

2015



The Open
University

Presentation of Graduates and Conferment of Honorary Degrees



A very warm welcome to your degree ceremony

Congratulations!

You have just joined more than 540,000 people who have gained degrees and other qualifications with The Open University.

Your qualification was awarded to you *in absentia* at an earlier Open University Congregation – a joint meeting of the Senate (the University academic authority) and the Council (the University governing body).

At today’s ceremony, you will be presented for your qualification to one of the senior officers of The Open University: the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, or one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors. The ceremony may also include the conferment of an honorary degree to those who have gained success and made notable contributions in their field of work or study.

We wish you and your guests a wonderful and memorable day.

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Chancellor Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho

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Over the past few months I have had the privilege of meeting thousands of new graduates at ceremonies all over the UK and the Republic of Ireland. I have listened to some remarkable stories of how people overcame tremendous challenges in their personal and professional lives in order to complete their qualification.

All of them had triumphed in spite of competing demands on their lifestyle that they fought hard to overcome, such as juggling a full-time career, running a business, dealing with a personal tragedy, or caring for their families.

Their inspiring accounts were all unique, yet every one of them was united by a particular quality: an indefatigable desire to better themselves and make the most of their potential. Some had been told during their formative years that higher education was not for them. Several years later, they had managed to completely turn their lives around and were looking ahead to an even more successful and rewarding future.

You will no doubt have overcome your own hurdles on the path to completing your qualification. Today provides the perfect

opportunity to celebrate the fact that you have accomplished something extraordinary. You and your friends and families should feel immensely proud of everything you have achieved.

Congratulations and I hope you have a wonderful day.

Martha Lane Fox was appointed Chancellor of The Open University in March 2014. She co-founded Europe’s largest travel and leisure website, Lastminute.com, with Brent Hoberman in 1998; they took it public in 2000 and sold it in 2005. In March 2013 she was appointed a crossbench peer in the House of Lords, and was made a CBE in the same year. She is actively involved in many organisations, including AbilityNet, Antigone.org.uk, Camfed, Go-On UK, Just for Kids Law, Lucky Voice, MakieLab, Marks & Spencer, Reprieve and the Women’s Prize for Fiction.



Pro-Chancellor Richard Gillingwater CBE

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The Open University's degree ceremonies are undoubtedly the highlight of the academic calendar. It gives me enormous pleasure to meet so many graduates from diverse backgrounds who have overcome their own unique challenges on the journey towards completing their qualification.

Today's ceremony provides the ideal opportunity to celebrate alongside your loved ones, and also to thank them for the unwavering support they have shown throughout the course of your studies.

As a graduate of The Open University, you automatically become a lifelong member of our Alumni Association, a thriving community of almost two million people. Many thousands of our graduates continue to enjoy an active role in the life of this remarkable institution.

Today, for instance, you will have the chance to meet a number of alumni volunteers who have generously given up their time to help make today's ceremony as enjoyable as possible for new graduates such as yourself.

Many alumni take advantage of opportunities to continue their

professional development with the OU. Some undertake free short courses through our OpenLearn and FutureLearn websites; others tune in to the groundbreaking television and radio programmes we produce alongside the BBC. What's more, our door is always open should you decide to take up further study with us.

I sincerely hope that your association with the OU will continue to inspire you and enrich your life for many years to come.

Richard Gillingwater is Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council. He is Chairman of Henderson Global Investors and will become Chairman of SSE, a major energy provider, at the end of 2015. He has previously been Chairman of CDC, the UK Government's development finance arm, and Dean of the Cass Business School.



Vice-Chancellor Peter Horrocks

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Congratulations on completing your qualification. I hope that today's degree ceremony will be a joyous and memorable occasion for you and also your friends and family, who have supported you on every step of your journey.

As the new Vice-Chancellor of The Open University, I am looking forward to meeting thousands of new graduates at our ceremonies, which are taking place in 14 towns and cities across the UK and the Republic of Ireland during 2015.

Today's ceremony provides us with an opportunity to publicly recognise the hard work and commitment you have demonstrated by achieving your qualification. Many of you will have completed your studies whilst managing several competing demands on your time, such as caring for family members or pursuing a demanding career role, which makes your success even more remarkable and worthy of celebration.

I truly believe that gaining a qualification from The Open University will open up amazing opportunities for you in the future, helping you to make the very best of your potential and achieve the successful and rewarding career your talents deserve. Today's

employers recognise that a qualification from a world-leading institution such as the OU marks you out as being someone who possesses the necessary skills and commitment to succeed.

I would like to extend my thanks to the men and women who have taken time from their busy public lives to accept an honorary award. We are richer as a community for their support and advocacy.

Congratulations and warm wishes to you all.

Peter Horrocks is Vice-Chancellor of The Open University from May 2015. Prior to his appointment he was the Director of the BBC's World Service, with responsibility for leading the corporation's international news services across radio, television and online, following a career with the BBC spanning more than three decades. Peter shares with the OU a passionate belief in the transformative power of learning around the world, especially when coupled with technology.



1.89 million
students have
studied with
The Open University
since 1969

ABOUT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Ambition and innovation have always been central to The Open University's mission. Its founding principles were based on a firm belief that anyone possessing the potential and ambition to succeed academically should not be prevented from doing so because of their background, lack of previous educational experience or family commitments.

In the early 1960s, the Leader of the Opposition, Harold Wilson, outlined his vision of a 'University of the Air' that would throw open the life-changing possibilities of a university-level education to everyone. His concept of a world-leading distance learning institution seemed extraordinarily ambitious to many. After Labour's victory in the 1964 General Election, he entrusted his Minister for the Arts, Jennie Lee, with overseeing the realisation of his dream.

The Open University received its Royal Charter from the Queen in 1969, granting the fledgling institution the authority to award degrees, and its first intake of 25,000 students began their studies in 1971. This was a university like no other. Instead of assembling in lecture halls or laboratories, students received study materials and home experiment kits through the post, and tuned in to late night television lectures broadcast on the BBC.

