Short Courses from The Open University

Upskill and unlock potential with world-class short courses from the UK’s largest university.
Welcome to the OU industry partners. Created in high-demand subject areas, they offer a perfect balance of academic excellence and workplace relevance. With a strong focus on skills application, they support the global workforce to adapt to modern day challenges, stay up to date and get ahead. They provide a flexible way to continue professional development and quickly develop in-demand specialist skills and knowledge, alongside like-minded professionals from around the world.

As employers continue to report skills shortages in their workforce and three in five organisations² say that they are not as agile as they need to be because of this shortfall, The Open University is committed to developing flexible, innovative learning solutions that meet the changing learning needs of employers and professionals across the globe in the twenty-first century.

Our range of short courses have been designed by world-class academics, with many in collaboration with leading industry partners. Created in high-demand subject areas, they offer a perfect balance of academic excellence and workplace relevance.

With a strong focus on skills application, they support the global workforce to adapt to modern day challenges, stay up to date and get ahead. They provide a flexible way to continue professional development and quickly develop in-demand specialist skills and knowledge, alongside like-minded professionals from around the world.

Developing world-class short courses is central to our unique mission to deliver high quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambition and fulfil their potential. Broadening our education offer in this way allows us to reach more learners with high quality learning solutions that meet their needs.

Whether you are looking to upskill or reskill yourself, or have a team development requirement, we’re here to help you achieve your professional or personal learning goals.

² Source: Confederation of British industry (CBI)

Develop new skills with a short course
Watch the video here
The Open University’s short courses respond directly to skills gaps in the workforce. They allow us to be at the forefront of the bite-sized ‘just in time’ education to those who need upskilling or reskilling, allowing us to continue to push the boundaries of online and distance learning. It is something that allows us to bring our unique mission to more learners, and I hope that we will enable them to realise their ambitions because of it.

Professor Josie Fraser
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The Open University
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Open University for employers and professionals</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our industry partners</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bringing learning to you, wherever you are</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World-class courses to help you and your organisation get ahead</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find a course – microcredentials</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership and Management</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing and Digital Technologies</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Development and Inclusive Learning</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social Care</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find a course – Continuing Professional Development (CPD)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Management</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Marketing</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Transformation</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling and Social Care</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts and Media</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Open University for employers and professionals

More than 2,800 employers regularly choose The Open University to provide education to employees, helping to upskill their workforce and unlock potential.

Why upskill with us?

• We have pioneered distance learning for over 50 years. Our courses are expertly designed to be studied in a flexible way around personal commitments and busy job roles.

• Most OU students are already in work, which means our learning materials are ideal for those committed to lifelong learning, reskilling and upskilling – helping employers to fill skills gaps from within by harnessing employee potential.

• We have a long history of working with thousands of employers across a range of sectors, so we know how to deliver work-based learning that makes a real difference to teams, projects and the wider organisation.

• Our short courses are ideal for employees in busy roles as they provide focused learning over a short period of time, developing new skills that can be applied to the workplace immediately.

78% of UK organisations are seeing reduced output, profitability or growth as a result of the skills shortages.

Source: 2022 Open University Business Barometer report

68% of SMEs are currently facing skills shortages. This rises to 86% of large organisations, in stark comparison to last year’s report where 24% believed that finding staff with the right skillset was the single biggest challenge facing businesses.

Source: 2022 Open University Business Barometer report
The Open University Online Teaching: Creating Courses for Adult Learners microcredential is an expertly designed course, ideally suited for staff looking to rapidly develop their subject knowledge. While the course structure is clear and intuitive, colleagues also benefitted throughout from the additional support provided by the OU's study advisors.

Simon Horrocks
Academic Lead for Digital Education Strategy, Cardiff University
Our industry partners

Many of our short courses are created in partnership with, or endorsed by, leading industry experts.

By working with us to design and develop course content, or by reviewing and endorsing our courses, our partners provide specialist industry expertise to enhance our courses and ensure learning is underpinned by workplace relevance.

Our partners
As a full time home worker for a local authority, the microcredential offered me the flexibility to undertake the course when it suited me. It was a really enjoyable course which encouraged conversation with fellow learners and lecturers. The content of the course was really easy to follow and I have gained a lot of tools that I can use in both my professional and personal life.

