



The Open  
University  
Y Brifysgol  
Agored

Wales Cymru

# Pathways to Success in Higher Education

## Using FREE online resources

An Open University in Wales initiative based on OU OpenLearn materials, developed by Eleri Chilcott, Brec'hed Piette, Elaine Jones & Helen Griffiths.





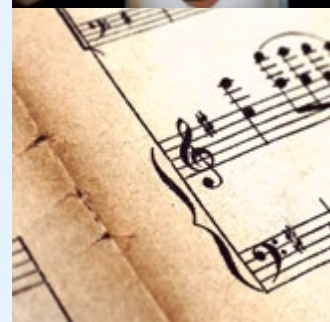
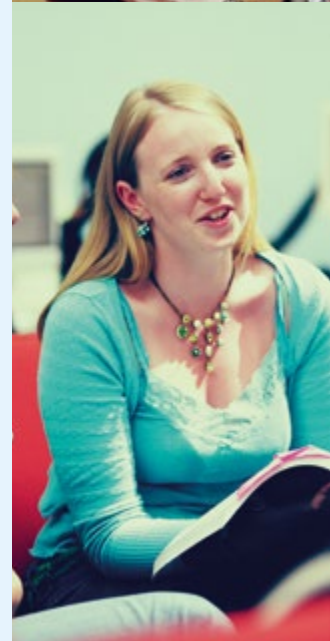
**Your  
journey  
starts  
here**

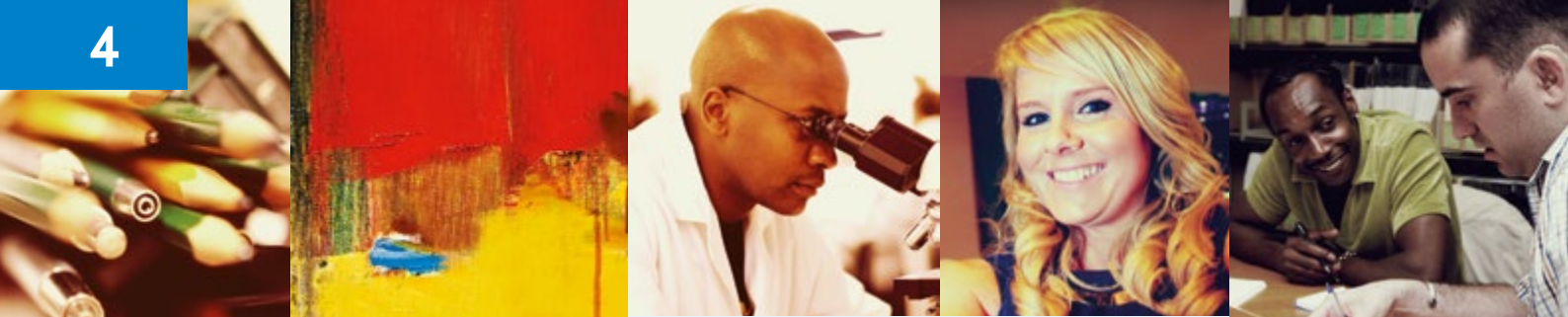
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Rob Humphreys, Cerys Furlong, Jo Hodgetts, Gayle Hudson, Kevin Pascoe, Tracey Marengi, Michelle Matheron, The DOVE Workshops, Western Valley Communities First Partnership and The Glynneath Training Centre.





# Welcome

**Welcome to The Open University in Wales 'Pathways to Success in Higher Education' guide. This brochure has been developed through our Widening Access work and will give you an insight into higher education study and help you prepare for accredited learning.**

The Open University offers part time supported distance learning. This means you can study from home (or anywhere else) and fit your studies around work and life commitments. This is an excellent option for learners who need more flexibility in their study.

All Open University courses offer credits at higher education level and can be taken either individually or as part of a recognised qualification.

There will be many reasons why you are thinking of enrolling on a higher education course. Perhaps you feel you haven't yet fulfilled your educational potential; you are keen to up skill to improve your career opportunities; or you simply want to learn more about a subject of interest.

However, if you are not sure if you are ready for accredited study or what subject to take, or if you are perhaps uncertain about the cost, this guide can help you prepare for formal study without taking up too much time and without spending money. All you need is access to the internet.

Using a range of online materials from the Open University's award winning OpenLearn resources this guide will enable you to tailor some informal study to your own interests and goals and help you get started on the road to success.

So good luck on your learning journey, who knows where it may take you!

We wish you well with your future studies.



**Rob Humphreys**

*Director of the Open University in Wales.*



# Meet the Team

## Widening Access

The OU in Wales Widening Access work recognises education and skill development is a key element in helping to tackle poverty and increase opportunities for communities. Through a range of outreach projects it offers flexible learning opportunities to provide the first steps and progression into higher education.



**Eleri Chilcott** *Widening Access Manager*

Eleri is Widening Access Manager for the Open University in South Wales; with responsibility for coordinating learning pathway projects with a range of training providers, voluntary organisations and community partnerships, to increase access to Open University study. Eleri returned to education after leaving school with few qualifications. Now a history graduate she has many years' experience in the field of lifelong learning.

**Contact details:** [Wales-partnerships@open.ac.uk](mailto:Wales-partnerships@open.ac.uk)



**Gayle Hudson** *Widening Access Manager*

Gayle is Widening Access Manager for the Open University in North & Mid Wales; she leads a number of projects and initiatives with community partners, to engage those interested in taking up learning and providing access and information about Open University study. Gayle has a background in the community and voluntary sector. She's a graduate of Swansea University and has a post graduate degree with The Open University.

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## Employer Engagement



**Kevin Pascoe** *Employer Engagement Manager*

Kevin is Employer Engagement Manager for the Open University in Wales and leads on work with employers, trades unions, professional bodies and Sector Skills Councils. His role is to increase the number of learners in the workplace accessing flexible learning pathways developed by the OU. His work with employers and unions covers a wide range of professional and vocational areas, particularly around health, social care, business, IT and science.

**Contact details:** [Wales-employers@open.ac.uk](mailto:Wales-employers@open.ac.uk)



**Jo Hodgetts** *Administrative Assistant*

Joanne Hodgetts is the Administrative Assistant for the Widening Access, Employer Engagement, External Policy and Public Affairs Teams. Working closely with Eleri, Gayle and Kevin she is based at The Open University offices' in Cardiff. She is the main point of contact for external enquirers and provides administrative support and assistance to the team. She graduated from The University of Plymouth with a B.A.(Honours) degree in Business Administration.

**Contact details:** [Wales-partnerships@open.ac.uk](mailto:Wales-partnerships@open.ac.uk) [Wales-employers@open.ac.uk](mailto:Wales-employers@open.ac.uk)

# OpenLearn

**OpenLearn is a free website resource provided by the Open University where you can “dip into” different aspects of informal study before deciding if and where you would like to study more formally.**

**The OpenLearn website allows access to a vast range of resources but it can sometimes feel a little confusing if you are not sure of which direction you would like your study to take.**

The “Pathways to Success” (**PTS**) guide will allow you to follow a structured programme of informal study using the OpenLearn resources while encouraging you to explore lots of possible options for future accredited learning opportunities.

Blue pathway

Orange pathway

Green pathway

# and the “Pathway to Success” guide:

This guide needs to be used in conjunction with the OpenLearn website and resources. You will need the internet to access the courses referenced in this guide.

It is also designed to improve your study skills as you progress along *your* “**Pathway**” so that if you do decide to study in a more formal manner you will be well prepared.

You may not be sure of where your interests lie, or you may already have some ideas. For this reason a series of short “Tasters” in different subject areas are available – you can dip into whichever ones interest you and then progress to other units in your chosen area of study.

You can do as many or as few units as you feel you require but the idea is that an inexperienced learner will need to do more units than an experienced learner to prepare them for formal study.

The overview on page 9 shows how you can move along the different “**Pathways**”

and where more detailed information on all of the pathways can be found throughout guide. When you are ready, follow the instructions on page 8 to get started.

The online **PTS** Guide you will see when you log onto the **PTS** website is the same as this hard copy of the guide but contains hyperlinks to the Open Learn site. Click on the hyperlink to open up the unit, where you can explore tasters, more substantial units and some units that will help improve your study skills if needed.

You can also record your progress through the **PTS** programme in your Personal Achievement Record at the back of this Guide.

# Let's get started!

You can access these courses by clicking on the PTS webpage – [www.open.ac.uk/wales/pathways](http://www.open.ac.uk/wales/pathways)



This is **YOUR** booklet so feel free to write all over it and make it your own.

First of all, fill in your name below.

Name: .....

## Are there Exams or Assessments?


As this is an informal pathway of study, there is no assessment so when you do any quizzes and activities etc, there will be no final mark. However there is a Certificate of Completion that can be claimed at the end.

## Do I have to do a whole unit at once?

Each unit has a total number of hours which is a suggestion as to how long it will take to complete. However you don't have to do a complete unit in one sitting. When you want to stop, note down which section you are on, using the section numbers you will see on the left hand side of the page. Then you will know where to go back to, when you start your next study session.

## What happens if I get lost in the OpenLearn site?

We suggest you should save the online Pathways to Success Page as a favourite or bookmark (follow instructions on page 11). Doing this means that if you get lost in OpenLearn, you can just click on your "Favourite" or "Bookmark" link again to get back to the Pathways Page.