Almost half a century later, the OU's commitment to empowering people and transforming their career prospects, wherever they are, remains undimmed. With almost 200,000 students, The Open University is now the largest provider of higher education in the United Kingdom.

Our reputation as a world-leading research institution continues to grow. OU academics have been involved in some of the most exciting scientific discoveries of recent times. In November 2014 the world's media watched on as the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission to land on a distant comet was declared a success. On board the landing craft, Philae, were instruments designed and built by researchers from the OU's Planetary and Space Sciences Department.

By continuing to innovate and harness new technologies, the OU is equipped to provide world-class educational resources to individuals and businesses all over the globe. Today's learners engage with their course materials through web-based videos, online collaborative projects, interactive virtual laboratories and podcasts alongside traditional textbooks and

journals. Our award-winning 'OU Anywhere' app enables students to access all their module resources in digital format via their tablets and smartphones, giving them more flexibility to study whenever and wherever they choose. So they can learn a new language whilst relaxing on the beach, or investigate samples using a virtual microscope during their train journey to work.

Amidst all this technological change we have never lost sight of our most valued assets – our students. Our commitment to providing all our students with an unparalleled learning experience has led to the OU being ranked as one of the top 10 UK institutions for student satisfaction in the annual National Student Survey every year since its inception in 2005, remaining the top university for ten years in Wales and Northern Ireland. We remain the UK's largest provider of education to people with disabilities and lead the way in new, accessible technologies.

Millions of people benefit from the OU's expertise. Our long-standing partnership with the BBC continues to produce some of the most groundbreaking television and radio programmes ever created, inspiring millions of viewers through award winning series such as *Britain's Great War*, *Coast* and *Life Story*. Each series is accompanied by a wealth of free educational content on our OpenLearn website at www.open.edu/openlearn - packed with thousands of hours of open courses, interactive games and features.

Through our FutureLearn platform at www.futurelearn.com we're right at the forefront of the provision of massive open online courses (MOOCs), a new paradigm in distance learning which enables people all over the world to undertake courses from The Open University and other top institutions for free. More than one million learners from over 190 countries have signed up already.

As we welcome you into our thriving alumni community, we wish you every success in your chosen career path and hope that this is only the start of a lifelong journey with us.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014-15

World leading OU research takes centre stage

This has been a particularly memorable period in The Open University's history – a time when our world leading research has been capturing people's imaginations, heralding new discoveries and changing lives.

In November 2014 researchers from the OU's Department of Planetary and Space Sciences made international headlines following their key role in the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission, which succeeded in its aim to touch down on a distant comet – the culmination of an epic voyage of 6.4 billion kilometres across the solar system which had taken ten years. On reaching Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, scientists held their breath as the Rosetta craft deployed its landing module, Philae, to touch down on the rocky surface. Onboard the landing module were instruments designed and constructed at the OU's Milton Keynes campus, including the shoe box-sized Ptolemy, which was tasked with analysing samples from the sub-surface of the comet. Following the successful landing, the OU's Professor of Planetary Sciences, Monica Grady, achieved instant fame when video footage of her jubilant celebrations 'went viral' amongst millions of YouTube viewers.

The Rosetta mission took its name from the stone that unlocked the secrets within ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Through the analysis of comets, the oldest and most primitive objects in the Solar System, the mission will provide researchers with a deeper understanding of the origins of the Solar System and life on Earth.

The OU's expertise in space science is being harnessed for revolutionary engineering projects on Earth. Work on the Ptolemy instrument entailed developing compact, portable and reliable sensors capable of operating and surviving in the harsh conditions of space. Developments in the measurement of gases have potential applications in hospitals, homes and for monitoring air pollution. A recently-established partnership with BAE Systems and the Ministry of Defence has seen the technology harnessed in atmosphere monitoring instruments onboard submarines patrolling some of the

most remote and hostile depths of the ocean. The Atmosphere Analyser provides real-time data to crew members, enabling them to detect and act decisively in response to any dangerous build-up of gases.

