

Facts and Figures 2015/16



Headlines

About the OU: Operating at scale

Total number of students taught since 1969	2.01 million
Total number of students in 2015/16	174,739
OU's proportion of part-time undergraduates taught, in UK sector	38%
Students on validated programmes	42,237
FTSE 100 companies that have sponsored staff on OU modules	88

About the OU: We are global

Overseas students directly studying with the OU	7,430
Teachers who have benefitted from OU's TESSA project	Over 800,000

About the OU: Our students

Percentage of 131k directly-registered OU students already in work	76%
OU undergraduates who had no previous HE qualifications on entry	76%
OU UK undergraduates who live in the 25% most deprived areas	23%
New OU undergraduates aged under 25	31%

About the OU: Research and Enterprise

UK research position (based on REF 2014 Power rankings)	41st/128
Research deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2014)	72%
Number of doctoral degrees awarded in 2015/16	180

About the OU: Innovation in learning

Downloads of OU material on iTunesU	70.9 million
Visits to OpenLearn website since launch in 2006	44.2 million

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Student and customer statistics*	2014/15	2015/16
Undergraduate-level students	126,215	122,634
Postgraduate-level students		
Taught	10,139	7,992
Research part-time	440	396
Research full-time	539	561
Initial Teacher Training	245	74
Collaborative	46	47
Students on non-credit-bearing courses	225	494
Overseas special scheme students	561	304
Students on validated programmes	35,479	42,237
Total Students	173,889	174,739
Study packs and materials sold	24	100
Total students and customers	173,913	174,839

*All student statistics are student headcount unless stated otherwise.

Student distribution	2014/15	2015/16
UK students		
England	105,209	99,834
Scotland	14,189	14,903
Wales	7,001	6,668
Northern Ireland	3,658	3,667
Total UK students	130,057	125,072
Republic of Ireland	1,801	1,465
Other EU	5,355	4,900
Non-EU	1,197	1,065
Students on validated programmes	35,479	42,237
Total	173,889	174,739

International Students	2014/15	2015/16
Global Direct students in Europe	7,123	6,336
Global Direct students outside Europe	626	745
Total Global Direct students	7,749	7,081

Students by subject area (FTEs)*	2014/15	2015/16
Subjects allied to medicine	2,108	1,629
Biological and physical sciences	11,247	13,492
Mathematical sciences, computer sciences and engineering & technology	13,016	12,403
Social studies	12,704	11,497
Law	2,998	3,668
Business and administrative studies	6,100	5,732
Languages	5,665	5,532
Historical and philosophical studies	7,221	6,488
Creative arts and design	1,250	1,292
Education	6,341	5,271
Total	68,649	67,005

*Excludes non-credit-bearing modules, study materials, packs and validated programmes.

Features of Open University students	2015/16	
	UG level	PG level
Male:female ratio	40:60	53:47
Age profile		
17 and under	1%	0%
18-21	7%	0%
22-24	11%	3%
25-34	34%	28%
35-44	23%	34%
45-54	15%	24%
55-64	6%	8%
65 and over	3%	3%
Median age of new undergraduate-level students	28	

Ethnic origin of new undergraduate students*	2015/16
White	89%
Asian	4%
Black	4%
Mixed and Other	4%

*where ethnicity was disclosed.

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Qualifications on entry of undergraduate students*	2015/16
No formal qualifications	2%
A Levels - amount not specified	13%
1 A Level or lower	33%
2 A Levels or equivalent	28%
HE qualification	20%
Postgraduate qualification	3%

*where qualifications were known.