When you see the **PTS** icon,  it means you should **return to the online PathwaysPage**.

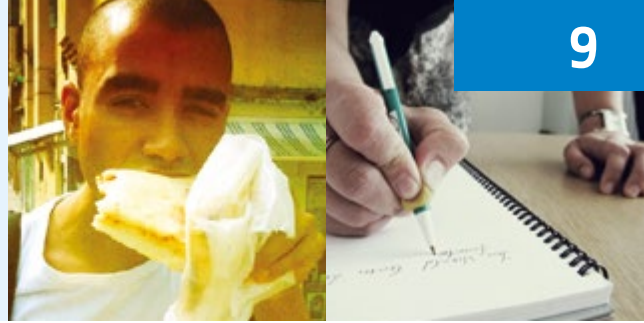
### NOTE:

The OpenLearn site is a vast resource with occasional glitches in the system so if you find a unit doesn't load, it may be a site problem. Leave it for now and come back at another time when it should work. It doesn't matter if you can't access every unit.

The OpenLearn site pages also have enticing links to extra information and activities to do with the subject you are looking at. It is very tempting to click on these and of course, you are free to do this but **BEWARE** of the dangers of being distracted in this way and not completing your actual study goal. Try to stick to your plan.



# PTS Guide overview



Start Here

Read Introduction

Navigate to the PTS webpage

## TRY SOME TASTERS

Arts  
(eg. History)

Social Sciences  
(eg. Psychology)

Health and Social Care  
(eg. Social work)

Science  
(eg. Biology)

Choose your Pathway to Success

Plan your learning

## FOLLOW YOUR SUBJECT PATHWAY

**Blue pathway**  
Inexperienced learners  
(approx 50 hours study)

**Orange pathway**  
Learners with some experience  
(approx 25 hours of study)

**Green pathway**  
Experienced learners  
(approx 12 hours of study)

Additional study skills as required

Claim your Certificate of Achievement

Further information



# Getting started with PTS online

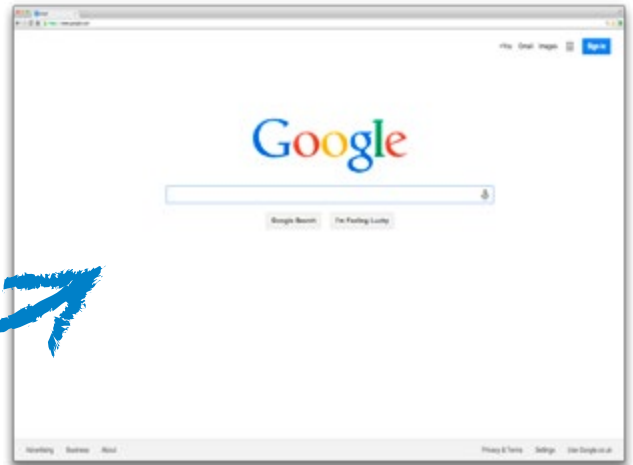


You must have a device with access to the Internet (computer, tablet, Smartphone).

1

Open up the Internet using your preferred browser, e.g. Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox. In the URL box type: [www.open.ac.uk/wales/pathways](http://www.open.ac.uk/wales/pathways)

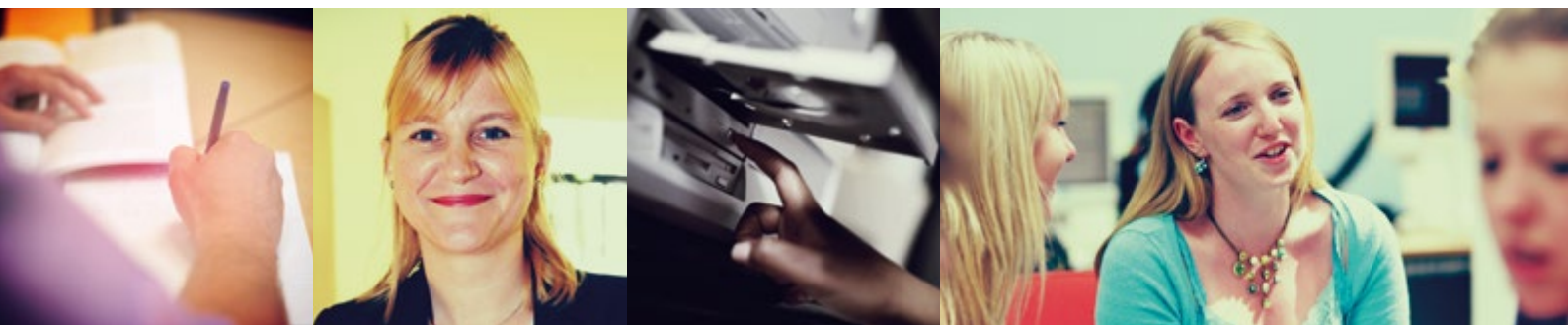
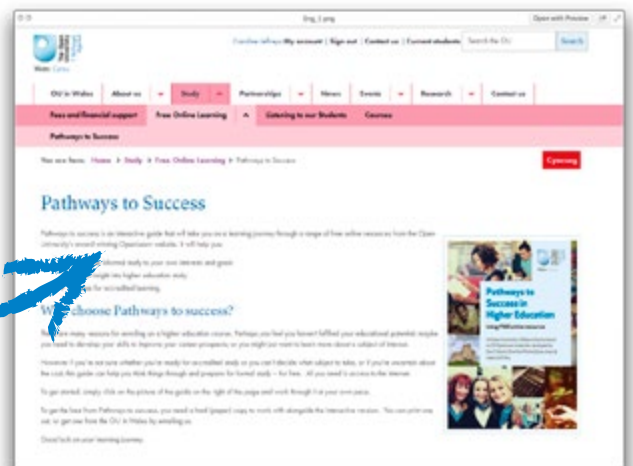
OpenLearn works best with the most up to date version of your browser – Internet explorer 9 or above, Google Chrome or Firefox.



2

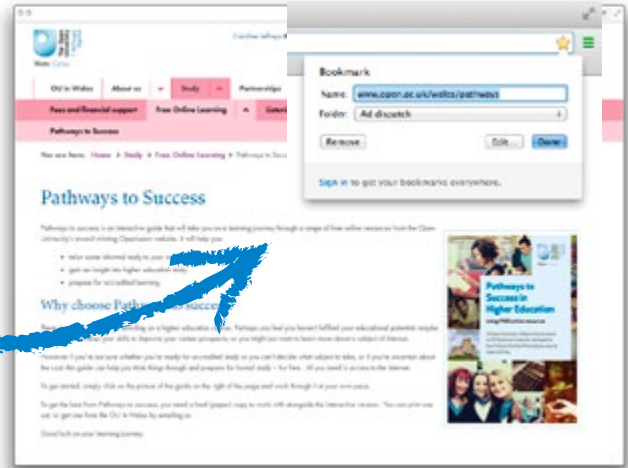
This will take you to the Pathways to Success page on the Open University in Wales Webpage.

You may wish to save this page as a “Favourite” in your computer so you can easily access it again.



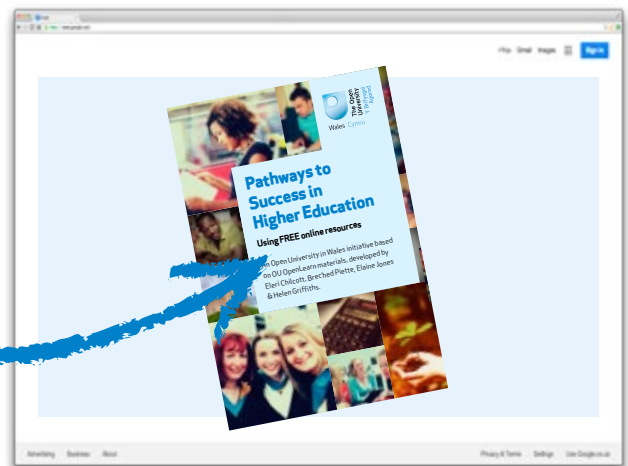
3

If you are using Google Chrome as your browser you can save the page as a Bookmark.



4

Click on the "Pathways to Success Guide" on the right hand side.



This will take you to an online copy of the **PTS** guide which has interactive hyper links that you can use to access the various OpenLearn units detailed throughout the brochure.

Once you have opened the online **PTS** guide, work through it in conjunction with your hard copy booklet at a time and a pace that suits you.

The page numbers are the same so you can see where you are in both versions at all times and remember to keep recording your progress in your Personal Achievement Record at the back of this Guide.


The different **PTS** routes detailed in this guide are: Art and Humanities, Social Science & Psychology, Health & Social Care and Science.

You may not be sure of where your interests lie, or you may already have some ideas but you can explore a taste of what's available through the links below.

Try as many or as few as you like to help you decide which of the "**Pathways**" you would like to follow.

On the online copy of the **PTS** guide click on the tasters below that look interesting and work your way through each short unit.

