Hello!

What's that we can feel in the air? Is it the joy (combined with terror) as that EMA submission flies off at the click of a button? Is it the thrill as new books tumble through the letterbox? Is the the fear and anticipation as module websites open? Or is it autumn peeking around the corner?

Though September is a really exciting time for OU students, there's no denying that it can be a really stressful time for many people too. There are some hugely supportive places for students to turn to if they are in need of a listening ear. This month we would love your help in spreading the word about some of the support services we offer. There's also some great news (spoiler alert!), a fantastic volunteer opportunity, and an update on Freshers.

All the best,
The OU Students Association Team
Life as an OU student can be tough. We all know that. When things get a bit much and you feel you need someone to share your woes with, why not contact our Peer Support team? Even if everything’s going swimmingly for you, if you see a fellow student floundering, don’t hesitate to suggest they get in touch.

The Peer Support service is run on our forums, and is confidential (except in very specific circumstances). The team of specially trained volunteers are all current or ex-OU students so they know what the pressures are like and are there 365 days of the year to help their fellow students. Find out more on our website.

Did you hear the brilliant news?

Did you hear the brilliant news? squad of four OU student quizzers: Mags Adamson, Sarah Banks, Dale Crawford and Rob Mitchell took on Salford University on Monday night and, accompanied by their lucky OU owl mascot, stormed to victory.

Their broad general knowledge in topics from geography to literature and the sciences did not fail to impress! When the final gong rang out our team were met by a huge round of applause, and the final score was 210 points to 115.

Fancy being part of 2017's “Team Open”? Register your interest here by 14th October. Please note - you need to be a current OU student and expect to be studying into 2017 to apply.

Could you be a Nightline volunteer?

Could you be a Nightline volunteer? Do you have good listening skills? Do you care about your fellow students? Could you give up a night's sleep a month? Do you live in or near London? Yes? You could be just the person we are looking for!

Nightline London are looking for OU students to volunteer on their hotlines. Applications are open now, so if you think you could be there to help fellow students through a difficult time and you live in, or near London, visit the Nightline website to find out more and apply. If you know someone else who might answer yes to all of those questions, why not let them know about this fantastic opportunity.
Freshers is coming…

We all know that starting your studies with the OU for the first time can be an exciting and nerve-wracking experience, and that’s why we’re busy making plans for Freshers ‘Welcome Week’ to help students settle in.

No doubt new students will have plenty of questions about setting out on their studies. We’re here to let them know they’ve just joined a hugely supportive community which includes students who have lots of experience. We’ll be running Facebook chats on a variety of topics throughout the week (26th - 30th September) including one all about the Association and how students can get involved. We’d love to see you there!

Keep an eye on our website for more Freshers news or follow #New2OU on Twitter to join the conversation.

OU student meet-ups this month…

We are updating our events page all the time so keep checking back for more meet-ups!
If you’re planning a new meet-up or have a regular coffee morning or meet-up in the pub let us know at Student-Community@open.ac.uk and we can help you promote it.

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