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. The OU’s work promotes educational opportunity and social justice through high-quality university education for all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential, regardless of where they started life. Since 1969, more than two million people have experienced this life-changing learning through their study with the University.

The OU’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 175,000 students annually as the UK’s largest university, and the only one operating in all four nations.

Conducted within a digital environment, the OU’s teaching and research is designed to have impact, influence policy and practice, and change lives for the better, in the UK and across the world.

The OU’s innovative, responsive and inclusive approach to delivering world-class, 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.
A DISTINCTIVE PROVIDER
The Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) has a strong reputation as a provider of high-quality management and legal education, bringing together two schools – The Open University Business School and The Open University Law School.

For more than 30 years, The Open University Business School has been a leader in flexible and accessible high-quality business and management education. We are proud to be part of an elite and exclusive group of fewer than 1% of business schools worldwide which hold the coveted triple accreditation.

We have established strong alliances with employers as a result of the flexible way we deliver our qualifications. Our International Advisory Board (IAB) works 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.
An Active Research Environment

The Open University’s ground-breaking multi-media platforms, open approach to innovative methods and ideas, and commitment to cross-disciplinary research allows 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 OU. The Business School’s Research and Enterprise Team supports academics to source and apply for funding to aid their research, while seedcorn 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 academic departments and research areas are:

**DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (PULSE)**

The Department commits to generating public and social value through the impact of their work on research, policy and practice in the areas of interorganisational collaboration and collaborative governance, public and voluntary sector leadership and management, social enterprise and entrepreneurship, and business ethics, corporate social responsibility and sustainability.

Its research successfully combines a critical understanding of leadership and management with practical relevance by working closely with practitioners. The reputation and success of the Department is manifested in the work of a strategic research area, two research centres of excellence, and a research cluster:

**Citizenship and Governance strategic research area**

Citizenship and Governance is a strategic research area for The Open University. Working with Social Science academics, this interdisciplinary 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 global issues like migration to localised spheres – via organisational structures and practices that create public and social value.

**The Centre for Policing Research and Learning (CPRL)**

The Centre works with 21 police forces across the UK, and academics from across the OU, 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 investor and alumnus Anthony Nutt, the Centre leads on new areas of research where there are significant leadership knowledge and solutions-based gaps. It provides free and flexible leadership development opportunities, and collaborates with organisations in the sector to create leadership development resources including Local Learning Clubs and digital learning modules.

**Social and Sustainable Enterprise (SSE) research cluster**

This research cluster addresses the connections between entrepreneurial activity, innovation and the transition towards more environmentally and socially sustainable ways of doing business. Current research specialisms include social and environmental practice in SMEs and social enterprises, impact investment in socially and environmentally responsible enterprises, green innovations and start-up ventures, and issues related to enterprise education and pedagogy.
The Department seeks to deliver rigorous and relevant finance and accounting education that enhances our students’ ability to analyse and explain complex financial decision-making problems that they may face in their personal and professional contexts. It also seeks to deliver nationally or internationally excellent research in accounting and finance that makes meaningful contributions to the academic literature and/or public policy related to accounting, financial markets and institutions, financial management and investments in real and financial assets.

The True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance (True Potential PUFin)

The Centre focuses on financial education and its impact, consumer behaviours relating to savings, debt and spending and investment choices and decisions. It 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 has reached more than 350,000 people through its accessible free courses.

The Department is a vibrant hub for research and teaching in the key business disciplines of marketing and strategic management, with recognised research expertise in international strategy, non-market strategy, consumer behaviour and social marketing.

Social and Responsible Marketing research cluster

This focuses 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 marketing-led corporate social responsibility strategy, marketing ethics, marketing for cultural and societal wellbeing, social enterprise and voluntary sector marketing.

The Department is a diverse group of academics whose research interests include 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 focuses on the future of empowerment, specifically in relation to rapidly developing technology and social change. REEF draws 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 societal transformations.

Centre for Knowledge in Organisations and Professions (CKOP)

CKOP brings together academics, practitioners and policymakers with an interest in understanding the importance of knowledge and learning in organisations and professions.

Innovation in Health Services

The Business School has a strong record in researching the realities of leadership and service innovation in the UK’s National Health Service (NHS). A large-scale National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)-funded project is currently examining how specialist gender identity services for adults can work more effectively across the UK with other branches of healthcare, in meeting the needs of people who are trans and gender diverse.

I find the University provides a supportive environment for research including with external partners, across academic disciplines and internationally, to strive for social justice.

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 School attracts leading academics from around the world.

The 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 at a time of significant growth and development and will be part of a global education provider delivering workplace-relevant knowledge, skills and tools that benefit individuals, organisations and industry, making a positive impact on a broader societal scale.

Additionally, 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.

You will have access to developing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and opportunities to work with leading television and radio broadcasters on major innovative series reaching millions of participants; contributing to the OU’s mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas.
Further Information

Executive Dean
Professor Devendra Kodwani took over as Executive Dean for the Faculty of Business and Law, as well as Head of The Open University Business School, in 2018. He is a Professor of Financial Management and Corporate Governance and joined the OU in 2004 having worked at three higher education institutions in his native India.

His teaching portfolio includes undergraduate and postgraduate accounting and finance courses. He led the redevelopment of the OU’s MBA programme, and the development of two specialist masters MSc in Finance and MSc in Human Resource Management, as Masters Programme Director from 2010-13. Then as Associate Dean for Curriculum, Learning and Teaching, he shaped learning design and learning teaching strategy for all qualifications offered by the Faculty. He has supervised several PhD students and has published widely.

Devendra is a member of the OU’s Vice-Chancellor’s Executive (VCE) and academic boards. He is also the OU’s nominee on the board of directors of FutureLearn Limited, a MOOCs platform which is co-owned by The Open University and SEEK, Australia. He is the VCE sponsor for the University’s Apprenticeship programme and University Champion for Race Equality.

Chancellor
Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho became the sixth Chancellor of the OU in 2014. The businesswoman, philanthropist and public servant built her career around the digital world, notably as one of the founders of lastminute.com, the internationally recognised leisure and travel website. Her contribution to charity and furthering technology saw her awarded a CBE in 2013, also becoming a life peer as a crossbencher in the House of Lords that same year.

Pro-Chancellor
Malcolm Sweeting took up the role in January 2019, replacing Richard Gillingwater CBE. His entire career has been at Clifford Chance LLP, one of the largest elite global law firms, having been the youngest member of the firm’s council and then becoming a Senior Partner in 2010.

Vice-Chancellor
Professor Mary Kellett has been Vice-Chancellor since April 2018 and is committed to listening to the views of students and staff, with a clear focus on improving student success and institutional sustainability.

Professor Tim Blackman has been appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor from October 2019, having been Vice-Chancellor of Middlesex University since July 2015. He was previously Acting Vice-Chancellor and also Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Quality at the OU.

Governance
The Council is the University’s main governing body, supported by a number of sub-committees.

The Senate is the academic authority of the OU, 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 stimulating and effective bespoke distance learning.

The University’s strategic priorities include diversification of income and internationalisation to grow its reach and impact using innovative online learning platforms and partnerships.

Professor Devendra Kodwani
Faculty of Business and Law

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