

Your 2025/2026

Health and Social Care Prospectus



The future is
open



The future is open

There's no limit to what you can achieve with The Open University. Unlock a world of possibilities – wherever you are and wherever you want to go.

- Gain a globally recognised, high-quality university education.
- Develop the skills and confidence employers are looking for.
- Get a step closer to your dream career.
- Explore your passion and what you're capable of.
- Start the next chapter in your learning journey.

Over two million people have already transformed their futures with us. Now it's your turn.



Welcome to the home of distance and online learning

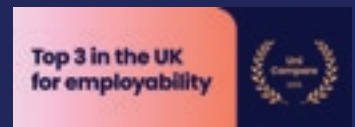
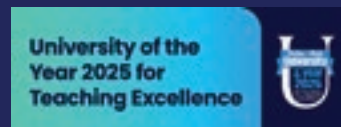
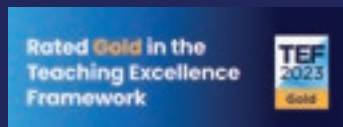
Achieve a career-boosting qualification with the experts in bringing university to you. For over 50 years, we've pioneered a more flexible way to learn and are a world leader in high-quality distance education.

Studying with the OU means you have the freedom to achieve a respected university qualification on your terms. You can learn whenever suits you, fitting study around your job, family, and social life. Plus, you'll get expert support from a dedicated tutor at every step, free careers advice, and be part of the UK's biggest student community.

When it comes to course quality, you'll be learning from the best. Named 'University of the Year for Teaching Excellence 2025' (Daily Mail University Guide), we're proud to be globally recognised for our teaching and part of an elite group of universities to achieve overall Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework. So whatever your goals, we're here to help you make them a reality.

Reasons to choose the OU

- Tried and trusted – join the largest UK university for undergraduate education.
- Boost your career – 87% of our alumni say studying with us helped them achieve their career goals.
- Reach your potential – we produce more CEOs and managing directors than any other UK university.
- Invest in your future – we're rated as one of the top three universities for employability and can support you with careers guidance, networking and more.
- Learn and earn – 69% of our students are already in work, balancing their careers with their studies.
- Gain a qualification employers respect – 72% of FTSE 100 companies have sponsored their staff to study with us.
- Be inspired – our amazing academics power the latest co-productions with the BBC – including Panorama: *Will the NHS care for me?*, *Joe Wicks: Facing my childhood* and Sir David Attenborough's iconic nature series *Planet Earth*.



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University that works for you

Our courses are designed to flex around your life, so you can study in a way that suits you best. It's just one of the reasons why we're the most popular university for undergraduate students in the UK.

Learn on your terms

OU study is truly flexible. You can access your course materials 24/7 and study anytime, anywhere you like.

You'll also have the support of a dedicated tutor, plus our student support and careers teams are ready to guide you as soon as you start studying.

- Decide when and where you learn.
- Fit study around the rest of your life.
- Fund your studies in a way that suits you.
- Keep on earning while you learn.

Learn from the best

You'll have access to top-quality course materials and be taught by our network of more than 4,500 expert tutors, who are subject specialists. Many combine their teaching work with academic or industry roles, which means you'll receive teaching that's innovative and inspired by the latest insights.

OU study has changed me as a person. It's made me realise that you can actually do anything you want to.

Misty Crew
OU graduate

Spark your imagination

See your favourite subjects brought to life with the latest in learning innovation. From textbooks to virtual learning environments, from home experiments to award-winning state-of-the-art remote labs, you'll study using a variety of digital and physical resources. So however you learn best, we'll keep you inspired.

Additional study support




Did you know we support more disabled students than any other UK university? We'll provide access to tools and guidance, and ensure you get the appropriate level of support to make the best of your studies.

Connect with like-minded students

There are lots of ways to connect with our active student community, including online discussion groups and tutorials. You can also connect with us on social media or join one of the many informal social media groups set up by OU students.

When you register, you'll become a member of our Students Association. It's a great way to meet other students, take part in societies and help influence University decisions. See how to get involved at [oustudents.com](https://www.oustudents.com).

Get social with us

-  @OUstudents
-  @OUstudents
-  @OUstudentslive

How do we compare with other universities?

An OU qualification is just as rigorous and respected as one from a campus-based university and is highly valued by employers. What's different is that the OU gives you the flexibility to study around your job or other commitments.

Bringing university to you, wherever you are

We've continuously developed our teaching methods for over 50 years so that you can fit a high-quality university education around your busy life.

We're dedicated to giving you the very best experience and are proud to be recognised for our teaching – we're the *Daily Mail* University of the Year for Teaching Excellence and were awarded overall Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework.

We're respected by employers

An OU qualification is globally recognised and will give you the skills and confidence employers look for. Research shows that employers rate OU students as being work-ready, adaptable and self-starters – qualities that can help your CV to stand out from the crowd.

You can study around work and put what you learn into practice immediately, helping you to boost your career prospects long before you graduate. Plus, we'll help you to plan ahead with free careers advice, resources and networking opportunities as soon as you become an OU student.



We're open to all

We believe that with the right support, preparation and guidance, many people are capable of succeeding in higher education. That's why there are no formal entry requirements for most of our undergraduate courses.

Looking for postgraduate study? Find out the entry requirements at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-ready.

We're a thriving community

You'll be part of one of the most diverse, dynamic and inclusive student communities. Whatever your goals, we're here to help and champion you to fulfil your ambition.

More than 195,000 students study with us each year. Come and join them.

Get to know us

Find out what you can expect as an OU student.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/learning



Qualifications to suit you

With over 200 courses to choose from, whatever your goal, it's possible with The Open University. You can study towards a degree or start with a certificate or diploma and build on your studies as you go.

Undergraduate

Certificate of higher education

Get a general grounding or improve your understanding of a subject area.

Diploma of higher education

Expand your knowledge and improve your skill set in a specialised area.

Foundation degree

Focus on a subject related to what you're doing now, in either paid or voluntary work.

Named degree

Complete modules in a specific subject to earn an honours degree and open doors to a new career or interest.

Open degree

Design your own honours degree and include modules from different subject areas to suit your needs and interests.

Postgraduate

Postgraduate certificate

Ideal for professional and career development, this is the first step towards a masters degree as well as being a valuable qualification in its own right.

Postgraduate diploma

Work towards a widely recognised qualification equivalent to two-thirds of a masters degree.

Masters degree

Study modules towards an internationally respected qualification while gaining specialist academic, professional, or technical skills.

Doctorate in Health and Social Care

A postgraduate research degree designed for established professionals working in health and social care settings.

Discover your ideal course

Find the course to match your ambition.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/course-types

Achieve your goals with us

We've been helping people like you realise their potential since 1969. Meet some of the incredible OU students and graduates who have used their studies to transform their futures.

There's lots of pressure to follow the same path as everyone else, but it's not the only way. The OU has helped me to achieve my career goals and given me the freedom to make my own decisions.

Eileanoir Blair
OU graduate



As a working mum, I knew that physically attending university wasn't possible – the OU is the perfect solution. I can get on with my life while I complete my studies.

Chido Manyande
OU student



I left school with few qualifications and, thanks to the OU, I'm on course to be a lawyer with a job offer from one of the best law firms in the world!

Thomas Barry
OU student



My career progression has been amazing – OU study equipped me for a successful career; I'd recommend it to anyone. If a CV came across my desk from someone with an OU degree, it would stand out straight away.

James Bransgrove
OU graduate



Chat with OU students

Find out more about the OU study experience by talking to some of our current students.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ask-a-student



Welcome to Health and Social Care

Health, social work and social care services in the UK are constantly changing. Innovations in policy and practice, as well as new standards for treatment, care and support, provide challenges and opportunities for professionals working in the fields of Health and Social Care.

The benefits of studying health, social work and social care with us include:

- ▶ **a teaching model designed to fit around your work and home life - allowing you to earn while you learn**
- ▶ **a wide range of courses, so no matter what level of experience or interest you have, we have a course to suit you**
- ▶ **learning from a faculty that works with employers, including the NHS, social services and voluntary sector, providing qualifications that meet their changing needs**
- ▶ **gaining a broad understanding of the diverse practices, settings and influential factors that make up and affect this sector**
- ▶ **access to learning that is informed by research.**

Whether you already work in the sector or are generally interested in this field, studying with us provides you with a sound and critical understanding of the health and social care policy, theory and practice essential in today's fast-changing care sector. You'll be studying with one of the largest and most innovative providers of educational opportunities and learning solutions in the health and social care sector.

Undergraduate

Our undergraduate qualifications range from certificates, diplomas and foundation degrees in areas of health and social care, and a choice of degrees including:

- Health and Social Care
- Health Science
- Nursing (Adult, Children and Young People, Learning Disabilities, and Mental Health)
- Public Health
- Social Work

Postgraduate

We offer certificates, diplomas and degrees at postgraduate level covering Childhood and Youth, and Social Work.



I opted for the OU because of its flexibility. I didn't have to go to university full-time and I could earn a salary while I was studying. Thanks to my OU studies, my self-confidence has increased. I'm looking forward to taking up my first nursing appointment.



Becky Benton
BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing

Professional accreditation

We offer qualifications in nursing associate practice, nursing and social work that are approved by external regulators. By working in partnership with employers, our learning programmes in nursing and nursing associate practice are recognised by health and social care employers across the UK, providing you with an accredited route into nursing.

With around 250 graduates every year, we're also the UK's largest provider of a part-time qualifying degree in social work. If you already work in a social care setting, this degree offers you a unique opportunity to build on your experience towards a professional qualification.

Apprenticeships

As one of the Education and Skills Funding Agency's approved apprenticeship providers, we are committed to ensuring

that we provide a selection of high-quality apprenticeships to support those in health, social work and social care in England.

Our apprenticeships include:

- Higher Apprenticeship in Health (Nursing Associate)
- Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship
- Social Worker Degree Apprenticeship.

Please note that our apprenticeships are only available through your employer and you cannot register directly with the OU.

Employers interested in finding out more about apprenticeships should go to **openuniversity.co.uk/apprenticeships**, email us at **apprenticeships@open.ac.uk** or call **0300 303 0122**.



You're on your way

Take the next step by reading more about how you'll study, how long it takes and the support you'll receive.



Building your qualification

Undergraduate

You don't need to commit to a full degree. We offer certificates, diplomas and foundation degrees too. Each qualification is valuable in its own right, so you can complete a certificate and stop there or use it as a stepping stone to a diploma or degree.

You'll need to build up credits to gain your qualification. Here's how it works:

Stages

You'll need to complete:

- one stage for a certificate of higher education
- two stages for a diploma of higher education or foundation degree
- three stages for an honours degree.

To complete each stage, you must build up a set number of credits.

Credits

- You'll need at least 120 credits to complete each stage.
- You gain credits by passing modules.

Modules

- With each module you pass, you'll earn a set number of credits, usually 30 or 60.
- Modules are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Access module¹

An optional module to build your confidence and prepare you for further study.

Stage 1

To complete Stage 1, you'll need 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

120 credits

Certificate of higher education

Stage 2

To complete Stage 2, you'll need a further 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

240 credits

Diploma of higher education or
Foundation degree

Stage 3

To complete Stage 3, you'll need a further 120 credits, studying modules worth 30 or 60 credits.

360 credits

Honours degree

¹ Only available in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How does it work?

Watch our quick guide on how credits work and how you can build your undergraduate qualification.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ug-qual

Postgraduate

Postgraduate qualifications are made up of credits.

You'll need:

- 60 credits to gain a postgraduate certificate
- 120 credits to gain a postgraduate diploma
- 180 credits to gain a masters degree.

You build up credits by passing modules. These are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Getting started

All you need to do is choose your qualification and register for a module that counts towards that qualification.

60 credits
at postgraduate level.

Postgraduate certificate

A further 60 credits at postgraduate level,
totalling **120 credits**.

Postgraduate diploma

A further 60 credits at postgraduate level,
totalling **180 credits**.