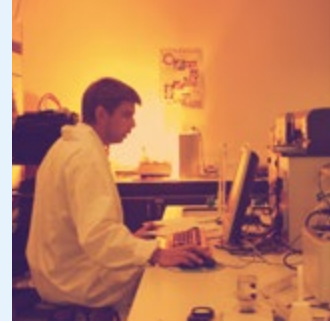
At the end of each taster unit you will need to return to the online copy of the **PTS** Guide (on the **PTS** website page) to try another taster in the list below

\*\* Remember to use your "Favourite" or "Bookmark" link you set up on page 10 to take you back to the **PTS** website each time you see this icon 



# PTS Tasters

You can access these courses by clicking on the PTS webpage – [www.open.ac.uk/wales/pathways](http://www.open.ac.uk/wales/pathways)



## ART AND HUMANITIES TASTERS

### PTS 20th century composers:

Explore the world of 20th century classical and avant-garde music through the composers and the fascinating connections that exist between them.

### PTS Masterpiece me:

Ever wanted to see how Warhol might have made you look? What about Monet or Picasso? Here's your chance...

### PTS Julius Caesar & the people:

The role of the public is explored in this behind the scenes video from the RSC's production of Julius Caesar.

### PTS The end is nigh... or is it?:

## SOCIAL SCIENCE AND PSYCHOLOGY TASTERS

### PTS Boardroom Lottery:

What are your chances of reaching the top of the career ladder based on your gender, age, ethnic group and more? Play our Boardroom Lottery challenge to find out.

### PTS City Road, Cardiff: suburban thoroughfare

This looks at the changing character and communities of City Road, Cardiff from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century.

### PTS Understanding what others think:

This example of how young children understand what others think shows some of the ways in which research is carried out into the psychology of child development.

The world was supposed to end on 21 December 2012. Here's why it didn't.

### PTS Would all religions benefit from having women leaders?:

Would greater participation by women in religion at leadership level enrich different religions?

### PTS 60 second adventures in religion:

Ever wondered why Karl Marx thought religion was like Opium - or whether religion is possible without a god? This 60 second animation examines different ways that religion has been viewed by non-religious thinkers.

### PTS The Language of Baking across Europe:

Read and listen to the language of bakeries and cake shops across eight European countries by exploring our map. Find out about regional and cultural differences.

### PTS 60 second adventures in Economics:

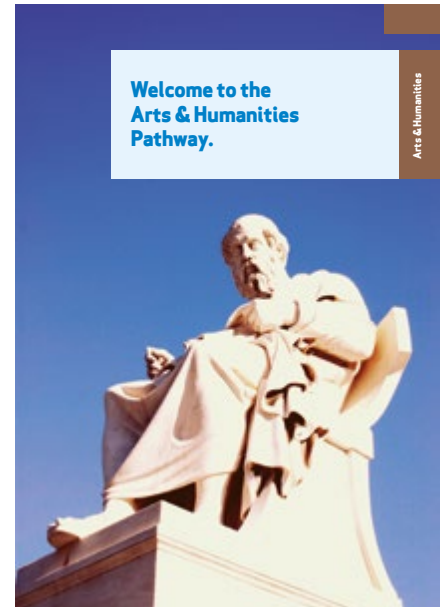
The first of these 60 second adventures explains the nature of the market place. There are several of these very brief animations that explain a number of economic concepts.

### PTS A short history of (mis) representing poverty:

This extract looks at how poverty and people experiencing poverty has been represented and misrepresented by academics, policy makers and the media.

### PTS Can you identify the criminal?:

This extract guides you through the eyewitness experience by viewing a crime and identity parade.





## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TASTERS

### PTS Managing long-term health conditions:

Could you balance your work and social life with medication regimes? Would you be able to advise a friend?

### PTS What do you know about Pain?:

Can you make it through our pain quiz unscathed? How much do you know about getting hurt?

### PTS OCD Quiz:

Test your knowledge of OCD with this interactive quiz.

### PTS What is Autism?:

There are lots of myths out there about autism that are waiting to be busted. Take our quiz to see if you know what's what.

## SCIENCE TASTER

### PTS Gene therapy:

This unit looks at the possibilities for genetic therapies.

### PTS Seven wonders of the microbe world:

These videos provide an engaging introduction to microbiology, by examining the impact microbes have had on humans through a historical perspective, from Egyptian times to the present day.

### PTS Neighbourhood Nature:

This unit will provide you with basic scientific and observational skills so that you can go into your local neighbourhood to discover the animals and plants in open spaces.

### PTS Introducing the Environment:

### PTS Working for Health (podcast album):

This album will give you an insight into the debates that surround health, and enable you to appreciate and review your own and alternative standpoints and values in this important area of study.

### PTS The joy of stats: Florence Nightingale:

Famous for her lamp, it was the light shed by Florence Nightingale's statistics that really saved lives in great numbers.

### PTS Olympsize me:

Have you ever wondered which sport you're most physically suited to? Play this interactive game to find out if you've got what it takes.

This unit looks at exploring the effect that humans are having on the environment.

### PTS Be a lab rat:

Try some science for yourself

### PTS Interactive elements:

Explore the impact of chemical elements on our bodies, our world, and see how they changed the course of history.

### PTS Have you found a meteorite?:

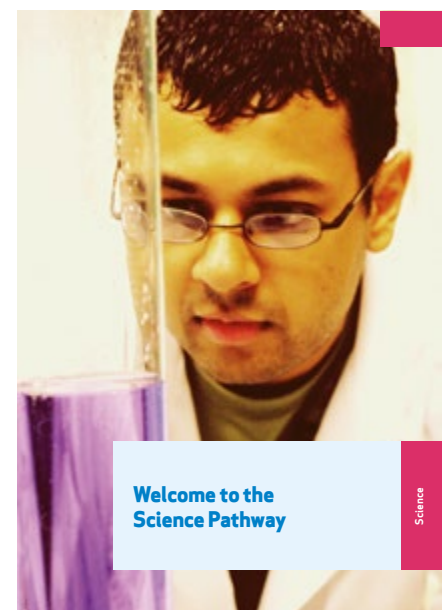
There's a simple test which can tell if you've found a rock - or something extra-terrestrial.

### PTS Calculating my carbon footprint:

This unit seeks to explain what makes up a personal carbon footprint, and to identify alternative options in calculating one.



Health and Social Care



Science



# Choosing your Pathway to Success



**Now you have tried out some tasters, it's time to choose what to do next.**

## “I’m not ready for this!”

Perhaps you have realised you aren't quite ready for entry to Higher Education yet. There may be other, more appropriate courses to suit you in your local area. You may like to brush up on your literacy, numeracy or IT skills or maybe you are looking for a more practical subject to study. Look at what your local FE College offers or try Adult Learning classes. If you are in a Trade Union, talk to your Union learning rep.

## “I really enjoyed the language taster”

If you would like to try learning a new language, look on the Openlearn site. You will see a SEARCH box near the top of the right hand side of the page. Type in the name of your chosen language and click on one of the links provided to find a suitable unit of study for you to follow on your own.

**If you plan to continue with PTS decide below which pathway you would like to follow**



### Arts and Humanities,

a range of subjects that give you the opportunity to explore human culture through its art, history, literature, music and religions. This pathway should give you more understanding of the world

we live in and how we got to where we are.



### Health and Social Care

looks at how we provide help and care for those in need or vulnerable. Such work offers a unique sense of fulfilment. The current focus in frontline health and social care is on

giving service-users more independence, choice and control. These developments mean there's greater demand for well-trained people across a range of rewarding jobs.



### Social Science and Psychology

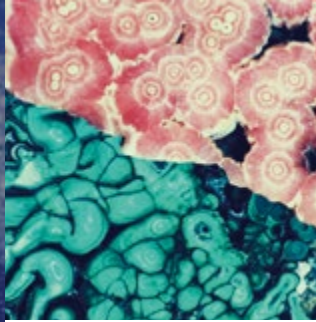
tackles some of the key questions in the study of society and individuals. Why do places carry meaning for people? What are our rights as citizens? Why are we so fascinated by crime?

What shapes our identity and why? This pathway will stimulate your curiosity, encourage you to challenge assumptions, to understand yourself and the world we live in.



**Science** is all around us, continuously unfolding and giving us the chance to improve our world's social and economic future. Studying the Science pathway will enhance your understanding of the world, and contribute to

your intellectual and personal development.



## Which route should I follow?

(tick the box that applies to you)



- Blue pathway
**Blue route:** I haven't studied much before
- Orange pathway
**Orange route:** I have studied at level 3 or A level but it was a long time ago
- Green pathway
**GREEN route:** I have studied before at higher education level but not with The Open University

- Blue pathway
The **blue route** is for those who have little experience of previous study.
- Orange pathway
The **orange route** is for those who have some experience of previous study at level 3, but perhaps a long time ago and/ or in a very different study area.
- Green pathway
The **green route** is for those who are experienced at study and are just looking for a fairly brief refresher before moving on to a higher education course.

### My chosen pathway is:

(tick the one you have chosen)

- Arts & Humanities
- Social Science and Psychology
- Health & Care
- Science

### Days/times when I plan to study:

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**How much time I plan to study each week:**  
(don't be too ambitious – be realistic!)

hrs

# Planning your study



**Planning your study path will help you focus on what you need to do and how you will do it. Read through the next two sections on thinking about learning and planning your study time before getting started on your chosen Pathway.**

## Keeping a learning diary

Thinking about your learning can help you plan your study based on your thoughts, feelings and actions as you study. It helps you learn more about ways of study that suit you. As we don't always remember our thoughts, it's a good idea to write down some of this thinking to motivate you to keep going with your study.

