The Open University Business School
Open to people, places, methods and ideas
The Open University (OU) is a world leader in the design, content and delivery of supported open learning, promoting educational opportunity and social justice through high-quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential. Since 1969 over 2 million people have experienced this life-changing learning through their study with the University.

The Open University’s unique social mission, to widen access to higher education with research excellence through pedagogic innovation and collaborative partnership, underpins the teaching we deliver to around 200,000 students as the UK’s largest university.

By conducting high impact, internationally renowned research and innovative solutions to learning experiences in a digital environment, the OU’s teaching and research is designed to have impact, influence policy and practice, and change lives for the better.

This innovative, responsive and inclusive approach to delivering worldclass, part-time education to individuals across the four nations of the UK and worldwide, makes a significant contribution to employability, productivity, and to the UK’s economy.

Further information

- Research at The Open University
- About The Open University

The Open University's world-leading innovative research and development ranks in the top third of UK universities and received a rating of 'excellent' for teaching quality in the most recent HEFCE Teaching Quality Assessment.

The OU is the UK’s biggest university with around 200,000 students per annum and offering nearly 200 highly-respected qualifications.

86% of FTSE 100 Companies have funded their staff to study with the OU.

90% of students are satisfied with the quality of their course. (*National Students Survey*)

30,000 employers have used the OU to develop staff.

The OU are pioneers in distance learning and we’ve helped more than 2 million people realise their potential since we were founded.
A Distinctive Provider

The Faculty of Business and Law has a strong reputation as a high-quality innovative provider of management and legal education, bringing together two schools – The Open University Business School and The Open University Law School.

For over 30 years, The Open University Business School has been a leader in flexible and accessible high quality business and management education, and we are proud to be part of an elite and exclusive group of the top 1% of global business schools who are triple accredited worldwide.

We have established strong alliances with employers as a result of the flexible way we deliver our qualifications. Our International Advisory Board (IAB) work closely with the Executive Dean and management team, in an advisory role, to provide international business and management expertise to support the delivery of our research and teaching.

The Open University Business School is highly distinctive due to our engagement with large numbers of students at the point of practice, our wide exposure to international perspectives of business and management, and our enduring emphasis on issues of social importance.

The Faculty of Business and Law

- 137 academic staff
- 56 research students
- 44 visiting academics
- 83 academic-related staff
- 350 Associate Lecturers (Tutors)

The Open University Business School

- Over 19,000 students currently studying with the Business School
- Over 26,000 MBA Alumni around the world

Further information

- International Advisory Board (IAB)
- The Open University Business School
- The Open University Law School
An Active Research Environment

The Open University’s ground-breaking multi-media platforms, enthusiastic approach to innovative methods and ideas, and commitment to cross-disciplinary research allow the Business School to develop world-leading approaches to designing, executing and disseminating research with national and international reach.

There are many sources of internal and external funding available to researchers and research fellows at The Open University. The Business School’s Research and Enterprise Team supports academics to source and apply for funding to aid their research. Seed-corn funding is also available for projects in early development. The Business School has a unique ability, and proven expertise, in establishing new centres of research excellence via philanthropic and corporate funding. Our current research areas include:

PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The Department of Public Leadership and Social Enterprise (PuLSE) is committed to generating public and social value through the impact of their work on research, policy and practice in the areas of: Inter-organisational collaboration and collaborative governance; Public and voluntary sector leadership and management; Social enterprise and entrepreneurship; and Business ethics, corporate social responsibility and sustainability.

The Department’s research successfully combines a critical understanding of leadership and management with practical relevance and working closely with practitioners. The reputation and success of the department is manifested in the work of three research centres:

Citizenship and Governance @OU

Citizenship and Governance is identified as a strategic research area for The Open University. Working with Social Science academics, our interdisciplinary Citizenship and Governance research cluster is rethinking the changing relationships between states, markets and citizens in the 21st century, and the challenges of governance and leadership on global issues such as migration, climate change and security. The research encompasses the macro level down to the micro level – from global issues like migration to the private sphere - via the organisations, structures and practices that create public and social value. The department currently leads on two out of four theme areas of research under this initiative; Collaborative Governance and Leadership for Public and Social Value.

The Centre for Policing Research and Learning

The Centre works with 16 police forces across the UK, and academics from across The Open University, to create and use research and education to improve policing. The Centre’s ambitious, innovative and wide-ranging programme of activities involves research, education and knowledge exchange with national and international impact.

The Centre for Voluntary Sector Leadership (CVSL)

Established with a generous philanthropic gift from Anthony Nutt, the Centre will lead on new areas of research where there are significant leadership knowledge and solutions-based gaps and will provide free and flexible leadership development opportunities that meet the priority needs of the sector.

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ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
The Department of Accounting and Finance conducts pioneering research in the following areas: accounting theory, accounting education, financial reporting, management accounting, financial performance measurement, investors and investment, public sector finance and risk management, corporate governance and corporate financing, regulatory issues such as accounting standards and offshore tax havens, ethics and culture in finance and Islamic finance.