Masters degree



Learn more

Find out more about postgraduate study at the OU.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/pg-qual

Prepare for study with an Access module

No matter your background or study experience, we're here to help you succeed. That's why we offer a choice of starting points depending on how confident you are in your study skills.

You can dive straight into a qualification, or if you want to try out university study or feel you need to learn how to get back into studying again, an Access module could be a great first step. It can also help you find out more about your interests and where you want your learning to take you.

Not sure where to begin? Find the best starting point for you by visiting [openuniversity.co.uk/ready](https://www.openuniversity.co.uk/ready).

Access modules are only available to residents of the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How Access modules work

Each week you'll work through a mix of online and printed module materials, including online quizzes and written assignments. At the end, you'll demonstrate your learning by completing a final written assignment. There's no exam.

You'll have a dedicated tutor who'll provide academic support via email and one-to-one phone tutorials. Your Student Support Team will be on hand to help with everything else, from study advice to guidance on fees and funding.

Access modules start in February and October and typically require around nine or ten hours of study per week over 30 weeks. In February and May, we also offer a fast-track option which allows you to complete your module in 18 weeks by increasing your weekly study time.

What you need

You'll need a phone and a computer with internet access. You'll get access to your module website, and your books and other printed materials will be posted to you.

Visit our website for more information on what you'll need for your chosen course.

What you can study

Each Access module explores key topics and develops the skills you'll need as you continue your chosen qualification.

Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module (Y034)

Explore some of our most popular subjects such as psychology, childhood and youth, early years, health and social wellbeing, sport, education, and social sciences. Each area is introduced and explained at a gentle pace, perfect if you want to get to grips with something new.

Also available as *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module: fast track* (YXFT034).

We offer three other Access modules, which are more relevant to other subject areas:

- *Arts and languages Access module* (Y031) – also available as *Arts and languages Access module: fast track* (YXFT031)
- *Business and law Access module* (Y035) – also available as *Business and law Access module: fast track* (YXFT035) from February 2026
- *Science, technology and maths Access module* (Y033) – also available as *Science, technology and maths Access module: fast track* (YXFT033).



You could study for free

Depending on eligibility and availability of places, you could study your Access module for free.

To qualify, you must:

- be resident in the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man) or have a British Forces Post Office address and
- meet the income threshold criteria, for more information visit openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access, and
- have not completed one year or more on any full-time undergraduate programme at FHEQ or CQFW level 4/ SCQF level 7 or above, and not completed 30 credits or more of OU study.

Once you've started the registration process, we'll contact you about your payment options. This will include instructions on applying to study for free if you are eligible and funded places are still available.

How much does an Access module cost?

The cost depends on where you are resident. If you live in:

- England, it's £973
- the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, it's £1,023
- Ireland, it's £917
- Northern Ireland, it's £310
- Scotland, it's £318
- Wales, it's £328.

You can pay upfront by debit or credit card or by bank transfer. You can also spread the cost with an Open University Student Budget Account – there's more about this on page 21.

If you're studying an Access module as part of an OU qualification and you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you could cover the cost with a student loan – for more information, see pages 18–19.

If you haven't studied before, do an Access module. It gives you a chance to get a view of the subjects, and it will certainly help going forward.

Steven Sutherland
OU student



Students who start with an Access module are more likely to be successful when they advance to their next course.

Learn more about Access modules



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access

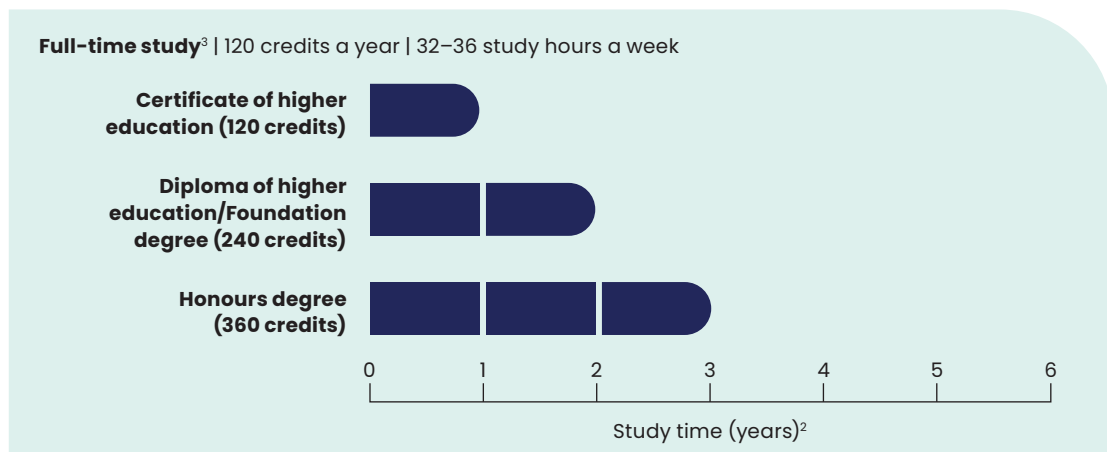
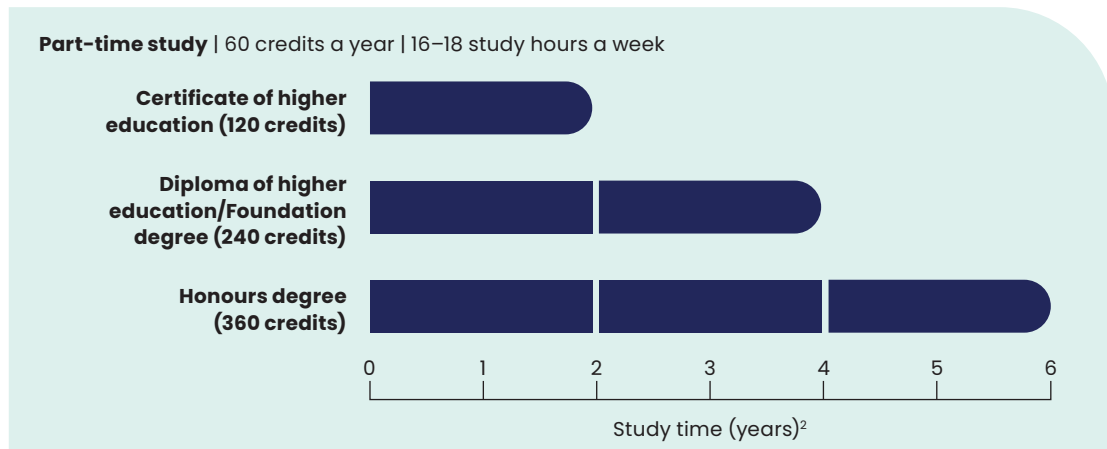
How long your qualification will take

We give you the flexibility to choose the amount of study you want to take on each year. That means you can get the qualification you want in a timeframe that works for you.

Undergraduate qualifications

How long it will take to gain your qualification depends on the course you've chosen and the amount of credits you study each year. Studying 60 credits a year is half the rate of a full-time course at a campus-based university. To complete your studies at a pace equivalent to full-time, you'll need to gain 120 credits per year.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.¹



¹ Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.

² Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.

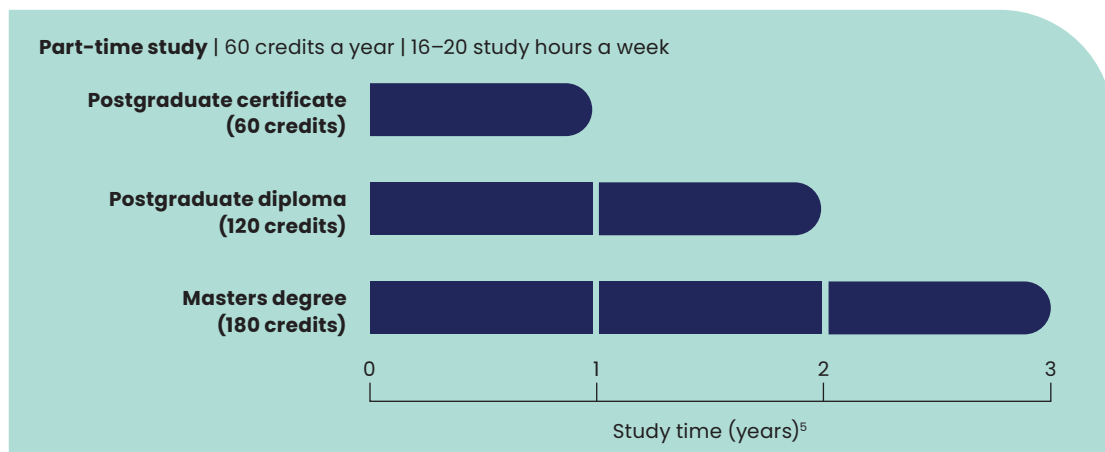
³ All OU students are considered part-time students. This remains the same even if you study at a pace that's equivalent to full-time.

Postgraduate qualifications

The time it takes to get your qualification depends on how it's structured and the number of credits required. All of our postgraduate courses are offered as part-time study, and the typical timescales for individual module completion are shown below.

- 15–30 credit module – five months.
- 60 credit module – nine months.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.⁴



⁴ Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.

⁵ Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you could count this study towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the modules you need to study.

Visit openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer to find out more.

Plan your time

Find out more about the time you need to study.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/time



Supporting you to succeed

You're never alone when you're studying with The Open University. You'll be part of our global community of students, expert tutors and advisers, all ready to help you get the most out of your journey.

For each module, you'll have a dedicated tutor who'll be your first point of contact for any queries. They'll lead regular tutorials, mark your assignments, provide detailed written feedback, and give study support through email, online, or over the phone. Expert advisers from your Student

Support Team can help with any other support needs you experience as an OU student.

Our Students Association, OU Community forums and range of societies and groups mean you're connected to one of the UK's largest student communities.



There is a community at The Open University. Everyone supports each other. One tutor that really inspired me was Michael. His words of encouragement gave me a confidence boost. My grades just kept on improving and improving.

Joe Acaye
OU student

Your Students Association awaits

The Open University Students Association is a lot like a student union. It's run by students, for students, and can help you make the most of your OU experience. You'll automatically become a member and there's no fee. Here are just a few ways you can get involved:

- Find like-minded students by joining a club, society or support group.
- Meet other students online or at an in-person meet-up near you.

- Take part in our Welcome events where you'll meet other members of the OU community.
- Volunteer or become a student representative to have your say.

Your Association is led by a team of elected students and is supported by hundreds more, all dedicated to creating a wonderful community and representing all OU students.

To find out more, visit [oustudents.com](https://www.oustudents.com).



Join our community

Find out more about how you'll be supported during your studies.



Visit
[openuniversity.co.uk/community](https://www.openuniversity.co.uk/community)

How you'll learn

With regular tutorials and an online hub to manage your studies, you'll have everything you need to succeed.

Once you've registered, you'll have access to StudentHome where you'll be able to:

- see an overview of your course and the modules you're studying
- submit your assignments
- visit our Help Centre
- access your virtual learning environment
- choose and enrol on your next module.

The virtual learning environment or 'module website' contains all the online study resources you'll need, including:

- a week-by-week study planner
- an assessment section, giving details of your assignments and their due dates
- the tutorial booking system
- your online tutorial room
- module forums where you can discuss topics with other students and complete collaborative work
- PDF and accessible formats of your module materials and resources.

Our assessment methods

Depending on your course, we'll use a blend of written assignments, oral and practical assessments, projects, exams, dissertations and portfolios. For more on assessments, visit openuniversity.co.uk/assessment.

What you need

To study with us, you'll need:

- a computer with internet access. If you haven't got access to one right now, you could receive financial support to help buy one
- a basic level of digital skills, such as using a web browser or working with documents and applications. Find out more about the computing skills you'll need, visit openuniversity.co.uk/computer-skills
- a good grasp of the English language. We teach our courses in English. If you're not sure whether your English is at the right level, go to openuniversity.co.uk/englishlanguage for help and guidance.