## Things you might note down

- what, when, where and how you studied and how you felt about it
- what went well and what is not going so well
- how might you change things to improve the not going so well areas.

The real value of this information is what you do with it. Keep these notes all together, perhaps in a small notebook or a loose-leaf file. Doing this means you can read over what you have written every couple of weeks and pick up trends in how you learn best. For example:

- What circumstances were best for studying?
- What sessions went well and why?
- What did you do if you got stuck/lost concentration/felt unmotivated?
- What changes can you make that might improve things?

## Here is an extract from Tim's Diary:

**10 Feb:** Have worked out timetable for study. Will try to stick to it! Will try to do an hour a day - every day - morning and evening, even at the weekends.

9.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Started on Unit. Didn't cover many pages but have done the activities and made some notes to help me remember. Worried about how long it's taking. Didn't really feel like working this evening though - bit tired after meeting at work and didn't get home until 8.30. The whole thing was a real struggle and I can't say that I enjoyed it.

**11 Feb:** 6.30 a.m. to 7 a.m. - Good progress this morning. Getting up at 6.30 isn't nearly as bad as I thought it'd be. Still worried about how long I'm taking to work through this unit though.

Didn't manage anything this evening - Wanted to watch the football and then not in the mood.

**12th Feb:** 6.30 a.m. to 7 a.m. - Did usual half-hour this morning. Achieved quite a lot - made me feel really good. Stopping to look at the study book breaks time up. Too tired to study when I got home. I'm already behind my schedule.

**13 Feb:** didn't do any studying!

## What Tim learned from doing this:

“It's amazing – I can see things that I didn't see before. For example, I can see that I'm really a 'morning' person so I should avoid studying late at night as it doesn't work. Also I was trying to be too ambitious – will replan my schedule to be more realistic. I can see it's worth studying for half an hour or so at a time - over a week it adds up.”

## To get you started thinking about your study needs, write your responses to these questions:

If you were asked why you have chosen to study with Pathways to Success, what would you reply? What do you hope to get out of it and why now?

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# Planning your time



## Are you a Lark?



## or an Owl?



(In other words, do you concentrate better in the early morning or late at night?)

**Carol found she could get through a lot in an hour if she studied in the early mornings when the children were still asleep. If she studied in the evening, it was much more difficult to concentrate as the children were in and out.**

## MAKE TIME FOR STUDY:

When time is tight, decide what is not going to be done - or will have to be done differently - by remembering the **4Ds**

## TOP TIPS FOR BETTER STUDY

- Work out when you can study, taking into account your other commitments.
- Do the most difficult work when your concentration is strongest.
- Try studying with music – background music helps some people to concentrate.
- Involve family/friends – tell them about your studies and explain what you are learning in your own words (this helps your own learning).
- Get some fresh air and exercise before or after a study session ('Before' can make you more alert, 'After' can help you relax).
- Be flexible - "I'm a morning person, but I might do a bit before dinner if I'm home early. Studying for half an hour at a time adds up over a week."

### Do it

(don't just worry about having to do it).

### Dump it

(Does it really need to be done?).

### Delegate it

(get someone else to do it).

### Do it less well

(does it have to be perfect?).

## DEALING WITH DISTRACTIONS

Sometimes it's difficult to study because of distractions. These can be real (e.g. your child needs attention), but they can also be ways of putting things off. So if it's a real distraction – deal with it. If it is a way of putting things off – ignore it and get on with your study

**Research has shown that successful students are not necessarily those with most intelligence, more often it is those with the determination to keep going through "thick and thin".**

**Successful study = 20% ability + 80% determination**

# Troubleshooting guide



**I find it difficult to get down to studying**

Set small goals for your study session with rewards at the end e.g. **'I'll read this section before I make that coffee'**.

**Do a deal with yourself** - 'I can go to the pub tomorrow if I study tonight'.

**Just do it!** Often the task doesn't take as long as you expected.

**Stop at a good bit** – it makes it easier to start again.

**I'm easily distracted**

**Tell family it's your study time and put phone on hold.**

**Avoid a big meal or alcohol before you study.**

**Organise your study space so it's comfortable & you can find everything easily.**

**I can't seem to stick at it for long**

**Have a quick break every half hour.**

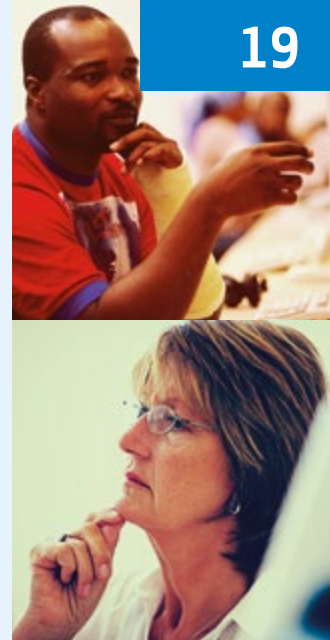
**Mark or highlight the parts which are holding you up and move on past them** - return to them when you have read more, often it will make more sense then.

**Sometimes I'm too tired to study**

**Do the lighter things** - watch a relevant video extract or organise your notes.

# Reviewing your progress

It is a good idea to review your progress and to reflect on how things are going during the course of your studies. You might like to do a brief review at the beginning of a study session, or if you have a few minutes to spare after completing a unit.



**These are questions you can ask to help your reflection. Questions 1 and 2 would be useful to consider early on in your studies.**

## 1. Interest and difficulty of modules.

**a)** for each module completed (including tasters) did you find the module – very interesting/enjoyable, fairly interesting/enjoyable, not interesting / enjoyable?

If you rated any modules as not interesting/enjoyable, do you know why this was?

**Our comment – this is quite a common experience for students but provided you rated most of the modules as very or fairly interesting or enjoyable, this should not put you off your studying too much.**

**b)** for each module completed, did you find it – quite easy/straightforward, some difficult areas but generally ok, most of it was quite difficult?

If you rated a module as 'most of it quite difficult', can you work out which aspects of it caused you difficulty?

**Our comment – getting used to academic language and new words is quite a challenge when you are beginning to study, but the more you read the easier it gets. Often reading things over a second time will help to make it clearer. If one section of a module is difficult it's often a good idea to skip that section, carry on and come back to it later.**

## 2. Finding time for study.

Which of the following statements reflects your experience –

I have found a regular time to study and generally stick to it.

I don't have a specific time to study, but do so when I feel I'm in the right frame of mind.

I am finding it very difficult to fit studying into my schedule.

**Our comment – most successful students have a routine to their studies, but don't worry if you have to deviate from this because of other demands. Just try and get back into a routine when you can. Waiting until you are in the mood for studying is not usually a good strategy as it can mean that your studying may become rather infrequent!**

Questions 3, 4 and 5 suggest ways of reflecting on your progress as you move through the programme.

## 3. Your particular interests and the future.

Do you have a clear idea, which subject areas you are interested in following in the future? Are you thinking about registering for a course with the OU or another provider? Do you know how to do this, or do you need to find out a bit more about which courses are available?

## 4. Your studies and your life.

Have you found yourself making links with things you have been studying about when doing other things, for instance watching the news, or talking to friends? Have you talked about some of the new ideas you have come across with friends and family? Have any of them shown interest in the Open Learn site?

## 5. Finally, any surprises?

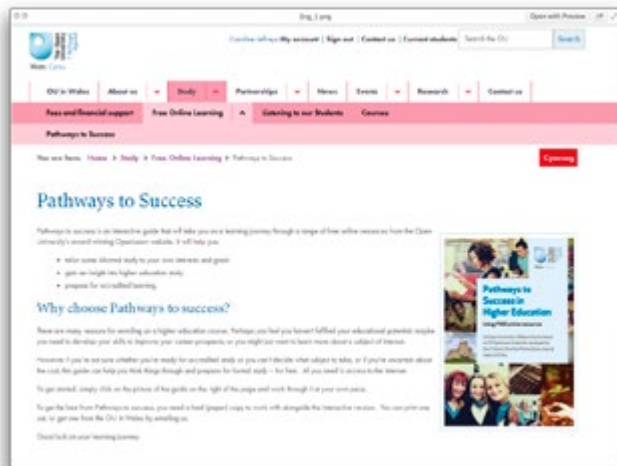
This could be from something you have studied, for instance new information on a subject you already knew about.

Or perhaps something about yourself, for instance that you are interested in a subject or area that prior to your studying you knew nothing about.

# Pathways to Success



Now it's time to start your Pathway so go back online to the PTS webpage to get started.



Open the online copy of the **PTS** guide then in the **PTS** section go to subject pathway (Arts, Social Science, Health & Social Care or Science) and the colour route (blue, orange or green) you chose on page 15, work through the relevant online section of the guide whilst following in the printed booklet.

As before you will need to click on the title of each subject unit in the online copy of the PTS guide to access the Openlearn course. Then once you have finished the unit you will need to return to the online copy of the PTS Guide (on the PTS website page) to continue with your pathway

So remember to use your "Favourite" or "Bookmark" link you set up to take you back to the PTS page at the end of each unit when you see this icon **PTS**

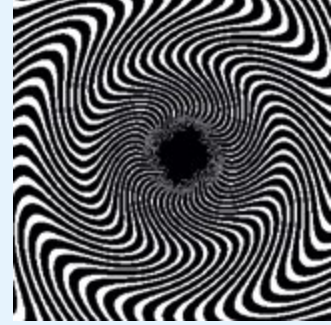
**Also remember to keep recording your progress in your Personal Achievement Record on page 43.**



# Welcome to the Arts & Humanities Pathway.



# Welcome to the Arts & Humanities Pathway.



The Arts & Humanities pathway includes several subject areas. Depending on your interests, and the amount of previous study experience that you have, we recommend that you follow different routes through this pathway.

