

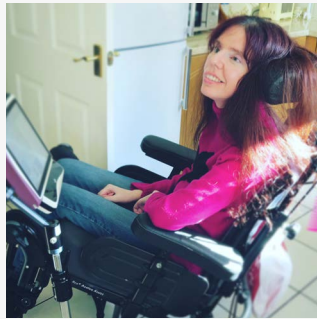


The Open University

annualreport 2016/17

1 university 4 nations millions of lives

The Open University launched a revolution that has changed millions of lives, and is still going on. We are harnessing the power of education to **open up the future**.



[More](#)

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD



Where you start in life shouldn't limit where you go.

Despite a challenging higher education landscape, we have many inspiring stories to share from our incredible students and staff. I hope you'll join me in reading and hearing more, as this report features many of those life-changing moments.

Across England, the number of part-time students remains in decline, but The Open University has been vigorously stepping up its support for the interests of current and future students in all parts of the UK. We support around half of all part-time undergraduate students with disabilities, and students who do not have the usual university entrance requirements. As the UK's largest social mobiliser, our responsibility is huge.

It is our firm belief that the UK needs a diverse and flexible

higher education system to meet the economic challenges of a post-Brexit environment. Part-time higher education is a cost-effective way to unlock the UK's potential and develop our workforce to ensure we have the skills needed for the future. Our work with smaller businesses and sector giants like the NHS is more focused than ever. In the past year, we've awarded over twenty thousand qualifications, ranging from Certificate of Higher Education to Doctor of Philosophy. Our reach and impact in the higher education sector is truly massive.

During the last 12 months, work on our Students First strategy for growth has progressed well. Behind the scenes, colleagues have worked hard to find new ways for the OU to become an even more effective and sustainable organisation. We must do this if we are to expand our social mission. More than ever before, higher education funding is at a

crossroads. That's why we are diversifying our income. With this in mind, our Open up the Future campaign is on course to raise £50 million by our 50th birthday in 2019. The goal? To give the gift of education to all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff, students and supporters who continue to make the OU the wonderful place that it is. Together, we are changing lives every day.

All the signs are good – this four-nation, global University is going places. Join us.

Peter Horrocks
Vice-Chancellor



We are fighting hard for the interests of part-time students



Vice-Chancellor (left) with graduate John Spence



All the signs are good – this foundation, global University is going places. Join us

Peter Horrocks CBE
Vice-Chancellor



**CLICK ON
THE ARROWS**
THROUGHOUT
THIS REPORT TO
FIND OUT MORE



I'm lucky to meet the amazing people that study at the OU and I can't imagine denying them the opportunity to help us as a society

Martha Lane Fox
Chancellor



OPEN UP BUSINESS

We are working with employers in the public, private and not-for-profit sector to bridge the skills gap and boost productivity.



Our programme of work-based degree and higher apprenticeships enables employers in England to use the apprenticeship levy to attract new talent, and upskill staff around the demands of their organisation.

We are also working with employers in Northern Ireland to provide higher apprenticeships in the independent health and social care sector, and exploring opportunities to offer apprenticeships in Scotland and Wales.



OUR NEW GUIDE IS HELPING EMPLOYERS MAKE THE MOST OF HIGHER AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS



'Public sector organisations can partner with us in confidence, knowing that the Crown Commercial Service has deemed us one of the best value, most competitive providers of the Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship and Digital and Technology Solutions Professional Degree Apprenticeship.' David Willett, Corporate Director, The Open University



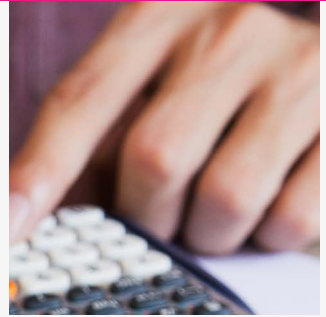
WE HAVE SPONSORED NEW RESEARCH WHICH HELPS EMPLOYERS TO MOTIVATE WORKPLACE LEARNING



