The Open University Skills Guide

Supporting Skills Development

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The digital scholar
The Open University

OpenLearn.com is designed for non-confident learners, and lifelong learners. Learners can explore a subject, get inspiration, build skills and confidence and earn recognition, all for free.

- **Flexible:** Courses are available immediately, you can work through at your own pace
- **Scale:** With almost 1000 courses, 10m people this year visit OpenLearn
- **Recognition:** Track progress and work towards a free statement of participation, and/or digital badge.
- **Impact:** 92% satisfaction rates, 65% intend to share their achievements with their employers

EXPLORE ALL COURSES with printable certificates. Browse by subject, level and length	**SKILLS FOR WORK** including digital leadership	**SKILLS FOR STUDY** including critical thinking and writing	**SKILLS FOR LIFE** including family and relations, health, money and finance
BADGED COURSES provide badges which can be shared on social media	**EVERYDAY SKILLS** functional skills courses level 1 & 2 in maths and english	**NEWSLETTER** with updates and recommendations of new free materials	**MOST POPULAR** our 10 most popular courses and short learning materials

All Business and Finance courses – over 130 courses including....

Introductory
- Risk management
- Effective Communication
- Entrepreneurship
- Understanding your Sector
- Supply Chain Sustainability

Intermediate Undergraduate
- Leadership challenges in turbulence
- How to frame a business case
- Creativity and Innovation
- Operations Management
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Advanced Post-Graduate
- Marketing in the 21st Century
- A Framework for Strategy
- Virtual Project Teams
- Understanding and managing risk
- What is Strategy?

Courses which support career development:
- Developing Career Resilience
- Succeed in the Workplace
- Mentoring & Coaching
- Understanding your Sector
- Communication in the Workplace
- Personal Branding
- Leadership & Followership
- Working in Diverse Teams
- Internet of Things

Learning materials related to specific career interests:
- Business and Administration
- Childcare and Education
- Design and Media
- Health and Science
- Legal, Finance and Accounting
- Social care
- Digital
- Engineering
- Marketing
- Construction
- Environment
- Hair and Beauty

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Learning for more advanced and confident learners:

FutureLearn
Hundreds of free courses from a wide range of provider. More focussed advanced skills

OpenSTEM Labs
a series of open, virtual labs. Free access to virtual experiments and equipment

Learning on different platforms and formats:

OpenLearn on
amazon kindle

OpenLearn on
GET IT ON Google Play

OpenLearn on
YouTube

Stepping Forward: Curated Services and Co-Development

We can develop packages of open learning with local stakeholders:

Working with businesses and sectors:

- We can develop tailored packages to meet specific learning needs. Examples of work with employers includes: with Google, Michelin, Rolls Royce, Cisco, English Football League. Uber co-developed a loyalty programme for drivers in the UK. This includes provision of free higher education through The Open University. This allows drivers to study free or to pass this 'credit' onto a direct family member.
- With sectors this includes: Functional Skills for construction and for health and social care, and British Association of Counselling Psychotherapy, Voluntary Leadership.
- We have also co-developed courses for carers.

Working with communities/groups:

- Social Partnership Network (including WEA, Unionlearn and UNISON) have co-developed a series of free 'career start' courses.
- Co-developed courses for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- Schools and STEM – via Computers for Schools

Working with local or national agencies:

- With the support of the DfE, in collaboration with FE colleges we have built free Level 1&2 functional skills courses
- With JobCentre Plus: A space which introduces courses and content relevant to its users; employees, job seekers, family members, staff etc. Kingston JCP has propagated awareness and use of the courses in related organisations such as adult education, the local FE college, Fulham football club and Unilever.
- With the BBC/Channel 4 and Sky we develop journeys from broadcast to online learning

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Going Deeper: Co-Developing Local Services

We can work with you to develop more in depth and tailored or bespoke packages to meet local needs:

Building Capacity

We have a range of free resources to help build capacity in online teaching and learning, supporting the learning community (especially FE colleges) in moving online with teaching and learning.

Licensing

The OU has an extensive library of course designed for online distance learning. The free resources outlined above represents a small part of our total content repository. More information about OU licensing.

Consultancy

The OU can provides experts in open and distance education (organisation design, programme design, learning design, learning analytics, etc.). More information about consultancy from the OU.

Validation

The OU has extensive experience of accrediting institutions to offer programmes leading to an OU-validated award.

Build Your Own Course

If you want to build your own free course and share with others you can use OpenLearn Create and join us and others in making courses open. A version of OpenLearn Create is available if you want to close your course or present OU licenced materials.

Learning Design

If you want support with learning design, we have expertise and support; from thinking about learning needs, your learner characteristics and to how to develop and deliver the most effective solution.

Production Services

The OU offers production services to create new courses, adapt materials for on-line learning and curated content sites to support individual learning. We also offer editorial, graphics and interactive media development services.