Nearly there

Read on to discover more about how we can help you fund your studies and the qualifications you could achieve.

Undergraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, so you won't have to pay for your whole qualification upfront.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN ENGLAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ¹
60	£3,892
120	£7,784

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £23,352.

¹ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. In England, fees are subject to the part-time fee limit, as set out in section 5 of the University's Fee Rules (openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules).

FOR THOSE LIVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ²
60	£1,240
120	£2,480

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,440.

² 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN SCOTLAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ³
60	£1,272
120	£2,544

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,632.

³ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN WALES

Credits each year	Cost per year ⁴
60	£1,312
120	£2,624

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £7,872.

⁴ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING IN IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ⁵
60	£3,666
120	£7,332

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £21,996.

⁵ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

FOR THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE THE UK AND IRELAND

Credits each year	Cost per year ⁶
60	£4,092
120	£8,184

Based on today's prices, the total cost for a typical 360-credit honours degree is £24,552.

⁶ 2025/26 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Our module fees include your module materials, tuition, assessment, and exams. However, there are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.

- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction books or a language dictionary.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, there may be an additional cost. You'll also need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

The best way to fund your undergraduate studies, regardless of age or income, might be with a student loan. In fact, 85% of OU students in England fund their studies this way.

Key facts

- You don't have to pay anything upfront. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £25,000.
- Repayments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- You can pay off the loan early without any penalties.
- Any balance outstanding will be written off after 40 years.

Here's how your monthly student loan repayments could look:

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment ⁷
Up to £25,000	£0
£27,000	£15.00
£30,000	£37.50

⁷ Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £25,000. For example, if you earn £27,000, you'll repay £180 that year (9% of £2,000). That's just £15.00 per month.

Already have an undergraduate degree?

You may still qualify for a student loan. You just need to be living in England or Wales and looking to study an eligible qualification.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Grant

You could be eligible for up to £1,230 a year. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

If you're not eligible for the grant, or if it doesn't cover the full cost of your tuition fees, you can pay in full or in part using an alternative payment method, such as a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan.

Course Grant

You may also be eligible for a non-repayable Course Grant of up to a maximum of £265 a year. It's intended to help with course-related costs, such as a computer, internet access or stationery.

SCOTLAND

Part-Time Fee Grant

You could qualify for a Part-Time Fee Grant and top-up funding to cover 100% of your course fees. You're likely to be eligible if your personal income is £25,000 or less, or you're on certain benefits, and you're studying at least 30 credits a year. The fee grant and top-up funding aren't loans, so you won't need to pay any of it back.

WALES

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

The best way to fund your undergraduate studies, regardless of age or income, might be with a student loan. In fact, 80% of OU students in Wales fund their studies this way.

Key facts

- You don't have to pay anything upfront. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £27,295.
- Repayments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- You can pay off the loan early without any penalties.
- Any balance outstanding will be written off after 30 years.

Here's how your monthly student loan repayments could look:

Income each year before tax	Monthly repayment ⁹
Up to £27,295	£0
£29,000	£12.79
£34,000	£50.29

⁹ Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe. You'll repay 9% of what you earn over £27,295. For example, if you earn £29,000, you'll repay £153.45 that year (9% of £1,705). That's just £12.79 per month.

Already have an undergraduate degree?

You may still qualify for a student loan. You just need to be living in Wales and looking to study an eligible qualification.

Maintenance grants

You could be eligible for up to £4,500 a year to help with living costs. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Maintenance loans

You'll also be eligible to apply for a non-means-tested maintenance loan, should you need it, to 'top-up' the financial support you've received from grants.

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for student loan or grant funding, or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan

Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See page 21 for more information.

Card payments

Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments

Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Care Experienced Scholarship⁹

If you have been in the care of a Local Authority at any stage of your life and are 30 or under, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Carers' Scholarship Fund⁹

If you are, or have recently been, an unpaid carer, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Disabled Students' Allowance⁹

You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund⁹

If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship

Your employer could partially or fully pay your module fees.

Sanctuary Scholarship⁹

If you've been displaced from your homeland for political, economic, ethnic, environmental, or human rights pressures, you could be eligible to study for free.

Scholarship for Black Students⁹

If you identify as being from a Black background, you could study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Study-related costs⁹

If you're on a low household income or receive certain benefits, you might be eligible for additional funding for study-related costs, such as travel, internet access and stationery.

⁹ UK residents only.

Find out more

Find out more about undergraduate fees and funding.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees
 Call
 0300 303 5303

Postgraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, which means you won't have to pay for your whole qualification upfront. To find the total fee for your qualification, visit our website.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Your module materials, tuition, assessment and exams are all included in our module fees.

There are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.
- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction or theory books.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, you'll need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND AND WALES

Postgraduate loan

You could be eligible for a maintenance loan of up to £12,858 from Student Finance England or up to £19,255 from Student Finance Wales.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- The money is paid directly to you.
- You'll get your first instalment after you've paid for your first module and started studying.
- Payments are spread across two or three years.
- Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £21,000).
- You'll repay 6% of your income over £21,000. So, for example, if you earn £25,000, you'll repay only £240 that year (6% of £4,000). That's just £20 a month.
- Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- Any balance outstanding after 30 years is written off.

To be eligible you must:

- be resident in England or Wales
- be under 60 years old
- be studying a masters degree that can be completed in no more than three years
- not currently have a masters degree or equivalent
- be studying your qualification from the beginning.

NORTHERN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

Postgraduate loan

You could be eligible for a tuition fee loan of up to £6,500 from Student Finance Northern Ireland or up to £7,000 from the Student Awards Agency Scotland.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- There's no upper age limit.
- Payments are spread over the duration of your studies.
- Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £24,990 in Northern Ireland and £31,395 in Scotland).
- You'll repay 9% of your income over the threshold – so, for example, if you earn £35,000 and live in Scotland, you'll repay only £324.45 that year (9% of £3,605). That's just £27 a month.
- Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.

To be eligible, you must be:

- resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland
- studying for an eligible postgraduate qualification.

Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA)

Some students fund their studies through a loan from OUSBA. You'll be offered this option when you register with us, as long as you're a resident of the UK, European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, or Vatican City State.

Here's how it works

OUSBA will pay your fees to The Open University. You can then choose to repay OUSBA:

- in a single sum before your course starts. There's no interest to pay with this option
- in monthly instalments of up to a year. With this option, interest does apply.

The interest rate is fixed for the duration of the course (representative APR 5.1%).

If you're worried about affordability or a poor credit history, you can apply for a joint loan application with a third party. This could be with a partner, sibling or friend, for example.

As a responsible lender, OUSBA carries out affordability checks as part of the application process.

To find out more about OUSBA, visit openuniversity.co.uk/ousba.

Find out more

Find out more about postgraduate fees and funding.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees
Call
0300 303 5303

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for loan or grant funding or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan

Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See right for more information.

Card payments

Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments

Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Disabled Students' Allowance¹

You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund¹

If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship

Your employer could partially or fully pay for your module fees.

Grant funding

We offer access to a database of over 600 non-OU funding bodies offering grants for postgraduate students studying for or looking to study a masters, PGCE, or research degree.

Hayes Postgraduate Scholarship¹

If you're studying an Engineering or Computing masters degree, you could be eligible to complete it for free.

OU bursaries¹

If you've already completed an OU undergraduate degree, you could receive a bursary to help lower the cost of your postgraduate study.

Study related costs¹

If you're on a low household income, or receive certain benefits, you might be eligible for additional funding for study-related costs, such as travel, internet access and stationery.

¹ UK residents only.



Find your undergraduate course

Health and social care

BA (Hons) Health and Social Care (R26)	24
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Nursing and healthcare practice

BSc (Hons) Nursing (R39)	40
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Social work

BA (Hons) Social Work (England) (Q32)	46
BA (Hons) Social Work (Northern Ireland) (R61)	48
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Health and biomedical sciences

BSc (Hons) Health Sciences (Q71)	54
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Open degree

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BA (Hons) Health and Social Care

This degree provides you with a sound and critical understanding of health and social care which is essential in today's fast-changing care sector.

Health and social care professionals at all levels need to be proactive and flexible to succeed. With this degree, you'll gain the skills you need for effective practice in a diverse, multidisciplinary environment. It'll help you build a foundation for effective management and leadership in the health and social care sector.

Throughout your studies, you'll learn how ethical, legal, social, economic and political factors influence the provision and development of services. You'll develop the critical and analytical skills that underpin evidence-based practice. You'll also explore new theories examining health and wellbeing in the 21st century, learning to challenge concepts you may have previously taken for granted.

By the end of your studies, you'll be able to evaluate your own and others' roles in the context of policy developments, assess emerging strategic solutions, and recognise and value diversity and difference.

Why this qualification?

- Encounter exciting new ideas and apply them to real-life issues and situations that affect us all.
- Teaching based on our internationally recognised research into care issues across the lifecourse.
- Explore the context and processes of change and new ways of working across agencies and professional boundaries.
- Develop as an independent and reflective learner.

91% of students are satisfied with their course when studying Health and Social Care with us. Our high-quality online content and tutor support ensure student success.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Health and Social Care (W69)
openuniversity.co.uk/w69

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits	<p><i>Introducing health and social care</i> (K102) (60 credits)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compulsory modules
	<p>Choose one from: <i>Foundations for social care and social work practice</i> (K123) (60 credits) OR <i>Introduction to childhood studies and child psychology</i> (E104) (60 credits) OR <i>Wellbeing across the lifecourse</i> (K119) (60 credits)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Option modules <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate qualification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awarded qualification
Stage 2 – 120 credits	<p><i>Critical ideas in wellbeing and public health</i> (K212) (60 credits)</p>	
	<p>Choose one from: <i>Critical perspectives on mental health in society</i> (K243) (60 credits) OR <i>Death, dying and bereavement</i> (K220) (60 credits) OR <i>Supporting children and young people's wellbeing</i> (KE207) (60 credits)</p>	
<p>Diploma of Higher Education in Health and Social Care (W69)</p>		
Stage 3 – 120 credits	<p><i>Leading, managing, caring</i> (K318) (60 credits)</p>	
	<p>Choose one from: <i>Approaches to mental health</i> (K314) (60 credits) OR <i>Investigating health and social care</i> (K323) (60 credits) OR <i>Public health: health promotion and health security</i> (K310) (60 credits) OR <i>Young lives, parenting and families</i> (KE322) (60 credits)</p>	
<p>BA (Hons) Health and Social Care</p>		

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R26

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Optional

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r26
 Call
 0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Healthcare and Health Science

Develop essential skills required for working in health and health science settings, giving you the ability to apply evidence-based scientific methodology to health-related issues.

Through a combination of healthcare and health science topics, you'll develop a broad understanding of the range of debates surrounding the provision of healthcare.

By exploring the experience of receiving care and working in the care services, and examining human health by focusing on particular health conditions, you'll identify the key factors which influence health. Ultimately, you'll learn to apply your understanding to a range of public health issues.

You'll also learn to evaluate the relationship between scientific and social understandings about the promotion of health.