## Blue pathway

The **blue route** is for those who have little experience of previous study.

## Orange pathway

The **Orange route** is for those who have some experience of previous study at level 3, but perhaps a long time ago and/ or in a very different study area.

## Green pathway

The **Green route** is for those who are experienced at study and are just looking for a fairly brief refresher before moving on to a higher education course.

The hours given here and throughout the pathway are approximate, and you may find yourself taking more or less time than what is indicated.

On the Blue and Orange pathways we will be suggesting an order for you to follow the units. Each pathway will include units focusing on the Arts plus units which are more focused on study skills. We suggest that you follow the order that we suggest so that you develop skills at the same time as learning about content.

For each of these routes there will also be choices according to subject interests.

## Blue pathway

Let's start with

### PTS Studying Arts & Humanities

**(4 hours)** Go to the online PTS page where there are links to all the units in the Arts Pathway, and get going now on this unit. You can stop at any time and come back to the unit when you next have some time for study.

**This is a good introduction to study in this area. Here is the first activity you are asked to do:**

### Activity One:

Write down your reasons for choosing this pathway

**By the time you finish this unit, the idea of studying should seem less daunting  
Keep going- you can do it!**

Now think a little more about yourself and your goals. We suggest that you use the

### PTS Reflection Toolkit

**(5 hours approximately)** We hope you found this interesting, and that you have a better idea of why you want to study, and your goals for the future. If you have started a reflection log then you can continue to use this throughout the whole of your Pathway to Success

**NOW TRY:**

### PTS An Introduction to Material Culture

**(2 hours)** which uses video clips, photos and text to help us to notice objects in our lives and what they say about us.

### PTS Commemoration

**(4 hours)** Continues the examination of objects, -



Working through this unit will develop your skills of looking at a picture and of reading in a critical way (critical here doesn't mean to criticise, it means the ability to stand back and evaluate something).

### PTS **War Memorials and Commemoration**

**(4 hours)** Continues the same theme. This unit will help you practice and develop your study technique, using the theme of commemoration and memorials. At the beginning of this unit you are encouraged to read chapter 6 from **Arts Good Study Guide** which is called 'Processes of study in the arts and humanities' (the chapter is included as part of the unit). This is a long chapter and you are not expected to read it all at once. However it is very useful and it is worth reading it (perhaps over several sessions) to help you understand what studying Arts & Humanities is all about.

#### What do I do with words I don't understand?

If you come across words or titles that are new to you, you can use the internet to find out what they mean. Write the word or words into the box on the Google page and press enter. Then you can look down the list of sites that come up and click on one that will tell you what this is about.

For example, these words and phrases in this module may be new to you:

**Cenotaph**  
**Obelisk**

**Homer and the Iliad**  
**Battle of Gallipoli**

Pick out any that are new to you and 'Google' them. Explain briefly what they mean in your notebook. The last unit in this section is:

### PTS **Forms & Uses of Language**

**(4 hours)** which looks at how language can be used in different ways for different purposes.

The unit continues the theme of memorial and commemoration by discussing the work of Siegfried Sassoon who used his experience as a soldier in the 1st World War as a subject for his poems and writing.

## Your Choices

For your next study, pick an area of the Arts that is of interest to you. You will notice that some of these units are longer than others but you don't need to work through every section in the longer units. Focus on the sections of interest to you.

### PTS **What is Poetry?**

**(12 hours)** This unit will help you learn how to use your own experiences to develop ideas. Audio clips and written examples are used to illustrate poetic techniques and the views of current poets.

**OR**

### PTS **Start Writing Fiction**

**(12 hours)** Have you ever thought you would like to write a novel? This unit could start you on the path by giving an insight into how authors create characters and plot. There's also discussion of different genres of fiction.

**OR**

### PTS **Making Sense of Art History**

**(5 hours)** This looks at contemporary art from the 1980s onwards. It will enhance your skills in analysing works of art and help you to understand the importance of colour, the medium used and the way an image is composed.

**OR**



### PTS Studying Religion

**(12 hours)** Examples of different forms of religious practice and belief show you key concepts and methods in the study of religion. You only need to work through sections 1 – 6 as part of this pathway although if you want to go further and complete the unit, please do.

**OR**

### PTS Welsh History & its Sources

**(12 hours)** Not only will this unit increase your knowledge of Welsh history, it is also aimed at helping you begin to understand how historians do their work. It explains the way that historians of Wales work by showing the relationship between their writings about Welsh history and the evidence or sources upon which those writings are based. You only need to work through sections 1 – 5 as part of this pathway although please go further and complete the unit if you wish.

We hope that by now you are thinking seriously about furthering your studies either with the Open University, or another organisation. We suggest that at this point you follow a unit that will give you some useful skills for preparing assignments.

Finish off your Pathway by working through

### PTS Essay and Report Writing skills

**(10 hours)** As you are not writing an assignment as part of the Pathway to Success not all sections of this will be directly relevant to you at this point, but you should read through it and try out some of the activities as a way of giving you an idea of the expectations of higher education tutors in relation to assignments.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.  
Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

## Orange pathway

**Let's start with**

### PTS Studying Arts & Humanities

**(4 hours)** This will give you a good introduction to study in this area. Here is the first activity you are asked to do:

#### Activity One:

Write down your reasons for choosing this pathway. Go to the online pathways page where there are links to all the units in the Arts and Humanities Pathway. 'Click on the Link' and get going now on this unit. You can stop at any time and come back to it when you next have some time for study.

### PTS Forms & Uses of Language

**(4 hours)** Looks at how language can be used in different ways for different purposes. This unit, discusses the work of Siegfried Sassoon who used his experience as a soldier in the 1st World War as a subject for his poems and writing.

As part of your preparation for higher education you should also carry out some preparatory study skills. By now, you should have an idea of how well-prepared you are with reading and note-taking skills, remembering that if you are thinking of doing a distance learning degree course, these are particularly vital skills. The next unit will help you to develop these skills further.

### PTS Reading and Note-Taking

**(12 hours approximately)** Now, practice these skills when studying any one (or more) of the following units. You will have noticed that some of these units are longer than others but you don't need to work through every section in the longer units. You can focus on the sections of interest to you.





### PTS What is Poetry?

**(12 hours)** This unit will help you learn how to use your own experiences to develop ideas. Audio clips and written examples are used to illustrate poetic techniques and the views of current poets.

OR

### PTS Start Writing Fiction

**(12 hours)** Have you ever thought you would like to write a novel? This unit could start you on the path by giving an insight into how authors create characters and plot. There's also discussion of different genres of fiction.

OR

### PTS Making Sense of Art History

**(5 hours)** This looks at contemporary art from the 1980s onwards. It will enhance your skills in analysing works of art and help you to understand the importance of colour, the medium used and the way an image is composed.

OR

### PTS Studying Religion

**(12 hours)** Examples of different forms of religious practice and belief show you key concepts & methods in the study of religion. You only need to work through sections 1 – 6 as part of your pathway although if you want to go further and complete the unit, please do.

OR

### PTS Welsh History & its Sources

**(12 hours)** Not only will this unit increase your knowledge of Welsh history, it is also aimed at helping you begin to understand how historians work. It explains this by showing the relationship between their writings about Welsh history and the evidence or sources upon which those writings are based.

You only need to work through sections 1 – 5 as part of your pathway although if you want to go further and complete the unit, please do.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.**

**Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

## Green pathway

Let's start with

### PTS Studying Arts & Humanities

**(4 hours)** This will give you a good introduction to study in this area.

For your next study, pick an area of the Arts that is of interest to you. You will notice that some of these units are longer than others but you don't need to work through every section in the longer units. Focus on the sections of interest to you.

### PTS What is Poetry?

**(12 hours)** This unit will help you learn how to use your own experiences to develop ideas. Audio clips and written examples are used to illustrate poetic techniques and the views of current poets.

OR

### PTS Start Writing Fiction

**(12 hours)** Have you ever thought you would like to write a novel? This unit could start you on the path by giving an insight into how authors create characters and plot. There's also discussion of different genres of fiction.

OR



### PTS Making Sense of Art History

**(5 hours)** looks at contemporary art from the 1980s onwards. It will enhance your skills in analysing works of art and help you to understand the importance of colour, the medium used and the way an image is composed.

OR

### PTS Studying Religion

**(12 hours)** Examples of different forms of religious practice and belief are used to show you key concepts and methods in the study of religion. You only need to work through sections 1 – 6 as part of this pathway although if you want to go further and complete the unit, please do.

OR

### PTS Welsh History & its Sources

**(12 hours)** Not only will this unit increase your knowledge of Welsh history, it is also aimed at helping you begin to understand how historians do their work. It explains the way that historians of Wales work by showing the relationship between their writings about Welsh history and the evidence or sources upon which those writings are based. You only need to work through sections 1 – 5 as part of this pathway although you can go further and complete the unit if you wish.

