



Your
2026/2027

Social Sciences Prospectus

Welcome to the home of online learning

**Have it all with The Open University
and discover a more flexible way
to achieve a career-boosting
qualification.**

Our globally recognised courses are designed to fit around you – your job, family and social life. Study flexibly online when and where you like, all with the support of dedicated tutors and the UK's biggest student community.

There's no limit to what you can achieve. Ready to unlock a world of possibilities?

The future is open

Rated gold

in the Teaching
Excellence
Framework



**Top 3 in
the UK**

for employability



uni compare
2026

**Top 6 in
the UK**

for course quality



uni compare
2026

Ranked in the
top third of UK
universities for
**research
excellence**

**REF
2021**





The experts in online learning

Study at a world-leading university known for teaching excellence.

Trusted

Join the largest UK university for undergraduate education.

Unrivalled flexibility

Learn online when and where suits you.

Choose your pace

Achieve a degree in three years or take things slower – you decide.

Earn while you learn

Many students balance studies with their careers.

87% of alumni

Say the OU helped them achieve their career goals.

Tailored career support

To help you navigate your future.

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University that works for you

The Open University is truly open to all. We're proud to have pioneered a more flexible way of learning so that anyone, anywhere has the opportunity to transform their lives through top-quality education.

Study when and where suits you

We'll provide you with all the learning materials you need, so you can study online whenever and wherever you like.

Learn from the best

Join one of the UK's top six universities for course quality. You'll have a dedicated tutor supporting you from day one. These subject specialists will mark your assignments, provide meaningful feedback and keep you moving forward.

See your favourite subjects brought to life

Each week you'll work your way through a series of engaging, expertly-designed modules, all at your own pace. You'll also have an online study planner to keep on top of any deadlines and track your progress.

Be supported at every step

You'll have a whole community to support you from your first module to after you graduate. Connect with other students through tutorials and online forums, share ideas and cheer each other on. You can also turn to our friendly support teams for help with everything from balancing your studies to career planning.

See for yourself at a Virtual Open Day

Discover life-changing learning from your sofa. Book your spot at one of our online events to learn what it's like to study with us and hear from our inspiring students and support teams.



Visit
[openuniversity.co.uk/
open-days](https://openuniversity.co.uk/open-days)
to find out more.



OU study has changed me as a person. It's made me realise that you can actually do anything you want to.



Misty Crew
OU student



Why students choose the OU

Skills-boosting courses, tailored support and freedom you won't find anywhere else. Discover just a few of the reasons why millions have chosen the OU.

1

Award-winning teaching

We've spent over 55 years perfecting how to teach and support students wherever they are. Our courses are powered by the latest in learning innovation, from award-winning remote labs and our extended-reality studios, to skills-packed modules designed to inspire. It's why the OU is one of an elite group of universities to reach the gold standard of teaching excellence.

2

Courses that flex around real life

The OU gives you unrivalled flexibility to study online from home or on the move. With options to complete a degree in three years, take things at a slower pace, or even take a breather if you need to.

3

Earn a degree while earning a living

You'll have the flexibility to earn while you learn and study around your career. All with award-winning careers support and guidance from day one.

4

Top-quality education at an affordable price

Our tuition fees are among the most affordable in the UK. And with student loans, grants and scholarships, we can help you find the funding option that makes sense to you.

5

We're open to all

We believe that everyone should have the support and opportunity to transform their lives. That's why most of our undergraduate courses don't come with entry requirements. If you bring your ambition, we'll provide the support and guidance to help you achieve it. We also proudly welcome more students with disabilities than any other UK university and will help to make sure you have the support and tools to succeed, however you learn best.



Get to know us

Find out what you can expect as an OU student.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/learning



Qualifications to suit you

With over 200 courses to choose from, whatever your goal, it's possible with The Open University. You can study towards a degree or start with a certificate or diploma and build on your studies as you go.

Undergraduate

Certificate of Higher Education

Get a general grounding or improve your understanding of a subject area.

Diploma of Higher Education

Expand your knowledge and improve your skill set in a specialised area.

Named Degree

Complete modules in a specific subject to earn an honours degree and open doors to a new career or interest.

Open Degree

Design your own honours degree and include modules from different subject areas to suit your needs and interests.

Postgraduate

Postgraduate Certificate

Ideal for professional and career development, this is the first step towards a masters degree as well as being a valuable qualification in its own right.

Postgraduate Diploma

Work towards a widely recognised qualification equivalent to two-thirds of a masters degree.

Masters Degree

Study modules towards an internationally respected qualification while gaining specialist academic, professional, or technical skills.

Discover your ideal course

Find the course to match your ambition.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/course-types

Shape your career

You'll gain so much more than a qualification with the OU. We'll help you develop the skills and confidence you need to thrive in your career – whether you're just starting out, changing direction or ready to progress.



With the OU, you're not just improving your career prospects, you're learning about yourself at the same time. I have no doubt this degree will open doors for me in the future, it's already driven me forward professionally.



Jack Bristow
OU graduate

Award-winning careers guidance

You'll unlock award-winning careers support and resources from the moment you start studying. We'll help you plan your career goals, perfect your CV and navigate the jobs market.

Connect with hundreds of employers

Attend networking events and find local and national jobs, internships and volunteering opportunities from employers like HMRC, Network Rail and IBM.

Gain key employability skills

We work with employers and industry experts to embed employability into our teaching. You'll not only gain subject knowledge but also develop important problem-solving, communication and time management skills that will set you apart.

Put what you learn into practice right away

By studying flexibly online, you can apply what you learn to the real world, right away. It's why our students tell us they can gain new roles and even promotions, all while they're still studying.

Careers support after you graduate

All this support will continue up to three years after you finish your qualification. So you can feel confident taking that next step.



97% of users would recommend our award-winning careers services and tools



Discover the support, guidance and tools waiting for you.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/careers

Achieve your goals with us

We've been helping people like you realise their potential since 1969. Meet some of the incredible OU students and graduates who have used their studies to transform their futures.

There's lots of pressure to follow the same path as everyone else, but it's not the only way. The OU has helped me to achieve my career goals and given me the freedom to make my own decisions.

Eileanoir Blair
OU graduate



As a working mum, I knew that physically attending university wasn't possible – the OU is the perfect solution. I can get on with my life while I complete my studies.

Chido Manyande
OU student



I left school with few qualifications and, thanks to the OU, I'm on course to be a lawyer with a job offer from one of the best law firms in the world!

Thomas Barry
OU student



My career progression has been amazing – OU study equipped me for a successful career; I'd recommend it to anyone. If a CV came across my desk from someone with an OU degree, it would stand out straight away.

James Bransgrove
OU graduate



Chat with OU students

Find out more about the OU study experience by talking to some of our current students.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ask-a-student



Welcome to the Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences embodies the core values of The Open University, which is to empower and transform students, societies and cultures through our world-leading teaching and research. Here you'll discover varied and fascinating insights into everyday life and the world around you.

Studying Social Sciences with us will allow you to:

- ▶ **specialise in criminology, development, economics, geography, philosophy, politics, psychology, religious studies or sociology**
- ▶ **learn from creative and intellectually rigorous materials**
- ▶ **focus on key policy issues, both in the UK and internationally, through highly specialised teaching**
- ▶ **become introduced to cutting-edge research and ideas through engaging modules.**

Studying how and why people, groups and institutions behave and interact, how they exercise power or respond to political and economic forces will help you to make sense of what's happening in our ever-changing world.

Undergraduate

We offer many undergraduate degrees in the social sciences. These include criminology, geography, international relations and sociology, as well as joint degrees such as politics, philosophy and economics, and a wide range of certificates and diplomas are linked to these degrees.

Postgraduate

Our postgraduate courses are ideal if you want to deepen your knowledge and experience in a particular subject, such as:

- crime and justice
- global development
- international relations
- philosophy

If you're looking for a masters degree with more of a focus on psychology, we have the MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies and MSc in Psychology. We also offer the MSc in Psychology (Conversion), giving you the opportunity to gain your first qualification accredited by the British Psychological Society.