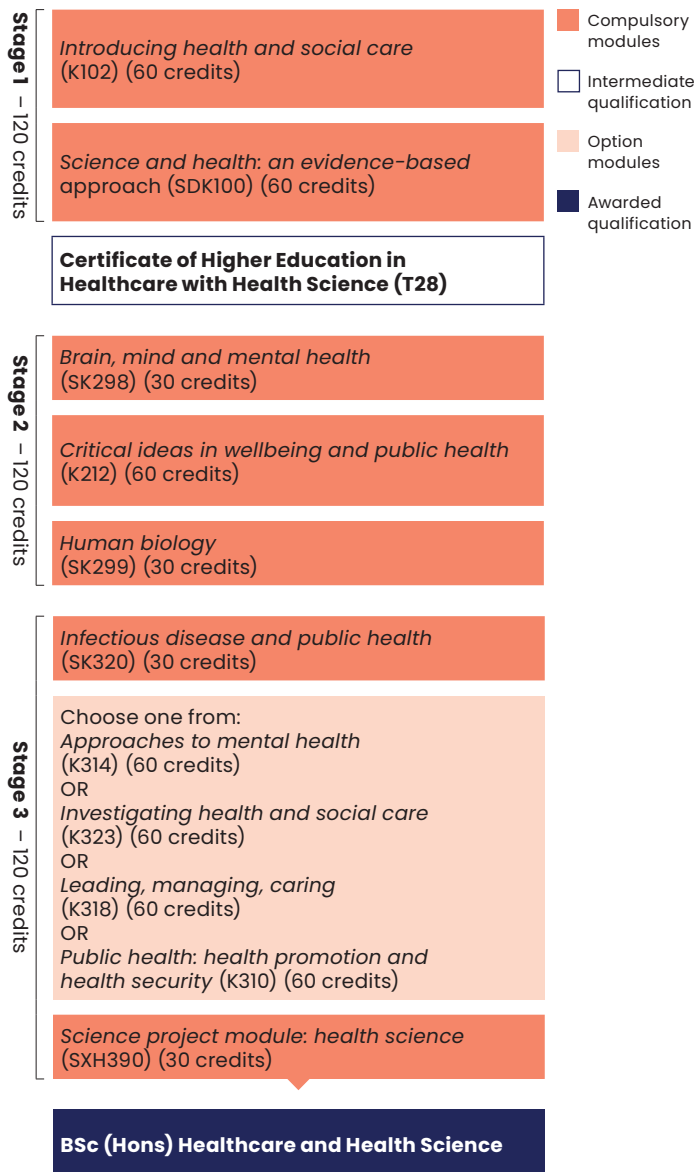
Why this qualification?

- Develop a range of skills in interpreting, generating, and presenting information using a unique blend of learning materials.
- Learn about the ethical, social, scientific, economic and political issues that influence health and healthcare.
- Engage with an evidence-based, scientific approach to health sciences and gain an appreciation of the limits of scientific knowledge.
- Critically evaluate approaches to service provision and develop strategies for improving practice.

Related qualification

Certificate of Higher Education in Healthcare with Health Science (T28)
openuniversity.co.uk/t28

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q96

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Optional

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q96
 Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Public Health and Wellbeing

Gain a sound and critical understanding of public health and wellbeing and how a concern for public health can lead to wellbeing.

You'll examine the origins and focus of public health and its policy and practice aims and consider the different issues associated with the epidemiology of different diseases, for example, COVID-19. You'll also explore how public health practice can prevent ill-health associated with non-communicable diseases, for example, obesity or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

You'll study how the social determinants of health and illness lead to inequalities and inequities in the distribution of ill-health across a population. This will lead to the consideration of evidence-based remedies and interventions aimed at individual and communal well-being.

The area of public health is rapidly developing. Healthcare professionals at all levels need to be proactive and flexible to succeed, and through your studies you'll gain the skills needed for effective practice

in a diverse, multidisciplinary environment. You'll learn about the United Kingdom Public Health Register (UKPHR) and how its standards contribute to being a public health practitioner.

In addition, you'll learn how ethical, legal, social, economic and political factors influence the provision and development of services while developing the critical and analytical skills that underpin evidence-based practice.

Why this qualification?

- Explore a rapidly developing area of health and social care.
- Consider the issues surrounding both infectious and non-communicable diseases.
- Critically evaluate how inequalities in society impact individual and community health.
- Learn about the ethical, legal, economic and political issues that influence healthcare provision.

Gain critical insights into public health, health promotion, and equity with our **Graduate Certificate in Public Health (S06)**.

Explore evidence-based solutions and advance your understanding of health inequalities and interventions – visit: openuniversity.co.uk/s06 for more information.

Related qualification

Certificate of Higher Education in Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
openuniversity.co.uk/t52

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits	Wellbeing across the lifecourse (K119) (60 credits)	Compulsory modules
	Introducing health and social care (K102) (60 credits) OR Science and health: an evidence-based approach (SDK100) (60 credits)	Option modules
Stage 2 – 120 credits	Critical ideas in wellbeing and public health (K212) (60 credits)	Awarded qualification
	Choose 60 credits from: Critical perspectives on mental health in society (K243) (60 credits) OR Death, dying and bereavement (K220) (60 credits) OR Supporting children and young people's wellbeing (KE207) (60 credits) OR Brain, mind and mental health (SK298) (30 credits) OR Human biology (SK299) (30 credits) AND Infection, immunity and public health (SK297) (30 credits)	
Stage 3 – 120 credits	Investigating health and social care (K323) (60 credits)	
	Public health: health promotion and health security (K310) (60 credits)	
BSc (Hons) Public Health and Wellbeing		

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R64

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Optional

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r64
Call
0300 303 5303



Diploma of Higher Education in Social Care (Scotland)

Social care in Scotland is increasingly multidisciplinary and community focused – requiring a skilled, adaptable workforce to deliver high-quality services.

This diploma will deepen your insight into social care and social work, developing the knowledge and skills you need to effectively support vulnerable adults and children in multiple settings.

It places a strong emphasis on working across professional boundaries, with supported people placed firmly at the centre. You'll gain an up-to-date and authoritative overview of care services, drawing on real-life practice scenarios with children, older people, mental health communities and people with learning disabilities.

If you're interested in a similar diploma but live outside Scotland, you may also be interested in our Diploma of Higher Education in Health and Social Care (W69) – visit openuniversity.co.uk/w69 for more information.

Why this qualification?

- Explore key roles, standards and codes of practice.
- Focus on particular areas relevant to your own role.
- Build a solid foundation for further study.

Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements to study this diploma, but you need to be working in, or have access to, a social care agency, for example, through voluntary work.

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Introducing health and social care (K102) (60 credits)

Foundations for social care and social work practice (K123) (60 credits)

- Compulsory modules
- Option modules
- Awarded qualification

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Choose 120 credits from:
Critical ideas in wellbeing and public health (K212) (60 credits)
 OR
Critical perspectives on mental health in society (K243) (60 credits)
 OR
Death, dying and bereavement (K220) (60 credits)
 OR
Social work law¹ (K271) (60 credits)
 OR
Supporting children and young people's wellbeing¹ (KE207) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in Social Care (Scotland)

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

¹ These modules are compulsory in the BA (Hons) Social Work (Scotland) (Q41). If you are intending to seek entry into the degree, you should opt for these.

At a glance

Course code W31

Total credits 240

Start dates

Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 4 years
Full-time study: 2 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Practice-based learning
None

Don't stop there

You can choose modules in this diploma to carry forward to the **BA (Hons) Social Work (Scotland) (Q41)** – see page 50. Completing the diploma does not give automatic entry to the social work degree, which is subject to an interview process and meeting minimum entry requirements.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/w31
Call
0300 303 5303



Certificate of Higher Education in Children and Families

Ideal if you want to develop your interest in health and social care in the area of working with children, young people and families.

If you're directly engaged in this area (or hope to be) as a paid or unpaid worker or carer, this certificate provides you with a solid foundation of knowledge to build upon.

You'll be introduced to issues relating to the welfare of children and young people, including how health and social care services and practices are organised. You'll also acquire valuable knowledge and understanding about childhood, child development and children's rights that can be applied to work in a variety of health and social care contexts.

Why this qualification?

- Investigate key issues and debates about childhood, child development, child psychology and children's rights.
- Apply your knowledge and understanding to your own life or work environment.
- Build a solid foundation for further study.

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Introducing health and social care (K102) (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Introduction to childhood studies and child psychology (E104) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Children and Families

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code T24

Total credits 120

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

Full-time study: 1 year

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Optional

Practice-based learning

None



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/t24**
Call
0300 303 5303



Certificate of Higher Education in Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Explore some key issues surrounding health and social care, including public health.

Gain an authoritative overview of the current context of health and social care for children, young people, and adults of all ages using real-life case studies to explore a wide range of interesting issues and debates.

If you work in health and social care, including public health, use services yourself, or would simply like to find out more about how to support the wellbeing of children, young people or adults in our society and care systems, this certificate is for you.

Why this qualification?

- Deepen your knowledge and understanding of health and social care, including public health.
- Apply theories to help you understand real-life case studies.
- Develop practical and employability skills.
- Build a solid foundation for further study in this sector.

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Introducing health and social care
(K102) (60 credits)

Wellbeing across the lifecourse
(K119) (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Certificate of Higher Education in Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code T52

Total credits 120

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

Full-time study: 1 year

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Optional

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/t52
Call
0300 303 5303





Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care

Explore ideas about social care and social work with a certificate in social care from the OU.

You'll use practice scenarios involving children, older people, mental health communities, children with disabilities and people with learning disabilities to apply learning to practice contexts.

In addition to providing an excellent introduction to social work and social care, the modules in these certificates form the first stages of some qualifying social work degrees. In Scotland, the certificate (T03) is comprised of one of two modules at Stage 1 and one of two modules at Stage 2 of the social work degree.

Completing the certificate does not give automatic entry to a social work degree, which is subject to an interview process and meeting minimum entry or funding requirements. See the relevant qualification page for more details:

- BA (Hons) Social Work (England) (Q32) – see page 46.
- BA (Hons) Social Work (Northern Ireland) (R61) – see page 48.
- BA (Hons) Social Work (Scotland) (Q41) – see page 50.
- If you live in Wales, we also offer a Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care Practice (Wales) (T34) – see page 38.

Why this qualification?

- Consider the nature of social work and social care, and apply learning to practice.
- Use real-life practice scenarios to aid learning.
- Build key skills in information and communication technologies, digital and information literacy and reflective writing.
- Potential first step towards an honours degree in social work.

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Introducing health and social care (K102) (60 credits)

Foundations for social care and social work practice (K123)¹ (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care (T39)

Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care (Scotland) (T03)

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

¹ Students in Northern Ireland may study K123 or KZNI123, but KZNI123 is required to progress to the BA (Hons) Social Work (Northern Ireland) as it meets NISCC regulatory requirements.

At a glance

Course code T39
T03

Total credits 120

Start dates

Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements to study this certificate, but you will need to be working within, or have access to, a social care agency, for example, through voluntary work.

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

Full-time study: 1 year

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Practice-based learning
None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/social-care
Call
0300 303 5303



Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care Practice (Wales)

Explore key ideas about social work in Wales.

In this certificate, you'll use practice scenarios with children, older people, mental health communities, children with disabilities and people with learning disabilities to develop knowledge and apply learning to practice contexts. It is recognised by Social Care Wales as meeting the needs of social care workers involved in case assessments and giving information on access to services.

It also forms the first stage of our BA (Hons) Social Work (Wales) (Q42). Completing this certificate does not give automatic entry to this degree, which is subject to an interview process and meeting minimum entry or funding requirements. See page 52 for details.

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Introducing health and social care (K102) (60 credits)

Foundations for social care and social work practice (K123) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Social Care Practice (Wales)

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

Why this qualification?

- Consider the nature of social work and social care, and apply learning to practice.
- Build key skills in information and communication technologies, digital and information literacy and reflective writing.
- Support and encouragement if you want to use Welsh in your studies.
- Recognised by Social Care Wales.

At a glance

Course code T34

Total credits 120

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

There are no formal entry requirements to study this certificate, but you will need to be working within, or have access to, a social care agency, for example, through voluntary work

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

Full-time study: 1 year

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/t34
Call
0300 303 5303

Certificate in Health and Social Care

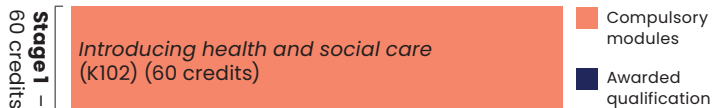
This certificate is focused on providing a valuable introduction to learning in higher education and an authoritative overview of health and social care.

Real-life case studies will give you an insight into what it is like to experience care and to work in care services. Whether you're involved in care work (paid or unpaid), use services yourself, or simply have a general interest, this course helps you build knowledge, understanding, and a range of learning skills, and prepares you for further study.

