GLOBAL STUDY GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Distance learning postgraduate qualifications

POSTGRADUATE GUIDE 2014
Transform your career with a globally respected UK university degree

Over 22,000 students are progressing their careers by studying at postgraduate level with us. We offer a wide selection of taught masters degrees to help you become a leader in your field.

Achieve your ambitions
For over 40 years we have helped ordinary people achieve extraordinary things; so if you want to improve your career prospects with a UK university postgraduate degree, then we’ll support you every step of the way. And if you have a disability you will find a range of support services designed with you in mind. Whatever your ambitions, make this the year you start to achieve them.

We make learning flexible
Learn at your pace – choose when to study the modules that make up your qualification. You can also select the modules which most interest you as you progress through your studies (subject to the qualification being studied).

We make learning affordable
Studying at The Open University (OU) allows you to learn while you work, and together with competitive fee charges, you’ll be pleasantly surprised at just how little a postgraduate qualification can cost.

Unrivalled support
The OU excels in its unrivalled support for students. In addition to online and email support from your tutor and tutor group, you can enrich your learning with our online community forum Platform, and access related articles and videos on our website OpenLearn. A huge range of OU resources on YouTube and iTunes U can help you expand your understanding, and you can tap into a range of enthusiastic and welcoming OU social network groups on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Did you know?
- The OU is the UK’s largest university. Over the last 25 years or so we have awarded more than 90,000 postgraduate degrees.
- The Open University Business School is triple accredited representing just 1% of Business Schools worldwide.
- OU graduates are amongst the most employable in the UK.
- The OU is the only UK university to have remained in the top five for student satisfaction since the National Student Survey began in 2005.

I was the first woman to be promoted to General Manager in the history of the company.
Irene Adler, General Manager Global Marketing at Mori Seiki, OU MBA student

So many people have started these programmes and within just a few months they are almost different people. They have different perspectives, they think differently – and of course several times these studies have brought them fantastic career opportunities within Cummins.

Derek Harnby, Recruitment Director, Cummins Ltd

For more information and to register go to www.openuniversity.edu, or call +44 845 241 6555
Why choose The Open University?

The inspiring thing about studying with The Open University is not just what you learn but how you learn. We’ve taken flexible learning to a whole new level.

1. **Flexibility**
   The OU’s range of learning techniques provide flexible learning like no other university, so you can combine your work and study commitments in a way that suits you.
   Flexibility comes in a number of ways: from where you study (either at home on the PC or on the move on your tablet or smart phone) to the time to complete and your choice of subjects.
   **FACT:** About 70 per cent of OU students work while they study.

2. **Support**
   Although you work in your own environment, you’ll never be on your own. You’ll have the opportunity to meet your fellow students in online forums, and through OUSA (our student association).
   You’ll have online and email support from a dedicated tutor throughout your studies. Many of our students who’ve studied elsewhere have said that they’ve been better supported at the OU than at their campus-based universities.
   **FACT:** The OU is the only UK university to have remained in the top five for student satisfaction since the National Student Survey began in 2005.

3. **Career transformation**
   Many of our qualifications and modules are designed by leading public and private sector industry experts and in conjunction with sector skills councils, professional bodies and employers. They draw on genuine workplace practices and real-world sector insight, and are results driven, so that new skills and knowledge can be immediately applied.
   Our professional skills qualifications and modules address a variety of sector-specific and functional roles from entry-level staff to senior managers.
   **FACT:** 80 per cent of the UK’s FTSE top 100 companies are sponsoring, or have sponsored their staff on OU courses and qualifications.