The OU has given me the tools I need to improve and it's really made me believe in myself. I now think I have the ability to do anything, so long as I put my mind to it!



Kieran Griffin
OU graduate

Gain the skills employers need

An Open University Social Sciences qualification builds skills that are highly sought-after by employers, such as communication, problem solving, digital and information literacy, global citizenship and self-management. Throughout your course, you'll also sharpen your writing, analytical, and independent thinking skills; all of which will greatly help you apply your qualification to your career in the world beyond study.

The breadth of skills you'll develop while studying an Open University Social Sciences qualification could be the first step to unlocking professional training or entry-level roles in a wide range of careers in areas such as:

- local and central government
- the Diplomatic Service
- non-government organisations
- social welfare
- prison and probation work
- education
- the environment
- business management.

Committed to equality

Our economics qualifications include modules from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, which has received the Athena Swan Silver Award in recognition of its gender equity efforts. AdvanceHE's Athena Swan Charter framework supports and transforms gender equality within higher education and research.

We also support the London Mathematical Society's Good Practice Scheme to help advance women's careers in university mathematical sciences departments.



You're on your way

Take the next step by reading more about how you'll study, how long it takes and the support you'll receive.



Building your qualification

Undergraduate

You don't need to commit to a full degree. We offer certificates and diplomas too. Each qualification is valuable in its own right, so you can complete a certificate and stop there or use it as a stepping stone to a diploma or degree.

You'll need to build up credits to gain your qualification. Here's how it works:

Stages

You'll need to complete:

- one stage for a Certificate of Higher Education
- two stages for a Diploma of Higher Education
- three stages for an Honours Degree.

To complete each stage, you must build up a set number of credits.

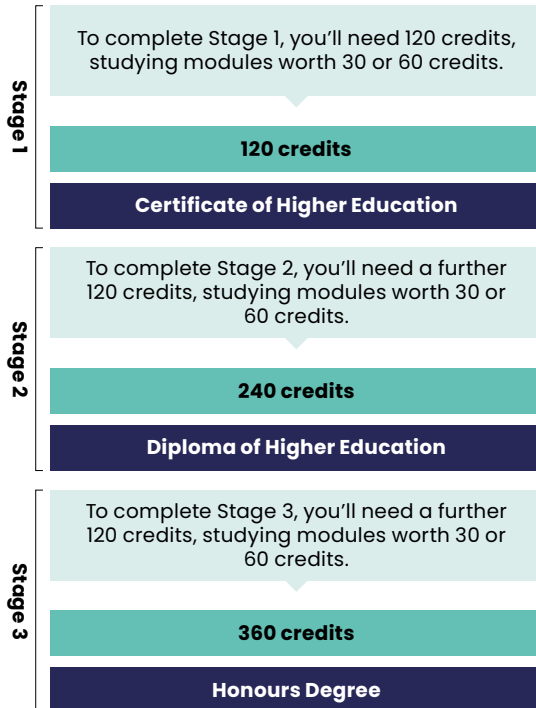
Credits

- You'll need at least 120 credits to complete each stage.
- You gain credits by passing modules.

Modules

- With each module you pass, you'll earn a set number of credits, usually 30 or 60.
- Modules are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Access module¹
An optional module to build your confidence and prepare you for further study.



¹ Only available in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How does it work?

Watch our quick guide on how credits work and how you can build your undergraduate qualification.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ug-qual

Postgraduate

Postgraduate qualifications are made up of credits.

You'll need:

- 60 credits to gain a Postgraduate Certificate
- 120 credits to gain a Postgraduate Diploma
- 180 credits to gain a Masters Degree.

You build up credits by passing modules. These are either compulsory or chosen from a range of options.

Getting started

All you need to do is choose your qualification and register for a module that counts towards that qualification.



Pattern A
MA in International Relations

90 credits at postgraduate level.

A further **90 credits** at postgraduate level, totalling **180 credits**.

Masters Degree

Pattern B
MA in Crime and Justice, MA in Philosophy,
MSc in Environmental Management,
MSc in Global Management

60 credits at postgraduate level.

Postgraduate Certificate

A further 120 credits at postgraduate level, totalling **180 credits**.

Masters Degree

Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.

Learn more

Find out more about postgraduate study at the OU.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/pg-qual

Prepare for success with an Access module

No matter your background or study experience, we're here to help you succeed. That's why we offer a choice of starting points depending on how confident you are in your study skills.

If you'd like to build confidence before starting a qualification, an Access module could be a great first step. It helps you understand what university study involves, and gives you the chance to refresh your skills and explore your interests. Many students who've felt unsure find it provides a strong foundation and sets them up to succeed in their future studies.

Access modules are only available to residents of the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland.

How Access modules work

Each week, you'll work through a mix of online and printed module materials, including online quizzes and written assignments. At the end, you'll demonstrate your learning by completing a final written assignment. There's no exam.

You'll have a dedicated tutor who'll provide academic support via email and one-to-one phone tutorials. Your Student Support Team will be on hand to help with everything else, from study advice to guidance on fees and funding.

Access modules start in February and October and typically require around nine or ten hours of study per week over 30 weeks. In May and August, we also offer a fast-track option which allows you to complete your module in just 16 weeks by increasing your weekly study time.

What you need

You'll need a phone and a computer with internet access. You'll get access to your module website, and your books and other printed materials will be posted to you.

Visit our website for more information on what you'll need for your chosen course.

What you can study

Each Access module explores key topics and develops the skills you'll need as you continue your chosen qualification.

Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module (Y034)

Explore some of our most popular subjects such as psychology, childhood and youth, early years, health and social wellbeing, sport, education, and social sciences. Each area is introduced and explained at a gentle pace, perfect if you want to get to grips with something new.

Also available as *Psychology, social science and wellbeing Access module: fast-track* (YXFT034)

We offer three other Access modules, which are more relevant to other subject areas:

- *Arts and languages Access module (Y031)* – also available as *Arts and languages Access module: fast-track* (YXFT031)
- *Business and law Access module (Y035)* – also available as *Business and law Access module: fast-track* (YXFT035)
- *Science, technology and maths Access module (Y033)* – also available as *Science, technology and maths Access module: fast-track* (YXFT033).



You could study for free

Depending on eligibility and availability of places, you could apply to study your Access module for free.

To qualify, you must:

- be resident in the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man) or have a British Forces Post Office address
- be eligible to pay a UK fee
- meet the income threshold criteria, for more information visit openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access
- have not completed one year or more of any full-time undergraduate programme at FHEQ or CQFW level 4/ SCQF level 7 or above, and not successfully completed 30 credits or more of OU study within the last 10 years.

Once you've started the registration process, we'll contact you about your payment options. This will include instructions on applying to study for free if you are eligible and funded places are still available.

How much does an Access module cost?

The cost depends on where you are resident. If you live in:

- England, it's £1,022
- the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, it's £1,105
- Ireland, it's £962
- Northern Ireland, it's £325
- Scotland, it's £334
- Wales, it's £359.

You can pay up front by debit or credit card or by bank transfer. You can also spread the cost with an Open University Student Budget Account – there's more about this on page 21.

If you're studying an Access module as part of an OU qualification and you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you could cover the cost with a student loan – for more information, see pages 18–19.



If you haven't studied before, do an Access module. It gives you a chance to get a view of the subjects, and it will certainly help going forward.



Steven Sutherland
OU student



Students who start with an Access module are more likely to be successful when they advance to their next course.