Pauline Kenney
Channel Shift and Web Officer,
Studied Business Management: Marketing Principles and Practice
World-class courses to help you and your organisation get ahead

About microcredentials

Microcredentials are online short courses with academic credit that are designed to help quickly build in-demand career skills and knowledge.

Created by our world-class academics and with many endorsed by high profile industry partners, microcredentials are available on the OU’s learning platform and FutureLearn. They take 10 - 12 weeks of online study and offer a perfect balance of OU academic excellence and workplace relevance.

As learners work through the course, they can share ideas, thoughts and opinions with their co-learners, building skills, confidence and knowledge from peer to peer and mentor feedback, as well as weekly challenges.

On passing a final assessment, learners will gain a Certificate of Completion to evidence their new skills. They will also receive academic credit which could be used in the future towards further study.

Advance your career and develop new skills
Created by the OU to meet learner and employer needs.

Fast
Completed in 10 - 12 weeks, 10 - 13 hours of study per week.

Accessible
100% online, delivered on the OU platform and FutureLearn.

Prestigious
A balance of academic rigour and workplace relevance. Marked by subject matter experts.

Relevant and specialised
Keep up to date with relevant and emerging skills.

Price
Prices start from £275.

Start
Courses typically run 3 times a year.

Academic credit
Earn 10 - 15 academic credits per microcredential.

More online
Find out more about microcredentials, prices, and how to register here
About CPD courses

Our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses are designed to help learners quickly build new skills in in-demand areas.

With most courses available to start anytime, learners can build their knowledge and understanding in subjects such as Business and Management, Digital Marketing, Digital Transformation and more.

Delivered on the OU’s learning platform, our CPD courses are suitable for beginners and those with some experience.

Learners work through a mix of written, video and audio materials, at their own pace, with complete flexibility. Throughout the course, learners will be asked to answer questions, reflect on their experiences and carry out short exercises to develop their understanding.

**More online**
Find out more about CPD courses, prices, and how to register [here](#).

“**My line manager said that while these courses have greatly enabled my personal and professional development, they have also prepared me for taking on senior management responsibilities, and that the skills I have developed will be invaluable in driving our organisation through a process of digital transformation.**

**Tommy Breslin**
Senior Development Officer – Scottish Union Learning,
Scottish Trades Union Congress.
Studied Online Teaching microcredentials
Find a course

Microcredentials

We offer courses in the following in-demand areas:

- Leadership and Management 14
- Computing and Digital Technologies 18
- Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability 22
- Teacher Development and Inclusive Learning 24
- Health and Social Care 28
Leadership and Management

Our Leadership and Management courses are designed by industry experts and academics from The Open University’s (OU) Business School. Only 1% of all business schools are triple accredited. With accreditation from AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS, the OU Business School is one of them.

With a reputation for delivering transformational, high quality leadership and management education, our courses are specifically designed to support learners to upskill and help organisations succeed in the twenty-first century.

Our suite of Leadership and Management microcredentials are a great way to get in-demand skills in just 10 – 12 weeks. Our emphasis is on delivering education that offers immense practical value, with tried and tested tools and techniques. Whether you are looking to upskill yourself, your junior professionals or senior leaders, our skills based courses provide the tools and knowledge that can be immediately applied and add value.

Dr Haider Ali
Lecturer in Strategic Marketing,
The Open University
Undergraduate courses

Business management: financial accounting for non-financial roles
Designed for non-financial professionals, this course will give learners the confidence to analyse and use financial information effectively. Learners will discover how to interpret the financial reports of any limited company, make sense of annually published financial accounting statements, and feel empowered to make informed decisions about business finances.

Business management: fundamentals of management accounting
This course has been designed to give non-financial experts the skills they need to help inform professional decision making. Learners will discover how to problem solve, understand financial information, and develop budgets as well as the best practice approaches and principles of management accounting.

Business management: improving organisational practice
This course introduces the core principles of organisational practice. Learners will experiment with the latest theories and explore leadership styles to improve the performance of an organisation. By developing different techniques, learners will grow their management skills to benefit a team and be able to adapt to change successfully. Learners will be able to approach work in a way that is ethical and promotes diversity and inclusivity.

Business management: marketing principles and practice
Learners will be introduced to the core principles of marketing, including digital and non-digital perspectives that will inform professional decision making, improve effectiveness, and adapt their approach to solving business challenges. Using practical examples, learners will build a toolkit for creating products and services that meet your customers’ needs and that differentiate your product or service from your competitors.