Other student information	2015/16
Number of students receiving help with fees	17,634
Number of students with disabilities	22,664
Number of credit transfer awards for prior study	6,155
Number of students working full/part time	97,748

Qualifications awarded	2015/16	1971 2015/16
Foundation degrees	346	5,466
First degrees	12,272	389,931
Higher degrees	2,004	66,076
Undergraduate certificates and diplomas	2,153	350,955
Postgraduate certificates and diplomas	2,339	75,760
Validated qualifications (under/post-graduate)	3,233	151,354

Student Assessment	2014	2015
TMA and CMA assignments submitted	868,407	764,090
Examinations taken	66,359	55,799
End-of-module assignments submitted	100,584	89,910

Student Contact	2014/15	2015/16
Number of telephone calls from students	394,770	330,376
Number of Emails received from students	176,179	181,930

Modules information	2015/16
Number of standard modules offered	
Undergraduate level	325
Postgraduate level	117
Overseas versions	18
Curriculum partnerships	17

Most popular undergraduate modules*	2015/16
DE100 - Investigating psychology 1	5,426
DD102 - Introducing the social sciences	5,282
AA100 - The arts past and present	4,498
MU123 - Discovering mathematics	3,884
MST124 - Essential mathematics 1	3,912

*Based on number of students.

Validated Programmes	2014/15	2015/16
Number of validated programmes	258	260
Number of approved validated institutions worldwide	25	25
Total students to have achieved validated awards	5,189	3,233

Research and Enterprise	2014/15	2015/16
Value of research grants and contracts awarded in year	£21.6m	£18.1m
Number of running research grant and contract awards	Approx. 470	Approx. 480
Number of postgraduate research students registered for study	979	957
Research quality Grade Point Average (GPA) score	2.91	2.91
Open Research Online (ORO) UK ranking (Ranking Web of Repositories)	7th/146	8th/142
Number of research outputs downloaded from Open Research Online (ORO)	788,713	1,295,001

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Media	2014/15	2015/16
Average daily usage of Moodle	34,505	32,458
Views of OU programmes via BBC	307 million	240 million
Accumulative years of OU/BBC partnership	44	45
Peak-time TV and radio co-produced programmes	27 series	33 series
Downloads from OU on iTunes U	2.4 million	1.4 million
Average weekly downloads from OU on iTunes U	46,154	27,000
Visitors (since launch) to OU on iTunes U	12.1 million	12.9 million
Countries accounting for over half of downloads from OU on iTunes U		
USA	25%	24%
UK	11%	16%
China	16%	10%
OU videos on YouTube	1,436	1,482
OpenLearn visitors	4.9 million	5.9 million
OpenLearn modules	835	800

Notes on fees and funding

The way higher education is funded is determined by each of the national governments of the UK, so the cost to students in each country reflects the amount of teaching grant the OU receives directly from each of these administrations and the support that is available to students to pay their fees.

Fees	2015/16	
Undergraduate module (60 credit points)		
England and non-UK		£2,700
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£583 to	£2,625
Undergraduate residential school		
England and non-UK	£450 to	£1,000
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales		£513
Postgraduate taught module (60 credit points)	£1,416 to	£2,883
Research degree		
Full-time		£4,052
Part-time		£2,026
Study packs and materials	£12.99 to	£59.95

Cost of study	2015/16	
Typical total fees for BA/BSc (Hons) degree		
England and non-UK		£16,200
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£4,998 to	£5,297

Finance	2014/15	2015/16
	(£ millions)	(£ millions)
Income		
Tuition fees and education contracts	241.0	248.0
Funding body grants	127.9	123.1
Research grants and contracts	16.6	15.3
Other income	22.3	44.3
Investment income	11.5	41.8
Donations and endowments	2.3	2.7
Total income	421.6	475.2
Expenditure		
Staff costs	315.2	282.1
Other operating expenses	132.5	125.4
Depreciation	6.8	7.1
Interest payable	1.1	2.1
Total expenditure	455.6	416.7

Staff statistics	2014/15	2015/16
Salaried academic staff	1,116	1,062
Academic-related staff	1,873	1,796
Support staff (secretaries, clerks, technicians etc)	1,718	1,535
Associate lecturers	5,604	4,982