Learn more about Access modules



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ug-access

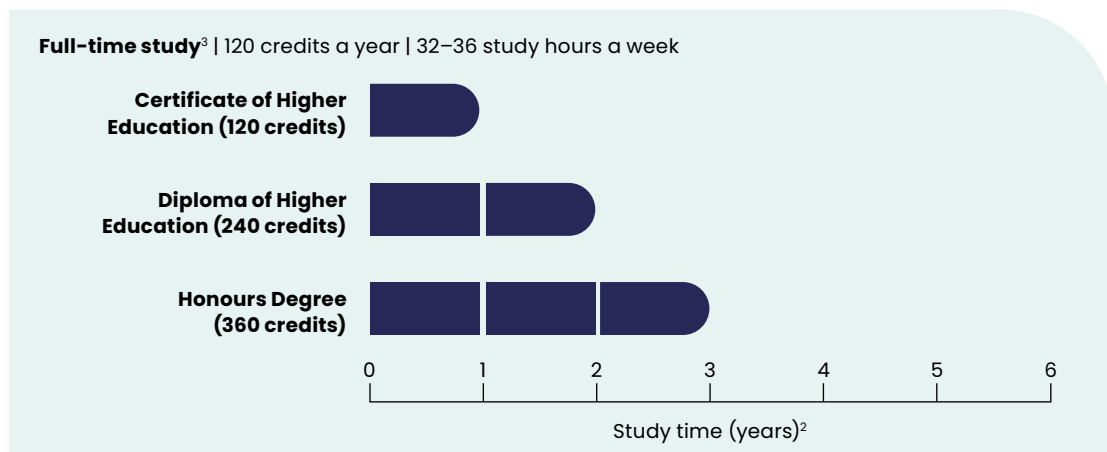
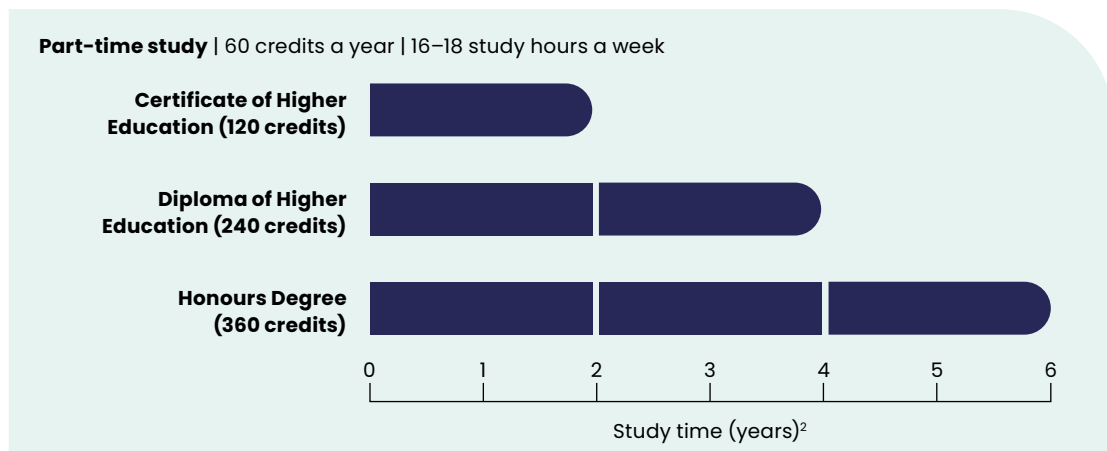
How long your qualification will take

We give you the flexibility to choose the amount of study you want to take on each year. That means you can get the qualification you want in a timeframe that works for you.

Undergraduate qualifications

How long it will take to gain your qualification depends on the course you've chosen and the amount of credits you study each year. Studying 60 credits a year is half the rate of a full-time course at a campus-based university. To complete your studies at a pace equivalent to full-time, you'll need to gain 120 credits per year.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.¹



¹ Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.

² Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.

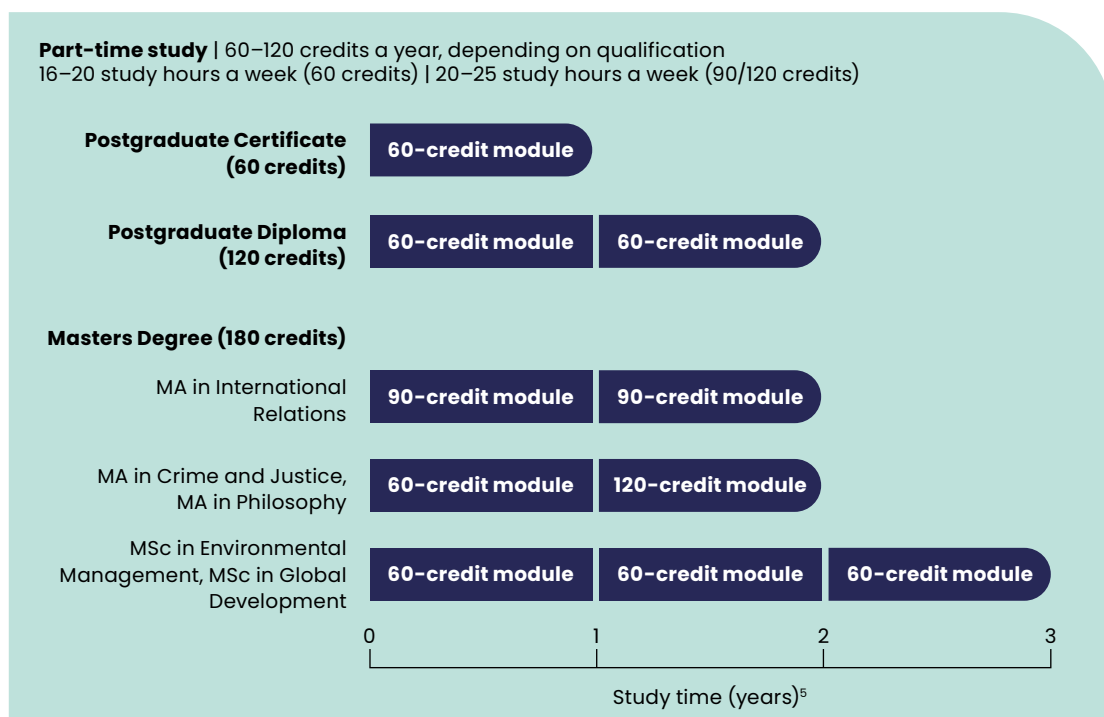
³ All OU students are considered part-time students. This remains the same even if you study at a pace that's equivalent to full-time.

Postgraduate qualifications

The time it takes to get your qualification depends on how it's structured and the number of credits required. All of our postgraduate courses are offered as part-time study, and the typical timescales for individual module completion are shown below.

- 30 credit module – five months.
- 60 credit module – nine months.
- 90 credit module – twelve months.
- 120 credit module – twelve months.

The guide below gives you an idea of how long your qualification could take.⁴



⁴ Some qualifications follow a different pattern of study. See individual descriptions on our website for more information.

⁵ Study time is the period between starting your first module and completing your last module. It doesn't include the time we need to release your module result(s) or award your qualification.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you may be able to transfer the academic credit you've been awarded towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the modules you need to study.

Visit openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer to find out more.

Plan your time

Find out more about the time you need to study.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/time



Supporting you to succeed

You're never alone when you're studying with The Open University. You'll be part of our global community of students, expert tutors and advisers, all ready to help you get the most out of your journey.

For each module, you'll have a dedicated tutor who'll be your first point of contact for any queries. They'll lead regular tutorials, mark your assignments, provide detailed written feedback, and give study support through email, online, or over the phone.

Expert advisers from your Student Support Team can help with any other support needs you experience as an OU student.

Our Student Union, OU Community forums and range of societies and groups mean you're connected to one of the UK's largest student communities.

Your Student Union awaits

Open SU is the union for Open University students. Led by a team of enthusiastic student leaders, it exists to represent, support, and connect the student community. You'll automatically become a member, and there's no fee.

Open SU is on a mission to make a positive difference for all OU students. Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- Join a club, society, or support group to find like-minded students.

- Explore discounts, past exam papers, and a shop with OU merchandise.
- Have your say and boost your skills through volunteer opportunities or by becoming a student representative.
- Take part in any of our online or in-person events taking place throughout the year.

To find out more, visit [oustudents.com](https://www.oustudents.com).

