

Facts and Figures 2021/22



Headlines

About the OU: Operating at scale

Total number of students taught since 1969	2.3 million
Total number of students in 2021/22	208,308
Percentage of part-time UK-domiciled undergraduates taught by the OU in 2020/21	51%
Students on validated programmes	48,289
FTSE 100 companies that have sponsored staff on OU modules	76

About the OU: We are global

International students directly studying with the OU	8,599
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About the OU: Our students

Percentage of 157k directly-registered OU students already in work	71%
OU undergraduates who had no previous HE qualifications on entry	75%
OU UK undergraduates who live in the 25% most deprived areas	25%
New OU undergraduates aged under 25	32%

About the OU: Research and Enterprise

UK research position (based on REF 2021 Power rankings)	40th/129
Research deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2014)	76%
Number of doctoral degrees awarded in 2021/22	144

About the OU: Innovation in learning

Visitors to OpenLearn website since launch in 2006	105 million
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Student and customer statistics*	2020/21	2021/22
Undergraduate-level students	148,126	146,424
Postgraduate-level students		
Taught	10,625	10,467
Research part-time	386	417
Research full-time	450	495
Collaborative	69	57
Students on non-credit-bearing courses	2,608	2,159
Students on validated programmes	43,156	48,289
Total Students	205,420	208,308

* All student statistics are student headcount unless stated otherwise.

Student distribution	2020/21	2021/22
UK students		
England	111,039	107,709
Scotland	22,360	21,459
Wales	14,475	14,856
Northern Ireland	5,588	7,285
Total UK students	153,462	151,309
Republic of Ireland	974	874
Other EU	5,123	4,964
Non-EU	2,705	2,761
Students on validated programmes	43,156	48,289
Total	205,420	208,197

International Students	2020/21	2021/22
Global Direct students in Europe	5,992	5,739
Global Direct students outside Europe	2,671	2,734
Total Global Direct students	8,663	8,473

Students by subject area (FTEs)*	2020/21	2021/22
Subjects allied to medicine	3,003	4,342
Biological and physical sciences	18,943	19,762
Mathematical sciences, computer sciences and engineering & technology	15,044	14,604
Social studies	16,125	14,965
Law	5,125	5,247
Business and administrative studies	7,895	7,491
Languages	4,548	4,401
Historical and philosophical studies	6,833	6,786
Creative arts and design	1,203	1,334
Education	9,280	9,011
Other	40	34
Total	88,038	87,976

* Excludes non-credit-bearing modules, study materials, packs and validated programmes.

Features of Open University students	2021/22	
	UG level	PG level
Male:female ratio	37:63	45:55
Age profile		
17 and under	1%	0%
18-21	9%	1%
22-24	12%	5%
25-34	36%	27%
35-44	23%	32%
45-54	11%	23%
55-64	5%	10%
65 and over	2%	4%
Median age of new undergraduate-level students	29	

Ethnic origin of new undergraduate students*	2020/21	2021/22
White	89%	88%
Asian	4%	5%
Black	3%	3%
Mixed and Other	4%	4%

* where ethnicity was disclosed.

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Qualifications on entry of undergraduate level students	2020/21	2021/22
No formal qualifications	2%	2%
A Levels - amount not specified	16%	16%
1 A Level or lower	34%	33%
2 A Levels or equivalent	24%	23%
HE qualification	20%	22%
Postgraduate qualification	3%	3%

Other student information	2020/21	2021/22
Number of students receiving help with fees	14,312	13,705
Number of students with disabilities	36,400	37,078
Number of students receiving credit transfer awards for prior study	5,934	5,916
Number of students working full/part time	111,556	111,081

Qualifications awarded	2021/22	1971 to 2021/22
Foundation degrees	192	7,763
First degrees	10,803	460,716
Higher degrees	2,098	77,855
Undergraduate certificates and diplomas	4,559	388,746
Postgraduate certificates and diplomas	947	82,885
Validated qualifications (under/post-graduate)	7,853	193,946

