

Open University in Scotland

Celebrating its 50th birthday this year, the Open University (OU) is Scotland's leading provider of part time education in Scotland. Over 70% of OU students are in work while they study and many combine both with other commitments.

Courses are taught by supported open learning:

- they are flexible – you learn at a time and place that suits you
- you read materials, complete course work, use electronic learning materials and write assignments
- you have a personal tutor and can also discuss your work with other OU staff and fellow students online, by email, through study groups and by phone
- you may have to sit exams
- you may attend residential courses.

Courses and Specialisms

You can take individual modules or work towards one of over 200 qualifications on offer. These range from certificates and diplomas to degrees and postgraduate awards.

The wide range of subjects includes: Arts and Humanities; Business and Management; Computing and IT; Design; Education, Childhood and Youth; Engineering; Environment and Development; Health and Social Care; Health and Wellbeing; Languages; Law; Mathematics and Statistics; Medical Sciences; Nursing and Healthcare Practice; Psychology and Counselling; Science; Social Sciences; and Technology.

The OU in Scotland has a partnership agreement with a number of Scotland's colleges. The university has the advantage of being able to offer articulation routes for HN students into degrees.

Students

The OU in Scotland has around 16,400 students supported by around 500 associate lecturers. Almost a quarter of these students live in rural areas. The average student is 27 years old.

Over 40% of students take Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects; of them 49% are female.

More than four in ten of all part time undergraduate students in Scotland are OU students.

According to HESA, 94.5% of students from the 2016/17 academic year went into employment or further study within six months of graduating.

Facilities and Services

OU students have access to an extensive online library 24 hours a day, seven days a week as well as support services. Staff are also available for students to contact for support by phone or email. Most of the undergraduate modules require you to attend tutorial groups. These groups consist of around 20 students, and are usually held in

colleges and universities across the country.

The Open University Library is a member of the [Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries \(SCURL\)](#) Most SCURL libraries can be accessed by joining SCONUL Access.

Ranking

The OU Business School's MBA programme ranked 25th in the world in the QS Distance Online MBA Rankings 2018.

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