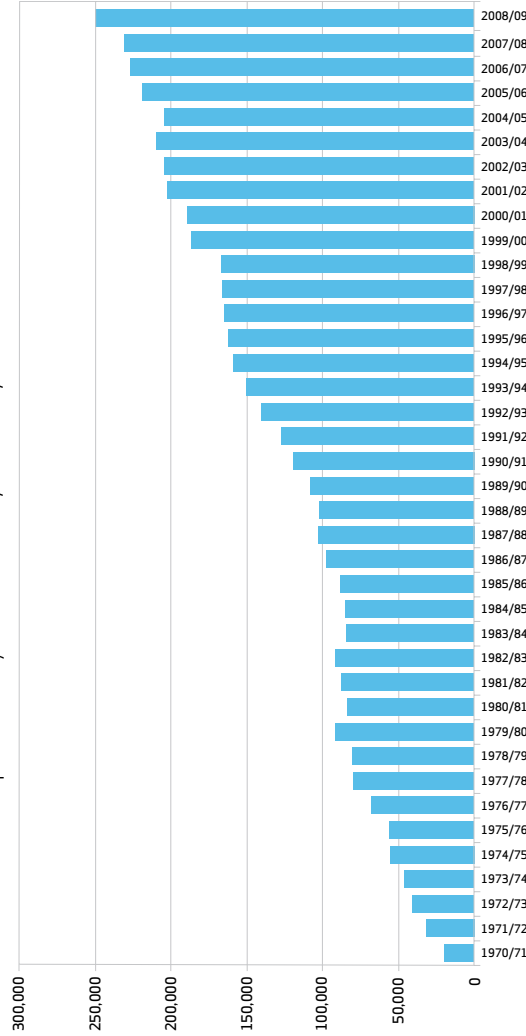


Open University Students – 1970/71 to 2008/09



About The Open University

- The OU is the largest academic institution in the UK and a world leader in flexible distance learning. Since it began in 1969, the OU has taught more than 1.5 million students.
- The OU teaches over one-third of all part-time undergraduate students at UK higher education institutions each year.
- The OU has been one of the top three UK universities for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey every year since the survey began in 2005.
- The OU's academic provision is regularly reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. The 2009 Institutional Audit resulted in judgements of confidence in the soundness of the University's management of both academic standards and quality of learning opportunities.
- 70% of students are in full-time or part-time employment, and three out of four FTSE 100 companies have sponsored staff to take OU courses.
- Nearly 20% of OU undergraduates in the UK live in the 25% most deprived areas as defined by the index of multiple deprivation.
- Over 75% of OU undergraduates and 89% of postgraduates are in employment six months after graduating (Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey, 2007/08, HESA).
- The OU supports a vibrant research portfolio and in the UK's latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008), the University climbed 23 places to 43rd, making the OU one of the UK's fastest rising research universities.
- In 2008, the OU was the first UK university to join iTunes U, the area of Apple's iTunes store offering easily downloadable educational content. By the end of 2009 over 13 million iTunes downloads had been made.
- The Open University's Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA) project won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2009. Through TESSA 200,000 primary school teachers in nine countries get free access to OU materials in the classroom.
- In 2010 the OU became one of The Sunday Times' Best Places to Work in the Public Sector.



The Open University

Facts & Figures

2008/2009

Student and customer statistics	2007/08	2008/09
Undergraduate level students		
Access	15,081	18,310
Other undergraduate	153,664	161,814
Postgraduate level students		
taught	15,305	14,342
research part-time	703	676
research full-time	638	627
Initial Teacher Training	484	375
Overseas special scheme students	9,521	8,785
Students on validated programmes	32,490	46,138
Students on non-credit-bearing courses	1,329	136
Total students	229,215	251,203
Study packs and materials sold	4,724	5,179
Total students and customers	233,939	256,382