Student Assessment	2020/21	2021/22
TMA and CMA assignments submitted	893,214	864,972
Examinations taken	33,024	34,040
End-of-module assignments submitted	35,424	46,944

Student Contact	2020/21	2021/22
Number of telephone calls from students	414,604	383,660
Number of Emails received from students	325,251	280,776

Modules information	2020/21	2021/22
Number of standard modules offered		
Undergraduate level	354	403
Postgraduate level	141	137
Curriculum partnerships	30	23

Most popular undergraduate modules*	2021/22
DE100 - Investigating psychology 1	9,861
DD102 - Introducing the social sciences	6,409
E102 - Introduction to childhood studies and child psychology	5,033
TM111 - Introduction to computing and information technology 1	4,982
A111 - Discovering the arts and humanities	4,769

* Based on number of students.

Most popular qualifications*	2021/22
BA/BSc (Hons) Open degree (QD)	2,534
BSc (Hons) Psychology (Q07)	1,701
Cert of HE in Psychology (T22)	1,066
Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (Q79)	942
BA (Hons) Business Management (Q91)	841

* Based on number of qualifications gained.

Validated Programmes	2020/21	2021/22
Number of validated programmes	347	335
Number of approved validated institutions worldwide	42	36
Total students to have achieved validated awards	7,779	7,853

Research and Enterprise	2020/21	2021/22
Value of research grants and contracts awarded in year	£11.5m	TBC
Number of running research grant and contract awards	477	TBC
Number of postgraduate research students registered for study	836	TBC
Research quality Grade Point Average (GPA) score	N/A	3.02
Number of research outputs downloaded from Open Research Online (ORO)	2,023,103	2,127,919

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Media	2020/21	2021/22
Average daily usage of Moodle	40,012	TBC
Views/listens of OU programmes via BBC	285 million	TBC
Accumulative years of OU/BBC partnership	50	51
Peak-time TV and radio co-produced programmes	41 series	TBC
Amazon Kindle - downloads	1.0 million	0.4 million
Amazon Kindle - total downloads (since 2016)	2.7 million	3.1 million
YouTube - total visitors (since 2008)	59.7 million	65.5 million
YouTube - video views	6.4 million	5.7 million
Location of visitors to OpenLearn:		
UK		44%
USA		10%
India		9%
OpenLearn visitors	14.4 million	24.1 million
OpenLearn free courses	1,066	973

Notes on fees and funding

The way higher education is funded is determined by each of the national governments of the UK, so the cost to students in each country reflects the amount of teaching grant the OU receives directly from each of these administrations and the support that is available to students to pay their fees.

Some 60 credit undergraduate modules exceed the £3,168 fees typical in England and Northern Ireland. Nursing modules also exceed this typical cost but outside England are paid for by Health bodies.

Fees	2021/22
Undergraduate module (60 credit points)	
England and non-UK	£3,168
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£1056 to £2,625
Undergraduate residential school	
England and non-UK	£307
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£307
Postgraduate taught module (60 credit points)	£2,210 to £6,280
Research degree	
Full-time	£4,500
Part-time	£2,250

Cost of study	2021/22
Typical total fees for BA/BSc (Hons) degree	
England and non-UK	£19,008
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£6,336

Finance	2020/21	2021/22
Income	(£ millions)	(£ millions)
Tuition fees and education contracts	393.2	423.1
Funding body grants	104.5	113.8
Research grants and contracts	13.8	14.6
Other income	16.9	14.6
Investment income	30.0	-17.9
Donations and endowments	3.1	5.8
Total income	561.5	554.0
Expenditure		
Staff costs	366.4	598.6
Other operating expenses	144.9	168.7
Depreciation	7.6	8.9
Interest payable	0.9	1.3
Total expenditure	519.8	777.5

Staff statistics	2020/21	2021/22
Salaried academic staff	1,327	1,427
Academic-related staff	2,297	2,502
Support staff (secretaries, clerks, technicians etc)	1,794	1,905
Associate lecturers	4,438	4,773

Notes on 2021/22 statistics

Please be aware that some of the figures in this report may be impacted due to the COVID pandemic.