Open SU



There is a community at The Open University. Everyone supports each other. One tutor that really inspired me was Michael. His words of encouragement gave me a confidence boost. My grades just kept on improving and improving.

Joe Acaye
OU student



Join our community

Find out more about how you'll be supported during your studies.



Visit [openuniversity.co.uk/community](https://www.openuniversity.co.uk/community)

How you'll learn

With regular tutorials and an online hub to manage your studies, you'll have everything you need to succeed.

Once you've registered, you'll have access to StudentHome where you'll be able to:

- see an overview of your course and the modules you're studying
- use the tutorial booking system
- submit your assignments
- visit our Help Centre
- access your virtual learning environment
- choose and enrol on your next module.

The virtual learning environment or 'module website' contains all the online study resources you'll need, including:

- a week-by-week study planner
- an assessment section, giving details of your assignments and their due dates
- your online tutorial room
- module forums where you can discuss topics with other students and complete collaborative work
- PDF and accessible formats of your module materials and resources.

Our assessment methods

Depending on your course, we'll use a blend of written assignments, oral and practical assessments, projects, exams, dissertations and portfolios. For more on assessments, visit openuniversity.co.uk/assessment.

What you need

To study with us, you'll need:

- a computer with internet access. If you haven't got access to one right now, you could receive financial support to help buy one
- a basic level of digital skills, such as using a web browser or working with documents and applications. Find out more about the computing skills you'll need, visit openuniversity.co.uk/computer-skills
- a good grasp of the English language. We teach our courses in English. If you're not sure whether your English is at the right level, visit openuniversity.co.uk/englishlanguage for help and guidance.



Nearly there

Read on to discover more about how we can help you fund your studies and the qualifications you could achieve.

Undergraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, so you won't have to pay for your whole qualification up front. We've given you an idea of the costs below:

Where you live	Cost per year		Total cost at current prices		
	60 credits a year	120 credits a year	Certificate of Higher Education (120 credits)	Diploma of Higher Education (240 credits)	Honours Degree (360 credits)
England¹	£4,088	£8,176	£8,176	£16,352	£24,528
Northern Ireland²	£1,300	£2,600	£2,600	£5,200	£7,800
Scotland²	£1,336	£2,672	£2,672	£5,344	£8,016
Wales²	£1,436	£2,872	£2,872	£5,744	£8,616
Ireland²	£3,848	£7,696	£7,696	£15,392	£23,088
Outside the UK and Ireland²	£4,420	£8,840	£8,840	£17,680	£26,520

¹ 2026/27 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. In England, fees are subject to fee limits, as set out in the University's Fee Rules (openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules).

² 2026/27 prices (exceptions apply). Fees typically increase annually. For further information about our fee policy, visit openuniversity.co.uk/fee-rules.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Our module fees include your module materials, tuition, assessment, and exams. However, there are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.
- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction books or a language dictionary.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, there may be an additional cost. You'll also need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

A Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan is a popular way to fund your undergraduate studies, and it's available regardless of your income. In fact, 85% of OU students in England fund their studies this way.

You don't have to pay anything up front. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £25,000.

For courses starting from January 2027, student finance is changing. For more information visit openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Part-Time Tuition Fee Grant

You could be eligible for up to £1,230 a year. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

If you're not eligible for the grant, or if it doesn't cover the full cost of your tuition fees, you can pay in full or in part using an alternative payment method, such as a Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan.

Course Grant

You may also be eligible for a non-repayable Course Grant of up to a maximum of £265 a year. It's intended to help with course-related costs, such as a computer, internet access or stationery.

SCOTLAND

Part-Time Fee Grant

You could qualify for a Part-Time Fee Grant and top-up funding to cover 100% of your course fees. You'll likely be eligible if your personal income is £25,000 or less, or you're on certain benefits, and you're studying at least 30 credits a year. The fee grant and top-up funding aren't loans, so you won't need to pay any of it back.

WALES

Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan

A Part-Time Tuition Fee Loan is a popular way to fund your undergraduate studies, and it's available regardless of your income. In fact, over 80% of OU students in Wales fund their studies this way.

You don't have to pay anything up front. Repayments only start when your salary exceeds the income threshold, which is currently £29,385.

Already have an undergraduate degree?

If you already hold an honours degree or higher-level qualification and you're looking to re-skill or up-skill, you could still be eligible for funding to study eligible qualifications.

Maintenance grants

You could be eligible for up to £4,590 a year to help with living costs. The money you receive isn't a loan – you won't need to pay any of it back. The amount you'll be awarded is determined by your household income and the rate at which you study.

Maintenance loans

If you're under 60, you'll also be eligible to apply for a non-means-tested maintenance loan, should you need it, to 'top-up' the financial support you've received from grants.

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for student loan or grant funding, or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan

Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See page 21 for more information.

Card payments

Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments

Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Care Experienced Scholarship³

If you have been in the care of a Local Authority at any stage of your life and are 30 or under, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Carers' Scholarships Fund³

If you are, or have recently been, an unpaid carer, you may be able to study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Disabled Students' Allowance³

You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund³

If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship

Your employer could partially or fully pay your module fees.

Sanctuary Scholarship³

If you've been displaced from your homeland for political, economic, ethnic, environmental, or human rights pressures, you could be eligible to study for free.

Scholarship for Black Students³

If you identify as being from a Black background, you could study a full undergraduate qualification for free.

Study-related costs³

If you're on a low household income or receive certain benefits, you might be eligible for additional funding for study-related costs, such as travel, internet access and stationery.

³ UK residents only.

Find out more

Find out more about undergraduate fees and funding.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees
Call
0300 303 5303

Postgraduate fees and funding options

How much does it cost?

You'll fund your studies on a module-by-module basis, which means you won't have to pay for your whole qualification upfront. To find the total fee for your qualification, visit our website.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Your module materials, tuition, assessment and exams are all included in our module fees.

There are some additional costs that aren't included.

- You'll need your own computer and internet access.
- For some modules, you may need to buy additional set books, such as fiction or theory books.
- A handful of our courses include a residential school. For these, you'll need to fund the cost of your travel.

Funding your studies

ENGLAND AND WALES

Postgraduate loan

You could be eligible for a loan of up to £13,206 from Student Finance England or up to £19,635 from Student Finance Wales.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
- The money is paid directly to you and can be used towards your course fees and living costs.
- You'll get your first instalment after you've self-funded your first module and started studying.
- Payments are spread across two or three years.
- Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £21,000).
- You'll repay 6% of your income over £21,000. So, for example, if you earn £25,000, you'll repay only £240 that year (6% of £4,000). That's just £20 a month.
- Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- Any balance outstanding after 30 years is written off.

To be eligible, you must:

- be resident in England or Wales
- be under 60 years old
- be studying a masters degree that can be completed in no more than three years in England and no more than four years in Wales
- not currently have a masters degree or equivalent
- be studying your qualification from the beginning.

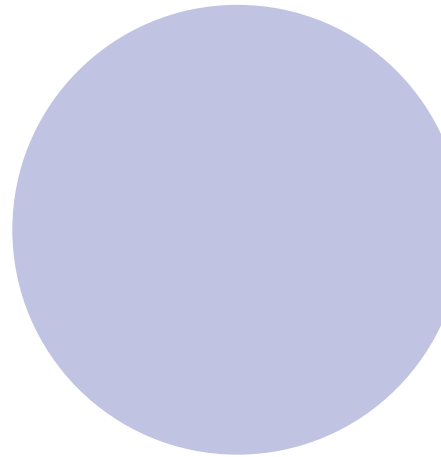
OUSBA postgraduate-linked loan

If you're eligible for a postgraduate loan from Student Finance England or Wales, you'll receive your funding in instalments. However, you'll only start receiving these instalments after you've paid your tuition fees and no sooner than two weeks after the module starts. This means you'll need to cover your fees before you receive your loan.

An Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA) postgraduate-linked loan can help. It lets you pay your tuition fees upfront so you can register for your course. You can then use the instalments from your government postgraduate loan towards your OUSBA payments.

