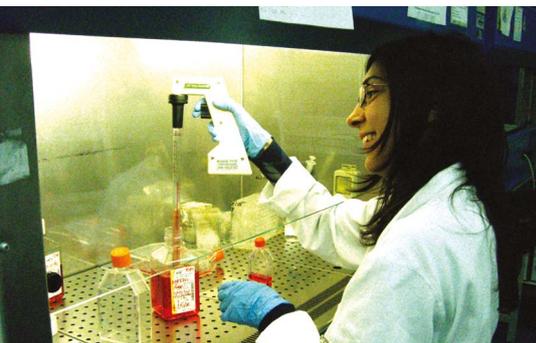


# AFFILIATED RESEARCH CENTRE PROGRAMME

**WORKING TOGETHER TO DELIVER  
EXCELLENCE IN DOCTORAL TRAINING**



The Open University's Affiliated Research Centre (ARC) Programme supports the provision of doctoral training in the UK, Europe and worldwide. Through collaborations with institutions undertaking high-quality research we have created a network of partner organisations whose interests complement our own teaching and research strengths. This enables students to study towards an Open University research degree qualification in a centre of research excellence. ARCs benefit from our positioning as a global leader in innovative and high-quality programme delivery.

# WHAT IS AN AFFILIATED RESEARCH CENTRE?

The Open University's ARC programme began in October 2007 growing from the OU sponsoring establishments programme. It enables leading research institutes, who do not have their own degree awarding powers, to provide doctoral training with our support.

## OUR COMMUNITY OF ARCS

Our community of ARCs consists of prestigious research institutes that are specialists in their field carrying out research in centres across the globe. We regularly look to make new partnerships with institutes to widen our community. For a full list of current ARCs see our website: [www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees/affiliate-centres](http://www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees/affiliate-centres)

## WORLD-RENOWNED RESEARCH

Affiliated Research Centres benefit from membership of a community of world-renowned research organisations whose doctoral programmes are supported by The Open University.

They may register students across the full range of areas of OU academic excellence for a UK postgraduate research degree which is respected all over the world:

- Arts and Humanities
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- Education and Education Technology
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Knowledge Media
- Law
- Management and Business
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Sciences

There is a current focus within the programme in such fields as cancer research, tropical medicine, marine biology and architecture and design. Students registered with the OU have an impressive publication record, with many first-authored papers appearing across the world in internationally recognised journals such as *Nature*.

## RECOGNISED QUALITY

Since The Open University's launch in 1969, more than 2 million people worldwide have achieved their learning goals by studying with us.

A hallmark of the OU's delivery is the quality of programmes. As a degree awarding institution, the OU is regulated by the Higher

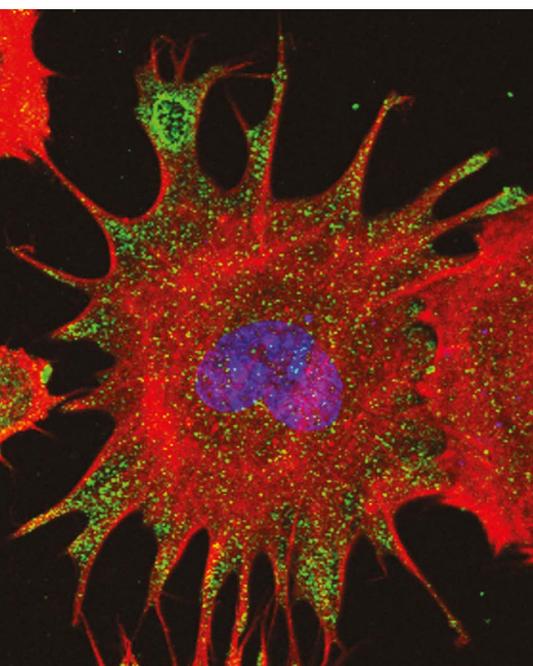


Image © Dr Praveen Kumar Suraneni, Stowers Institute for Medical Research



Image © Oxford University Clinical Research Unit Vietnam, photographer Mads Monsen

Education Funding Council for England and is subject to Annual Provider Review which assesses the quality and standards of University provision. In 2017 the OU was deemed to fully meet the funding council's requirements for quality and standards.

The OU was also subject to a Quality Assurance Agency Higher Education Review in 2015 which confirmed its academic standards, student learning opportunities and information published about those opportunities met UK expectation as contained in the UK Quality Code.