If you are studying this pathway you probably already have good study skills. If after studying these modules, you would like to 'brush-up' on some of these, have a look at some of the study skills units later on in this guide.

## Optional Extras

If you want to go a bit further in social history or you are a member of a Trade Union, here is some additional material you may be interested in looking at:

### PTS Birth of the Welfare State

This is a one page summary which explains how the Welfare State came into being.

### PTS Robert Owen & New Lanark

**(12 hours)** This is a more challenging unit from a second level course which discusses Robert Owen's ideas for social reform and the development of his innovative project at New Lanark.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.**

**Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

# Welcome to the Social Science and Psychology Pathway

Social Science &  
Psychology



# Welcome to the Social Science and Psychology Pathway

The social science and psychology pathway includes material from several subject areas. Depending on your interests, and the amount of previous study experience that you have, we are recommending that you follow different routes through this pathway.



## Blue pathway

The **blue route** is for those who have little experience of previous study.

## Orange pathway

The **Orange route** is for those who have some experience of previous study at level 3, but perhaps a long time ago and/ or in a very different study area.

## Green pathway

The **Green route** is for those who are experienced at study and are just looking for a fairly brief refresher before moving on to a higher education course.

The hours given here and throughout the pathway are approximate, and you may find yourself taking more or less time than what is indicated.

On the Blue and Orange pathways we will be suggesting an order for you to follow the units. Each pathway will include units focusing on the Social Science units which are more focused on study skills. We suggest that you follow the order that we suggest so that you develop skills at the same time as learning about content.

For each of these routes there will also be choices according to subject interests.

Depending on which of these paths you are interested in please follow the appropriate colour coding. Some things are for everybody and these will be in black.

## Getting Started

### PTS The Stories Behind our Streets

**(1 hour approximately)** When you were looking at the tasters you will have looked at one called City Road, Cardiff, suburban thoroughfare.

Now we would like you to look at two more examples of different streets from this topic. In all the examples there are photographs, information and maps relating to the nineteenth century, twentieth century and twenty-first century.

Having read these examples, think about your own town or village. Does it have a similar history to these city streets? Can you write a few sentences about changes in your town between the nineteenth century and today?

Now follow one of the 3 pathways.

## Blue pathway

**For this pathway, we suggest that you now think a little more about yourself, your goals and your future direction. We suggest that you use the**

### PTS Reflection Toolkit

**(5 hours approximately)** We hope you found this interesting, and that you have a better idea of why you want to study, and your goals for the future. If you have started a reflection log then you can continue to use this throughout the whole of your Pathway to Success

We would now like you to spend a little time studying one of the Open Learn units. We suggest that for this you use the Understanding Families Unit on the next page.



### PTS Understanding Families

**(5 hours approximately)** The format for this is similar to most of the units that you will be looking at on the Pathway to Success. After a brief introduction, you will see a page called Learning Outcomes. You will then get on to the unit material itself. We suggest that you work your way through this material including all the activities.

Make a note of anything you find difficult, for instance words that are unfamiliar, or activities that are new to you, such as taking information from tables, or making notes.

The next unit we recommend is a study skills unit

### PTS Am I Ready to Study in English?

**(3 hours approximately)** Although this unit has been designed for people for whom English is a second language it includes some very useful material for anybody who is new to reading and writing in an academic way. In section 3 you are offered a choice between 3 tasks – we suggest that you follow the tasks recommended for a student interested in the Arts for this task, as this is the subject area nearest to Social Science.

You will probably not feel the need to cover everything in this unit, so the time suggested here is about 3 hours.

The next unit is a psychology one, and is of a similar length to the one on Understanding Families that you looked at earlier

### PTS Starting with Psychology

**(5 hours approximately)** You probably found that some of the words in this unit were new to you. Did you spot the glossary at the end of the unit which would help you with these?

The next unit looks at a topic, which is of great interest to many people – how we understand crime.

### PTS The Meaning of Crime

**(8 hours approximately)** This unit is a little longer and at a slightly higher level than the previous modules on the family and on psychology.

Did you find that studying this made you think again about any of your previous ideas about crime?

You will by now be aware of the importance of having good study skills before you embark on your choice of higher education course.

The next unit will help you to develop your reading and note-taking skills.

### PTS Reading and Note-Taking

**(12 hours approximately)** For the next section it is suggested that you choose one of the following 3 units depending on your interests, and also which of the previous units you have most enjoyed. You should choose one of the following

#### PTS Understanding Children: Babies being Heard

**(5 hours)** This unit will be of particular interest to you if you enjoyed the unit you studied earlier on families, and feel you would like to study more in this area.

OR

#### PTS Psychological Research: Obedience and ethics

**(5 hours)** This is the unit you should select if you are thinking of going on with studies in psychology, or if you particularly enjoyed the earlier psychology units.

OR

#### PTS Contemporary Wales

**(7 hours)** If you enjoyed the material on Society's Secret Streets, you will enjoy this unit. We suggest that



you study about half this unit, reading chapter 1, and then selecting the chapters that you find particularly interesting.

We hope that by now you are thinking seriously about your future directions either with the Open University, or another provider. Wherever you choose to study you will be required to carry out assignments. In the social sciences and psychology, essays and reports are the commonest forms of assessment. We therefore suggest that at this point you follow a unit that will give you some useful skills for preparing assignments.

### PTS **Essay and Report Writing skills**

**(10 hours)** As you are not writing an assignment as part of the Pathway to Success not all sections of this will be directly relevant to you at this point, but you should read through it and try out some of the activities as a way of giving you an idea of the expectations of higher education tutors in relation to assignments.

**You have come to the end of this pathway. Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

### Orange pathway

After looking at 'The stories behind our streets' you should continue on this pathway with one of the following 3 units, depending on your interests

**EITHER**

### PTS **Understanding Families**

**(5 hours approximately)**

**OR**

### PTS **Starting with Psychology**

**(5 hours approximately)**

**OR**

### PTS **The Meaning of Crime**

**(8 hours approximately)** As part of your preparation for higher education you should also carry out some preparatory study skills. Having looked at one unit you should have an idea of how well-prepared you are with reading and note-taking skills, remembering that if you are thinking of doing a distance learning degree course, these are particularly vital skills.

The next unit will help you to develop your reading and note-taking skills.

### PTS **Reading and Note-Taking**

**(12 hours approximately)** Now, practice these skills when studying one of the following 3 units.

**EITHER**

### PTS **Understanding Children: Babies being Heard**

**(5 hours approximately)** This unit will be of particular interest to you if you enjoyed the unit you studied earlier on families, and feel you would like to study more in this area.

**OR**

### PTS **Psychological Research: obedience and ethics**

**(5 hours)** This is the unit you should select if you are thinking of going on with studies in psychology, or if you particularly enjoyed the earlier psychology units

**OR**



### PTS Contemporary Wales

**(7 hours)** If you enjoyed the material on Society's Secret Streets, you will enjoy this unit. We suggest that you study about half this unit, reading chapter 1, and then select the chapters that you find particularly interesting.

It is important that you have good study skills in higher education. At this point we suggest that you look at the section in this guide on study skills, and spend an hour or two looking at some of these units. In particular, the unit on essay and report writing skills would be very useful.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.  
Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

### Green pathway

For this pathway we suggest that after the 'The stories behind our streets' you select one of the following 3 units

**EITHER**

### PTS Understanding Families

(5 hours approximately)

**OR**

### PTS Starting with Psychology

(5 hours approximately)

**OR**

### PTS The Meaning of Crime

**(8 hours approximately)** You should now select one

of the following 3 units, these are at a slightly more advanced level than the previous units.

**EITHER**

### PTS Understanding Children: Babies being Heard

**(5 hours approximately)** This unit will be of particular interest to you if you enjoyed the unit you studied earlier on families, and feel you would like to study more in this area.

**OR**

### PTS Psychological Research: obedience and ethics

**(5 hours)** This is the unit you should select if you are thinking of going on with studies in psychology, or if you particularly enjoyed the earlier psychology units.

**OR**

### PTS Contemporary Wales

**(7 hours)** If you enjoyed the material on Society's Secret Streets, you will enjoy this unit. We suggest that you study about half this unit, reading chapter 1, and then select the chapters that you find particularly interesting.

If you are studying this pathway you probably already have good study skills. If after studying some modules, you feel you could 'brush-up' some of your study skills, have a look at some of the units in the study skills section later in this guide.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.  
Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.



## Finally

We are suggesting that whichever pathway you are following you now do something a little different. You may have thought that studying at higher education largely involves attending lectures given by experts in the field. Your experience of the Pathway to Success will have shown you that most of the OU's materials are not like this. However, lectures are an important feature of the higher education experience in many institutions. We would therefore like you to finish your Pathway to Success by watching a 45 minute lecture on economics by Evan Davies. This will be particularly interesting for those who enjoyed the 60 second economics taster that you looked at earlier.

### **PTS** Reflections on the British Economy

**(2 hours)** The lecture was followed by questions from the audience, and we suggest that you also look at these.

## Further optional units

Social Sciences include a wide range of subjects, not all of which are covered in this pathway. If you have a particular interest in Sport Studies you might be interested in the following unit –

### **PTS** Sport, Media and Culture: who's calling the shots?

**(5 hours)** If your interest is geography why not have a look at the following unit:

### **PTS** Why Maps are Made: Introduction

**(8 hours)**





# Welcome to the Health and Social Care Pathway

# Welcome to the Health and Social Care Pathway

The Health & Social Care Pathway includes a variety of material. Depending on your interests, and the amount of previous study experience that you have, we are recommending that you follow different routes through this pathway.