This loan is provided to any eligible student by Open University Student Budget Accounts Limited, which is a subsidiary firm of the University.

For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/ousba-linked.



NORTHERN IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

Postgraduate loan

You could be eligible for a tuition fee loan of up to £6,500 from Student Finance Northern Ireland or up to £7,000 from the Student Awards Agency Scotland.

- Loans are non-means-tested, so eligibility isn't based on your income.
 - There's no upper age limit.
 - Payments are spread over the duration of your studies.
 - Repayments only start when you earn more than the income threshold (currently, £24,990 in Northern Ireland and £32,745 in Scotland).
 - You'll repay 9% of your income over the threshold. So, for example, if you earn £36,000 and live in Scotland, you'll repay only £292.95 that year (9% of £3,255). That's just £24 a month.
 - Payments are deducted automatically from your salary.
- To be eligible, you must be:
- resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland
 - studying for an eligible postgraduate qualification.

Self-funded study

If you're not eligible for loan or grant funding or you live outside the UK, we offer a range of other funding options.

OUSBA loan

Pay your fees in instalments with a loan from Open University Student Budget Accounts Ltd. See right for more information.

Card payments

Pay for each module with a debit or credit card in one quick, simple payment.

Mixed payments

Combine your payment options to fund your studies the way you want.

Other support

Disabled Students' Allowance¹

You could receive financial support to help with study costs associated with your disability.

Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund¹

If you've been injured in, or due to, military service, you could be eligible for funding to complete a full undergraduate or postgraduate qualification.

Employer sponsorship

Your employer could partially or fully pay for your module fees.

OU bursaries¹

If you've already completed an OU undergraduate degree, you could receive a bursary to help lower the cost of your postgraduate study.

Study-related costs¹

If you're on a low household income, or receive certain benefits, you might be eligible for additional funding for study-related costs, such as travel, internet access and stationery.

¹ UK residents only.

Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA)

Some students fund their studies through a loan from OUSBA. You'll be offered this option when you register with us, as long as you're a resident of the UK, the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, or the Vatican City State.

Here's how it works

OUSBA will pay your fees to The Open University. You can then choose to repay OUSBA:

- in a single sum before your course starts. There's no interest to pay with this option
- in monthly instalments of up to a year. With this option, interest does apply.

The interest rate is fixed for the duration of the course (representative APR 5.1%).

If you're worried about affordability or a poor credit history, you can apply for a joint loan application with a third party. This could be with a partner, sibling or friend, for example.

As a responsible lender, OUSBA carries out affordability checks as part of the application process.

To find out more about OUSBA, visit openuniversity.co.uk/ousba.

Open University Student Budget Accounts Limited is a subsidiary firm of The Open University.

Find out more

Find out more about postgraduate fees and funding.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees
Call
0300 303 5303



Find your undergraduate course

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BA (Hons) Social Sciences

The social sciences seek answers to the big questions we face in an ever-changing world. Social scientific ideas and research inform the work of governments, businesses, campaigners and many others who need to base their decision-making on evidence, analysis and critical understanding.

Designed to be flexible, this degree will teach you the tools of the social scientist's trade. You'll begin with a core module in interdisciplinary social science, giving you a firm grounding in the ideas, techniques and methods central to social scientific inquiry.

In the rest of your degree, you can specialise in criminology, development, economics, geography, philosophy, politics, psychology, religious studies or sociology, or you can choose a combination of modules to suit your interests.

Whatever path you take, you'll acquire numerous transferable skills, opening employment opportunities in private, public and voluntary sector organisations.

Why this qualification?

- Get to grips with the complex issues behind today's headlines.
- Understand social scientific ideas and insights and apply these to the real world.
- Develop the skills, knowledge and research methods commonly used by social scientists.
- Increase your employability across a diverse range of careers.
- Have the option of doing a dissertation in some routes in your final year.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Social Sciences (W68)
openuniversity.co.uk/w68

Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences (T06)
openuniversity.co.uk/t06

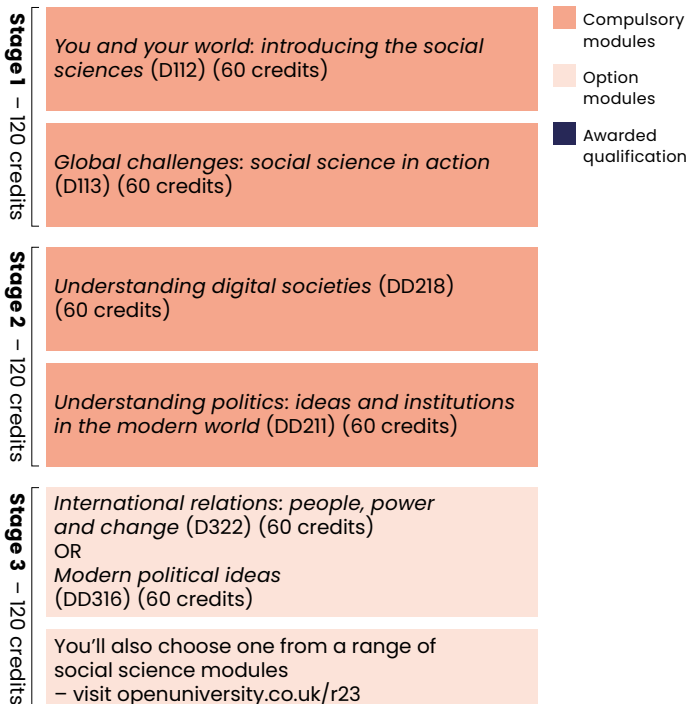
Qualification structure

You can choose to study a broad range of social science subjects or specialise in one of:

- **criminology**
- **development**
- **economics**
- **geography**
- **philosophy**
- **politics**
- **psychology**
- **religious studies**
- **sociology**.

The example below shows **politics**; other routes will vary. Visit openuniversity.co.uk/r23 for details.

Example route



BA (Hons) Social Sciences (Politics)

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R23

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r23
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Criminology

Our degree in criminology focuses on cutting edge, topical and often contentious criminological issues. You'll develop an understanding of the important role that criminological theory can play in viewing the social world in new and exciting ways.

You'll be introduced to criminology and the social sciences using themes such as power, inequality and social harm to explore key topics, including victimology, abolitionism and state violence.

With an appreciation of criminological theorising and evidence, you'll develop the skills to understand issues of crime and victimisation from new perspectives.

You'll gain a critical appreciation of the problems with conventional responses to crime and deviance, including policy questions, at national, international and global levels.

You'll learn about a range of research methods and how to apply research tools to help you access and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data on crime, victimisation and the societal responses to them.

You'll also enhance your independent study skills by completing a project on a criminological topic that interests you most.

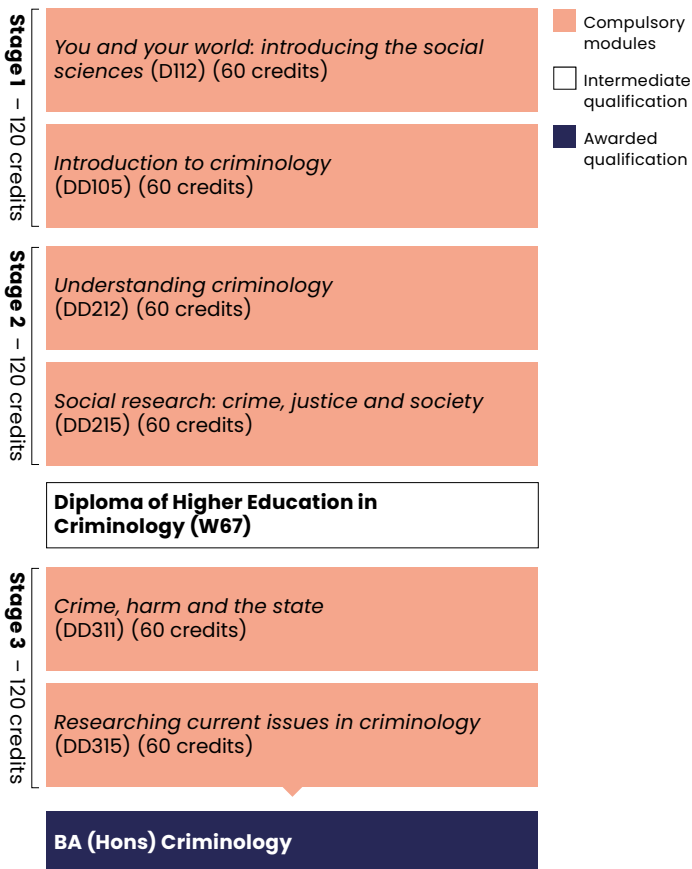
Why this qualification?

