

The Open University and its input to the UK economy

- The OU is the largest academic institution in the UK and has taught almost 1.8 million students since 1969. It is a world leader in flexible distance learning.
- The OU teaches over one-third of all part-time undergraduate students at UK higher education institutions each year.
- The OU was the highest-rated university in 2012, and in the top three UK universities every year since 2005, in the National Student Survey's measure of student satisfaction.
- More than 500,000 teachers on 19 teacher education programmes have benefitted from the OU's TESSA (Teacher Education in sub-Saharan Africa) Project.
- In 2011/12 16,125 students studied directly with the University overseas and more than 37,000 students on validated programmes.
- 75 of the FTSE 100 companies have sponsored staff on OU courses.
- Over 71% of OU students work full or part-time during their studies.

Open University students

- 71% of OU undergraduates have no previous HE qualifications on entry to the university.
- Nearly 20% of OU undergraduates in the UK live in the 25% most deprived areas.
- 27% of new OU undergraduates in 2011/12 were aged under 25.
- The OU has 1,000 postgraduate research students registered directly with the University; over 300 are based at the OU's main campus in Milton Keynes.

Research

- In the UK's last Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) the Open University was ranked in the top third of UK higher education institutions.
- Around 23,000 research publications are freely available to view and consult via Open Research Online, which is one of the largest and fastest-growing research collections in the UK.
- Overall 87% of all OU research was deemed 'internationally recognised' or better in the last national assessment of UK research.

Learning Innovation

- The OU's extensive material on iTunes U has had 56 million downloads.
- The OU is YouTube EDU's largest UK university channel, and the OU's OpenLearn website, providing free learning resources, has had 23 million visits since its launch in 2006.



University



Student and customer statistics*	2010/11	2011/12
Undergraduate-level students	191,522	185,775
Postgraduate-level students		
taught	14,459	12,807
research part-time	639	576
research full-time	628	608
Initial Teacher Training	603	543
Overseas special scheme students	5,360	4,649
Students on validated programmes	37,121	37,121
Total students	250,332	242,079
Study packs and materials sold	2,162	478
Total students and customers	252,494	242,557

^{*} All student statistics are student headcount unless stated otherwise

Student distribution	2010/11	2011/12
UK students		
England	166,607	159,938
Scotland	16,443	15,711
Wales	8,576	8,769
Northern Ireland	4,497	4,415
Total UK students	196,123	188,883
Republic of Ireland	3,205	3,272
Other EU	8,825	7,946
Non-EU	5,058	4,907
Students on validated programmes	37,121	37,121
Total	250,332	242,079

Qualifications		Cumulative 1971-
awarded	2011/12	2011/12
Foundation degrees	721	2,383
First degrees	10,496	342,425
Higher degrees	2,638	55,919
Undergraduate certificates and diplomas	13,939	315,506
Postgraduate certificates and diploma	s 2,286	65,170
Validated qualifications		
(under/post-graduate)	10,905	128,000

Students by subject area (FTEs)*	2010/11	2011/12
Subjects allied to medicine	2,954	3,104
Biological and physical sciences	13,527	14,029
Mathematical sciences, computer		
sciences and engineering & technology	14,910	16,183
Social studies	16,212	16,358
Law	2,899	3,006
Business and administrative studies	9,073	8,056
Languages	7,874	7,602
Historical and philosophical studies	8,932	8,860
Creative arts and design	2,178	2,440
Education	7,105	6,508
Total	85,663	86,146

^{*} Excludes non-credit-bearing modules, study materials and packs, and students on validated programmes

Features of Open University students		2011/12
	Undergraduate level	Postgraduate level
Male: female ratio	39:61	50:50
Age profile		
17 and under	3%	0%
18-21	7%	1%
22-24	8%	4%
25-34	30%	30%
35-44	26%	34%
45-54	16%	22%
55-64	7%	7%
65 and over	3%	2%
Median age of new undergradu	uate-level studer	nts 30

Ethnic origin of new undergraduate students*	2011/12
White	88%
Asian and black	9%
Mixed and other	3%

^{*} where ethnicity was disclosed

Qualifications on entry of undergraduate level students	2011/12
No formal qualifications	3%
A Levels - amount not specified	9%
1 A level or lower	37%
2 A levels or equivalent	22%
HE qualification	24%
Postgraduate qualification	5%
Not known	0%

Other student information	2011/12
Number of students receiving help with fees	67,379
Number of students with disabilities	17,108
Number of credit transfer awards for prior study	12,754

Modules information	2011/12
Number of standard modules offered	
Undergraduate level	473
Postgraduate level	146
Overseas versions	58

UK fees		2011/12
Undergraduate module (60 credit points)	£535	to £2,505
Undergraduate residential school	£500	to £830
Postgraduate taught module (60 credit points) Research degree	£410	to £1,935
full-time		£3,732
part-time		£1,914
Study packs and materials	£6.50	to £29.95

Cost of study to UK students	2011/12
Typical total fees for BA/BSc (Hons)	
undergraduate degree (360 credit points)	£4,200 to £5,700

Finance	2010/11	2011/12
	(£ millions)	(£ millions)
Income		
Funding body grants	257.8	232.9
Tuition fees and education		
contracts	164.0	174.0
Research grants and contracts	15.6	13.8
Other income	29.2	28.3
Endowment and investment		
income	3.9	4.6
Total income	470.5	453.6
Expenditure		
Staff costs	276.6	271.2
Depreciation	10.6	10.6
Other operating expenses	136.1	133.3
Interest payable	-0.1	0.6
Total expenditure	423.2	415.7

Staff statistics	20010/11	2011/12
Salaried academic staff	1,218	1,129
Academic-related staff	1,887	1,845
Support staff (secretaries, clerk	S,	
technicians, etc)	1,852	1,748
Associate lecturers	7,413	6,989

Most popular undergraduate modules		2011/12
		Number of students
AA100	The Arts Past and Present	7,420
DSE141	Discovering Psychology	6,275
DD101	Introducing the Social Sciences	6,218
B120	An Introduction to Business Studies	5,927
MST121	Using Mathematics	5,476