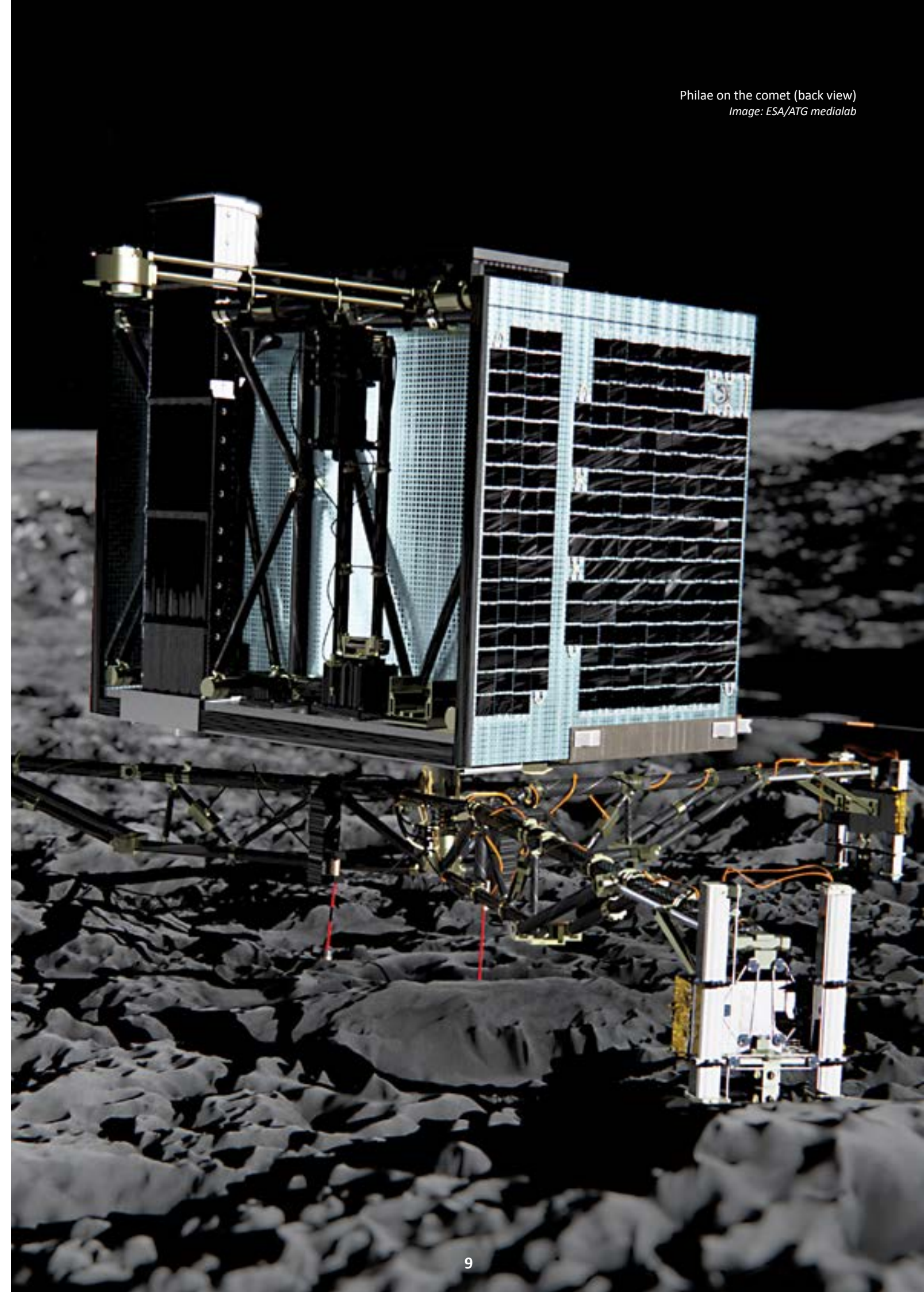
Space instrumentation researchers from the OU also recently teamed up with the Milton Keynes-based Infiniti Red Bull Racing team to develop cutting-edge hardware and analysis software which can be used to gain greater insights into car performance. Technology designed for use in space must meet similar standards to those required to deliver a competitive advantage on the race track: high reliability, low mass and resistance to mechanical shock, thermal cycling and vibration.

The Open University's research is also being applied to saving lives – with the help of some wet-nosed colleagues. Researchers from the OU's Animal-Computer Interaction team (ACI) have been collaborating with the charity Medical Detection Dogs, which trains the animals to 'sniff out' the tell-tale signs of cancer in humans. Possessing a sense of smell thousands of times more sensitive than human noses, dogs can be trained to recognise the odour of human disease, particularly the volatiles from cancer cells in biological samples. The ACI Laboratory is working on new interactive technology that will significantly increase the dogs' ability to communicate what they can sense. For many cancers, current early screening methods are still unreliable or not sufficiently accurate, so this work can give scientists a better indication of what they should be looking for in terms of chemical signatures in the detection of cancerous cells.

On a lighter note, in 2014 the OU published the results of a two-year study, *Enduring Love? Couple Relationships in the 21st Century*, which set out to uncover the secrets behind successful long-term relationships. Overseen by the Faculty of Social Sciences, the research involved in-depth interviews with 50 couples (across a broad spectrum of ethnicity, economic background and sexuality) to discover the factors that had kept their romance alive for so long. This was complemented by an online survey of more than 5,000 adults worldwide. The report made headlines worldwide, although the findings weren't always reported entirely accurately, such as the South China Morning Post's claim that "British people prefer a cup of tea to sex." Researchers found that the couples who had stayed together weren't just lucky in love and immune from life's woes. Rather, they had tended to endure the same stresses as those couples who had broken up – bereavement, moving house and unemployment – but had managed to find ways to concentrate on the positive aspects of their relationships.

To find out more about the OU's current research visit
www.open.ac.uk/research

Philae on the comet (back view)
Image: ESA/ATG medialab



72% of The Open University's research in 2014 was deemed to be world-leading or internationally excellent (Research Excellence Framework)

DEGREE CEREMONY

What happens today

The order of proceedings for your ceremony today is outlined below, and given in full in the accompanying ceremony programme.

Staff from The Open University will be on hand throughout the day to assist you, so if you have any queries do not hesitate to ask.

You will also find staff, students and alumni who will be delighted to talk to you about the Alumni Association and other University services that may be of interest to you.

Robing

Before the start of the ceremony, you will be directed to the robing area to put on your academic dress. You will see fellow graduates wearing robes and hoods in different combinations of The Open University's ceremonial colours of blue and gold. As you can see on page 11, there are eleven variations of academic dress for graduates, each one representing a different qualification. In addition, there are distinctive robes for honorary graduates.

The processions

The degree ceremony will begin with the entrance of the academic procession, led by the Chief Marshal, a senior member of The Open University's staff, and followed by:

- Ceremony marshals
- Representatives of key sections of the University community, including present students, alumni, and academic and administrative staff
- Members of the Senate and the Council
- Distinguished guests
- Honorary graduands (those receiving their honorary degree at this ceremony), graduate presenters and senior members of the University
- The University Mace
- The Presiding Officer, who is in charge of today's proceedings.

You will find the names of the Presiding Officer, honorary graduates and other key figures in your ceremony programme.

The ceremony

The opening remarks by the Presiding Officer will be followed by the presentation of graduates and the conferment of honorary degrees.

When it is your turn to be presented, you will be guided towards the stage by the marshals, and your name will be announced by the Graduate Presenter. You will walk across the stage to shake hands with the Presiding Officer and receive a ceremony tube containing a congratulatory note from the University's Chancellor.

Graduates are presented alphabetically in qualification order:

- Research degrees
- Taught higher degrees
- Bachelor's degrees – firstly Bachelor of Arts (BA), followed by Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), Bachelor of Laws (LLB), and Bachelor of Science (BSc)
- Foundation Degrees
- Diplomas of Higher Education
- Professional Graduate Certificate in Education and Postgraduate Certificate in Education

Honorary degrees are usually conferred after the presentation of higher degree graduates and before the presentation of undergraduates. If there are two honorary graduands, one receives their honorary degree before the higher degree graduates are presented, and one afterwards.