- Explore a wide range of contemporary and pressing criminological topics.
- Develop your understanding of the role criminological theory can play in seeing the social world in fresh and interesting ways.
- Develop your competence and confidence in using qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Enhance your independent study skills by exploring a criminological topic of your own choice.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education
in Criminology (W67)
openuniversity.co.uk/w67

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R21

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r21
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Criminology and Law

Crime, justice and the workings of the law are matters that affect us all and often dominate the news. This degree takes a critical and analytical view of the role and functions of the legal system, and examines its relationship with crime, criminal behaviour and criminal justice.

With an appreciation of criminological theorising and evidence, you'll develop the skills to comment on crime and responses to crime and deviance, including policy questions, at national, international and global levels.

You'll gain the ability to critically assess everyday understandings of crime, harm and criminal justice, the social, political, economic, historical and ethical dimensions of law, as well as gain knowledge of the key institutions which make up criminal justice and legal systems.

Why this qualification?

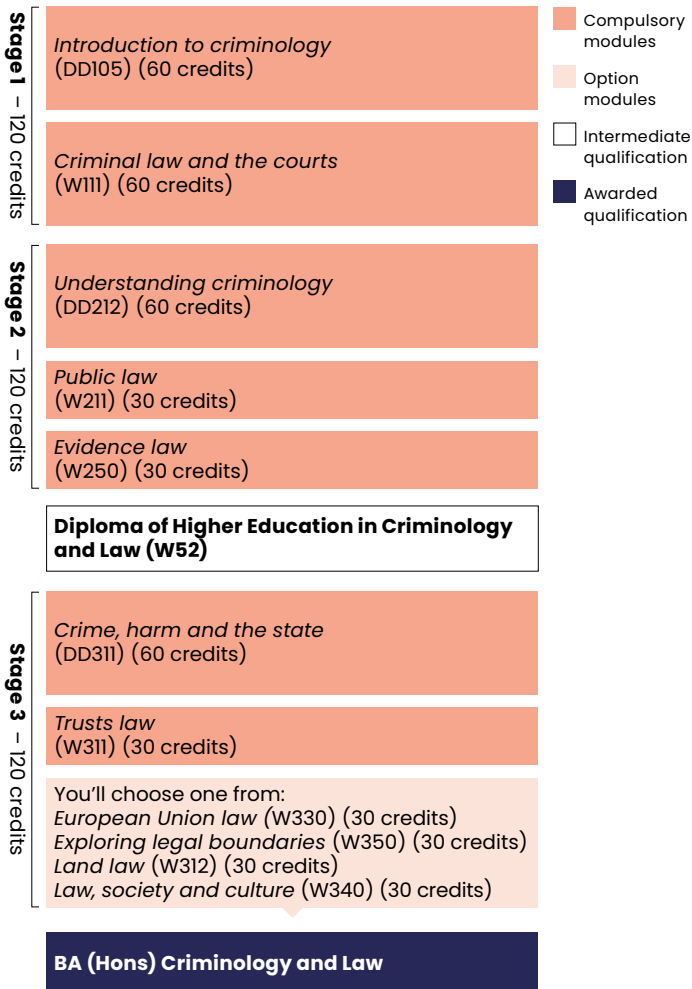
- Explore the complex issues behind today's headlines about crime, law and justice.
- Understand, interpret and apply concepts about crime and law to 'real world' problems.
- Develop transferable employability skills to support career progression.
- Identify where criminal justice and law are failing to provide social justice, fairness and equal opportunities in society.

Please note that this degree does not cover all seven Foundations of Legal Knowledge. If you want to become a barrister in England and Wales or a solicitor or barrister in Northern Ireland, you will need to complete a conversion course before starting your professional training.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Law (W52)
openuniversity.co.uk/w52

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q92

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q92
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Criminology and Psychology

Criminology and psychology help make sense of crime, criminalisation, criminals and victims. This qualification will provide you with a critical understanding of both subjects.

You'll become able to question and develop your own beliefs and understandings about crime and harm. In doing so, you'll consider criminal acts and human motivations, but also look beyond them by examining the social conditions in which crime occurs, the exercise of power in response to crimes, the nature of conflicts when people interact (individually, in groups or as nations) and how and why societies determine what they will and won't tolerate.

Why this qualification?

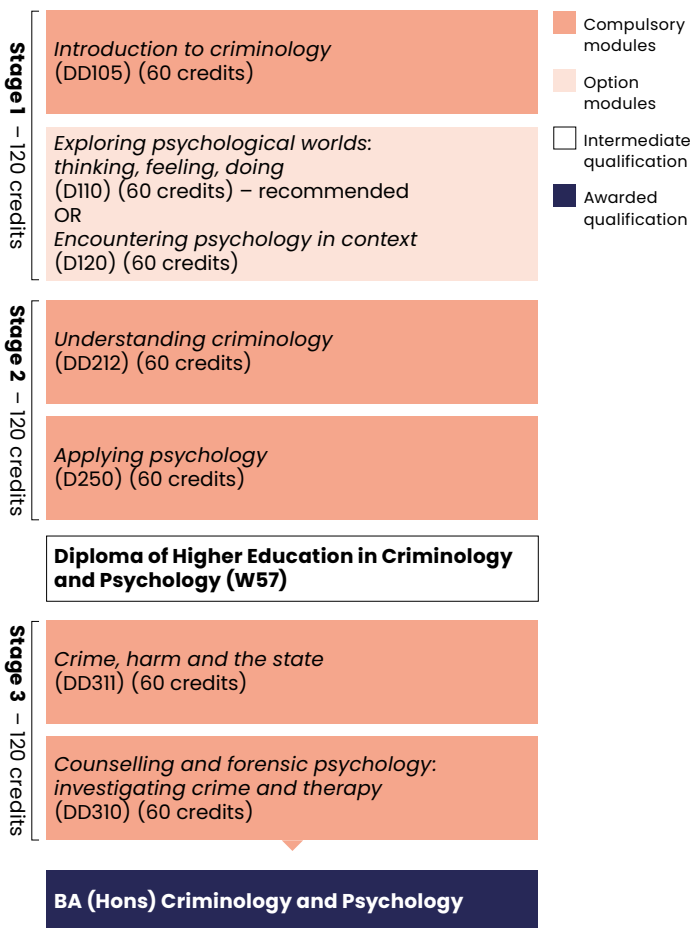
- Helps you understand how criminology makes sense of crime, harm, criminal justice and criminalisation.
- Shows how psychology explains human interaction and conflict and interprets crime and victimisation.
- Takes a distinctive and original approach to teaching criminology and psychology.
- Enhances your employability in areas such as the criminal justice system and social services.

Please note that this degree is not accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Psychology (W57)
openuniversity.co.uk/w57

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q98

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Meet our academics

Professor Lara Frumkin's research is centred around applying psychological principles to criminal justice and security. She is the Deputy Director of the Counter Terrorism Evidenced-Based Review Group (CTEBRG), which promotes effective collaboration between academics and police practitioners. She also co-published *A Research Agenda for Terrorism Studies*, which explores newer methods in the field along with more established ones, giving attention to victims, victimhood and issues around gender, as well as rights, safety, and vulnerabilities.