The True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance (True Potential PUFin)
Launched in 2013, this unique centre of research excellence focuses on financial education and its impact, consumer behaviours relating to savings, debt and spending and investment choices and decisions. The Centre works to improve public understanding of personal finance through its research and the delivery of free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) providing individuals with the tools to make sound financial decisions. The Centre's development is supported by True Potential LLP, one of the UK's leading financial services organisations. The Centre has reached over 350,000 people through its free courses.

MARKETING AND STRATEGY
The Department of Marketing and Strategy is a vibrant hub for research and teaching in the key business disciplines of marketing and strategic management, boasting research expertise in international strategy, strategy-as-practice and non-market strategy. The Department is delighted to have set up a new research cluster.

The Social and Responsible Marketing (SRM) Research Centre
The aim of the new cluster is to focus on research and research-led pedagogy related to marketing theory and practice aimed at positive societal impact. Key research themes include social marketing, responsible marketing and consumption, as well as strategic marketing for sustainability. Additional areas of interest include, but are not restricted to, corporate responsibility, marketing for cultural and societal wellbeing, social enterprise and voluntary sector marketing, as well as responsible SME marketing.

PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS
The Department of People and Organisations is a diverse group of academics who research many aspects of people and organisations, including: governance, identity, gender, emotion, critical perspectives on leadership and organisation, experiences of volunteers in the digital age, the ethics of care, cross cultural aspects of management, operations management, legitimacy, mobile and digital technologies, serious gaming and professionals becoming managers.

Research into Employment, Empowerment and Futures (REEF)
This group focuses on the future of empowerment, specifically in relation to rapidly developing technology and social change. REEF will draw on the department's scholarly expertise on themes of identity, leadership, power, human relations and learning to critically reconsider how the economy, work, citizenship, and democracy can be theoretically and practically reimagined to reflect these dramatic transformations. It will also empower policy makers, organisational leaders, social practitioners and people from across contexts to work together to co-create innovative solutions for meeting these coming opportunities and challenges.

Leadership and Innovation in Health Services
The Business School has a strong record in researching the realities of leadership and service innovation in the NHS. A current significant NIHR-funded study is examining the nature of clinical leadership in and around CCGs and its implications for service innovation. Further engaged research has also recently begun into the nature of leadership development that is effective and viable within the NHS. This will provide the basis for developing an agenda for further research into leadership development approaches and their impact, as well as exploring partners and funding sources for pursuing this.

Further information
The True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
FutureLearn
OU REF results 2014

“The University’s global reach provides unparalleled research opportunities with partners in a range of locations”.
Professor Jean Hartley
The Open University Business School
The Open University Business School is committed to providing excellent training and development opportunities for academics at all stages of their career. We invest in the best possible environment to ensure academics succeed in both teaching and research.

With a pioneering research reputation, an enthusiastic approach to collaborative research and teaching, and with flexible study and research leave, the Faculty attracts leading academics from around the world.

The Business School offers a competitive employment package which includes generous holiday entitlements, pension scheme, training and learning opportunities and other staff benefits. Every member of academic staff also has a generous annual entitlement to research time.

You will join the School at a time of significant growth and development and will be part of a global education provider delivering work-place-relevant knowledge, skills and tools that benefit individuals, organisations and industry.

Our balanced excellence in research and teaching provides a unique opportunity to contribute to distance learning and customised programmes for organisations through our Executive Education provision which delivers highly effective blended learning.

As a world leader in informal learning, you will have access to developing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and opportunities to work with television and radio broadcasters on major, innovative series; contributing to The Open University’s mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas.
Further Information

Chancellor
Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho was installed as the sixth Chancellor of The Open University in 2014. Martha Lane Fox has built her career around the digital world, making her mark as one of the founders of the internationally recognised leisure and travel website, lastminute.com.

Pro-Chancellor
Richard Gillingwater CBE took up the role of Pro-Chancellor in January 2015. Richard is Chairman of Henderson Global Investors and is also a trustee of the Board of the British Council.

Vice-Chancellor
Peter Horrocks CBE joined The Open University in May 2015. Prior to his appointment, he was the Director of the BBC World Service Group, responsible for leading the BBC’s international news services across radio, television and online after a career with the corporation spanning more than three decades.

Governance
The University’s main governing body is the Council, supported by a number of sub-committees. The Senate is the academic authority of the University, responsible for promoting the academic work of the University, both in teaching and research. It oversees academic management, including curriculum and all aspects of quality and standards associated with the University as a degree-awarding body.

“Teaching at The Open University is an exciting and intellectually satisfying experience which offers an opportunity for pedagogic innovation and designing learning experience for distance learning”.

Professor Mary Kellett
The Open University

Mary Kellett is Professor of Childhood and Youth and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies and Interim Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law. She holds a number of Adjunct Professorships, is an Honorary Fellow at University at University of Central Lancashire and sits on several international advisory panels.

Perhaps best known for her pioneering work to empower children as researchers, she founded the Children's Research Centre at The Open University in 2004 to train and support children and young people to undertake their own research. She has authored on a wide range of childhood and youth related subjects, most notably on voice, participation, rights and empowerment issues.

Further information

- Executive Dean
- Vice-Chancellor
- Chancellor
- Pro-Chancellor
- Governance
- Annual Report