4. **Reputation**
   Our many research programmes have helped build the OU’s reputation as one of the world’s finest universities.
   We are constantly pushing back the boundaries of knowledge with discoveries that are benefiting society and helping to change the world. And because of our rigorous academic standards, OU qualifications are recognised around the world.
   Once you’ve studied with us, you’ll share the well-deserved reputation all our students have for their energy and drive. Employers large and small understand that

5. **Top class teaching**
   We have an enviable network of 7,000 tutors across the UK, many of whom are practising professionals with strong academic backgrounds, sector-specific skills and practical experience. With study materials written by OU academics who are experts in their specialist fields and in distance learning, we provide leading-edge teaching, born out of extensive research and close links with partners such as the BBC.

6. **Value for money**
   We make sure great learning is also great value, so our fees not only cover high quality study materials; they also include tutor support and free online resources.

“The level of support is fantastic and the materials are brilliant. It’s such a wonderful learning experience.”

Beverly Hooper, Open University student

Our triple accreditation from the three main business school awarding bodies reinforces our reputation as a global top-tier management education institution.

For more information and to register go to www.openuniversity.edu, or call +44 845 241 6555
There's nothing distant about us

We help ordinary people achieve extraordinary things through our unique style of flexible learning called ‘Supported Open Learning.’

It's different to other methods because it combines more personal support than other distance learning providers with more flexibility than campus-based learning. We blend the best of technology and tutoring to let you decide how you want to study.

It's this unique combination of flexibility and support that makes Supported Open Learning such a successful way to learn. Whether you're at home, at work or on the move, your tutor, study advisers and other students are as close as you need them to be – online, on email, on the phone and face to face.

Our qualification, modules and tutors are with the OU can be, but a large and lively student world's largest student community? What's it like being part of the career implications of study to how OU study works and answer questions on everything from choosing modules and or personal goals – starting now. Our advisers are on hand to We'll do everything we can to help you achieve your career from a series of individually chosen modules.

right through to a full masters degree, with qualifications built module as part of your continuing professional development You can study as little or as much as you like – from a single flexible study that allows you to call the shots With the OU, your ambition and individuality set the pace. You study at your own time – at work, at home or on the move. Wherever's easiest and most productive for you.

We offer outstanding value for money

We work hard to make sure a world-class postgraduate education is both affordable and great value. So, unlike some other universities, our fees include relevant materials, tuition and assessment – some modules may require you to buy additional books, but we limit extra costs as far as we can.

> You don’t have to pay for an entire programme upfront. Fees vary from module to module, and to make things as easy as possible for you, you pay module by module.

> Pay as you go – find out more about an account with Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd (OUSBA) and the option of paying for your study in monthly instalments as you go. You must be at least 18 years of age and credit is subject to your financial circumstances and status. See www.openuniversity.co.uk/ousba for details.

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We’ll do everything we can to help you achieve your career or personal goals – starting now. Our advisers are on hand to answer questions on everything from choosing modules and the career implications of study to how OU study works and tutorial support.

What’s it like being part of the world’s largest student community? Ask them

New students are often surprised by how social studying with the OU can be, but a large and lively student community is part and parcel of being the UK’s largest provider of part-time higher education. Whenever you log on, our online forums are alive with people like you, and the opportunity to socialise doesn’t stop when you log off. Our students regularly get together, either to attend an OU tutorial or as part of a local study group.

Find out what OU life is like before you sign up – click www.openuniversity.co.uk/platform today to chat to our friendly, helpful student community.

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Qualifications available

We offer a range of postgraduate qualifications from Master Degrees and Diplomas to Certificates and Short Courses. Below are just some of the qualifications currently available. Please check on the website or call us for an exact list of qualifications currently available in your country.

MSc in Science (F12)
This MSc degree offers an opportunity to examine some of contemporary science’s most pressing issues and to develop a wide range of skills associated with masters-level study. Two of the modules are taught and there is also a compulsory project module that allows you to undertake a substantial piece of independent research, based on the knowledge and skills you will have developed in the taught modules.

MSc in Technology Management (F36)
The MSc in Technology Management is a challenging programme that engages you both academically and professionally, giving you the opportunity to pursue an investigation or piece of research in an aspect of technology management that is of particular interest to you and perhaps also to your organisation.