Learn more about Lara's work at openuniversity.co.uk/justice.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q98
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology

By combining these subjects, you'll gain an understanding of the issues and concepts surrounding questions of criminalisation and justice, and how social worlds are made.

Building on the OU's reputation for cutting-edge criminological and sociological teaching and research, this joint degree offers you the chance to study lively, topical and sometimes controversial subject matter.

You'll investigate questions of crime, criminalisation and social harm to determine whether society's responses to these questions are adequate and appropriate. You'll also explore how social worlds are made and how we, as individuals, are shaped by the societies in which we live.

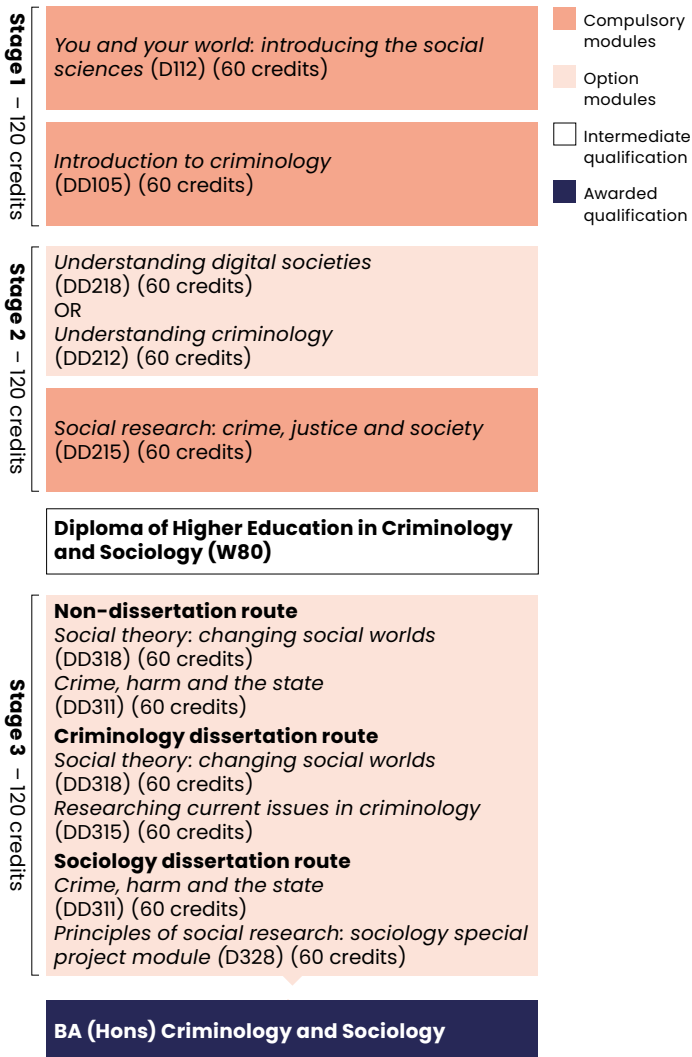
Why this qualification?

- Explore lively and topical issues about contemporary social life and about crime, harm and criminal justice.
- Learn to evaluate evidence critically and understand criminological and sociological problems better.
- Examine the role of both theory and research in shaping knowledge about crime, justice and the wider social world.
- Have the option of doing a dissertation in your final year.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Criminology and Sociology (W80)
openuniversity.co.uk/w80

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R46

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r46
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Sociology

In a fast-changing world, this degree offers you the chance to explore some of the major forces reshaping social life.

You'll be introduced to distinctively sociological ways of understanding the world and, in the process, will be challenged to think more deeply about contemporary social problems and sociological constructs.

You'll explore the most innovative social theory and the most influential traditions of social analysis. You'll gain practical skills in social research and the ability to plan and conduct an independent sociological project.

On graduation, you'll not only have a well-developed understanding of what sociology is and the nature of society's groups, cultures and organisations, but will be in a position to make a positive difference to society.

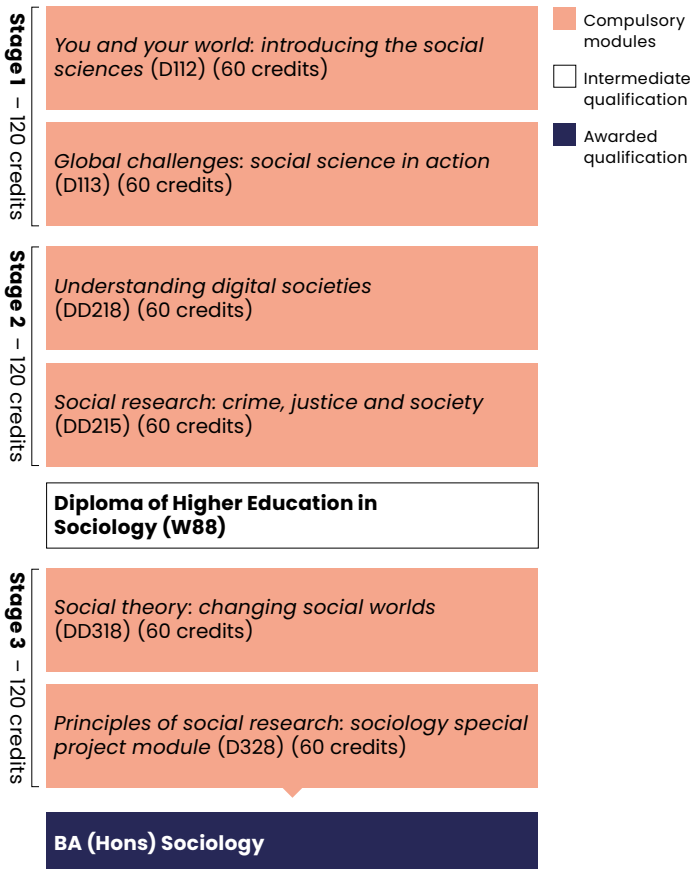
Why this qualification?

- Examine how power and inequalities influence people's lives.
- Explore how social class, gender, race-ethnicity and sexuality shape our everyday lives and also wider social inequalities.
- Learn how to recognise recurring patterns and social structures of inequality, and how social theory can guide interventions.
- Gain the knowledge and techniques to carry out your own research and investigation.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education
in Sociology (W88)
openuniversity.co.uk/w88

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R57

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Meet our academics

One of Professor of Sociology Marie Gillespie's recent research projects has been entitled *Reframing Russia for the global media sphere: from Cold War to Information War?* This explores the changing conjoined geopolitical and media landscapes, Russia's foreign policy, the discourse of information war, conspiracy theories and how and why some audiences use *Russia Today* as a reference point to understand what and how Russians think today.

Discover more about this project at openuniversity.co.uk/mg.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r57
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Economics

Discover how economics shapes every area of society – from the choices we make at home to the decisions driving governments, businesses and global trade.

In our Economics degree, you'll gain the skills to analyse real-world problems and apply economic ideas to the issues that matter to you. You'll discover how economies rise, fall and recover. Explore how markets work, get to grips with data and boost your own budgeting and money management skills along the way.

You'll also carry out an economic research project on a topic of your own choice, showcasing your expertise and interests.

With a focus on building your career-ready skills, you can shape this degree around the topics that interest you most.

Why this qualification?

