

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. Pupils who attend independent schools will need to fund the modules themselves or be sponsored by their school.

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

There are no entry requirements for participating in YASS - we are not looking for a specific number of Highers or other qualifications. However, school co-ordinators should ensure that the students selected for the programme are keen learners, capable of independent study and, importantly, understand the amount of study needed to undertake the module.

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

Registration forms can be obtained from Ramin Soulghani, YASS Co-ordinator at the OU. Registration forms are not available online because students should always speak to their school co-ordinators about taking part in YASS prior to registration. Once the students have completed their registration forms correctly, the school co-ordinator is responsible for returning them to the YASS team. This can be done by post, email or fax. On receipt of the forms students will go through the OU registration process before being registered onto their module.

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 larger modules will normally 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. Students who pass their modules will receive a certificate signed by the Director of the OU in Scotland.

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 regards to any issues/developments that might arise.

However, most school co-ordinators also meet with their YASS students at various times throughout their modules to check on 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 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. If students have any such questions, the school co-ordinator can contact the YASS team at the OU who will assist them.