Why this qualification?

- Gain a fascinating insight into the provision of health and social care services in the UK.
- Draw on your own ideas and experiences.
- An introduction to the essential skills of academic study.

Qualification structure



Certificate in Health and Social Care

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code S33

Total credits 60

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 8 months

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Optional

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/s33
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Nursing

A flexible practice-based learning route to qualify as a registered nurse approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

The degree addresses the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) requirements for entry to the nursing professional register. This makes it the ideal way for healthcare and support workers to qualify as a registered nurse, with a choice of fields of nursing practice:

- Adult
- Children and Young People
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Health.

Through practice-based learning, you'll develop the on-the-job experience and professional skills needed to deliver high-quality, safe, and effective person-centred care for people with varied health needs, in a range of care settings.

Why this qualification?

- Develop effective evidence-based nursing practice and underpinning knowledge in an inter-professional and interdisciplinary environment.

- A balance of theory and practice delivered through practice-based and distance learning.
- Continue to work part-time for your employer while you study; you don't need to put your career on hold.

Entry requirements

Entry is subject to an interview process and meeting the minimum entry requirements, visit openuniversity.co.uk/r39 for full details. You'll need to apply at least six months before your chosen start date.

Employer sponsorship

If you're currently working in a healthcare role you could continue to work while you study. You'll need the support of your employer and agree on suitable practice opportunities where registered practice supervisors and assessors are available.

Blended learning nursing programme

In England, you can study our nursing degree, even if you're not currently working in a healthcare role. We offer flexible options through partnerships with Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for both Adult and Children and Young People's Nursing, and with Torbay and South Devon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for Adult Nursing. You'll study theory online and gain practical experience through placements. You'll need to live near or travel to these locations. For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/r39.

Apprenticeships

For information on higher and degree apprenticeships in Nursing, including the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship, go to openuniversity.co.uk/apprenticeships or call **0300 303 0529**.

Qualification structure

Stage	Credits	Module(s)	Module Type
Stage 1	120	Introducing health and social care (KYN102) (60 credits)	Compulsory modules
		Introduction to healthcare practice (KYN104) (60 credits)	Compulsory modules
Stage 2	120	Understanding nursing: knowledge and theory (KYN210) (60 credits)	Compulsory modules
		Developing nursing practice (KYN211) (60 credits)	Compulsory modules
Stage 3	120	Assimilating nursing: knowledge and theory (KYN325) (60 credits)	Compulsory modules
		Choose one in your chosen field of practice: Becoming an autonomous practitioner: adult (KYN326) (60 credits) OR Becoming an autonomous practitioner: children and young people (KYN329) (60 credits) OR Becoming an autonomous practitioner: learning disabilities (KYN328) (60 credits) OR Becoming an autonomous practitioner: mental health (KYN327) (60 credits)	Option modules
		BSc (Hons) Nursing¹	Awarded qualification

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

¹ Your choice at Stage 3 will be reflected in your awarded degree, e.g. BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult).

At a glance

Course code R39

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Feb 2026

For further information go to **openuniversity.co.uk/r39**

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Practice assessment documents

Study duration

Flexible practice-based programme, 3–4.5 years depending on location of study and entry route

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Practice-based learning
None

If you are entitled to take a Student Loan and Maintenance Grant, you may also be eligible for a NHS bursary. For further information, go to **gov.uk/nhs-bursaries**.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r39
Call
0300 303 5303



Foundation Degree in Nursing Associate Practice

Healthcare is increasingly complex and requires a highly qualified workforce. This foundation degree will help you develop the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high-quality, safe and compassionate care.

In England, the nursing associate role has been developed in response to workforce needs and acts as a bridge between healthcare support workers and registered nurses within healthcare teams.

During your studies, you'll experience at least two placements in alternative settings to your usual workplace, so you'll have experience providing care in hospitals, in settings close to home and at home.

On successful completion of the foundation degree, you'll be able to register as a nursing associate with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Why this qualification?

- Enhance employability through a professionally regulated qualification.
- Study an IfATE-approved Higher Technical Qualification.
- Embed your learning through a balance of theory and practice-based learning.
- Essential preparation that underpins the knowledge and skills needed for the role of nursing associate.

Entry requirements

This foundation degree is only available in England. Entry is via interview and an assessment of numeracy and literacy skills. You must be employed by a partner organisation or supported by an NHS trust or other healthcare organisation that has agreed to support your studies.

This includes providing alternative practice placements and supervision in practice that meets the NMC requirements for practice assessors and supervisors. You must achieve maths and English at level 2 prior to entry.

Apprenticeships

For information on higher and degree apprenticeships in Nursing, including the Higher Apprenticeship in Health (Nursing Associate), visit openuniversity.co.uk/apprenticeships or call **0300 303 0529**.



This is a Higher Technical Qualification approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) as meeting occupational standards for the nursing sector.

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Introducing health and social care
(K102) (60 credits)

Introduction to healthcare practice
(K104) (60 credits)

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Developing nursing practice
(K211) (60 credits)

Healthcare theory for practice
(K234) (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Foundation Degree in Nursing Associate Practice

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code X20

Total credits 240

Start dates

Oct 2025

Feb 2026

For further information go to **openuniversity.co.uk/x20**

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Practice assessment documents

Study duration

Full-time study: 2 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Practice-based learning

None



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/x20
Call
0300 303 5303



Certificate of Higher Education in Healthcare Practice

This certificate helps healthcare support staff develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to underpin effective practice.

You'll develop a wide range of practical skills and competencies while exploring essential biological, social, political, ethical, and psychological concepts. It includes a strong work-based element, and you'll need the support of your employer to study. You'll also build valuable numeracy, literacy, ICT, communication, and cognitive skills.

Why this qualification?

- Designed as the first step to prepare healthcare support workers for the role of assistant practitioner.
- Includes a strong practice-based element.
- Build a solid foundation for further study.

Entry requirements

There are no academic entry requirements. However, you must:

- work in a healthcare setting for a minimum of two days per week and remain in employment while studying
- be involved in the direct delivery of care or providing interventions for patients/clients.

Your employer will need to provide significant supervision by a registered nurse for 770 practice hours and comprehensive programme support, so you'll also need the following to study:

- confirmation of your employer's support for your studies
- a workplace supervisor qualified in the same area of practice to support and assess your work-based learning.

For more details, visit openuniversity.co.uk/t01.

At a glance

Course code T01

Total credits 120

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Practice assessment documents

Study duration

Flexible practice-based qualification, 1-2 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

None

Practice-based learning

None

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Introducing health and social care (K102) (60 credits)

Introduction to healthcare practice (K104) (60 credits)

Certificate of Higher Education in Healthcare Practice

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

Don't stop there

If you want to progress to nurse training, you may be able to count the credit gained from this qualification towards the **BSc (Hons) Nursing (R39)** – see page 40. Please note that completing this certificate does not give automatic entry to the nursing degree, which is subject to an interview process and meeting minimum entry requirements.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/t01
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Social Work (England)

The OU offers a work-based distance learning route to the degree in social work. Successful graduates are eligible to apply for registration as a qualified social worker with Social Work England (SWE).

With our employer partners, we offer a different route into the profession. It's one that opens up a host of opportunities to people who, for one reason or another, require a more flexible and individualised approach to social work training.

While you study, you'll receive extensive support from the OU, from programme tutors and practice educators who are committed to developing professional social workers, and from subject tutors who will support and guide you through the individual modules that make up the degree.

Why this qualification?

- Learn to deal professionally with complex, difficult and sensitive issues.
- Develop the knowledge and practical skills that underpin effective practice.
- Study through work-based and distance learning.
- Improve your career progression opportunities within social work.

Entry requirements

This degree is restricted to students working in social care in England and who are sponsored or supported by their employers. Admission is subject to an interview process and meeting minimum entry requirements.

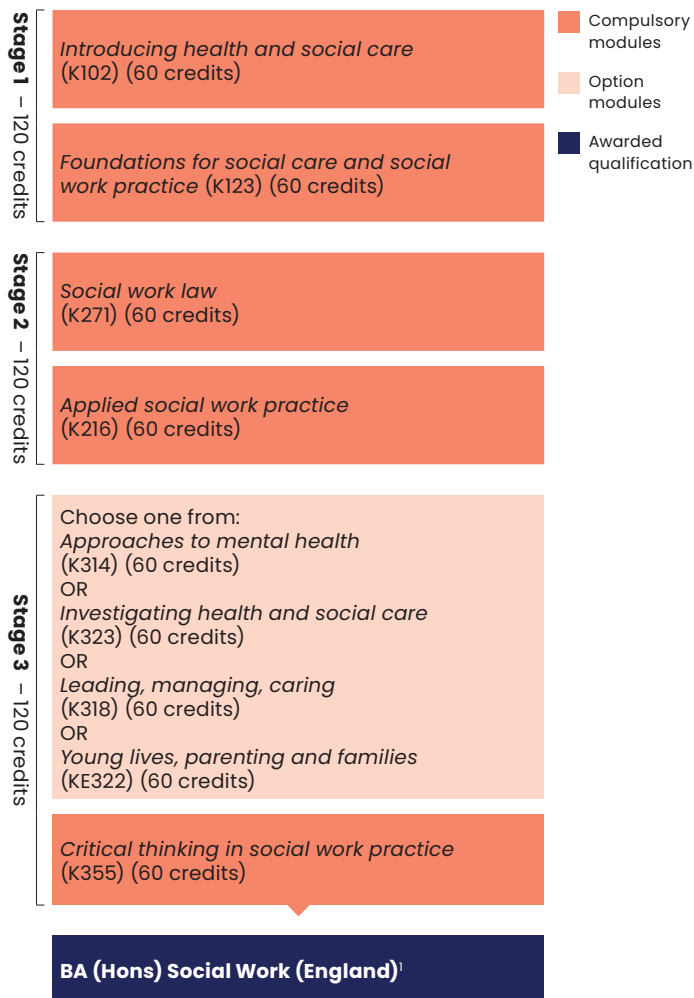
Social work employers

If you're a social work employer and would like more information about our social work qualifications, please email wels-sw-enquiries@open.ac.uk or call **01908 654 229**.

Apprenticeships

For information on the Social Worker Degree Apprenticeship, go to openuniversity.co.uk/apprenticeships or call **0300 303 0529**.

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

¹ Subject to satisfactory demonstration and maintenance of standards for suitability and fitness for practice.

At a glance

Course code Q32

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Feb 2026

For further information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/q32

² To complete the qualification in the shortest possible timeframe of three years, you must start in October.

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Practice assessment

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q32
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Social Work (Northern Ireland)

The OU offers a work-based distance learning route to the degree in social work. Successful graduates are eligible to apply for registration as qualified social workers with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC).

With our employer partners, we offer a different route into the profession. It's one that opens a host of opportunities to people who, for one reason or another, require a more flexible and individualised approach to social work training.

While you study, you'll receive extensive support from the OU, from practice tutors and practice teachers who are committed to developing professional social workers, and from subject tutors who will support and guide you through the individual modules that make up the degree.

Why this qualification?

- Continue in your employment while you study, earning while you learn.
- Study through work-based and distance learning.
- Develop the knowledge and practical skills that underpin effective practice.
- Improve your career progression opportunities within social work.

