

The Open University in Scotland and Curriculum for Excellence

The Open University in Scotland (OU) welcomes the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence.

The OU upholds its founding principle of being open to all. Our students are able to study modules and qualifications at undergraduate level with no requirement for previous qualifications.

CFE's emphasis on learning throughout life accords with the OU's commitment to Open Education. The Open University is the only higher education institution dedicated to supported open learning. Our students can study where and when suits them and are not required to attend a campus. Supported open learning pedagogy is designed as an environment in which students can build on diverse experience and develop as autonomous and independent learners.

In common with CFE the OU's curriculum has a strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity. CFE's four capacities align with the principles that inform the OU's Learning and Teaching Strategy. The strategy highlights the need to support students with diverse needs and backgrounds, aims to develop understanding of environmental sustainability and has a strong focus on widening participation.

The flexibility of supported open learning allows our students to work and study at the same time, and can apply the skills they learn immediately to their jobs. Nearly 70% of our students in Scotland are in full or part-time employment.

The OU currently works through its expanding Young Applicants in Schools (YASS) programme to enrich the S6 curriculum through the study of OU modules. In 2012-13, 106 Scottish secondary schools and 571 pupils took part. We are committed to working in partnership with the Scottish Funding Council, the Schools for Higher Education Programme, the SQA and other HEIs to build on the success of YASS which supports transition from school to FE and HE and aligns closely with the ethos of CFE. In particular we will work with partners to ensure that achievements made at school and at work are fully recognised as students move between different education sectors.