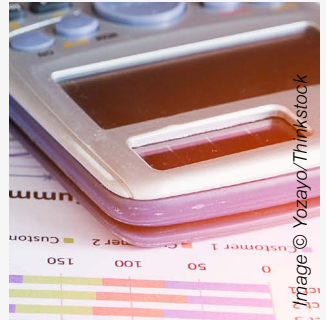
ALEX'S STORY

OPEN UP BUSINESS

↓ THE OU
BUSINESS SCHOOL
HAS PIONEERED
THE FIRST MOOCS
FOR ACADEMIC
CREDIT OUTSIDE
THE USA



↓ THE OU
IN NORTHERN
IRELAND
PARTNERS
EIR BUSINESS NI
TO BOOST SKILLS
PIPELINE



The Open University has worked with more than 2,400 employers; 59 FTSE 100 companies sponsored staff on our courses in 2016/17.

The Open University has partnered with financial services company True Potential LLP to create the first and only personal finance research centre in the UK with an active teaching programme freely available to the public.

The True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance is helping to address the growing personal debt crisis through financial literacy.

Its work won a 2017 Guardian University Award in the Business Partnership category.

[CLICK HERE](#)

↓ **94% OF LEARNERS ON THE FREE COURSE MANAGING MY MONEY SAID THEY IMPROVED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

OPEN UP OPPORTUNITY



“ The support I received helped me get a job with much better prospects ”

We are funding an Enhanced Employability and Career Progression programme to ensure even more students achieve positive personal and career development outcomes.



This University strategic priority focuses on embedding employability into the student experience

and curriculum; staff culture; and strengthening relationships with employers.

A cornerstone of the University-wide programme is our expanded Careers and Employability Services launched this year.

“ The OU has been life-changing. It has enabled me to achieve my dream of becoming an engineering consultant ”

Faye Banks,
MEng and Telegraph's Top 50 UK Female Engineers in 2016



MARVA'S STORY

OPEN UP OPPORTUNITY



“ I was in severe financial crisis. I ended up not having a place to stay in ... but I continued to study because ... when my children grow up I wanted them to see their father has become something ”

Shafiq Mohammed
OU in Wales student
and Inspire! Adult learner
award winner 2017



The Open
University

55% OF OU STUDENTS IN ENGLAND COME FROM **DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS...**
ONLY **29%** OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS DO



IN 2016/17
23,630 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
CHOSE TO STUDY WITH US



THE OU IS IN THE 2017 **STONEWALL TOP 100 EMPLOYERS** FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BI AND TRANS STAFF

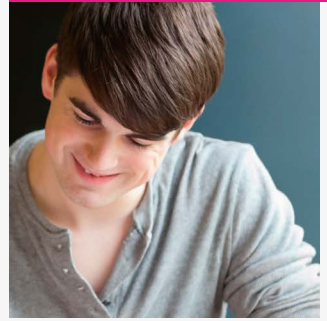


KARIS' STORY



THE OU IN SCOTLAND DELIVERS DEGREE-LEVEL LEARNING TO **COLLEGE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS**

OPEN UP OPPORTUNITY



The Open
University

WE ARE THE UK'S LARGEST UNIVERSITY,
WITH **122,326** STUDENTS IN **ENGLAND,**
SCOTLAND, WALES, NORTHERN IRELAND
AND THE **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**



**NORTHERN
IRELAND OU
GRADUATE DAVID
FERRAN WINS
TOP AWARD FOR
ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**



THE OU
IS THE **NUMBER
ONE UNIVERSITY
IN NORTHERN
IRELAND** FOR
'OVERALL STUDENT
SATISFACTION'



We've got
15,000 students
in Scotland from
every walk of
life



THE OU IN
WALES AND
WALES TUC HAVE
CELEBRATED
10 YEARS OF A
PARTNERSHIP
WHICH HAS
SUPPORTED
1500 LEARNERS



WE ARE
HELPING MORE
**SCHOOL
STUDENTS** IN
WALES PROGRESS
TO UNIVERSITY



THE OU HAS
MORE THAN **120
OPEN LEARNING
CHAMPIONS**
ACROSS
SCOTLAND

**OPEN
UP
THE
FUTURE**



**MILLION-POUND
FUNDRAISING SEA
VOYAGE**


 **DONORS**
HAVE MADE
EXCEPTIONALLY
GENEROUS
GIFTS



 FIND OUT
MORE OR
SUPPORT US

 NOW WE'RE
CROWDFUNDING

This year, The Open University has received nearly £5.1 million in donations, including £496,000 legacy gifts.