Student distribution	2007/08	2008/09
UK students		
England	151,727	158,030
Scotland	14,092	15,049
Wales	6,953	7,736
Northern Ireland	3,705	3,953
Total UK students	176,477	184,768
Republic of Ireland	3,529	3,594
Other EU	8,940	9,200
Non-EU	7,779	7,503
Students on validated programmes	32,490	46,138
Total	229,215	251,203

Qualifications awarded	Cumulative 1971- 2008/09	2008/09
Foundation degrees	269	616
First degrees	9,676	310,235
Higher degrees	2,519	47,491

Undergraduate certificates and diplomas	18,904	260,909
Postgraduate certificates and diplomas	3,311	56,344
Validated awards (under/post-graduate)	10,106	102,326

Student FTEs by subject area*	2007/08	2008/09
Subjects allied to medicine	1,957	2,045
Biological and Physical Sciences	11,659	11,929
Mathematical Sciences	4,762	4,988
Computer Science	2,853	3,102
Engineering and Technology	5,500	5,351
Social Studies	14,073	15,335
Law	2,329	2,467
Business and Administrative Studies	7,546	8,154
Mass Communications and Documentation	183	115
Languages	7,623	7,327
Historical & Philosophical Studies	8,853	8,734
Creative Arts & Design	607	1,126
Education	6,170	5,950
Total	74,114	76,621

*Excludes non-credit-bearing courses, study materials and packs, students on validated programmes

Features of Open University students	2008/09	
	Undergraduate Level	Postgraduate Level
Male: female ratio	39:61	51:49
Age profile		
Under 25	14%	4%
25-34	30%	33%
35-44	29%	37%
45-54	17%	20%
55-64	8%	5%
65 and over	3%	1%
Median age of new undergraduate level students	32	

Ethnic origin of new undergraduate students*	2008/09	
White	89%	
Asian and Black	8%	
Mixed and Other	3%	

* % of new students disclosing ethnicity

Qualifications on entry of undergraduate level students	2008/09
No formal qualifications	4%
1 A level or lower	39%
2 A levels or equivalent	16%
HE qualification	25%
Postgraduate qualification	6%
Not known	10%

Other student information	2008/09
Number of students receiving help with fees	47,234
Number of students with disabilities	11,905

Number of credit transfer awards for prior study	12,306
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Courses information	2008/09
Number of standard courses/modules offered	
Undergraduate level	535
Postgraduate level	161
Overseas versions	44

UK fees	2008/09
Undergraduate course (60 credit points)	£450 to £2,195
Undergraduate residential school	£335 to £710
Postgraduate course (60 credit points)	£385 to £2,620
Research degree	
full-time	£3,240 p.a.
part-time	£1,620 p.a.
Study packs and materials	£10 to £100

Cost of study to UK students	2008/09
Typical total fees for BA/BSc (Hons)	
undergraduate degree (360 credit points)	£3,660 - £4,890

Finance	2007/08	2008/09
	(£ millions)	(£ millions)
Income		
Funding body grants	225.6	233.7
Tuition fees and education contracts	128.8	141.6
Research grants and contracts	14.4	15.4
Other income	21.5	24.3
Endowment and investment income	10.6	6.0
Total income	400.9	421.0

Expenditure		
Staff costs	241.4	262.8
Depreciation	10.6	11.2
Other operating expenses	132.1	134.0
Interest payable	4.3	3.4
Total expenditure	388.4	411.4

Staff statistics	2007/08	2008/09
Salaried academic staff	1,253	1,236
Academic-related staff	1,786	1,867
Support staff (secretaries, clerks, technicians, etc)	1,910	1,895
Associate lecturers	7,982	7,849

Most popular undergraduate courses		2008/09
		No. of students
DD100	An Introduction to the Social Sciences	8,147
AA100	The Arts Past and Present	6,181
B120	An Introduction to Business Studies	5,105
Y163	Starting with Psychology	4,790
M150	Data, Computing and Information	4,340