MSc in Engineering (F46)
The MSc in Engineering will take your engineering education one step further by completing an extended personal research project. It builds on your previous study and takes you closer to fulfilling the educational requirements to become a Chartered Engineer (CEng).

MSc in Systems Thinking in Practice (F47)
This MSc course looks at the way you think and naturally approach a task or situation. Every person brings with them their own perspective, which means that we all see things in different ways. The discipline of systems thinking in practice will provide you with the tools to challenge your approach to complex situations; to consider the roles other people play; to assess how all the different components within that situation are related; and to provide you with the skills to think more holistically and to work more collaboratively to avoid systemic failures.

MSc in Science and Society (F48)
This MSc course is for those who want to explore aspects of science and society at postgraduate level. It offers an opportunity to pursue contemporary issues in science communication, science education and public engagement with science, using the innovative teaching methods pioneered by The Open University, and to develop a wide range of skills associated with masters-level study.

MSc in Earth Science (F53)
This qualification explores current aspects of Earth science, investigating how the interactions between the Earth’s lithosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere are dependent upon each other and interact at a variety of temporal and spatial scales. You will learn to critically evaluate current research and gain skills that allow you to update your knowledge of Earth science.

MSc in Advanced Networking (F56)
This masters degree course consists of a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Networking and an MSc dissertation. The postgraduate diploma consists of four professional vocational modules, which include the Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) materials. The postgraduate diploma will provide you with the knowledge, understanding, and skills needed to install, configure and maintain local and wide area networks. You will be provided with hands-on experience of configuring networks at day schools and using online tools.

MSc in Professional Science (F60)
The MSc in Professional Science is an innovative masters degree designed to allow you to pursue advanced training in science, while simultaneously developing business and workplace skills highly valued by employers. This qualification enables you to explore scientific topics at postgraduate level and also have an interest in how science relates to the world of business.

MBA (F61)
The emphasis for your learning is directly rooted in management practice – the ‘Master’ in the degree title signifies your ‘mastery’ of the art and science of management. To achieve this level of capability the programme concentrates on strategic analysis, interdisciplinary skills, intellectual stimulation and independent judgement. It builds these upon a solid foundation of core disciplines, including human resource management, organisational behaviour, accounting and finance, marketing and operations.

MSc in Medicinal Chemistry (F62)
This postgraduate degree course enables you to study aspects of medicinal chemistry that explore the links between disease, mechanisms of action and the development of safe, effective commercial drugs. You have the opportunity to pursue these topics across a number of different disease therapies using the innovative teaching methods pioneered by The Open University, while developing a wide range of skills associated with masters-level study.

Master of Laws (LLM) (F64)
The LLM is designed for law graduates, non-law graduates and lawyers wanting to develop their interests in law at postgraduate level. It provides a broad education in law and postgraduate legal research and is suitable for study by those with a personal or professional interest in law.

MSc in Environmental Management (F65)
With this MSc course you can expand your knowledge of environmental management and develop the skills to participate in more effective, informed and creative environmental decision making. It is the highest level of qualification within the environmental management programme and enables you to build on your studies at postgraduate certificate and diploma levels with in-depth research of a topic that you choose yourself.

MSc in Computing (F66)
This masters degree is designed for those with a bachelors degree in computing or a related discipline, or who have extensive industrial experience in this area. This qualification brings together theory and practice and allows you to draw on your own background and experience. With the aim of developing a professional approach to the study and application of computing this qualification incorporates study and transferable skills applicable to your employment and continuing professional development.

MEng (M04)
This integrated masters degree course in engineering builds on recent and previous study and offers you an opportunity to fulfill the educational requirements for Chartered Engineer (CEng) status. Entry to this qualification is via our BEng (Hons). The key limitation is that the MEng needs to be completed within four years from the date of graduation of the undergraduate degree.
FAQs

Can I study in any country?
Please use the Course Finder menu at www.openuniversity.edu to see what courses are available in your country.