 A single legacy gift of more than £230,000 from former student Colin Hulme has enabled us to launch the Disabled Veterans Scholarship Fund to harness the full potential of those leaving the armed forces with a disability.

We are incredibly grateful to the nearly 10,000 donors – alumni, trusts, foundations, companies and individuals – who have supported our mission to open up education to all.



**TOGETHER
WE CAN OPEN
UP THE FUTURE**



 We are delighted to support the OU's unique and interesting research 

David Simpson, Chair of Trustees, Petplan Charitable Trust supporting research into Animal Computer Interaction



OPEN UP MINDS



FIFTEEN BILLION POUND RAILWAY



TO WALK INVISIBLE

Our partnership with the BBC continues to reach millions of people via TV, radio, digital, online and social platforms, inspiring huge numbers to click through and discover Open University learning.

This year, our broadcast projects have won 15 major awards, including the Learning on Screen Premier Award, The Griersons, BAFTA and the Broadcast Award for Best Documentary Series.

Our widening participation campaigns, co-produced

with the BBC, continued this year with *Can Britain Have a Pay Rise* and *Britain's Greatest Invention*.

Britain's Greatest Invention is part of Tomorrow's World the high-profile UK-wide campaign to encourage everyone to actively



HOSPITAL

engage with science and technology.

Other OU/BBC broadcast highlights include the Brontë drama *To Walk Invisible*, the NHS series *Hospital*, *The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway* and the long-running series *Child of Our Time*.



The Open
University

OVER **256 MILLION**
VIEWING AND
LISTENING EVENTS
OF OU/BBC
CONTENT



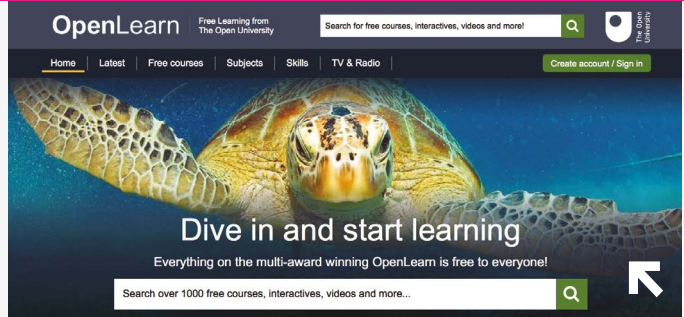
The Open
University

75 HOURS OF
AUDIOVISUAL
RESOURCES AND
UNIQUE ASSETS
FOR OU TEACHING

“ Have you
noticed the
most interesting
programmes on
telly are made with
the OU? ”



OPEN UP MINDS



Our free learning website OpenLearn has celebrated its 10th anniversary. It now offers more than 1000 free online courses available for anyone to start straightaway.

“ OpenLearn provides free educational resources to reach millions of learners around the world ”

➤ Our OpenLearn redesign in 2017 has added resources to boost skills for work and skills for study.

We are expanding our range of innovative digitally badged OpenLearn courses, which allow learners to record and share evidence of their achievements across a range of e-platforms.

Badged open courses reach a higher proportion than average of learners with a disability, having English as second language, and having no undergraduate degree.

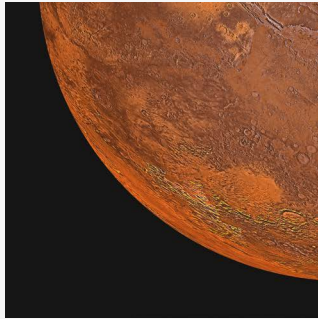
➤ **OVER 7000**
DIGITAL BADGES
GAINED BY
INFORMAL
LEARNERS

➤ **OPENLEARN**
CYMRU OFFERS
FREE LEARNING
RESOURCES IN
ENGLISH AND
WELSH


50 MILLION
VISITORS TO
OPENLEARN
SINCE ITS LAUNCH

➤ **TOP TEN**
OPENLEARN
VIDEOS VIEWED
BY **MILLIONS**

OPEN UP THINKING



Our world-leading innovative research and development ranks in the top third of UK universities.