Each individual who is to receive an honorary degree will be presented to the Presiding Officer by a senior member of the University, who will read a citation describing their achievements and the reason for the honorary award. The Presiding Officer will confer the degree and the new honorary graduate will make a short reply.

When honorary degrees have been conferred and all graduates have been presented, the Presiding Officer will address the graduates and then declare the ceremony closed.

Everyone stands, and the Mace Bearer leads the Presiding Officer and procession off the stage.

The formal part of the day's proceedings is concluded.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC DRESS



Doctor of Philosophy



Doctor of Education



Master of Philosophy



Master of Research



Master of Arts, Education, Science



Master of Business Administration, Public Administration



Master of Engineering



Bachelor of Arts, Engineering, Laws, Science



Foundation Degree



Diploma of Higher Education



Professional Graduate Certificate in Education; Postgraduate Certificate in Education

Honorary awards



Fellowship of the University



Doctor of the University



Master of the University

The University Mace

The Mace is the symbol of authority and is carried before the Presiding Officer at degree ceremonies.

The modern design of the Mace incorporates the University shield at its head, with the full original coat of arms in the base.

PRESIDING OFFICERS

In addition to the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, four other officers of the University share the privilege and pleasure of congratulating those being presented for their awards throughout 2015.

Professor Tim Blackman

Tim is the Acting Vice-Chancellor of The Open University from December 2014 to May 2015. He joined the OU in 2011 as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research, Scholarship and Quality), moving from Durham University where he was Dean of Queen’s Campus and Director of the Wolfson Research Institute for Health and Wellbeing. He previously held senior positions at Oxford Brookes and Teesside Universities, and at Newcastle City Council. He is a graduate of Durham University and began his academic career at the University of Ulster.

Professor Alan Bassindale

Alan is currently the Interim Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research, Scholarship and Quality), having held a number of Pro-Vice-Chancellor portfolios. In this role he is responsible for sustaining and developing the University’s international presence in selected areas of research and scholarship. He has responsibility for knowledge transfer and for expanding the University’s entrepreneurial activities. His portfolio also includes oversight of the University’s quality enhancement and assurance policies. He is an active researcher in the chemistry of silicon compounds and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Professor Musa Mihsein

Musa is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic). He joined the University in November 2012. He is responsible for the academic performance of the Faculties, co-ordinating and approving their business plans and working closely with the Deans. He also has responsibility for the academic size and shape of the University, including major shifts in curriculum areas. Previously, Musa was Rector of the Arab Open University. He has held a number of senior positions at the University of Derby, De Montfort University and the University of Wolverhampton, and worked as a Senior Manager at British Gas.

Professor Belinda Tynan

Belinda is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning). She joined the University in April 2013. Prior to that, she held the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Learning, Teaching and Quality at the University of Southern Queensland. Belinda has previously held senior roles in higher education in Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. She is a graduate of the University of Melbourne, the University of New South Wales and the University of Western Australia and started her academic career teaching music. She is passionate about distance and open education, and the transformative effect it can have on people’s lives.



HONORARY AWARDS 2015

The following individuals will receive honorary awards from The Open University throughout 2015

Miss Jane Asher	DUniv	London	27 March
Miss Jenny Dawson	MUniv		
Dr Margaret Aderin-Pocock MBE	DUniv	London	28 March
Mrs Claire Ighodaro CBE	DUniv		
Lord Christopher Haskins	Fellowship	Dublin	10 April
Dr Peter James	MUniv	Brighton	25 April
Ms Jenny Brown	DUniv	Edinburgh	9 May
Mr Andrew Green	DUniv	Cardiff	12 June
Mr John McGrath	DUniv		
Professor Sugata Mitra	DUniv	Gateshead	13 June
Ms Kathryn Tickell	MUniv		
Dr Sue Black	MUniv	Milton Keynes	24 June
Professor Alice Roberts	DUniv	Exeter	4 September
Mr David Prentis	DUniv	London	18 September
Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE	DUniv	London	19 September
The Reverend Dr Giles Fraser	DUniv		
Baroness Doreen Lawrence OBE	DUniv		
Baroness Nuala O’Loan DBE MRIA	DUniv	Belfast	2 October
Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE	DUniv	Birmingham	17 October
Mr Alan Cumming	DUniv	Edinburgh	24 October
Dr Alison Elliot OBE	DUniv		
Dr Heather Reid OBE	DUniv		
Sir Harold Evans	DUniv	Manchester	6 November
Dr Paul Whittaker OBE	DUniv		
Mr John Cleese	DUniv	tbc	

The Open University’s Charter includes provision for the Senate to award the Honorary Degrees of Doctor of the University (DUniv) and Master of the University (MUniv). These are given to people who merit special recognition for outstanding achievement and distinction in a field or activity consistent with the values and commitments of the University.

The MUniv recognises work that has been influential at a regional or national level. The DUniv is awarded to people whose achievements have had an impact nationally or internationally, and who are widely recognised by others working in the field.

Individuals are nominated by members of the University and these are recommended to the Senate by the Honorary Degrees Committee, which is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor.

There are eight broad criteria against which nominations can be considered. These are:

- Services to the University
- Services to the educationally underprivileged
- Work in areas of special educational concern to the University
- Academic and scholarly distinction
- Public services
- Services to the Arts and Sciences
- Exceptional contribution to education and culture
- Exceptionally innovative and socially responsible business developments.

The award of Fellowship was instituted in 1980 to recognise members of the University who have made an outstanding contribution to its reputation. In over 30 years there have been just eight recipients.

HONORARY AWARDS 2015

Baron Haskins of Skidby

Outstanding contribution to the reputation of the University Fellowship of the University

Christopher Haskins becomes only the eighth individual to be awarded the Fellowship of The Open University, the institution's highest honour. The award recognises the outstanding contribution he made towards enhancing the reputation of the OU during his nine year tenure as Pro-Chancellor and his time as Chair of Council (he stepped down in 2014).