Business management: people management and leadership
This course shares essential tools and techniques needed to become an ethical and inclusive people manager. Learners will discover their leadership style, gain in-demand skills to motivate others, and improve their effectiveness. Created with real-world insight from practising industry experts, learners will discuss the latest, innovative approaches that will help to respond to the changing needs of a team and an organisation, while taking a step closer to meeting managerial career aspirations.

Business management: project management
Designed for those already involved in projects or looking to move into the field, this course will give learners the skills they need to be able to manage or contribute to projects effectively. They’ll learn how to anticipate challenges and opportunities, manage risk, communicate clearly, and gain the support of stakeholders. Aligned with APM’s Body of Knowledge 7th Edition, it is practice focused, meaning learnings can be applied to work immediately.
Postgraduate courses

Agile leadership and management
Created in collaboration with the Agile Business Consortium, the global professional body for business agility, this microcredential provides a solid foundation and introduction to Agile Leadership. Learners will explore Agile Leadership through nine key principles, gaining practical knowledge and skills to lead, support and empower highly engaged teams to deliver better outcomes.

Management of change: organisation development and design
Learners will grow their knowledge of human-centred management and organisational development, gain in-demand design thinking skills, and learn how to design innovative processes with a person-centred approach. By employing a human-centred holistic design thinking approach, learners will develop their emotional intelligence, cognitive, and social skills to the level required for the leaders of tomorrow’s workplace.

Management of uncertainty: leadership, decisions and action
For managers, leaders and professionals from all sectors, this course will engage learners in thinking about effective decision-making and action in real-world contexts of radical uncertainty. Drawing on the expertise of academics and senior business leaders, it offers both insights and tools for practice and a foundation for continued learning.
Computing and Digital Technologies

The Open University is well-known for its dynamic teaching and leading-edge research in this growing area.

Our courses cover subjects ranging from cyber security to machine learning, with teaching informed by the latest technological developments.

Delivered by leading academics in collaboration with, and endorsed by, industry experts such as AWS and Cisco, learners will gain essential, up-to-date skills to improve competence and capability.

Our short courses link to essential aspects of Computing and Digital Technologies professional development - exploring cyber security, coding, network engineering, cloud technologies and much more. They’re suitable for anyone looking for further professional development, technical education or digital technology certification via remote learning. Certifications are an industry-recognised way to prove competence and capability and improve your employability.

Andrew Smith
Senior Lecturer in Networking, The Open University
Undergraduate courses

**AWS: machine learning foundations**
This course will help learners get started with AWS machine learning, developing skills to select and apply it to resolve business problems. Designed by leading experts from The Open University’s AWS Academy, in collaboration with the AWS Academy, learners will gain industry-recognised skills to kick-start a career in machine learning.

**AWS: solutions architect**
Designed by The Open University’s AWS accredited educators in collaboration with AWS, this course explores architectural design principles and how to optimise the use of the AWS cloud. Featuring AWS Academy Cloud Architecting, the course will prepare learners for the AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate.

**Cisco: DevOps using DevNet**
Designed for coders and network engineers, learners will develop industry focused skills and knowledge using code, the DevOps methodology and various micro services deploying applications as container-based solutions for CI/CD pipelines. This course is endorsed by the Cisco Networking Academy and will prepare learners for the Cisco DevNet Associate certification examination.

**Cisco: Python programming (OpenEDG)**
Endorsed by Cisco and the OpenEDG Python Institute and designed by experts at The Open University’s Cisco Networking Academy, this course is for digital technology professionals or anyone wanting to start a career in programming. It will provide a solid understanding of the Python programming language and industry-recognised skills and prepare learners for the Certified Associate in Python Programming certification.

**Digital photography: discover your genre and develop your style**
Created in collaboration with the Royal Photographic Society, learners will explore different genres and develop the knowledge, skills and techniques to become an intentional photographer. Aimed at those with a solid, theoretical, and practical understanding of the basics, learners will discover how to research and work to a photographic brief and how to create a statement of intent.
Postgraduate courses

Cyber security operations (Cisco)
Learn how cyber security professionals respond to an imminent, active or recent cyber threat. Learners will explore how to go about resolving attacks and how to complete legal investigations of any potential cybercrime using up-to-date experience from the internationally recognised Cisco CyberOps Associate Certification. Learners will receive a Cisco Networking Academy Certificate of Completion and will be prepared for the Cisco CyberOps Associate exam.

