The Grand Union DTP and its pathways
The Grand Union DTP is an ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership uniting The Open University, the University of Oxford and Brunel University London. The partnership builds on the recognised research and doctoral training strengths of all three institutions. The Open University offers six pathways for doctoral training: see below -- with links provided that describe the training available for doctoral students. This will offer you some background in selecting the relevant pathway lead to contact about the Fellowship.

Fellowships in all OU pathways can be taken full- or part- time.

OU Training pathways

Pathway 1. Citizenship – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University
Citizenship studies is an inter- and cross-disciplinary field in which citizenship is investigated as not only a contested legal or political status, but also as field of practices through which individuals and groups (regardless of their status) struggle for, demand, or claim, rights, recognition or redistribution. The varied dimensions of citizenship (and conversely, non-citizenship), the multiple actors involved in struggles over citizenship, and the numerous sites at which these struggles take place translates to a conceptually, empirically and methodologically rich field of study and research.

For more information on this pathway, please follow this link: Citizenship Pathway

Pathways 2. Development Policy and Practice - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University
Development Policy and Practice at the OU challenges 'top-down' and aid-driven development policy models and promotes research into more participatory and inclusive approaches. In particular, its approach to 'inclusive innovation' focuses attention on how technological, economic and social innovations in food, health and education systems and sustainable energy infrastructures can bring benefits to marginalized groups. Underpinning this pathway is a history of research at the OU on the social and economic impacts of innovation and the political dimensions of development, all with a strong orientation to policy and practice.

For more information on this pathway, please follow this link: Development, Policy and Practice Pathway

Pathway 3. Geography - Lead University: Oxford; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University
The Open University’s Geography Department hosts the Open Space Research Centre, which fosters interdisciplinary research on geography and the environment, attracting academics from backgrounds in sciences, social sciences and humanities. As an inherently interdisciplinary subject, the Geography pathway is uniquely placed to provide comprehensive social sciences research training to address societal and environmental problems.

For more information on this pathway, please follow this link: Geography Pathway

Pathway 4. Security – Faculty of Business and Law, The Open University
The pathway encompasses the interdisciplinary research fields of security, privacy and surveillance. Topics include: policing, leadership and management in the police and security services, law relating to security, privacy and surveillance including international and human rights law, leadership in organisations related to security, privacy or surveillance, multi-agency working, block chains and cryptocurrencies (use and legal
issues), law and neuroscience aspects of security, privacy or surveillance, entrepreneurship related to security, privacy or surveillance, critical management studies related to security, privacy or surveillance, social marketing relating to security, privacy or surveillance, ethics and corporate social responsibility relating to security, privacy or surveillance.

The pathway will appeal those who wish to pursue careers addressing the societal and commercial issues associated with security including government, regulators, NGOs, technology companies, the police, security services and academia.

The Open University’s Faculty of Business and Law hosts both the Centre for Policing Research & Learning. The Oxford Internet Institute hosts the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre (GCSCC). For more information on this pathway and how to apply for a studentship, please follow this link: Security Pathway

Pathway 5. Innovation in Learning- Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, The Open University

This interdisciplinary pathway supports research into innovative approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. Especially welcome are research proposals which address openness, inclusion and wellbeing in the digital age and those which explore the boundaries between formal and informal learning. Our current research strengths (and supervision capacity) embrace: the use of appropriate technologies for educational and professional purposes; assistive technology use by learners with disabilities; children’s digital lives; creativity and technology use; technologies for translation. A key feature of the pathway is the wide span of approaches employed by its researchers. They range from child-led research, using participative methods, through ethnography (online and in physical space), to the use of data analytics and eye tracking. We welcome research which makes imaginative use of diverse methodological combinations.

For more information on this pathway, please follow this link: Innovation in Learning Pathway

Pathway 6. Health and Wellbeing - Lead University: Brunel; Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, The Open University

The persistence of health and wellbeing inequalities requires a robust social science evidence base to improve policy and service responses and understandings of the social processes underpinning health worldwide. This pathway willequip cohorts of social science researchers to apply innovative methodologies that enhance our knowledge of health and wellbeing for diverse groups, in diverse contexts. The pathway offers rich opportunities for addressing pressing health issues across the life course in the UK, or to conduct their research in international settings in development contexts.

For more information on this pathway, please follow this link: Health and Wellbeing Pathway