Working closely alongside Martin Bean, our former Vice-Chancellor, he was an active champion of the OU in political circles and was involved in implementing changes to the governance of the OU brought about by devolution in the United Kingdom. He has previously received recognition of his achievements as Pro-Chancellor from both the Taoiseach of Ireland, Enda Kenny TD, and the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins TD.

During a distinguished career, Lord Haskins has held many senior positions in business and in the community, including chairing the Better Regulation Task Force from 1997 to 2002, Express Dairies plc from 1998 to 2002, and the lobbying group European Movement from 2003 to 2005. He was on the board of the Yorkshire Regional Development Agency from 1998 to 2008 and was a director of Yorkshire Television from 2001 to 2004.

He is currently a board member of the Lords' Cabinet Office Equality and Reform Group. He also works with the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership, representing them in public, leading meetings with ministers and being their voice in Whitehall and in Parliament.

Dr Margaret Aderin-Pocock MBE

Work in areas of special educational concern to the University Doctor of the University

Margaret is a space scientist whose passion is presenting science to a general audience and demonstrating that you "don't need a brain the size of a small planet" to understand, participate in and enjoy science. Her BBC Two programme *Do We Really Need the Moon?* showed just that. The programme earned her the new talent prize at the prestigious Women in Film and Television Awards in 2011. She went on to present *Do We Really Need Satellites?* and was one of the main scientists on Channel 4's *Brave New World*. She is currently co-presenting the new series of *The Sky at Night*, and *Stargazing for CBeebies*. Margeret obtained her degree in Physics and her PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London. Since then she has spent much of her career making novel, bespoke instrumentation ranging from hand-held landmine detectors to an optical subsystem for the James Webb Space Telescope.

Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE

Services to the Arts and Sciences Doctor of the University

Jim is a physicist, author and broadcaster based at the University of Surrey, where he also holds a Chair in the Public Engagement in Science. He received his PhD in theoretical nuclear physics in 1989 before working as Postdoctoral Fellow at University College London. He returned to Surrey and was awarded a five year research fellowship in 1994. He was promoted to Professor of Physics in 2005. Jim is active as a science communicator and has written many popular science books, between them translated into 26 languages. He is a regular presenter of television science documentaries, including the BAFTA-nominated BBC series *Chemistry: A Volatile History*, but is probably best known as presenter of the weekly BBC Radio 4 programme *The Life Scientific*. He is a recipient of the Royal Society Michael Faraday Prize and the Institute of Physics Kelvin Medal. He received an OBE in 2007 for services to science.



Jane Asher

Public Services

Doctor of the University

Jane is an actress, author and businesswoman. She has worked in film, theatre, television and radio since she was five years old and has also written over a dozen books, including several highly successful cookery books and three best-selling novels. She has presented four series of her own programme *Good Living* for the BBC. She has been a consultant for several major retail companies and has developed her own range of cookware and baking goods. Jane's work in the charity sector is well respected. She is President of Parkinson's UK, of the National Autistic Society and of Arthritis Care; Vice-President of Autistica; Patron of Research Autism; Ambassador for the Prince's Trust; a Friend for Life of the Terrence Higgins Trust; a Trustee of BBC Children in Need and a patron of many other organisations. She sits on the judging panel of the annual Guardian Charity Awards.

Jenny Brown

Exceptional contribution to education and culture

Doctor of the University

Jenny is a literary agent based in Edinburgh. She studied English at Aberdeen University and began her career at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She became the first Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 1983, a post she held for 10 years, and is still involved as a board member. For four years she presented book programmes for Scottish Television. In 1995 she co-ordinated the *Readiscovery* campaign, Scotland's year of reading, where projects included a book bus that took writers and books to primary schools all over the country. She spent six years as Head of Literature at the Scottish Arts Council before establishing her literary agency in 2002. The agency represents over 200 writers and specialises in fostering new talent. She was a founder of Edinburgh as first UNESCO City of Literature, and chairs Bloody Scotland, the crime-writing festival based in Stirling.

John Cleese

Services to the Arts and Sciences

Doctor of the University

John was born in Weston-super-Mare. He won a place to study science at Cambridge. However, after sampling the conversation in the chemistry labs, he switched to law. The success of the 1963 Cambridge Footlights Revue, which played in the West End and on Broadway, saved him from a legal career. John first shot to fame with *The Frost Report* before co-creating *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. He moved on to co-create *Fawlty Towers*, one of the most successful television series ever made. In 1988, he starred in and co-wrote *A Fish Called Wanda*. With Robin Skynner, John wrote two popular books on psychology, *Families* and *How to Survive Them* and *Life and How to Survive It*. His best-selling autobiography *So Anyway...* was published in 2014. His company Video Arts became the largest producer of management and sales training films outside the United States. Currently John is Provost's Professor at Cornell University, New York.

Alan Cumming

Exceptional contribution to education and culture

Doctor of the University

Alan was born in Scotland and continues to work there, most recently in the National Theatre of Scotland's *Macbeth*, which transferred to Broadway, where he recently recreated his Tony Award-winning role in *Cabaret*. His diverse career has found him performing at venues around the globe. On television he stars in *The Good Wife*, for which he has received Golden Globe and Emmy nominations. His many films include franchises such as *X-Men*, *Spy Kids* and *The Smurfs* as well as independent films *The Anniversary Party*, *Titus* and *Any Day Now*. Alan has won many awards for his acting and social activism. He has written for the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Out*. His memoir *Not My Father's Son* became a *New York Times* Best Seller. His portrait was recently unveiled at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.



Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Academic and scholarly distinction

Doctor of the University

Andrew is Warden of Nuffield College Oxford and Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority. He was the Chairman of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, which reported in 2011. He was Principal of St Hugh’s College, Oxford from 2002 to 2012 and was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford from 2005 to 2012. From 1991 he was Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies for 11 years. He was the founding presenter of BBC Radio 4’s series on the beauty of numbers, *More or Less*, and co-wrote *The Tiger That Isn’t*, about the mishandling of statistics. He has served on the Social Security Advisory Committee, the National Consumer Council, the Councils of the Royal Economic Society and Queen Mary and Westfield College, as a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation, and as chairman of the Statistics Users Forum of the Royal Statistical Society. He was knighted in 2013 for services to economics.