The quality of the course from The Open University and Cisco was exceptional. Good practical elements provided an effective means to build on theoretical concepts, and the questions posed provided a good mechanism to build experience in investigating cyber-attacks.

Cyber Security Operations (Cisco) Learner
The environment, climate change and sustainability has never been so high on the agenda, with countries across the world coming together to respond to the ecological crisis.

We are committed to championing sustainability. According to the most recent Research Excellence Framework results, 76% of our geography and environmental studies research was assessed as being world-leading or internationally excellent.

Our microcredential will help learners develop a deeper understanding of the climate crisis and how to lead your organisation in making sustainable, climate-positive changes.

Climate change affects us all. We are part of a living world, and we all have unique potential to contribute to living in balance and harmony within this living system.

Our sustainability course challenges, inspires and empowers learners to make positive changes, helping them to discover new perspectives and apply new ways of working to reimagine and transform organisations for a sustainable future.

Dr. Victoria Hands
Director of Sustainability,
The Open University
Undergraduate courses

Climate change: transforming your organisation for sustainability
Organisations have an important role to play in responding to the climate crisis. This course will help professionals and organisations demonstrate their commitment by developing their knowledge of sustainability, and gaining perspectives, skills and tools to help make a difference. Designed for any role, at any level, learners will explore the current science on climate change and gain practical skills to be a catalyst for change in their organisation.
These skills-based courses are designed by leading academics and expert practitioners in direct response to sector demands – underpinned by innovative and globally recognised research. Learners can take one course to upskill in a specific area or multiple courses in response to individual or organisational learning needs.

Caleb Foale
Studied Online Teaching: Creating Courses for Adult Learners

It was a really positive experience – the social element of the course exposed me to new ways to think, and new opinions and thoughts that I probably wouldn’t have been exposed to if I had been working through the materials myself.
Microcredentials

Online teaching: accessibility and inclusive learning
On this course, learners will gain the skills to support students more effectively through the design or adaptation of learning activities and assessments. Learners will discover more about common and cutting-edge assistive technologies which are improving study for millions of learners with disabilities, including hearing and visual impairments, speech, language and communication needs, and physical disabilities. Learners will also evaluate the accessibility of online platforms and interactive tools and use these to create accessible learning experiences.

Online teaching: creating courses for adult learners
This course will show learners how to create inspiring, accessible online courses for adults. They will evaluate technologies that support online and distance learning and draw on a range of experiences and research to successfully create inspiring online courses, keeping learning safe and accessible for a variety of learners.

Online teaching: embedding social, race and gender-related equity
Learners will draw on our world-leading expertise and discover how to design online teaching, learning and assessment activities that address issues such as racism, socio-economic injustice, transphobia, sexism and heterosexism. They will understand the ways in which students contexts have an impact on equitable participation and how this can be addressed by educators and institutions.

Postgraduate courses

Developing educational leadership in practice
On this course, learners will explore the latest theories and research in educational leadership and gain critical skills to shape positive change in education. Learners will discover how to support teaching and learning with a focus on equity and diversity, gain insights to help them challenge traditional ideas of educational leadership and develop skills to lead through uncertain or complex events such as the global Covid-19 pandemic, changes to government policy or resourcing issues.

Mentoring and coaching in professional learning
This course will provide learners with the practical skills and knowledge they need to develop their career as a leader of professional learning. Aimed at those working in a range of settings and contexts, learners will reflect on the theory, research and application of mentoring and coaching and use real-world case studies to bring learning to life and relate it to their own career.

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Postgraduate courses

Online teaching: evaluating and improving courses
Designed for individual educators and trainers as well as learning institutions, this microcredential will support learners to ensure the ongoing success of their online courses and technology-enhanced learning (TEL) provision. Learners will discover how to design and use teaching evaluation strategies that are appropriate to the context and setting, and conduct analysis of evaluation findings that can be applied to adapt and improve online course design.

Teacher development: embedding mental health in the curriculum
Endorsed by the Mental Health Foundation, this course will support learners to embed mental wellbeing into teaching. Learners will develop inclusive teaching strategies and learn how to design teaching, learning and assessment activities to meet the needs of learners experiencing issues such as low self-esteem, stress, anxiety, and feelings of not belonging.
Health, social work and social care services in the UK are constantly changing. Innovations in policy and practice, as well as new standards for treatment, care and support, provide challenges and opportunities for professionals working in the fields of health and social care.