## Blue pathway

The **blue route** is for those who have little experience of previous study.

## Orange pathway

The **Orange route** is for those who have some experience of previous study at level 3, but perhaps a long time ago and/ or in a very different study area.

## Green pathway

The **Green route** is for those who are experienced at study and are just looking for a fairly brief refresher before moving on to a higher education course.

The hours given here and throughout the pathway are approximate, and you may find yourself taking more or less time than what is indicated.

On the Blue and Orange pathways we will be suggesting an order for you to follow the units. Each pathway will include units focusing on the Health and Social Care units which are more focused on study skills. We suggest that you follow the order that we suggest so that you develop skills at the same time as learning about content.

For each of these routes there will also be choices according to subject interests.

## Blue pathway

Let's start with

### PTS The Meaning of Home

**(4 hours)** Go to the online PTS page where there are links to all the units in the Health & Care Pathway, and get going now on this unit. You can stop at any time and come back to the unit when you next have some time for study.

This unit will give you a good introduction to study in this area. It looks at how people identify and become attached to places, buildings, objects, and how this attachment affects how we feel about ourselves. Looking at why places become important provides a basis for asking questions about what happens when people have to move, a common occurrence for people in need of care services.

**By the time you finish this unit, the idea of studying should seem less daunting  
Keep going – you can do it!**

**Now think a little more about yourself and your goals. We suggest that you use the**

### PTS Reflection Toolkit

**(5 hours approximately)** We hope you found this interesting, and that you have a better idea of why you want to study, and your goals for the future. If you have started a reflection log then you can continue to use this throughout the whole of your Pathway to Success.

Now try the unit on

### PTS Caring: A Family Affair

**(8 Hours)** most people need some kind of care: emotional support, advice, having their washing



done, their food shopped for and cooked. This care is often supplied by family, friends, lovers, workmates, neighbours. This unit makes care in the family its focus because most care is supplied in families, much of it unnoticed. Here are some of the questions looked at in this unit.

1. **Who are the carers within families?**
2. **What do we mean by the word 'care'?**
3. **What demands do care relationships place on people and when should the state play a part?**
4. **How do families and caring fit together?**

We look at these questions by using a case study. Case studies are a way of focusing on situations in detail by looking at actual people's lives.

### PTS **Am I Ready to Study in English?**

**(3 hours approximately)** Although this unit has been designed for people for whom English is a second language it includes some very useful material for anybody who is new to reading and writing in an academic way. We suggest you work through sections 4 to 9 only so the time suggested here is about 3 hours.

### PTS **Life Stories**

**(4 hours)** considers the contribution that our own life stories make to who we are and how remembering and revisiting the past may help us move forward with our lives.

The next unit will help you to develop some basic techniques relating to reading, for example, highlighting, note-taking, using references and quoting sources.

### PTS **Reading and Note-Taking**

**(12 hours approximately)**

Let's move on now to

### PTS **Understanding the Past**

**(12 hours)** The History of Lennox Castle Hospital in Scotland is used as a case study to look at the impact of institutional life. This unit examines the main features of a total institution and considers issues of power and ethics in the interviewing of people about their personal experience. It compares the way in which care was provided in the past for people with learning disabilities with the way in which care and support is provided today.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.**

### **Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

### Orange pathway

**Let's start with**

### PTS **The Meaning of Home**

**(4 hours)** which will give you a good introduction to study in this area. This unit looks at how people identify and become attached to places, buildings, objects, and how this attachment affects how we feel about ourselves. Looking at why places become important provides a basis for asking questions about what happens when people have to move, a common occurrence for people in need of care services.

Go to the online pathways page where there are links to all the units in the Health & Care Pathway. 'Click on the Link' and get going now on the unit. You can stop at any time and come back to it when you next have some time for study.



### Now try the unit on

#### PTS **Caring: A Family Affair**

**(8 hours)** Most people need some kind of care: emotional support, advice, having their washing done, their food shopped for and cooked. This care is often supplied by family, friends, lovers, workmates, neighbours. This unit makes care in the family its focus because most care is supplied in families, much of it unnoticed. Here are some of the questions looked at in this unit.

5. **Who are the carers within families?**
6. **What do we mean by the word 'care'?**
7. **What demands do care relationships place on people and when should the state play a part?**
8. **How do families and caring fit together?**

We look at these questions by using a case study. Case studies are a way of focusing on situations in detail by looking at the lives of actual people.

The next unit will help you to develop some basic techniques relating to reading, for example, highlighting, note-taking, using references and quoting sources.

#### PTS **Reading and Note-Taking**

**(about 12 hours)** Now, practice these skills when studying the last unit on the pathway:

#### PTS **Understanding the Past**

**(12 hours)** The History of Lennox Castle Hospital in Scotland is used as a case study to look at the impact of institutional life. This unit examines the main features of a total institution and considers issues of power and ethics in the interviewing of people about their personal experience. It compares the way in which

care was provided in the past for people with learning disabilities with the way in which care and support is provided today.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.**

#### **Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

There is just one unit to study on this pathway. It will give you a good idea of what studying Health and Care involves:

#### **Green pathway**

There is just one unit to study on this pathway. It will give you a good idea of what studying Health and Care involves:

#### PTS **Understanding the Past**

**(12 hours)** The History of Lennox Castle Hospital in Scotland is used as a case study to look at the impact of institutional life. This unit examines the main features of a total institution and considers issues of power and ethics in the interviewing of people about their personal experience. It compares the way in which care was provided in the past for people with learning disabilities with the way in which care and support is provided today.

If you are studying this pathway you probably already have good study skills. If after studying these modules, you would like to 'brush-up' on some of these, have a look at some of the study skills units later on in this guide.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.**

#### **Well Done!**

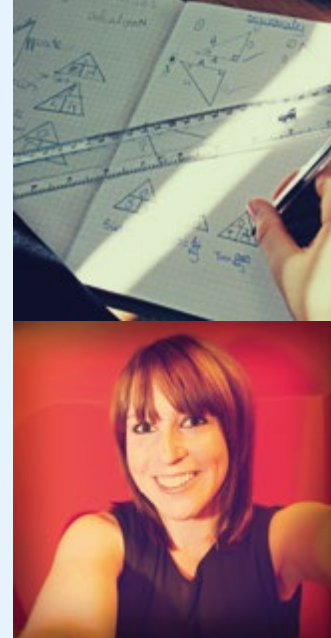
Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.



**Welcome to the  
Science Pathway**

# Welcome to the Science Pathway

Science is a broad term that covers a number of different areas, including chemistry, physics, biology and environmental science. Depending on your interests, and the amount of previous study experience that you have, we are recommending that you follow different routes through this pathway.



## Blue pathway

The **blue route** is for those who have little experience of previous study.

## Orange pathway

The **Orange route** is for those who have some experience of previous study at level 3, but perhaps a long time ago and/ or in a very different study area.

## Green pathway

The **Green route** is for those who are experienced at study and are just looking for a fairly brief refresher before moving on to a higher education course.

The hours given here and throughout the pathway are approximate, and you may find yourself taking more or less time than what is indicated.

On the Blue and Orange pathways we will be suggesting an order for you to follow the units. Each pathway will include units focusing on the Science units which are more focused on study skills. We suggest that you follow the order that we suggest so that you develop skills at the same time as learning about content.

For each of these routes there will also be choices according to subject interests.

Depending on which of these paths you feel is the most suitable for you please follow the appropriate colour coding. The areas that are relevant to everyone will be in black. As you work through the

recommended units you may come across others that interest you too. If you have the time and inclination there is nothing to stop you studying additional units.

## Blue pathway

**For this pathway, we suggest that first of all you think a little more about yourself, your goals and your future direction. We suggest that you use the**

### PTS Reflection Toolkit

**(5 hours approximately)** We hope you found this interesting, and that you have a better idea of why you want to study, and your goals for the future. If you have started a reflection log then you can continue to use this throughout the whole of your Pathway to Success.

We would now like you to spend a little time studying one of the Open Learn science units. We suggest that you start with

### PTS The Frozen Planet

**(7 Hours)** This unit is a general introduction to the frozen planet, including the temperature in the Polar Regions; the energy from the Sun and the seasons; reading and understanding graphs and maps; and how the Arctic and Antarctic regions are defined. It will also introduce you to some basic concepts in science, including some maths skills.

The format for this is similar to most of units that you will be looking at on the Pathway to Success. After a brief introduction, you will see a page called Learning Outcomes. You will then get on to the unit material itself. We suggest that you work your way through this material including all the activities.

Make a note of anything you find difficult, for instance words that are unfamiliar, or activities that are new



to you, such as taking information from tables, or making notes.

The next unit we recommend is a study skills unit

### Am I ready to study English?

Although this unit has been designed for people for whom English is a second language it includes some very useful material for anybody who is new to reading and writing in an academic way. In section 3 you are offered a choice between 3 tasks – we suggest that you follow the tasks recommended for a student interested in science. You will probably not feel the need to cover everything in this unit, so the time suggested here is about 3 hours.