Dr Alison Elliot OBE

Public Services

Doctor of the University

Alison works in higher education, the church and the voluntary sector. She graduated in Mathematics, Linguistics and Psychology and her doctoral research was on children’s language development. After lecturing at Lancaster and Edinburgh Universities, she represented the Church of Scotland’s position on economic, social, constitutional and international issues as Convener of its Church and Nation Committee and as the first woman to be Moderator of its General Assembly. She pursued these themes through the University of Edinburgh’s Centre for Theology and Public Issues, and the Conference of European Churches, chairing their Assembly in 2009. She has been Convener of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. She was appointed to the Christie Commission on the Reform of Public Services in Scotland and chaired the Land Reform Review Group for the Scottish Government. She has been appointed an OBE, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an Honorary Fellow of the University of Edinburgh.

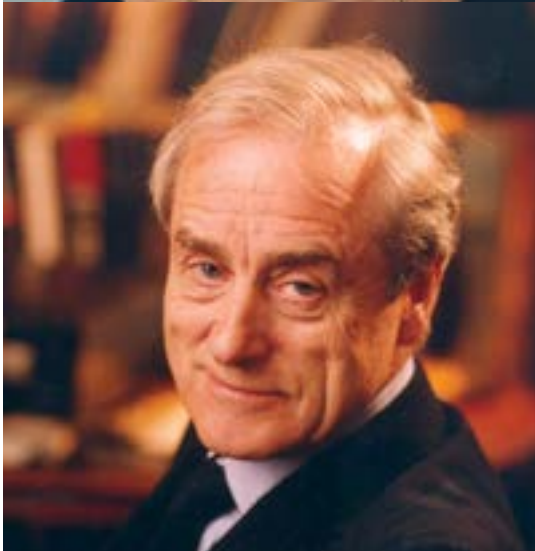


Sir Harold Evans

Exceptional contribution to education and culture

Doctor of the University

Harold is Editor at Large of Thomson Reuters. He was Editor of the *Northern Echo*, before joining the *Sunday Times* as Editor from 1967 to 1981, followed by *The Times* until 1982, writing of his experiences in his book *Good Times, Bad Times*. The *Sunday Times* campaigned for justice for children affected by thalidomide, one result being reform of the contempt law that had suppressed the reporting. Sir Harold was subsequently awarded the European Gold Medal of the Institute of Journalists. After founding *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine in 1986, he was appointed head of Random House, United States in 1990. He left in 1997 to write two critically acclaimed histories of the United States, followed by his memoir, *My Paper Chase*. Sir Harold has had a lifelong association with journalists’ education, writing books on editing and design, and devising international training programmes. He received a knighthood in 2004 for services to journalism.



The Reverend Dr Giles Fraser

Public Services

Doctor of the University

Giles is currently the parish priest at St Mary’s, Newington in south London and writes a weekly Saturday column for *The Guardian*, as well as appearing frequently as a presenter on BBC Radio 4. He is a regular contributor on Radio 4’s *Thought for the Day* and a panellist on *The Moral Maze*. A collection of his *Church Times* and *Guardian* columns was published in 2012 as *Christianity with Attitude*. After completing his PhD research on the theological roots of Nietzsche’s atheism, he became a lecturer in Philosophy at Wadham College, Oxford. Giles was Canon Chancellor of St Paul’s Cathedral and Director of the St Paul’s Institute from 2009 until 2011. He is currently a visiting professor in the Anthropology Department at the London School of Economics.



Andrew Green

Exceptional contribution to education and culture

Doctor of the University

Andrew is a librarian and educationalist. He went to school in Wakefield and studied Classics at the University of Cambridge. From 1975 to 1998 he worked in university libraries in Aberystwyth, Cardiff, Sheffield and Swansea. Until 2013 he was Librarian of the National Library of Wales. In this time the library attracted new audiences, established a visitor centre and the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales, and became a leader in the use of digital technologies. Andrew has served on many bodies, including the Council of Aberystwyth University, the Wales Advisory Committee of the British Council, Research Libraries UK, the Legal Deposit Libraries Committee, and independent committees for the Welsh Government. A Welsh speaker, he chairs the board of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and is the author of *In the Chair: How to Guide Groups and Manage Meetings*. He is a fellow of the Learned Society of Wales.



Claire Ighodaro CBE

Exceptionally innovative and socially responsible business developments

Doctor of the University

Claire has worked influentially in developing international educational and ethical standards for accountants. She began her career in the engineering sector in 1979, when few women worked in engineering or accountancy. She later joined BT plc, holding senior roles in the UK and Germany. In 2003, she became worldwide President of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, and their first female leader. Her directorship and advisory roles include Chair of the London Learning and Skills Council, trustee of the British Council, independent director of UK Trade and Investment and member of The Open University Council. She currently chairs the audit committee of Lloyd’s of London and Merrill Lynch International’s governance committee. Claire is also a board member of the University of Surrey and of IESBA, the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants. She was made a CBE in 2008 for services to business.



Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon OBE

Public Services

Doctor of the University

Doreen Lawrence moved to the UK from Jamaica when she was nine. In 1993, while she was studying as a mature student for a humanities degree, her son Stephen was murdered. She was left with no choice but to challenge the justice system and the police because of their racist behaviour against her family. She successfully completed her degree in 1995. After enduring the initial bungled investigation, the acquittal of suspects, the Macpherson Report’s findings of institutional racism and its conclusion that “Stephen Lawrence’s murder was simply, solely and unequivocally motivated by racism”, a measure of justice was achieved with the conviction of two suspects of Stephen’s murder in 2012. She founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust in 1998 to give bursaries to young people who want to study architecture, which had been Stephen’s ambition. The Stephen Lawrence Centre in Deptford provides training in a broad range of professional and vocational skills, such as IT and the arts. She was made a life peer in 2013.