Studying with The Open University provides learners with a sound and critical understanding of the health and social care policy, theory and practice essential in today’s fast-changing care sector. Learners will be studying with one of the largest and most innovative providers of educational opportunities and learning solutions in the sector.

The OU has partnered with over 300 social work employers and 230 healthcare organisations to develop their workforces.

Over 6,000 social workers have qualified with the OU.

Over 2,500 nurses have qualified with the OU.
Postgraduate courses

Mental health: working with children and young people

This microcredential supports practitioners across the health, education and social care sectors to develop essential skills to understand the mental health issues experienced by children and young people today. With a focus on children and young people’s developmental stages and social environments, learners will examine theory and practice to build their knowledge and enable them to identify mental health issues and risk factors, and implement appropriate support strategies and interventions that can help.
Find a course

Professional and Personal Development

Whether you want to enhance your personal or professional skills, our short courses can help you achieve your learning goals.

Business and Management 32
Digital Marketing 38
Digital Transformation 40
Counselling and Social Care 42
Creative Arts and Media 44
Languages 48
Our business and management short courses are designed to support learners at various stages of their career journey.

Whether aspiring to enter the business world or aiming to advance to the next level, our courses offer valuable insights and guidance to help professionals succeed.
Workplace essentials

Collaboration skills for the workplace
Duration: 10 hours
Consider your own approach to collaboration and explore collaboration within organisations.

Creative thinking for the workplace
Duration: 10 hours
Reflect on your creative journey, and learn new tools, skills and approaches to add value to organisations.

Behavioural insights for the workplace
Duration: 10 hours
Learn how and why people interact in different ways and how this contributes to the successful working of organisations.

Organisational behaviour in the workplace
Duration: 20 hours
This course focuses on interactions in and around organisations, and the variety of environments that organisations network with.

The impact of storytelling in business
Duration: 10 hours
In this course, you’ll consider aspects of storytelling at personal, organisational, and social levels.

Communication skills in the digital world
Duration: 20 hours
Explore changes in the way we communicate in the digital era and the tools to make more effective communications.

An introduction to artificial intelligence
Duration: 40 hours
Examine historical, ethical and social issues around Artificial Intelligence technology.

AI language technology in the workplace
Duration: 20 hours
Explore Language Technology, a rising form of Artificial Intelligence, and its impact in our working lives.
Workforce development

**Developing team leader skills**
**Duration:** 10 hours
Learn various techniques to develop teamwork skills and understand the challenges of teamwork in ever-changing environments.

**Developing a coaching culture**
**Duration:** 20 hours
Develop your people, their wellbeing and the organisation you work in using a coaching approach.

**Introduction to business and workplace coaching**
**Duration:** 10 hours
This course is ideal if you’ve little or no coaching experience and want to use coaching to develop people, ensure wellbeing and enable performance.

Finance in the workplace

**Managing a budget**
**Duration:** 20 hours
Learn how to use financial techniques in managerial decision-making and become more confident about dealing with finance professionals.

**Evaluating financial performance**
**Duration:** 10 hours
This course deals with performance measures that can be calculated from information in published and audited financial statements.

**Understanding financial statements**
**Duration:** 10 hours
Develop a general knowledge of financial reports and accounting concepts to understand the uses of financial statements.
Strategy, planning and agility

Developing a purpose driven approach in the workplace
Duration: 10 hours
Develop the skills to reflect on your working life and contribute more effectively to your organisation's strategic direction.

Developing strategy to manage uncertainty
Duration: 20 hours
This course will teach you what a strategy is, who can be a strategist and how to develop a strategic mindset.

Managing uncertainty through monitoring and control
Duration: 10 hours
Learn about the importance of strategic monitoring and control systems to effective strategy implementation.

Analytical thinking for problem solving
Duration: 10 hours
Develop the analytical and problem-solving skills needed to contribute effectively in organisations.

The languages of crises
Duration: 25 hours
Examine the role of languages and cultures in situations of crisis across the world, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Managing uncertainty through policy implementation
Duration: 20 hours
Discover why public policies and services have become so important and the relationship between policy and organisational life.

Leadership in the digital world
Duration: 20 hours
Explore aspects of leadership and the importance of effective leadership in a digital era.

Business agility foundations
Level: Introductory • Duration: 48 hours
Discover the essential elements of business agility and how it can improve performance, create efficient teams, and benefit organisations.