## FLEXIBLE

In keeping with the OU's mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas, one of the key features of the ARC programme is its flexibility. Within the framework of the programme, ARCs can recruit eligible students and appoint supervisors to projects that fit with their own

institution's research priorities. Wherever they are located in the world, ARCs can offer their students a respected UK research degree qualification.

This flexibility is of huge benefit to many organisations – such as those with a research remit within public health or molecular biology, for example, where students undertake their research at and alongside the clinical units which deal with the human consequences of diseases. The Open University's programmes also play a vital role in building local knowledge and skills to enable host countries to support their own research base.

## EXCELLENCE IN SUPPORT

ARC students and their supervisors have access to a range of OU resources including the online library, and research degree skills training materials to guide them through the fundamental principles of postgraduate study. Periodic meetings of ARC coordinators provide opportunities to network and share best practice. Our partnership team works closely with ARCs from first enquiry through the approval process, and thereafter.

## COST EFFECTIVE

The Open University values its relationship with the ARC community. ARCs find that affiliation and student registration fees are at a level which ensures a cost-effective route for students to obtain a high-quality research degree.



Image © John Withers, British Antarctic Survey

# HEAR FROM OUR ARC COMMUNITY

*The unconventional and innovative environment of the Architectural Association School of Architecture is inspiring and the support given by The Open University makes this affiliation work very well. Nothing of the autonomous character of the AA has been compromised as an Affiliated Research Centre, rather this has ensured that student research projects are undertaken within a solid research degree qualification framework. As research students, we receive invaluable guidance from the AA and an internationally recognised research degree from The Open University. The AA and the OU are open to discussing any concerns and needs as necessary."*

**Niloofar Kakhi,**  
student Architectural Association School of Architecture

*One of the most important things I've learnt from my studies within the ARC programme is that for doing good science it's really important to discuss data and results with other researchers from different labs and with different backgrounds. Another substantial advantage of getting a PhD with the Open University is that you'll receive a title that is recognized worldwide. This is extremely important if you are interested and/or don't want to cut yourself out of a potential research experience abroad. All in all, I've been extremely satisfied with my choice of attending the OU PhD programme and I really recommend this experience."*

**Dr Roberta Zappasodi,**  
studied at Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori of Milan, Italy.

**The discoveries she made in her research project will lead to new immunotherapeutic strategies against cancer.**

*Working with the OU allows us to provide a programme where students, who have the necessary subject specific training, are able to start their thesis research without the conventional science course curriculum required by most graduate programs here in the US. I am very proud of our graduates, who go on to hold post doc positions, faculty and research positions in universities, other institutions or in biotech companies."*

**Dr. Paola Allavena,**  
Coordinator Open University PhD Programme, Istituto Clinico Humanitas

*Our research environment at the ARC Humanitas, Milano, Italy, greatly benefited from the structured organization of the PhD program and the expertise of the OU colleagues of the Research Degree Office. Together with high quality in scientific research, the higher education of future scientists is our mission. The OU staff is guiding us with advise and rigorous checking of our education program and provide suggestions and guidance for the career development of our students."*

**Leanne Wiedemann, PhD, Research Degree Coordinator,**  
Stowers Institute for Medical Research

*Making the decision to join Open University afforded me the opportunity to build onto the lab experience that I had already obtained. The dynamic core facilities at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research have created an environment where, even with a truncated time-scale, any methodological knowledge that may be necessary for my Ph.D. studies is readily available. In a short time, the support that is built into the Open University Ph.D. program has really helped me to understand everything that is necessary for the completion of my terminal degree."*

**Tej Kandola,**  
research student currently studying at The Stowers Institute for Medical Research

*The Open University and the MRC Harwell Institute presented me with a rare opportunity that I would not normally have had. The OU recognised that the combination of qualifications, and the experience I had gained through working in the field of auditory research, were sufficient for me to register for a PhD through the Affiliated Research Centre program. Undertaking research at an ARC is ideal; you have access to the support, facilities and funding essential to your project. The additional support from the OU, including symposia, courses and library facilities complement those available at the ARC. I am grateful to both the OU and the MRC Harwell Institute, for enabling me to gain this qualification and further my research career."*

**Andy Parkes,**  
Studied at MRC Harwell Institute, Mammalian Genetics Unit

## JOIN US

For further details on how your organisation can become an Affiliated Research Centre of The Open University write to:

Senior Manager Business Growth  
Graduate School  
The Open University  
Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, UK

Graduate School Enquiry Line: +44 (0)1908 654092

Email: [Director-Graduate-School@open.ac.uk](mailto:Director-Graduate-School@open.ac.uk)

Web: [www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees/affiliate-centres](http://www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees/affiliate-centres)