John McGrath

Services to the Arts and Sciences

Doctor of the University

John is the founding Artistic Director of National Theatre Wales, where he has worked with a wide range of artists and partner companies to develop an award-winning mix of work in theatres and site-specific locations across the country. Productions he has directed include *A Good Night Out in the Valleys*, in five Valleys Miners’ Institutes; *The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning*, with every show live-streamed and hyperlinked online across Wales and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; *In Water I’m Weightless*, at the Wales Millennium Centre and London’s South Bank Centre; and *The Opportunity of Efficiency* for the New National Theatre, Tokyo. From 1999 to 2008 he was Artistic Director of Contact, Manchester. He has published a book, *Loving Big Brother*, about art in the surveillance age and in 2005 was awarded the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) Cultural Leadership Award.



Image: Warren Orchard

Professor Sugata Mitra

Services to the educationally underprivileged

Doctor of the University

Sugata is Professor of Educational Technology at the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University. His ‘hole in the wall’ experiments with children’s learning have demonstrated that groups of children, irrespective of who or where they are, can learn to use computers and the internet on their own using public computers in open spaces such as roads and playgrounds. In 1999 a computer was embedded within a wall in an Indian slum at Kalkaji, Delhi and children were allowed to use it freely. The experiment has since been repeated in many places, and went on to inspire the Oscar-winning movie *Slumdog Millionaire*. He brought these results to England in 2006 and invented self-organised learning environments, now in global use. His work has resulted in the training and development of around a million young Indians, including some of the poorest children in the world.



Image: Mike Urwin

Baroness O’Loan of Kirkinriola, DBE MRJA

Public Services

Doctor of the University

Nuala O’Loan is a member of the House of Lords, and of the Royal Irish Academy. She chairs the Governing Authority of Maynooth University, and the Daniel Morgan Independent Panel. She was the first Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, and was Ireland’s Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution. She is a solicitor, and has held the Jean Monnet Chair in European Law at the University of Ulster as well as serving on numerous public bodies. Baroness O’Loan has published on law, policing, faith and other issues, and has acted in an advisory capacity on policing and police accountability around the world. She has received several honorary degrees and was created a life peer in 2009. She is married to Declan O’Loan and has five sons.



David Prentis

Public Services

Doctor of the University

David has been General Secretary of UNISON since 2001. His sense of fair play, compassion and his strong work ethic were honed during his childhood in Leeds. Under his leadership, the union has grown in membership and influence. He has been instrumental in driving UNISON’s equality agenda and is an unrelenting force in its opposition to racism and far-right extremism. A passionate advocate for Public Services and public service workers, David identified pay discrimination, unsafe working conditions and abusive and bullying employers as key issues in giving people dignity at work. He is a member of the TUC General Council and its executive committee. A great campaigner for educational opportunities for all, he studied history at the University of London and obtained a Master’s degree in industrial relations at the University of Warwick. He is a visiting fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford and is President of Public Services International, the global umbrella body for public sector trade unions.



Dr Heather Reid OBE

Exceptional contribution to education and culture

Doctor of the University

Heather is a physics graduate and was BBC Scotland’s Chief Weather Forecaster between 1994 and 2009. During this time, she combined her television role with promoting science to young people and the general public. She is an active supporter of science festivals, school science events, the Institute of Physics and the Scottish Science Centre Network. She was made an OBE for services to physics in 2006. Heather now uses her science engagement experience as an education consultant and specialises in promoting interdisciplinary learning within the context of climate change. She regularly contributes on topics such as renewable energy, global citizenship and the importance of science. Heather is a member of the board of trustees of Glasgow Science Centre and a board member of the medical research charity, Tenovus Scotland. She also sits on the Scottish Government’s science, technology, engineering and mathematics education committee.



Professor Alice Roberts

Exceptional contribution to education and culture

Doctor of the University

Alice is Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham, and a clinical anatomist, author and broadcaster. She originally practised as a medical doctor, before becoming a university lecturer. Her broadcasting debut came in 2001, as an expert on human bones for Channel 4’s *Time Team*. She has presented many landmark science series on BBC Two, including *The Incredible Human Journey*, *Prehistoric Autopsy* and *Ice Age Giants*, as well as several *Horizon* programmes and *Coast*. Alice occasionally presents *Costing The Earth* and *Inside Science* on BBC Radio 4. She has written six popular science books, the latest of which, the *Incredible Unlikelihood of Being*, explores embryology and evolution. A member of the Advisory Board of the Cheltenham Festival of Science and a judge for the annual Wellcome Image Awards, Alice is also patron of the Association of Science and Discovery Centres and Twycross Zoo.



Dr Paul Whittaker OBE

Exceptional contribution to education and culture

Doctor of the University

Paul was born in Huddersfield in 1964 and has been deaf from birth. Despite this, he gained a music degree from Wadham College, Oxford, and in 1988 founded Music and the Deaf, a charity to encourage deaf people to enjoy music. For many years, Paul gave sign-language performances of major musical shows in London and on tour, and also worked with Rambert, The Sixteen, Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms. For the past three years, Paul has been working with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the pianist Leif Ove Andsnes on a major project in various European cities called Feel the Music. Paul was made an OBE for services to music in 2007.



Image: Charisma Photography Yorkshire

Dr Sue Black

Services to the educationally underprivileged

Master of the University

Sue, self-styled “cheeky geek, social entrepreneur, thought leader and mum”, is a Senior Research Associate in the Software Systems Engineering group at the Department of Computer Science at University College London. She recently won the PepsiCo Women’s Inspiration Network Award, and wrote an inspirational blog post entitled ‘*If I can do it, so can you*’ as part of the award. Since 1998 Sue has campaigned for equality and support for women in the field of technology. She founded the online networks LondonBCSWomen and BCSWomen, which now have over 1200 members. In 2011 Sue founded The GoTo Foundation, a non-profit organisation that aims to make computer science more meaningful and exciting to the public, and to help build a tech-savvy workforce. Sue campaigned to save Bletchley Park and was instrumental in helping to secure the Turing papers for the nation. Her book *Saving Bletchley Park*, which was the fastest-ever crowdfunded book, describes this campaign.