The next unit we recommend is about genes and how we inherit certain characteristics from our parents.

### PTS Inheritance of Characters

**(4 Hours)** Genes are units of inheritance that contribute to a person's behaviour and health. In this unit you will learn what genes, DNA and chromosomes are and how they combine to make the human genome.

You will also learn how the principles of inheritance work, the effect that our genetic make-up has on health, and how genetic material is passed on from generation to generation.

You probably found that some of the words in this unit were new to you. Don't let this put you off; you can look them up in an online dictionary and as your study develops you will find ways to explore these topics further.

The next unit looks at what can sometimes be a controversial topic, alcohol and its effects on the body.

### PTS Alcohol and human health

**(6 Hours)** This unit also contains some unfamiliar words and refers to some of the chemistry behind alcohol's effects. If you are interested in finding out more about chemistry try the unit below entitled "Water for Life". If you think that chemistry might not be for you have a look at some of the alternative options

You will by now be aware of the importance of having good study skills before you embark on your chosen higher education course.

The next unit will help you to develop your reading and note-taking skills.

### PTS Reading and Note-Taking: Preparation for Study

**(12 Hours)** For the next section it is suggested that you choose from the following units depending on your interests and what you have enjoyed most in the previous units and tasters. You could choose one or two of the following science units

**YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:**

### Basic chemistry and maths so try

#### PTS Water for life (15 Hours)

**YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN**

#### PTS Evolutionary tree of mammals

**(5 Hours)**

**YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN**

#### PTS The science behind wheeled sports

**(8 Hours)**

**YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN**

#### PTS Galaxies, stars and planets

**(8 Hours)**



We hope that by now you are thinking seriously about your future study direction either with the Open University, or another provider. Wherever you choose to study you will be required to carry out assignments and essays and reports are a common form of assessment. We therefore suggest that at this point you follow a unit that will give you some useful skills for preparing assignments.

As you are not writing an assignment as part of the Pathway to Success not all sections of this will be directly relevant to you at this point, but you should read through it and try out some of the activities as a way of giving you an idea of the expectations of higher education tutors in relation to assignment.

### PTS **Essay and Report Writing Skills** (10 Hours)

**You have come to the end of this pathway.  
Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

### Orange pathway

We suggest that you start with

### PTS **The Frozen Planet**

**(7 Hours)** This will introduce you to some basic concepts in science, including some maths skills

For the next section it is suggested that you choose from the following units depending on your interests and what you have enjoyed most in the tasters.

If you are still not sure where your interests lie you might like to study a combination, depending on the time you have available

### If you are interested in chemistry

#### PTS **Water for life** (15 Hours)

**OR**

### If you are interested in biology

#### PTS **Evolutionary tree of mammals** (5 Hours)

**AND**

#### PTS **Alcohol and human health** (6 Hours)

**OR**

### If you are interested in physics

#### PTS **The science behind wheeled sports** (8 Hours)

**AND**

#### PTS **Galaxies, stars and planets**

**(8 Hours)** As part of your preparation for higher education you should also carry out some preparatory study skills. Having worked through some of the units you should have an idea of how well-prepared you are with reading and note-taking skills, remembering that if you are thinking of doing a distance learning degree course, these are particularly vital skills. The next unit will help you to develop these

#### PTS **Reading and Note-Taking: Preparation for Study** (12 Hours)

**You have come to the end of this pathway.  
Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.





It is important that you have good study skills in higher education. At this point we suggest that you look at the section in this guide on study skills, and spend an hour or two looking at some of these units. In particular, the unit on essay and report writing skills would be very useful.

## Green pathway

It is suggested that you choose from the following units depending on your interests and what you have enjoyed most in the tasters. If you are still not sure where your interests lie you might like to study a combination, depending on the time you have available.

**If you are interested in chemistry**

**PTS Water for life (15 Hours)**

**If you are interested in biology**

**PTS Evolutionary tree of mammals**

**(5 Hours)**

**AND**

**PTS Alcohol and human health (6 Hours)**

**If you are interested in physics**

**PTS The science behind wheeled sports**

**(8 Hours)**

**AND**

**PTS Galaxies, stars and planets**

**(8 Hours)** If you are studying this pathway you probably already have good study skills. If after studying some modules, you feel you could 'brush-up' some of your study skills, have a look at some of the

units in the core skills units later in this guide.

**You have come to the end of this pathway.  
Well Done!**

Make sure you have filled in the Personal Achievement Record on page 43.

## Finally

A valuable skill when studying science at higher education level is

**PTS Finding information in science and nature**

**(9 Hours)** You might like to dip into this unit and possibly bookmark it so you can refer back to it at a later date.

Whichever route you have followed you might now like to do some further exploring. We would therefore like to suggest that you finish your Pathway to Success by engaging with some of the fascinating science related activities in the Explore section of OpenLearn.



# Personal Achievement Record



Fill in the name of each unit of study  
as you complete it

## Tasters:

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## Pathway units:

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When you have completed your 'pathway', check that all the units you have studied are entered above then send with the completed Next Steps form on the next page to claim your certificate of completion.





**Ready for the  
next step?**

# Next steps

To claim your **Certificate of Pathway Completion**, please fill in the tear off slip below and send it with a copy of your Personal Achievement Record to this address:

**The Open University in Wales**  
**18 Custom House Street**  
**Cardiff CF10 1AP**

Or email your name, contact details (full address & telephone number) and details of the tasters and pathway units completed, on your Personal Achievement Record, to **Wales-partnerships@open.ac.uk**

We do hope that you will continue your study, perhaps towards a qualification.

If you would like information about further courses with the Open University, fill in the box on the form below.



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in further study, please fill in the box below with the areas of study that interest you and we will send you more information.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like a learning advisor to telephone you, please tick here

If you would like information about financial support for study, please tick this box

The details you provide above will be used to send you further information. We keep your data secure and will not pass on to any third party



**The challenge  
was worth it**

# Pathway To Success – study skills units

The following units are focused on developing your study skills, an essential part of preparing to study in higher education. You will have been directed to some of these units already as part of your particular pathway.



We have collected these links together in this study skills section to make it easier for you to find the units that are particularly focused on developing your skills, rather than on giving you knowledge about a subject area.

We would not suggest that you study these units in isolation from other units on the subject pathways but hope you find it helpful to have the links together in one section.

This will also be a useful resource for those of you who have completed a **'pathway to success'** but want to brush up on study skills, either before starting or during your higher education study.

You will find links here to units in addition to those included in your pathway. You may find these particularly useful if you are not yet sure which subject you wish to follow in your further studies or if you want to develop your skills further.

You will not necessarily need to do all the exercises included in each unit, we suggest that you select those you think will be most useful to you.

All the units in this section are at an introductory level.

## GETTING STARTED

These units are recommended for those who are starting off with their learning, or returning to studying after a significant gap.

### PTS Reflection Toolkit

**(5 hours approximately)** This will help you to think about yourself, your goals and your future directions. It is relevant to people from a whole variety of backgrounds

### PTS Learning How to Learn

**(6 hours of study)** This unit provides a framework for learning based activities, and also helps you to become a reflective learner. You may wish to leave out the section on preparing for examinations unless your study involves these.

### PTS Am I Ready to Study in English

**(5 hours of study)** This is a useful unit for all potential students, not just those who have not studied in English before. It includes a number of self-assessment exercises that are useful for those intending to study a wide range of subjects.

## CORE SKILLS

These units will give you the basics you need for reading, note taking and preparing and writing assignments, essential skills whatever pathway you are following

### PTS Reading and Note-taking: preparation for study

**(12 hours of study)** The examples used in this unit are from sociology texts, but the skills that are developed are useful whatever subject you are studying. There are tips here on effective note taking, and on reading in different ways.

### PTS Essay and Reporting Skills

**(15 hours of study)** Most higher education courses will expect you to write essays or reports as a major part of your assessment. This unit will help you to understand what is required, and to plan, structure and write your assignments or reports. You will also find out how to use feedback from your tutor to develop



### PTS Mindmaps

A short introduction to making a mindmap

#### MORE SPECIALIST SKILLS

These units are more relevant for certain areas than others but they are all accessible, and of general relevance

### PTS Reading charts and graphs

**(1 hour)** a short introduction for those who are completely new to this.

### PTS Working with charts, graphs and tables

**(15 hours of study)** This will be particularly useful if you are intending to study courses with mathematical, scientific or social science content. This unit helps you to learn how to interpret information presented in the forms of charts, graphs and tables.

### PTS Starting with Maths: patterns and formulas

**(5 hours of study)** This unit will get you started on understanding some of the basic concepts needed when studying mathematics.

### Extending and developing your thinking skills

**(6 hours of study)** This unit will help you to make the most of your higher education studies, and is particularly recommended for those who already have some experience of studying.

## SGILIAU ASTUDIO YN Y GYMRAEG –

(Welsh-medium study skills)

### PTS Datblygu Strategaethau Astudio Effeithiol –

**(10 awr o astudio)**

### PTS Darllen a Gwneud Nodiadau

**(10 awr o astudio.)** Mae'r ddwy uned yma yn ddefnyddiol i unrhyw un sy'n bwriadu astudio ar lefel addysg uwch, yn enwedig os ydych yn meddwl am astudio trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.





**I've  
done it!**







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Y Brifysgol Agored

Wales Cymru



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