Business agility intermediate
Level: Intermediate • Duration: 48 hours
Discover the frameworks and tools to help you develop business agility in leadership, culture, people, strategy, and governance.
Entrepreneurship

Creating a successful and sustainable business
Duration: 20 hours
Learn about the approaches and methodologies for sustainable business and how to implement a sustainable impact for positive change.

Start your own business
Level: Introductory • Duration: 40 hours
Gain the knowledge and practical skills to turn your small business ambitions into reality.

Language and culture

Chinese business culture essentials
Duration: 36 hours
Build positive, long-term business relationships using knowledge of Chinese culture and values.

An introduction to intercultural competence in the workplace
Duration: 40 hours
Improve your intercultural communication skills in the workplace.

Law

Foundations of UK immigration law (OISC Level 1)
Duration: 60 hours
Explore the skills and knowledge expected of an OISC Level 1 Immigration Adviser.

Advanced UK immigration law (OISC Levels 2 and 3)
Duration: 60 hours
Learn more about UK immigration law and develop the skills to work at OISC Levels 2 and 3.
Our Digital Marketing short courses have been developed for learners who want to build their digital marketing skills or progress their career, along with generalist marcomms professionals who want to keep their digital marketing skills and knowledge fresh.

The courses, which cover a wide range of in-demand digital marketing subject areas, have been created by the OU in collaboration with industry experts Target Internet, who have worked with high profile brands such as Tesco, Mercedes and L’Oréal.
Introduction to digital marketing
Level: Introductory • Duration: 24 hours
Build core digital marketing skills and knowledge to plan and implement first-class digital campaigns.

Social media marketing
Level: Introductory • Duration: 32 hours
Accelerate your social media marketing skills across a range of channels, measure your success, and optimise your approach.

Search marketing
Level: Introductory • Duration: 32 hours
Unlock the skills needed to make effective use of search engine optimisation and paid search in your marketing campaigns.

Email marketing eCRM
Level: Introductory • Duration: 24 hours
Learn how to build high-performing email marketing campaigns, from targeting the right audience to email analytics and analysis.

Online display advertising
Level: Introductory • Duration: 24 hours
Gain the skills to create, manage and optimise successful online display advertising campaigns that deliver results.

Digital marketing content creation
Level: Intermediate • Duration: 40 hours
Gain the practical skills to create effective online content that engages your audience and delivers business objectives.

Digital marketing analytics and measurement
Level: Intermediate • Duration: 30 hours
Learn to use web and channel analytics to plan, implement and optimise effective digital marketing campaigns.

Digital marketing strategy
Level: Intermediate • Duration: 32 hours
Learn how to plan and build an effective digital marketing strategy using PR Smith’s SOSTAC® framework.
Digital transformation isn’t just about implementing technology, it’s about creating an agile and customer-centric organisation that’s ready to constantly adapt to change.

Our Digital Transformation short courses, many developed in collaboration with Target Internet, are designed to equip learners with the understanding and practical skills to use insights, tools, and frameworks to plan and implement digital transformation in their organisation.
Introduction to digital transformation
Level: Introductory • Duration: 32 hours
Learn how digital transformation works and the factors that impact an organisation’s successful transformation.

Digital transformation foundations
Level: Introductory • Duration: 32 hours
Understand the core building blocks that are essential for successful digital transformation.

Digital transformation readiness
Level: Introductory • Duration: 32 hours
Discover how to implement strategic initiatives and develop your organisation’s readiness to transform.

Digital transformation performance
Level: Introductory • Duration: 32 hours
Drive the performance of digital transformation through measurement, innovation, iteration, and continuous improvement.

Digital transformation design thinking
Level: Introductory • Duration: 24 hours
Learn how to use design thinking to improve decision-making, solve problems, and foster innovation as part of digital transformation.

Data in digital transformation
Level: Introductory • Duration: 24 hours
Explore the role of data, artificial intelligence (AI), and the principles of data science for digital transformation.

Innovation for digital transformation
Duration: 20 hours
Develop your ability to innovate by generating creative ideas and putting them into action.

Design thinking in the digital world
Duration: 10 hours
Learn what ‘design thinking’ is, how it can create value and explore how it is used.

Business design for the digital world
Duration: 20 hours
Learn the process of new business design and creation to deliver the right kind of value.

Managing change in the digital world
Duration: 20 hours
Discover the different aspects of managing change and planning for change – even when the nature of the change is unknown.
Develop your knowledge of counselling and social care with courses created by leading academics and practitioners who are renowned for their world-class learning in this field.