Image: Clive Flint Photography

Jenny Dawson

Services in an area of special concern to the University

Master of the University

Jenny is the founder of the preserves brand Rubies in the Rubble. After graduating with an MA in Mathematics and Economics in 2008, she worked at Odey Asset Management for two years. Having always had a heart for sustainability and good food, she left in 2011 to launch Rubies in the Rubble. The company is dedicated to making delicious products with a focus on using fruit and vegetables that would otherwise be discarded, owing to imbalances in supply and demand or because of failed aesthetic standards. With a third of all food produced being wasted (while over a billion people go to bed hungry) Jenny founded the brand with a belief that there is enough food to feed everyone. However, to make this a reality, we all need to play our part, through caring for our resources better and empowering those without enough food. Rubies in the Rubble was Jenny’s response.



Dr Peter James

Services to the Arts and Sciences

Master of the University

Peter is the author of the internationally bestselling Roy Grace thriller series, published in 36 languages, with seven consecutive *Sunday Times* number one successes. Before writing full time, James produced numerous films including BAFTA-nominated *The Merchant of Venice* (2005). In 1994, James’ novel *Host* was published by Penguin on two floppy discs as the world’s first electronic novel and is now in the Science Museum in London. In 2013 he was awarded an Outstanding Public Service Award by Sussex Police. He has twice chaired the Crime Writers’ Association and has won numerous literary awards including the People’s Bestseller Dagger for Crime Novel of the Year in the 2011 ITV3 Crime Thriller Awards. A speed junkie, who in his teens was selected to train for the British Olympic ski team, he holds an international motor racing licence and switches off from work by racing his classic 1965 BMW.



Kathryn Tickell

Notable contribution to education and culture

Master of the University

Kathryn is a composer and performer whose work is deeply connected to the landscape and people of Northumbria. In 2009 she was awarded the Queen’s Medal for Music, given to artists judged to have made outstanding contributions to British music. Kathryn tours extensively worldwide, both solo and with her band, has recorded 14 albums, and was the subject of two television documentaries. An innovative collaborator, she cuts across musical genres, working with diverse artists including Sting, Andy Sheppard, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, The Chieftains and the Penguin Café Orchestra. She has composed for Royal Northern Sinfonia, the National Youth Orchestra and others. Kathryn lectures on the Folk and Traditional Music degree course at Newcastle University and is the former Artistic Director of youth folk ensemble Folkestra. She founded the Young Musicians Fund, which has raised £100,000 to help young people in the north-east to realise their musical potential.



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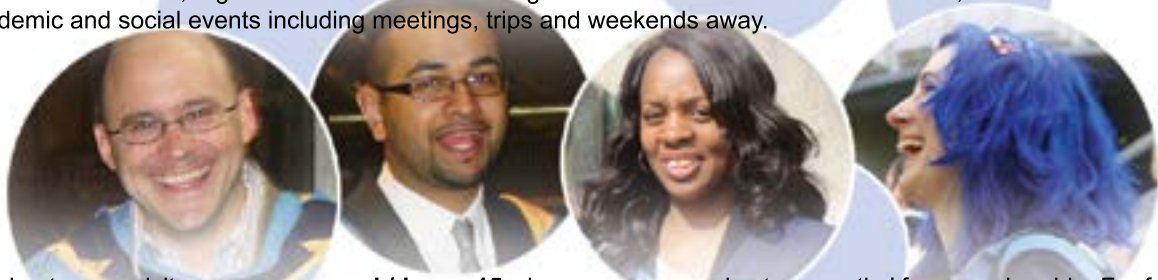
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There is no such thing as a ‘typical’ OU graduate. At today’s ceremony you will see a huge diversity of students: people of all ages, all cultures and all backgrounds study with us. Each graduate has their own unique story to tell.

Behind each graduate on the stage today, you’ll find a support network like no other. It often includes family and friends, tutors and other OU staff, tutor groups and study partners. For students juggling study, family life and a full-time job, these unsung heroes can help make studying that bit more manageable. Whether it’s revision help, a nudge to pick up the textbook again or taking care of the kids when an assignment deadline is approaching, every student needs the help of others at some point during their studies. It can mean the difference between giving up or getting a qualification.

Some students require extra support to enable them to succeed. Donations from alumni, friends and benefactors enable the OU to support disadvantaged students and those on low incomes in the form of grants, benefits, awards and personalised support. Through the continued generosity of the OU community, we can achieve our vision of opening up the life-changing benefits of higher education to anyone, wherever they are and whatever their individual circumstances.

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Through the donations we receive, the OU is able to provide students with an assessment of their disability or health condition so that their specific needs and requirements can be identified. Additional support might include the provision of course materials in alternative formats (including audio versions or transcripts) or the loan of specialist equipment and software.

As an educational charity, we also provide financial assistance to more than 30,000 of our current students, supporting them with fees and giving them every opportunity to complete their qualification and achieve their career and life goals. Students experiencing financial difficulties may receive small grants to help with the costs associated with their studies, such as textbooks, travel expenses to attend a tutorial, or a contribution towards childcare costs so that a student is able to attend a residential school.

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The OU’s high-quality, supported approach to learning provides so many students with a life-changing education. With the help of our supporters, our goal is to offer this opportunity to everyone with the dedication and determination to succeed.

To find out more about how a donation to The Open University can change lives, visit www.open.ac.uk/giving or call the OU’s Development Office on 01908 655044.



“You cannot give people anything better in their lives than education, because it frees them from poverty – poverty financially, and poverty of knowledge. And once you give people knowledge, you empower them.”

Patricia Campbell, OU alumna



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OpenNews is our monthly alumni newsletter. Discover the latest news, hear from our top academics and enjoy new learning content available through the OU.

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www.open.ac.uk/students/ceremonies/honorary-degrees

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1 Milton Keynes

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