Open University researchers are closely involved in the Trace Gas Orbiter on board ESA's ExoMars mission, which is searching for methane and other signs of life on Mars.

Since the orbiter entered Martian orbit in October 2016 its NOMAD and CaSSIS instruments have been sending back images and data to our scientists for analysis.

Our Space Exploration priority research area has been awarded grants totalling more than £1 million this year by the UK Space Agency for research on Mars and the Moon.

SPACE IS ONE OF **FIVE KEY RESEARCH THEMES** AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

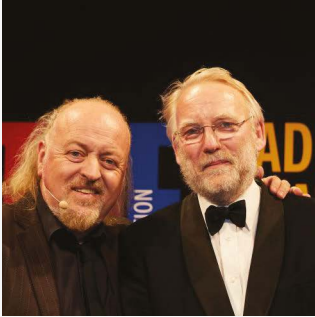


GLOBAL WARMING FROM TREES?

SUFFRAGE SCIENCE AWARD FOR CHAMPIONING **WOMEN'S CAREERS IN MATHS**

OPEN UP THINKING

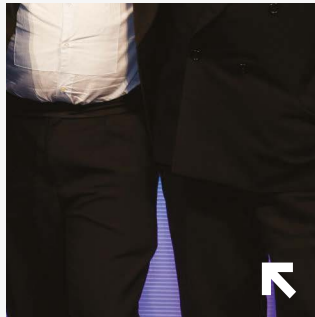
Our research is designed to have impact and change lives for the better.



 The OU's OpenSTEM labs won Outstanding Digital Innovation of the Year at this year's Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards.

OpenSTEM enables science students to carry out remote experiments by connecting to scientific instruments online, making the laboratory accessible to all.

'This innovation has far-ranging implications, not only for distance learners but also in maximising the use, impact and return on investment in specialist equipment,' the Award Judges said.



 963

RESEARCH
OUTPUTS ADDED
IN 2016/17 TO OUR
FREELY AVAILABLE
OPEN RESEARCH
ONLINE



72% OF OU
RESEARCH 'WORLD-
LEADING' OR
'INTERNATIONALLY
EXCELLENT'
(REF 2014)



6 ATHENA
SWAN AWARDS
FOR COMMITMENT
TO GENDER
EQUALITY

OPEN UP LIVES



The Open
University

**70% OF PRIMARY
STUDENTS IN
BANGLADESH
CAN NOW USE
BASIC ENGLISH
(UP FROM 36%)**

Our projects, delivered with local partners, are developing thousands of teachers and health workers in Asia and Africa.



In Bangladesh, English in Action has helped more than seven million primary and secondary school children improve their English language learning as a route out of poverty and into work. Over 53,000 classroom teachers can now access high-quality language teaching resources via low-cost mobile phones.

OpenWASH is a set of innovative learning resources on water, sanitation and hygiene we launched in 2016 in partnership with World Vision Ethiopia and UNICEF.

It is supporting the Ethiopian government's One WASH National Programme to provide safe water and improve sanitation for nearly 30 million people.

[CLICK HERE](#)

OPEN UP LIVES



We are using our expertise in large-scale open and distance learning to improve lives around the world.



Our award-winning TESS-India teacher education project is now being delivered in partnership with Save the Children India.

Since 2012, TESS-India has harnessed the power of IT to make high-quality educational resources available free to teachers, transforming the classroom experience.

The partnership with Save the Children India is now enabling TESS-India to transition from being supported by UK Government aid, to an independent and sustainable future.



TESS-INDIA HAS REACHED MORE THAN **1 MILLION** TEACHERS AND TEACHER EDUCATORS

[CLICK HERE](#)



An exceptional project with unparalleled reach, delivered at scale

Judges, Guardian University Awards 2017



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The Open University launched a revolution that has changed millions of lives, and is still going on. We are harnessing the power of education to **open up the future**.



THE LARGEST UNIVERSITY IN EUROPE WITH **173,927** STUDENTS




59 OF THE FTSE 100 SPONSORED STAFF ON OU COURSES IN 2016/17



23,630 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2016/2017



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE OU'S EQUALITY SCHEME AND OBJECTIVES



COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
2016/2017

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