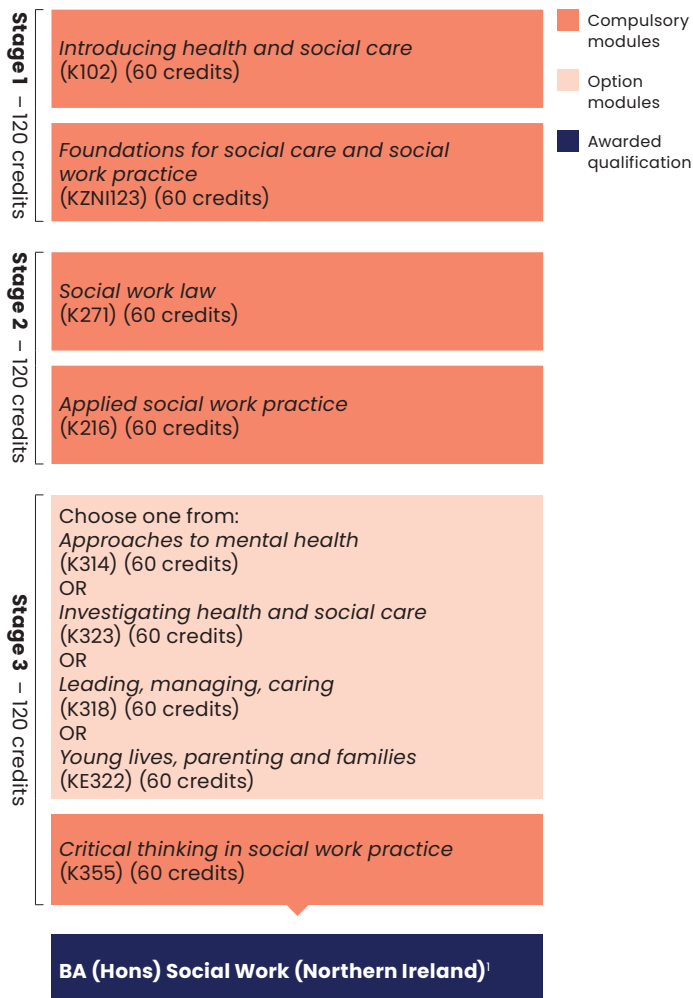
Entry requirements

This degree is restricted to students working in social care in Northern Ireland and places are funded by the Department of Health or employing agencies. To join the programme, you'll need to be sponsored and supported by your employer and they must be a relevant practice learning provider for social work education. Admission is subject to a competitive interview process and meeting minimum entry requirements. To find out more, visit openuniversity.co.uk/r61.

Social work employers

If you're a social work employer and would like more information about our social work qualifications, please contact the social work team in Northern Ireland on **02890 245025** or email ireland-social-work@open.ac.uk.

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

¹ Subject to satisfactory demonstration and maintenance of standards for suitability and fitness for practice.

At a glance

Course code R61

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

For further information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/r61

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Practice assessment

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Optional

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Practice-based learning
None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r61
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Social Work (Scotland)

The Open University offers a work-based distance learning route to the degree in social work and eligibility for registration as a social worker with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) upon completion. This programme is approved by the SSSC.

The degree programme is available to staff who are working in social care or have experience working alongside people who use social care or social work services, are sponsored and supported by their employer, or who meet the selection criteria for the independent (non-sponsored) route.

Why this qualification?

- Continue in your employment while you study, earning while you learn.
- Study through work-based and distance learning.
- Develop the knowledge and practical skills that underpin effective practice.
- Improve your career progression opportunities within social work.

Entry requirements

Employer Sponsorship

You'll need to be working in social care in Scotland. You should be sponsored or supported by your employer. Admission is subject to an interview process and meeting minimum entry requirements.

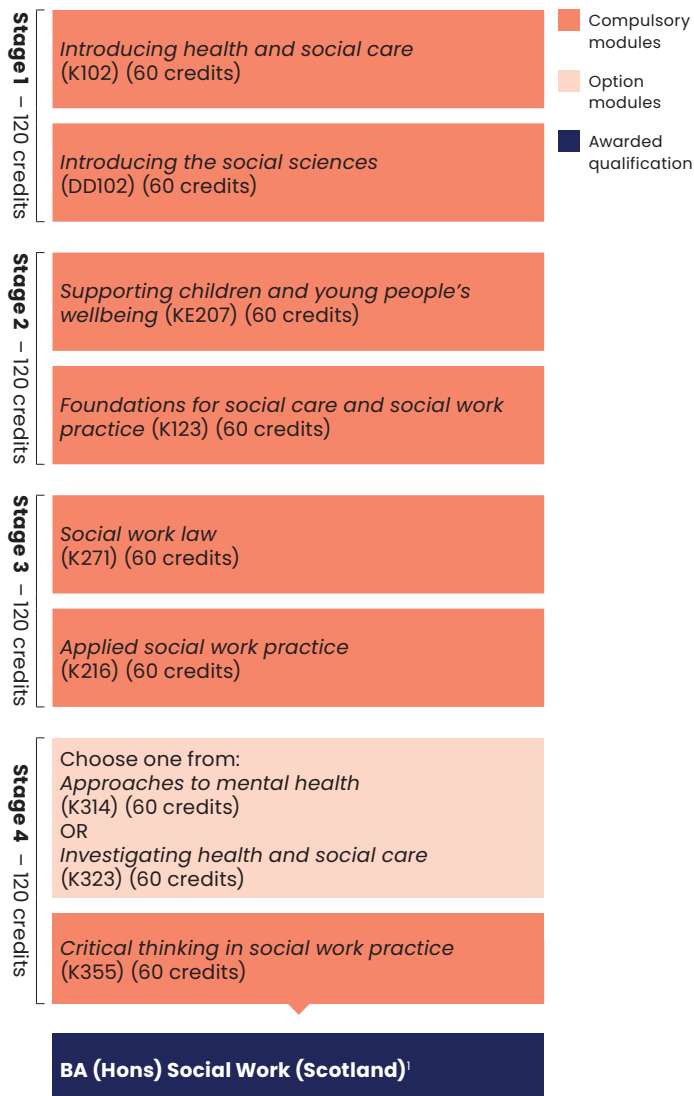
Non-sponsored route

Individuals can also apply if they meet the selection criteria, which requires direct experience working alongside service users and carers for at least one year and are selected for the degree. If you're not currently in suitable employment, a good first step would be to study one of the Stage 1 modules in the programme, *Introducing health and social care (K102)* or *Introducing the social sciences (DD102)*, which are available for standalone study and do not require employer sponsorship.

For details of all entry requirements, visit openuniversity.co.uk/q41.

Employing agencies and individuals who are interested in this degree should contact the Social Work Co-ordinator at The Open University in Scotland on **0131 226 3851** or email scotland@open.ac.uk.

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

¹ Subject to satisfactory demonstration and maintenance of standards for suitability and fitness for practice.

At a glance

Course code Q41

Total credits 480

Start dates²

Oct 2025

Feb 2026

For further information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/q41

² To complete the qualification in the shortest possible timeframe of four years, you must start in October.

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Practice assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 8 years

Full-time study: 4 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q41
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Social Work (Wales)

The Open University offers a distance learning, work-based route to a degree in social work. The programme is approved by Social Care Wales (SCW), and graduates are eligible to apply for registration with SCW as a qualified social worker.

The degree programme is available to staff who are working in social care, and are supported by their employer, or who meet the selection criteria for the independent route and are selected onto the degree to join at Stage 2.

The programme is provided in partnership with employers in Wales, who take an active part in monitoring the work of the programme and in developing new initiatives to widen opportunities and support students.

People who use services and carers also take an active part in the development, management and delivery of the programme, bringing their own expertise developed through personal experience.

Why this qualification?

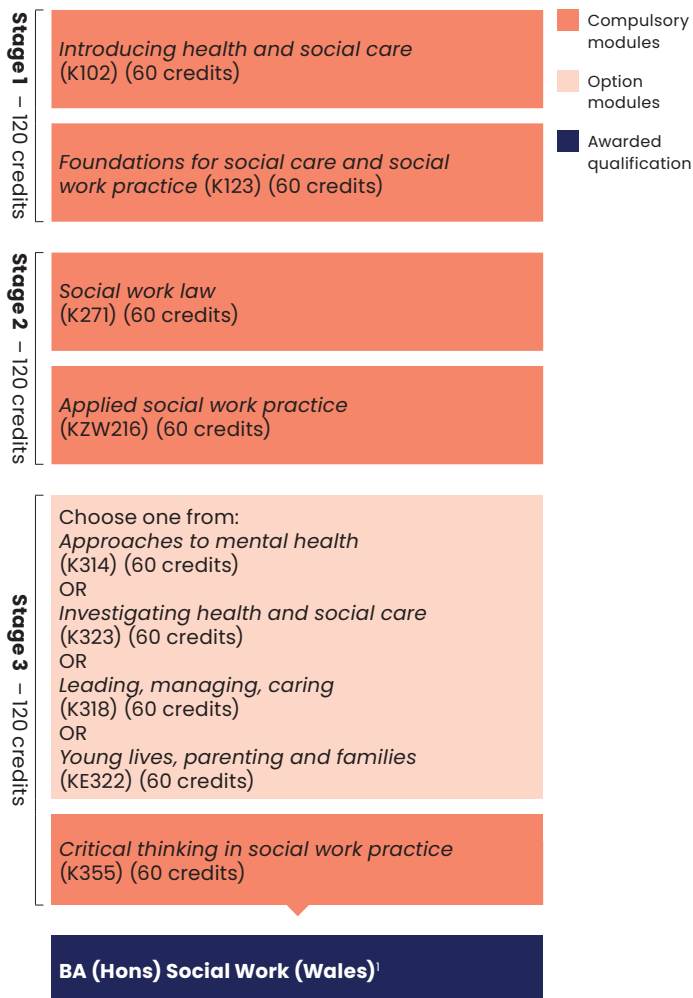
- Continue in your employment while you study, earning while you learn.
- Study through work-based and distance learning.
- Develop the knowledge and practical skills that underpin effective practice.
- Improve your career progression opportunities within social work.

Entry requirements

This degree is restricted to students working or volunteering in social care in Wales. There are two routes into the degree, depending on whether you are being sponsored by your employer or studying independently. Admission is subject to an interview process and meeting minimum entry requirements.

Employing agencies and individuals who are interested in this degree should contact The Open University in Wales on **029 2047 1170** or email **wales-social-work@open.ac.uk**.

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

¹ Subject to satisfactory demonstration and maintenance of standards for suitability and fitness for practice.

At a glance

Course code Q42

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Feb 2026

For further information, go to openuniversity.co.uk/q42

² To complete the qualification in the shortest possible timeframe of three years, you must start in October.

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Practice assessment

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Practice-based learning

None

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q42
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Health Sciences

This degree examines the science behind health, from individual health to global issues like epidemics or the treatment of dementia.

You'll study the science that underpins the function of the human mind and body. Explore the incidence, diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability, and examine the maintenance and improvement of health in different populations. This course is particularly relevant if you work in a health-related profession or aspire to work in one.

Why this qualification?

- Explore health and disease from a multidisciplinary, evidence-based perspective.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art multi-award-winning OpenSTEM labs.
- Gain transferable skills to enhance your employability in healthcare, health research and other settings.