Is an OU qualification recognised in my country?
An OU degree is equal in academic standard to a degree from any other British university. The University is subject to the same quality assurance procedures, through the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), as all other British universities, and uses external assessors and examiners to ensure comparability of standard and level in its courses.
A leaflet is available on how you can apply for formal recognition in your country. To download the leaflet, please go to www.openuniversity.edu/brochures/recognition.pdf.

What tutor support will I receive?
The OU excels in its unrivalled support for students. You’ll have email and online support from a tutor and you will be able to discuss your study in online tutor group discussions, using our customised learning environment. Our community websites Platform and OpenLearn offer a different perspective on your subject, and a huge range of OU resources on websites YouTube and iTunes U can expand your understanding.

Are there any entry requirements?
To gain entry to our postgraduate programmes you’ll normally need an undergraduate degree or equivalent. However, your previous work experience and study, or qualifications from other higher-education institutions, may all count towards programme entry.
As part of the registration process, you also will be asked to confirm your proficiency in English. (If you are unsure, you can take a short online test, which you will find when completing the online registration form.)

Can I count previous study towards an OU qualification?
Any higher-education level studies you’ve successfully completed elsewhere may count towards your OU degree or other qualification. We enable you to do this by awarding you a certain amount of ‘transferred credit’. By transferring credit gained from previous study, you can reduce the amount you need from OU study to achieve your qualification. For more information please go to www.openuniversity.edu.

How do you work towards a qualification?
We measure the size of our qualifications in credits - you need 60 credits for the certificate, 120 credits for the diploma and 180 credits for the masters degree.

How long does it take?
Our qualifications are designed to be flexible. So if you want to vary the amount of time you spend studying, you can. The table below is a guide on the time required, but call us today to discuss how you can vary the study intensity and therefore the time taken to complete your course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate qualifications</th>
<th>Credits required</th>
<th>Time required to complete</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1 year part-time study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters degree</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3-4 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For illustrative purposes only – in most cases you can vary the number of credits taken per year and therefore the time taken to complete the course.

How much will it cost?
The table below gives an indication of our price bands for a postgraduate qualification, based on current fees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Price band</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>£3,000 - £6,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Science</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computing</td>
<td>£6,000 - £10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
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<td>Information Systems</td>
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<td>Development Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Systems Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBA</td>
<td>£19,315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: prices are approximate and subject to change. Please check our website or call us for latest details.

When can I start?
Open University courses start throughout the year. To see when your course next starts please visit www.openuniversity.edu.

Can I meet and network with other students?
Definitely – when you start with the OU you automatically become a member of the Open University Student Association (OUSA). OUSA also runs a popular student forum site. For more information, go to www.ousa.org.uk.
Once you have gained your qualification, you can join the OU Alumni Association, our vibrant and active alumni community with 280,000 members worldwide. You will enjoy many membership benefits, including regular newsletters, good networking opportunities and access to the alumni website.

How is my privacy protected?
We record your personal information when you contact us and use this to manage registration, study, examination and other services. When you register, we’ll tell you more about how we process and use your personal information.

When should I apply?
Apply as early as you can – particularly if you wish to claim for credit for previous study. Registration open dates are shown in the Courses section on each qualification page at www.openuniversity.edu.

For more information and to register go to www.openuniversity.edu, or call +44 845 241 6555.
What do I need to do next?

It takes just 2 simple steps.
Begin the process to secure your place. Here’s how easy it is.

1. Register now

Go to www.openuniversity.edu, select the Courses section and the degree you require.
Alternatively call us on +44 845 241 6555.
Don’t worry, you don’t need to pay anything at this stage.
As soon as you have registered you’ll get an email confirmation which contains your login details.

2. Choose your first module, make payment to enrol

Before you start studying you will need to choose and register on your first module and arrange payment; instructions for doing so will be emailed to you.
Once complete you will officially be an OU student — welcome!