YASS Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is YASS?

YASS is The Open University in Scotland’s primary bridging programme for young learners. It is an opportunity for S6 students in Scotland to study an Open University (OU) module alongside their other studies. It encourages students to become independent learners, builds confidence and gives them a taste of university level study.

2. What are the benefits of taking a YASS module?

Taking a YASS module can help the transition from school to higher or further education or employment. It helps students develop important skills such as time management, digital literacy and the ability to think and work independently. Studying a YASS module can also make UCAS applications stand out by providing valuable content for personal statements and interviews.

3. What modules are available for pupils to study?

Module options can change from year to year so please check our website for the most up-to-date list:
http://www.open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools/what-can-i-study

4. Are YASS modules SCQF rated?

Yes. YASS modules are rated SCQF Level 7 – the same as Advanced Highers and level one at a traditional university.

5. What does it cost to participate in the YASS programme?
YASS is funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Fully funded places are available for 10 and 30 credit modules for pupils in S6 who attend local authority schools. Students can choose one course from our current course list. Pupils who attend independent schools can fund the modules themselves or be sponsored by their school.

6. What type of student is suitable for the YASS programme?

The programme works best for students who are motivated, committed and able to cope well with independent learning. Before considering the scheme, pupils need to be aware of the extra study requirements. For example, a typical 30-credit course runs from October to June and will need up to 14 hours of independent study each week. Most YASS courses have no entry requirements, but a small number of courses do require students to have a Higher in a specific, related subject. Students must also be aware of the computing and software requirements. It’s possible to access some module materials on a mobile phone, tablet device or Chromebook but they may be asked to install additional software or use certain applications, so all students need access to a desktop PC or laptop computer with an up to-date version of Windows (10 or 11) or macOS (11 ‘Big Sur’ or higher) and broadband connection. Students can check the Study Materials tab on the course information website to check for any other specific requirements.

7. How do I register my students on a YASS module?

Contact the YASS Team at Scotland-YASS@open.ac.uk to request the key documents relating to enrolment, including the YASS Registration Form. Registration Forms are not available online because students must speak to their school Co-ordinators about taking part in YASS prior to registration, and all forms must be sent to us by the YASS Co-ordinator at the school. Once the students have completed their Registration Forms correctly, the school Co-ordinator is responsible for returning them to the YASS team via
our secure ZendTo system, before the final application deadline. For data protection reasons, form must never be sent to us by email. On receipt of the forms, students will go through the OU registration process before being registered onto their module. All students receive an email confirming their enrolment, and letting them know a bit more about their course and studies with us. The YASS Team will also send regular emails to schools, letting you know exactly where each student is in our enrolment process. We will also confirm if registered students have signed in and accessed their accounts yet.

8. How do students begin their studies?

Once students are registered on their modules, they will receive a confirmation email from the OU which includes StudentHome page log in details. It is important for students to log on to their StudentHome page before the start of their module because this is how they access their study calendar, study materials, academic support and much more. We also strongly advise school co-ordinators to check with students prior to the start of their modules that they are able to access the StudentHome page. If a student has not received a confirmation email or is having trouble accessing their StudentHome page, please contact the YASS Team.

9. What sort of academic support is available to students who choose to study a YASS module?

The support available will depend on the module taken. Students taking shorter 10 credit modules will normally be supported by a team of Study Advisers who students can contact via an online forum. Students taking 30 modules will be supported by an individual tutor who can be contacted by telephone or email. All YASS students have access to the OU’s team of Educational Advisers. Tailored support and advice about study techniques, assignments and other study-related queries is also available via their Student Support Team.
10. What type of assignments will students have to complete with their YASS module?

Assignments will differ by module subject and length. For shorter 10 credit modules, the only marked piece of work a student will have to submit is an End of Module Assessment (EMA). For larger modules, students will have to submit Tutor Marked Assessments (TMAs) or Computer Marked Assessments (iCMAs) throughout their module and an EMA. Due dates for all marked assignments will be provided before the start of the modules.

11. How do schools find out their students’ results:

Once students have completed their modules and their assignments have been marked, the YASS Team will contact the school co-ordinators to let them know their students’ results.

12. What does the role of YASS school co-ordinator involve?

The role of the school co-ordinator differs depending on the school. As a minimum, we ask that the co-ordinator undertake the following two tasks:

- Selection of students for YASS programme and distribution/collection of registration forms.
- Serving as the main point of contact for the OU at the school in regard to any issues/developments that might arise.

The YASS Team will also send regular, monthly updates regarding each student’s engagement with their course. If students haven’t engaged recently then this can be a sign that the student might need extra support to help them catch up or overcome a study issue. Most school co-ordinators therefore also meet with their YASS students at various times throughout their course, to check discuss their progress and make sure they are coping with their studies. School co-ordinators also serve as the go-between for their students and the YASS team at the OU.
13. What support is available to school co-ordinators from the OU?

The YASS Team at the OU is always available to help school YASS Co-ordinators with any questions or concerns they might have about the programme. School Co-ordinators receive an information pack prior to the start of their students’ studies which includes copies of the study calendars for the modules their students are undertaking. This allows them to follow along with their students’ progress should they wish to do so.

School Co-ordinators are not expected to answer students’ questions about the content of modules or OU study in general. We provide all schools with a Quick Contact sheet, to help them direct students to the correct person or team, to help with their query or issue. If the YASS Co-ordinator isn’t sure where to direct students they can contact the YASS team at the OU who will be happy to help.