Our range of courses have been designed to meet the needs of professionals, trainees or those who have a personal interest in the area, with many created in partnership with recognised industry bodies.
Advanced therapeutic relationships  
Duration: 25 hours  
This course supports practitioners to work in an advanced way with the therapeutic relationship in counselling and psychotherapy.

Online counselling: getting started  
Duration: 25 hours  
Written in partnership with leading professional bodies, this course introduces practitioners to online counselling and setting up a video/phone provision with clients.

Online counselling: advancing your knowledge  
Duration: 25 hours  
This course advances practitioners' knowledge and understanding of how to provide online counselling effectively and safely.

Trauma-informed counselling  
Duration: 25 hours  
This course provides practitioners with an understanding of trauma-informed counselling, including recognising the importance of self-awareness.

Introduction to social care  
Duration: 48 hours  
Gain a solid introduction to social care and the role it plays in supporting the independence and wellbeing of those who receive care.
Creative Arts and Media

Whether you want to gain new skills to grow your career or develop a personal interest, our courses will provide the knowledge, tools and inspiration to help you further your creative journey.

The fascinating content has been created by OU experts, some in partnership with highly renowned organisations such as the Royal Photographic Society and the British Film Institute.
Digital photography: creating and sharing better images
Level: Introductory  •  Duration: 10 weeks, 10 hours per week
Broaden your photography skills with a course produced with The Royal Photographic Society.

Photography as language
Level: Introductory  •  Duration: 10 weeks, 10 hours per week
Delivered by the Open College of the Arts
Embrace a visual language through practice and theory to better understand the meaning of images and photos you see and make.

Investigating place with psychogeography
Level: Introductory  •  Duration: 10 weeks, 10 hours per week
Delivered by the Open College of the Arts
Discover how emotions and actions are tied up in places, exploring practice and theory to inform your creative practice centred on place.

Storytelling with video editing
Level: Introductory  •  Duration: 6 weeks, 8 hours a week
Learn the basics of video editing through a series of practical activities using Adobe Premiere Pro.

Media, politics and society
Level: Introductory  •  Duration: 6 weeks, 8 hours a week
Discover how the relationship between media, politics and society impacts your everyday life.

A story of documentary film
Level: Introductory  •  Duration: 6 weeks, 8 hours a week
Trace the history of documentary film in Britain using the collection held by the BFI National Archive.

Reading the screen: an introduction to the art of film
Level: Introductory  •  Duration: 6 weeks, 8 hours a week
Learn how a filmmakers’ choices help create their characters, narratives and ‘story-worlds’.

Cinema in the Spanish-speaking world
Duration: 25 hours, start anytime
Discover the cultural impact of the cinematic landscapes of Spain, Argentina, and Chile.
Introduction to creative writing
Duration: 6 weeks, 8 hours a week
Develop your creative writing skills as you explore poetry, fiction and scriptwriting.

Travel writing
Duration: 6 weeks, 8 hours a week
Learn how travel writers bring their journeys to life and begin writing about a journey of your own.

Introduction to European crime fiction
Duration: 25 hours, start anytime
Discover new ways of looking at crime fiction texts by European authors.

Dolly Parton: music, identity and culture
Duration: 6 weeks, 8 hours a week
Explore the relationship between music, identity, and culture through the work of the country musician and songwriter Dolly Parton.
Learning a language broadens horizons, connects people across cultures, and expands our understanding of the world.

Our language courses offer many benefits, including improved communication skills, cognitive benefits, cultural appreciation, and enriched travel experiences. They are suitable for a range of abilities on the Common Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
**Arabic**

*Introduction to Arabic language and culture*
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 40 hours
Start learning Arabic as well as the history and culture of the Arab world.

**Chinese**

*Beginners Chinese 1: 开始吧 kāishī ba!*
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Start learning Mandarin Chinese on a short course that’s perfect for beginners.

*Beginners Chinese 2: 开始吧 kāishī ba!*
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Expand your Mandarin vocabulary by exploring topics like food and leisure activities.

*Beginners Chinese 3: 开始吧 kāishī ba!*
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Ideal for those with a grasp of beginners’ Mandarin to improve their skills.

*Elementary Chinese 1: 入门了 rùmén le!*
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Step up your basic knowledge of Chinese with our elementary course in Mandarin.