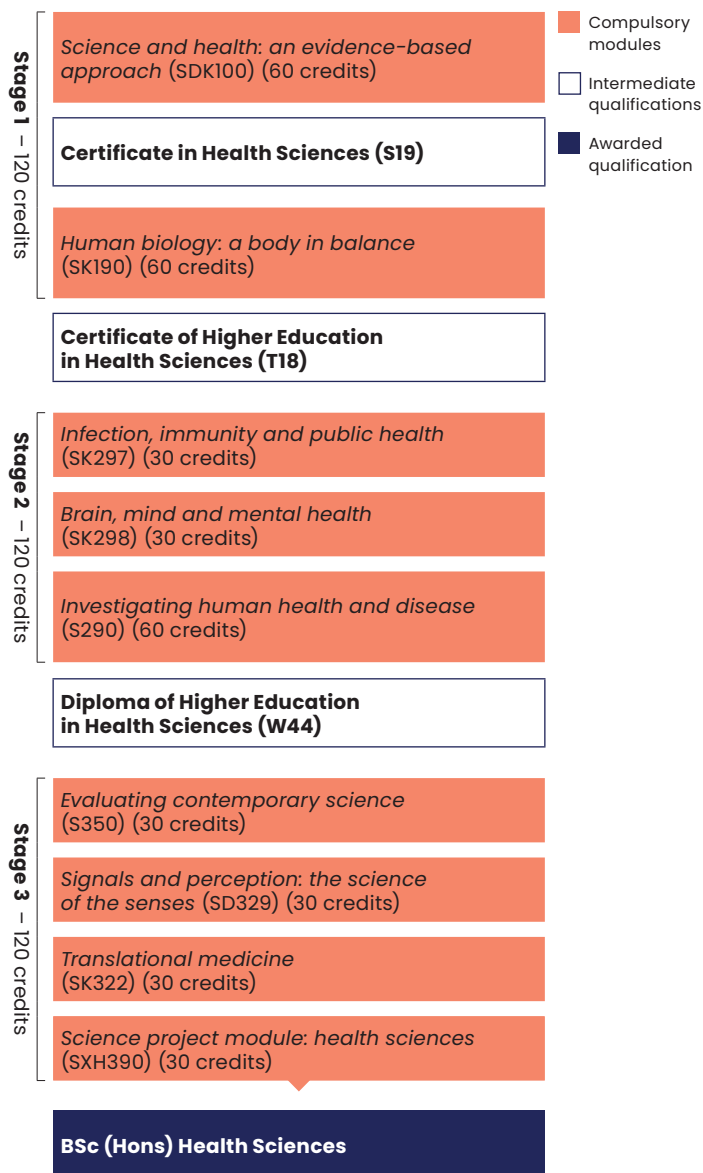
Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Health Sciences (W44)
openuniversity.co.uk/w44

Certificate of Higher Education in Health Sciences (T18)
openuniversity.co.uk/t18

Certificate in Health Sciences (S19)
openuniversity.co.uk/s19

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q71

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025
Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026
Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

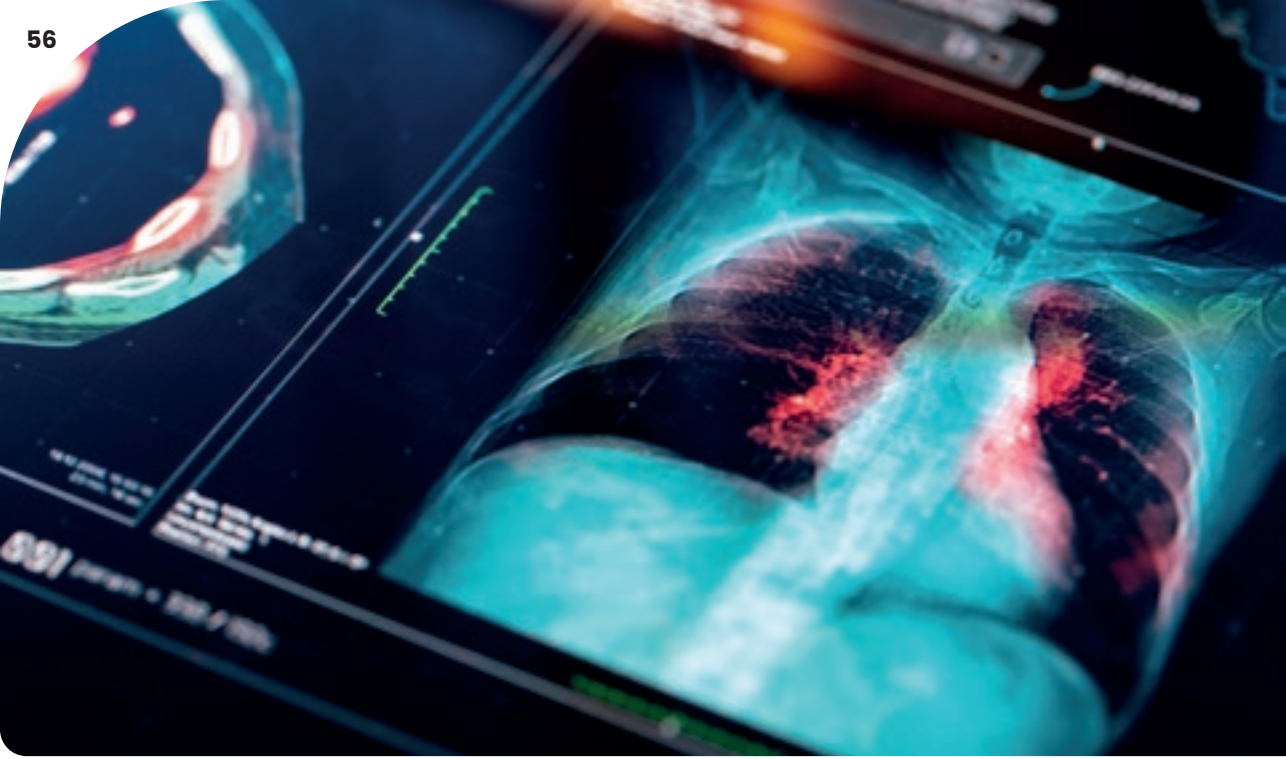
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q71
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences

Biomedical sciences is a broad area of modern science and underpins much of contemporary medicine. By studying a biomedical sciences degree, you'll understand how the human body works and how illnesses are diagnosed and treated. You'll explore how cells, tissues, organs, and body systems function together and their impact on health and disease.

You'll learn about the functions of the human body by studying anatomy and physiology, and how we prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses. Our biomedical sciences degree will also teach you practical skills through our award-winning OpenSTEM Labs, and in some cases, extended reality.

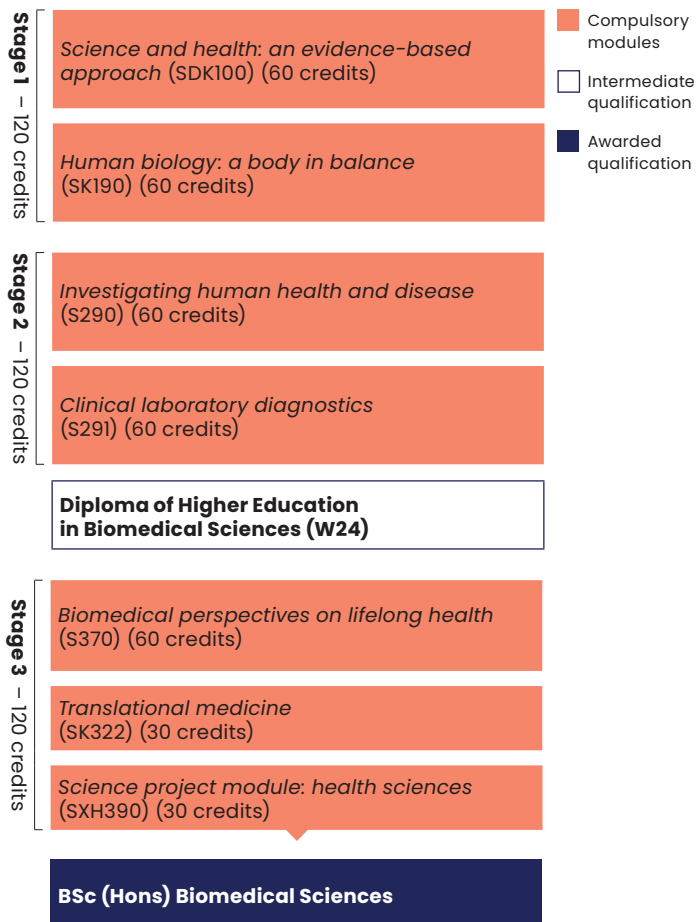
Why this qualification?

- Gain a contemporary understanding of the biomedical sciences.
- Explore health and disease from a multidisciplinary, evidence-based perspective.
- Develop investigative and laboratory skills using our state-of-the-art multi-award-winning OpenSTEM Labs.
- Participate in innovative online collaborative and virtual experiences, including extended reality.
- Develop transferable skills that enhance your employability in a variety of settings.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Biomedical Sciences (W24)
openuniversity.co.uk/w24

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R87

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Optional

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r87
Call
0300 303 5303

BA/BSc (Hons) Open

Do you want the freedom to study a range of subjects that interest you? Then our Open qualifications are ideal.

Some of the key questions in the world today require expertise from a range of subjects.

Multidisciplinary study has always been at the heart of The Open University and our Open qualifications allow you to bring together different areas of study in a completely flexible way to develop knowledge and skills.

The BA/BSc (Hons) Open allows you to choose modules from a wide range of subject areas so you can, for example, combine health and social care modules with modules from other disciplines, such as science or humanities. It is a degree with a difference. Free from the restriction of a subject-specific specialism, you're in control of the direction of your learning.

Why this qualification?

- Tailor your qualification to suit your needs.
- Create your own unique multidisciplinary degree and skill set.

- Adapt your study plans to match your evolving aspirations.
- Count previous university study towards your qualification.

Open qualifications and your career

Our Open qualifications equip you with a wide range of expertise, skills and capabilities through multidisciplinary study. These qualities are sought after in today's highly competitive job market. An Open qualification on your CV shows more than your level of knowledge about a subject; employers know that you are flexible and adaptable, potentially having studied across a range of topics. You'll have a highly employable set of skills and attributes, including:

- self-management and resilience
- critical thinking
- analysis and problem-solving.



The flexibility of the Open degree helped keep things new and exciting. Plus, studying all these different topics means I now have a skill set that's unique to me.



Luke Simmons
BSc (Hons) Open

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education Open (W34)
openuniversity.co.uk/w34

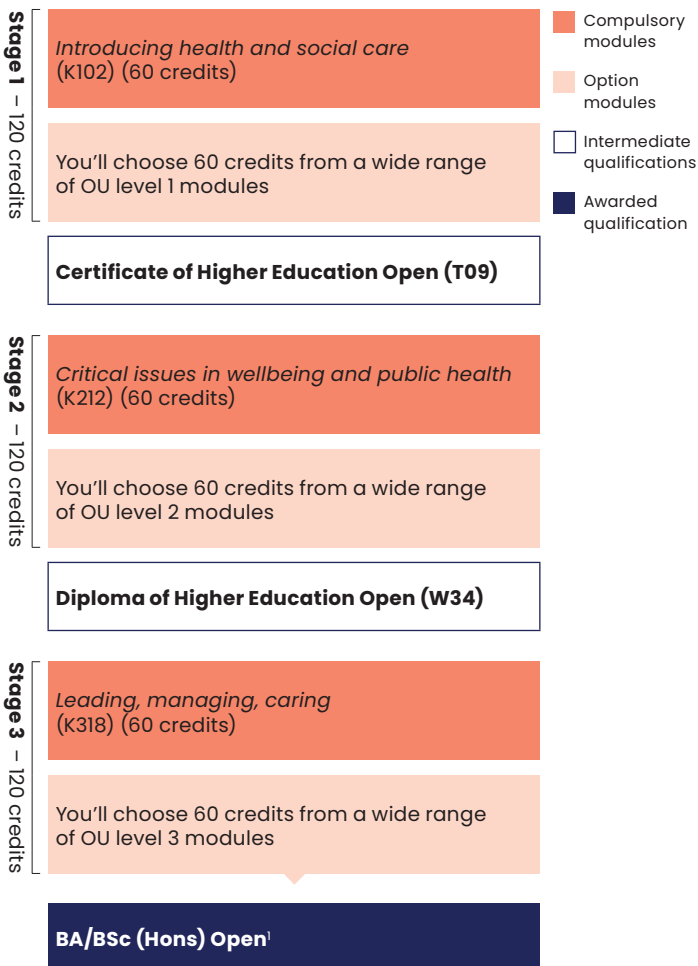
Certificate of Higher Education Open (T09)
openuniversity.co.uk/t09

How you can focus your Open degree on health and social care

This selection of modules shows how you can focus on aspects of health and social care and combine them with other subjects that are of particular interest to you.

However, this is just one example of the many combinations you can study and you're not restricted to this route.

Example route



¹ Whether you qualify for a BA or BSc (Hons) Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for a BA or for a BSc.

