Here at the OU, the largest university in the UK, we create and maintain the platforms, websites, digital tools and mobile app that support our 200,000 students with their learning.

We use Moodle which, with its stated mission of “Empowering educators to improve our world” aligns well with the Open University’s aim to provide education for social change.

Moodle is a VLE and LMS allowing content delivery & collaborations and administration. It has a simple interface with a feature rich, component-based architecture. It’s flexible and customisable which allows us to create a unique learning experience.

And we’re committed to open-source software. We’re pretty good at it too: our people are highly respected contributors to the wider Moodle community, and we’ve won awards like the Times Higher Education Award and the Guardian Higher Education Award for our innovative work.

Our motto is to be open to people, places and ideas, and we are. Our students can be anywhere, from submarines to prisons and everywhere else (probably). We’re proud to be the people who enable our academics to teach and our students to learn.

GET IN TOUCH
@GoTeamOU
The OU have been pioneers in distance learning for over half a century, and we’ve been delivering online courses through our Moodle VLE for over 15 years now.

The Learning Products Team in IT, is a core part of the learning systems ecosystem. We currently number around 25 IT members of staff in this team who are focused on building and supporting our critical IT infrastructure, platforms and tools for educational technologies.

We work alongside our colleagues in the Learning Experience and Technology unit. This comprises our product managers, UX designers, accessibility advisors and other digital experts. Both teams sit within the Chief Information Officer’s (CIO) Portfolio.

The learning systems developed by the OU are well respected within the sector and extend beyond the standard VLE into innovative, nationally known public platforms such as OpenLearn, providing free learning for 100 million visitors over the last 15 years, and the OpenSTEM Labs that gives access to incredible remote and virtual lab experiments that support our courses and citizen science initiatives.

I have been at the OU 15 years now and still thriving is testament enough to what a great place this is to work. It is not just a job but a place where you can find purpose and make a difference in people’s lives.

Sanjana
Test Team Lead
Our vision for the CIO Portfolio is for it to be recognised as an exciting area of the OU to work. A Portfolio where you feel valued and appreciated for your contribution. The teams strive to be a centre of excellence where openness, diversity and creativity are encouraged. The culture is one of safety and support where staff are fully engaged and feel able to express their ideas and opinions.

We’ve taken the time to try and articulate what we value in terms of how we act in the CIO Portfolio.

And we live this by, amongst other things, owning and taking pride in our work, sharing problems, asking questions, accepting that sometimes we fail and learning from those setbacks actively collaborating, showing empathy, giving support, being respectful, bringing passion and focus, showing compassion and understanding.

We work together, including everyone in our achievements, as we aim to reflect our team values in the learning systems we develop, ensuring an accessible learning experience that welcomes and supports the wide diversity of our students and staff in their time with the Open University.

Kelly
Delivery Manager
We take a user-led, incremental approach to innovation that recognises the value to students of being able to access information, support and learning opportunities across multiple, integrated digital and non-digital channels.

For our user experience (UX) we aim for consistency, simplicity, intuitiveness and accessibility.

We use a form of Agile Scrum development with fortnightly sprints and continuous backlogs feeding into our quarterly releases.

Our backlogs currently cover the themes of Digital Assessment, Content & Authoring, Collaborative Study Tools, UX Enhancements, Mobile Delivery, and Platforms & Infrastructure.

We have highly motivated people covering the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) end-to-end, and we are keen to nurture and develop our team members to be able to support each other and build truly inspiring DevOps teams. Join us and you will have space to excel in your core skills and many opportunities to broaden your software engineering career.

Our development team specialises in Moodle, PHP and PostgreSQL Database, and have core strengths in web development using HTML, JavaScript, CSS and Java development. For the last few years, we have been on an exciting journey to move our Moodle platforms into the cloud using Amazon Web Services (AWS). By adopting continuous integration and continuous delivery and deployment, using templates and pipelines to build our infrastructure as code and run tests, we aspire to use automation to provision and manage our Moodle environments to ensure we deliver the best quality service to the Open University and our students.
We're a friendly group who value good working relationships, both within the immediate team and also with the wider collective of units across the OU that are responsible for the student digital learning experience.

And working conditions are good. Work life balance is respected with overtime and out-of-hours work being the exception, with a generous leave allowance of 33 days on top of bank holidays. And there are plenty of opportunities and support for continuous training, including free access to Open University courses.

There are regular optional social activities, both virtual and face-to-face, to help build team connections and have a bit of fun.

Remote work options are available, but we do have the opportunity to work on our large campus in Milton Keynes, which has subsidised restaurants, plenty of parking and is surrounded by Ouzel Valley Park. Which is handy if we fancy a walk at lunchtime.

All in all it’s a great place to work.