*Elementary Chinese 2: 入门了 rùmén le!*
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Take your Mandarin up a level with new topics such as feelings and opinions.

*Elementary Chinese 3: 入门了 rùmén le!*
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Develop your Mandarin vocabulary, including how to apologise formally and give presents.

**French**

*Beginners French 1: eh oui!*
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Kick-start your learning journey with this introduction to French designed for beginners.

*Beginners French 2: bien sûr!*
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Continue to build your French skills for communicating in everyday situations.
Beginners French 3: absolument!
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Enhance your knowledge of French to prepare for further language study.

Elementary French 1: allons-y!
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Start to understand and produce more complex language with an elementary course.

Elementary French 2: en avant!
Level: CEFR level B1 • Duration: 64 hours
Explore exciting new subjects in French, such as employment and studying.

Elementary French 3: vous y êtes!
Level: CEFR level B1 • Duration: 64 hours
Learn to talk about your health and improve your grammar by using different tenses.

German

Beginners German 1: fang an!
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Discover key German phrases and the cultural diversity of German-speaking countries.

Beginners German 2: mit Vergnügen!
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Study new topics like food, seasons, and time to build up your German vocabulary.

Beginners German 3: richtig so!
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Further your German knowledge by learning to give your opinion on new and varied topics.

Elementary German 1: sprechen und verstehen
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Learn to express your opinions and start mastering everyday situations in German.

Elementary German 2: sprich weiter!
Level: CEFR level B1 • Duration: 64 hours
Step up your German language-learning by taking on more complex conversations.

Elementary German 3: weiter geht’s
Level: CEFR level B1 • Duration: 64 hours
Hone your German language skills with our third elementary level short course.
Italian

Beginners Italian 1: primi passi
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
A perfect ‘aperitivo’! Learn Italian starting with simple topics such as reading menus.

Beginners Italian 2: in cammino
Level: CEFR level A1 • Duration: 64 hours
Build on your study and learn to talk about time, work, transport, and holidays in Italian.

Beginners Italian 3: stai andando bene!
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Delve further into Italian language and culture by exploring geography, food and festivals.

Elementary Italian 1: in campo!
Level: CEFR level A2 • Duration: 64 hours
Step up your progress in Italian with new vocabulary and key expressions.

Elementary Italian 2: avanti tutta!
Level: CEFR level B1 • Duration: 64 hours
Develop your Italian skills, including talking about the past and childhood.

Elementary Italian 3: all’opera!
Level: CEFR level B1 • Duration: 64 hours
Explore more complex topics in Italian, including social media and Italian migration.
Spanish

**Beginners Spanish 1: ¡Empezamos!**  
Level: CEFR level A1  •  Duration: 64 hours  
Discover one of the world’s most widely spoken languages with a short course.

**Beginners Spanish 2: ¡En marcha!**  
Level: CEFR level A1  •  Duration: 64 hours  
Learn to talk about time, your daily and weekly routine, work, interests and hobbies.

**Beginners Spanish 3: ¡Adelante!**  
Level: CEFR level A2  •  Duration: 64 hours  
Begin conversing in this popular language using new topics to build your vocabulary.

**Elementary Spanish 1: ¡en camino!**  
Level: CEFR level A2  •  Duration: 64 hours  
Build on your beginners’ Spanish with new topics, including sport and grammar.

**Elementary Spanish 2: ¡vamos a seguir!**  
Level: CEFR level B1  •  Duration: 64 hours  
Advance your Spanish language skills with new topics, situations and phrases.

**Elementary Spanish 3: ¡muy bien!**  
Level: CEFR level B1  •  Duration: 64 hours  
Develop your Spanish further, including learning to use the past tense.

Welsh

**Discovering Wales and Welsh**  
Duration: 100 hours  
Learn basic Welsh language skills while exploring key aspects of Welsh culture.
Get in touch

If you’re an employer and have enquiries about upskilling your workforce:

- visit open.ac.uk/business/contact
- email business@open.ac.uk
- call us on 0300 303 0122, or +44 (0) 1908 655767 if calling from outside the UK

If you’re looking to build your own skills to get ahead:

- visit open.ac.uk/courses/choose/short-courses
- email us from our website: open.ac.uk/contact
- call our Student Recruitment Team on (+44) 0300 303 5303

Lines are open (UK time) Monday to Friday: 08:00–17:30. Calls are charged at the local rate when calling from a UK mobile phone or landline.

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