At a glance

Course code QD

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 11 Sep 2025

Feb 2026

Register by 8 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Depending on the modules you choose to study, you may be assessed in any or all of the following ways:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

As the BA/BSc (Hons) Open can be made up of a range of different modules, the learning materials provided, use of online forums and inclusion of collaborative work will depend on the modules you choose to study

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/qd
Call
0300 303 5303



Find your postgraduate course

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MA in Childhood and Youth

This masters degree delivers an interdisciplinary approach to studying childhood and youth, covering aspects of theory, policy and practice.

It's well suited if you work with, or aspire to work with, children and young people. Or if you want to advance academically or in your profession. It's designed for graduates in childhood and youth studies, sociology, health and social care, anthropology, psychology, or education.

In the final stage of your masters, you'll expand your research and communication skills through a multi-disciplinary dissertation. Depending on your individual circumstances, you'll undertake either a small-scale inquiry or an extended literature review and research proposal. This offers the opportunity to engage with research that will fit around your own context and professional circumstances.

While this qualification does not provide professional recognition, it is a strong foundation, and additional study could help you meet further professional requirements.

Qualification structure

Modules	Credits	Code
<i>Children and young people's worlds</i>	60	E808
Postgraduate Certificate in Childhood and Youth Studies (K32)		
<i>Frameworks for critical practice with children and young people</i>	60	E809
Postgraduate Diploma in Childhood and Youth Studies (E93)		
<i>Masters multi-disciplinary dissertation: education, childhood and youth</i>	60	E822
MA in Childhood and Youth		

Compulsory modules

Intermediate qualifications

Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

Related qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Childhood and Youth Studies (E93)
openuniversity.co.uk/e93

Postgraduate Certificate in Childhood and Youth Studies (K32)
openuniversity.co.uk/k32

At a glance

Course code F55

Total credits 180

Start dates

Oct 2025

Register by 18 Sep 2025

Entry requirements

UK bachelors degree or equivalent

Study duration

Part-time study: 3 years

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f55
 Call
 0300 303 5303



At a glance

Course code F80

Total credits 180

Start dates

Feb 2026

For further information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/f80

Entry requirements

Go to openuniversity.co.uk/f80 for full details

Study duration

Part-time study: 3 years

MA in Social Work

Our work-based programme allows you to qualify as a social worker in England and Scotland. It covers children and families, adults, and mental health social work with reference throughout to the legal context.

During this course, you will learn about social work theory and legislation, apply your learning to practice, and then develop your critical and analytical skills as a qualified practitioner. The subject matter is interdisciplinary and derived from psychology, sociology, social policy, law, and social work studies.

Qualification structure

Modules	Credits	Code
<i>Developing social work practice</i>	60	K832
<i>Advanced social work practice</i>	60	K833
Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (E85)		
<i>Advancing professional practice</i>	60	K805

MA in Social Work

- Compulsory modules
- Intermediate qualification
- Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

Related qualification

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work (E85)
openuniversity.co.uk/e85

This masters degree includes an embedded, professionally qualifying Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work. This leads to eligibility to apply for registration as a qualified social worker with Social Work England (SWE) or the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) in just 18 months.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f80
Call
0300 303 5303



Doctorate in Health and Social Care

The Doctorate in Health and Social Care (DHSC) is an innovative postgraduate research programme of part-time study. It is designed to support original research that will have an impact on health and social care practice and policy.

The doctorate programme is open to established professionals working in health and social care settings, including registered nurses, social workers and educators, but also other professionals working across health and social care including the public, voluntary and private sectors.

The degree is also open to unpaid carers, 'experts by experience' and advocates.

Research areas

The DHSC programme is organised into two research areas:

- health, wellbeing and healthcare practice
- social work and social care.

Programme of study

This is a highly-structured programme of study and research in two stages: Stage 1 (2 years taught) and Stage 2 (2–6 years research). You're expected to engage with the core online teaching material and a series of supporting online seminars. You'll be allocated two supervisors – your primary supervisor in year 1, and a co-supervisor in year 2 – and be linked to other students and their supervisors via the programme website and forums. You'll have the opportunity for face-to-face supervision, teaching input and student interactions through annual residential weekends.

At a glance

Start dates

Oct 2026

Applications open

1 Nov 2025 – 31 Jan 2026

Entry requirements

- You should have a masters degree, in health and social care or a related discipline, from a UK or EU university or other recognised degree awarding body
- At least two years of relevant professional experience (for applicants who are professionals)

Study duration

Part-time study: 4–8 years

Stage 1

This first stage will involve studying online materials on topics that include:

- the context of health and social care research
- literature reviewing
- ethics
- the principles of research design
- methods of data collection and analysis.

Stage 1 is assessed through the submission of formative and summative assignments that focus on developing your literature review, refining your research questions and your proposal for research. This work forms the basis for the thesis work in Stage 2.

Stage 2

If you successfully complete Stage 1, you will begin supported and supervised research for another 2–6 year period.

During this time, you'll follow a more independent and individual programme of work, with the continuing support of your supervisors. Progress is monitored through regular written drafts and culminates in the submission of a thesis of up to 65,000 words.

The thesis element will be examined by viva-voce.

The general criteria for assessment are:

- the demonstration of reflection on the relationship between theory and practice in health and social care
- a significant contribution to the theory and practice of health and social care
- a high level of critical analysis
- an ability to select and apply appropriate research methods.

On successfully meeting the doctoral assessment criteria (examined via the viva-voce), you will be awarded the Doctorate in Health and Social Care, entitling you to use the title 'Doctor'.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/dhsc
 Call
 0300 303 5303

MA/MSc Open

This innovative masters degree gives you the opportunity to create a personalised postgraduate qualification.

You'll expand your discipline-related knowledge at masters level, gain broader subject-specific knowledge and pursue further professional development in areas suited to your professional needs and personal interests.

To gain this qualification, you need **180 credits**.

Route 1: You can study **180 credits** and specialise within one of the following broadly related study areas:

- Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
- Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law.

Route 2: You can choose to study a **minimum of 120 credits** within one study area (chosen as your specialism) and take **up to 60 credits** from any other study area, including:

- Further professional development.

On completion

When you've achieved a minimum of 180 credits, you'll be awarded either a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MSc) degree. Whether you qualify for the MA Open or MSc Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for the MA or MSc.

Qualification structure

Route 1	Route 2	
Study 180 credits specialising within one of the following broad study areas	Study a minimum of 120 credits within one study area	+ 60 credits from any other study area
Arts, Humanities, Music and Language	Arts, Humanities, Music and Language	Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare	Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare	Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law	Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law	Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law
		Further professional development
MA/MSc Open	MA/MSc Open	

Planning your studies

Our online study plan can help you map your route through the MA/MSc Open. Find the modules and microcredentials that best suit your study interests and career objectives at openuniversity.co.uk/f81.

Some restrictions or prerequisites apply to particular modules and microcredentials within this qualification. Refer to their individual entry requirements and descriptions to ensure you're adequately prepared before registering.

Our Student Support Team can provide support and information to help you make an informed decision about your education and future career. Visit openuniversity.co.uk/contact.

Please note: module availability is subject to change.

At a glance

Course code F81

Total credits 180

Start dates

Sep 2025
Oct 2025
Nov 2025
Feb 2026
May 2026

Entry requirements

Entry to this qualification will typically require a UK honours degree or equivalent qualification relevant to your intended specialist area of study.

If you have other study or experience that you believe equips you to take this qualification, you can still apply but must supply evidence of your study or experience.

Study duration

Part-time study: 2–3 years



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f81
Call
0300 303 5303



Register for your course

We recommend registering as early as possible to secure your place. Once you're registered, you'll have access to our learning tools, materials and student support to help you get started.

Undergraduate study

1. Register

Go to your chosen qualification webpage, select your start date and click 'Register now'.

2. Choose your module(s)

Select the module(s) you want to study in your first year. Some may be compulsory, while you may select others from a list of options.

3. Organise your funding

Tell us how you'll be funding your chosen module(s). You'll find all your options at openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees.

4. Complete your registration

Confirm your funding method. That's it – you're ready to start learning.

Learn more about how to apply at openuniversity.co.uk/ug-apply.

Postgraduate study

To work towards a postgraduate qualification, register on a module that counts towards it.

1. Choose your qualification

Once you've decided on a qualification, go to our website for the full course details and entry criteria you'll need to meet.

2. Register on your first module(s)

Modules within postgraduate qualifications have more detailed entry requirements, so make sure you've read these before registering.

3. Arrange your funding

You'll find all your options at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees.

4. Send us evidence that confirms you meet the entry requirements

Once we've assessed and approved your evidence, your registration is complete.

Learn more about how to apply at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-apply.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you might be able to count that study towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the modules you need to study with us.



Learn more at openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer

Useful information

Study from outside the UK

You could study with the OU wherever you are in the world.

Find out more by visiting openuniversity.co.uk/international or call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**.

Students with additional study needs

When you register, we'll ask if you have a physical or mental health disability, health condition, or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia) that could affect your study. If you do, we'll give you more detailed information about how we can help.

For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/disability or call **0300 303 5303**.

Equality and diversity

We're committed to creating an inclusive university community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

We do this by challenging inequality, celebrating diversity and ensuring everyone has the support needed to achieve their goals.

Find out more by visiting openuniversity.co.uk/equality.

Students under the age of 16

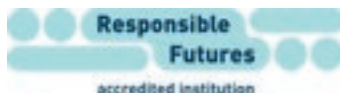
Very exceptionally, we accept applications from gifted students under 16.

Call **0300 303 5303** if you'd like to apply.

Sustainability and the OU

We embed sustainability across all aspects of your learning. Equipping you with science-based knowledge for social and environmental justice, transformational skills and the courage and confidence to be a force for regenerative practices in all areas of your life.

For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/sustainability.



Data protection

We record your personal information when you contact us. We use this to manage enquiries, registration, study, examination and other services. We may record calls to help us improve our service to you. When you contact us, we'll tell you more about how we treat your personal information.

For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/privacy.

Other ways to read this prospectus

You may find it easier to access information from our website at openuniversity.co.uk.

We can supply this prospectus as a printed booklet, PDF and in other formats.

Call **0300 303 5303** or email us from our website at openuniversity.co.uk/contact.

Explore our other prospectuses

Learn more about the qualifications we offer in other subject areas.

Subject-specific prospectuses

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Management
- Computing and IT
- Design, Engineering and Technology
- Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport
- Geography, Environment and Development
- Languages and Applied Linguistics
- Law
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Psychology and Counselling
- Science
- Social Sciences

Other prospectuses

- Access Modules
- Open Qualifications
- Postgraduate Courses
- Undergraduate Courses

We have made all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this prospectus is accurate at the time of publication. However, we shall be entitled, if we consider it reasonably necessary (including in order to manage resources and improve student experience), to make changes, including to the availability of modules and qualifications, to qualification structure and to our regulations, policies and procedures. For current information, please refer to our online prospectus at openuniversity.co.uk/courses.

If you require further information about the circumstances in which we may make changes, please contact us or refer to the Academic Regulations on our website at openuniversity.co.uk/academic-regulations.

Request a prospectus

Download or order a prospectus.



Visit openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus

openuniversity.co.uk

Get in touch

If you're in England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or have a British Forces Post Office address

- Email us from our website openuniversity.co.uk/contact
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **0300 303 5303**

Lines are open (UK time) Monday to Friday: 08:00–17:30

Calls are charged at the local rate when calling from a UK mobile phone or landline.

In Northern Ireland

- Email northern-ireland@open.ac.uk
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **028 9032 3722**

In Ireland

- Email ireland@open.ac.uk
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **(01) 6785399**

All other countries

- Go to openuniversity.co.uk/contact
- Call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**

I siaradwyr Cymraeg

Os ydych yn siarad Cymraeg a byddai'n well gennych drafod eich anghenion astudio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, cysylltwch â:

Y Brifysgol Agored yng Nghymru
18 Heol y Tollty
Caerdydd
CF10 1AP

- Ffoniwch **029 2047 1170**
- E-bost cymorth-cymru@open.ac.uk

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