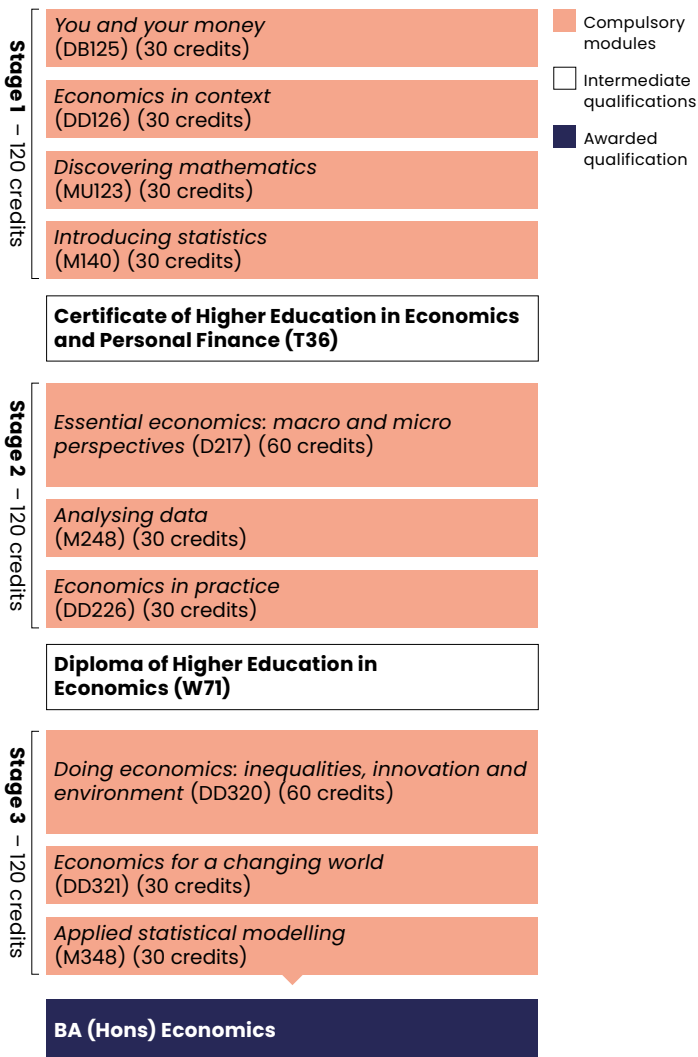
- Apply macroeconomic and microeconomic theories to make sense of a fast-changing world.
- Explore econometrics, using statistical methods and specialised software to tackle real economic challenges.
- Develop strong analytical, research and data analysis skills to help you succeed in a range of careers.
- Learn from the OU's expert economists whose leading international research informs public policy.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Economics (W71)
openuniversity.co.uk/w71

Certificate of Higher Education in Economics and Personal Finance (T36)
openuniversity.co.uk/t36

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R30

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements. It is essential to ensure your mathematical level is appropriate before you register by taking the online quiz 'Are you ready for MUI23?' at openuniversity.co.uk/mu123

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r30
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Business and Economics

This degree is ideal if you're curious about how businesses and economies shape the world.

This fascinating degree blends business insight with economic understanding to explore the challenges facing organisations and societies today. You'll study how businesses function, how markets operate, and how economic forces influence decisions – from local policies to global trade.

Along the way, you'll learn to interpret data, think critically, and communicate persuasively. Whether you're passionate about finance, sustainability, strategy or policy, you'll build the skills to lead, influence, and innovate.

With a strong analytical mindset and practical expertise, you'll be ready to thrive in a fast-moving business and economic landscape.

Why this qualification?

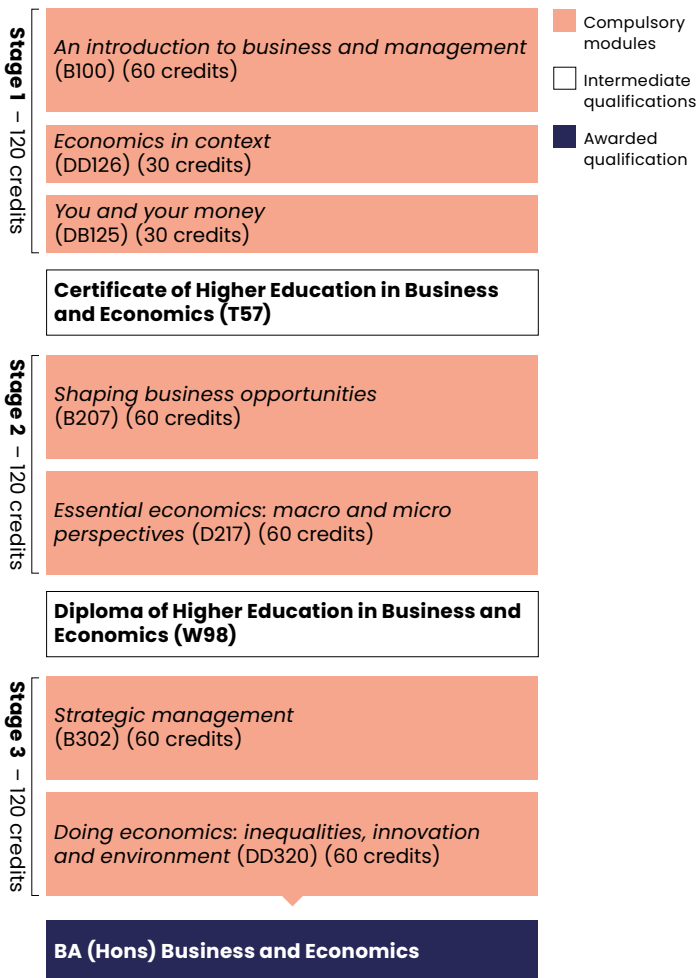
- Learn how business and economics shape decisions, policy, and society.
- Apply economic theory to real-world challenges and global trends.
- Build skills in data analysis, strategy, and critical thinking.
- Discover how organisations, markets, and economies interact.
- Prepares you for careers in business, finance, policy, and consultancy.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Business and Economics (W98)
openuniversity.co.uk/w98

Certificate of Higher Education in Business and Economics (T57)
openuniversity.co.uk/t57

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R75

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026

Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

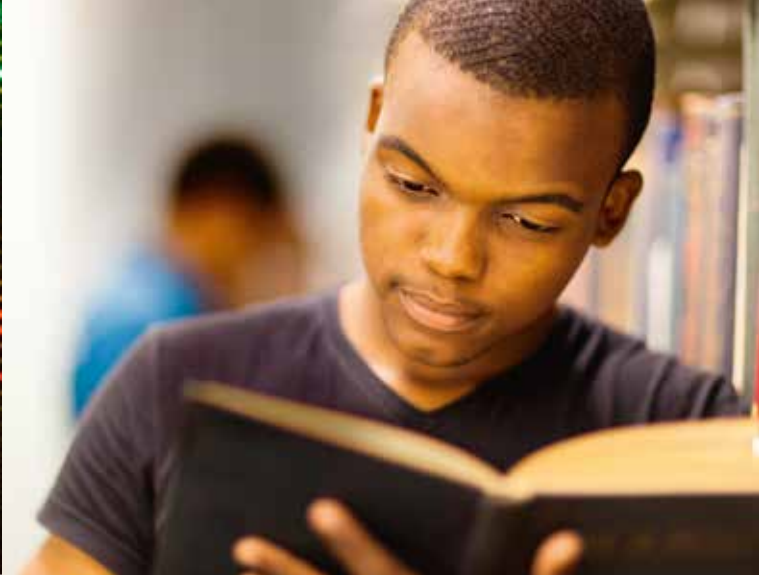
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r75
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Economics and Mathematical Sciences

If you enjoy solving problems and you're interested in the practical application of economics and mathematics, this degree is for you.

It will give you a thorough grounding in a broad range of mathematical, statistical and computational skills, and a sound knowledge of both macroeconomic and microeconomic theories, together with a good understanding of economic issues.

You'll develop analytical and model-building skills that can be applied in a variety of contexts, engage in economic debate, and assess different kinds of evidence and their usefulness in relation to economic theories.

By the end of your studies, you'll be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for a range of roles in business management, accountancy, banking, investment analysis, risk analysis and market research.

Why this qualification?

- Explore fundamental questions about our physical and economic world.
- Learn analytical and model-building skills applicable to a variety of contexts.
- Develop essential skills for solving real problems and making sound judgements – from your personal finances to high-level strategic decisions.
- Broaden your experience of using mathematical and statistical software.
- Start at a point that suits your level of mathematical knowledge.

Routes through the degree

There are two starting points: default and intensive. For more information about the best starting point for you visit openuniversity.co.uk/start-maths.

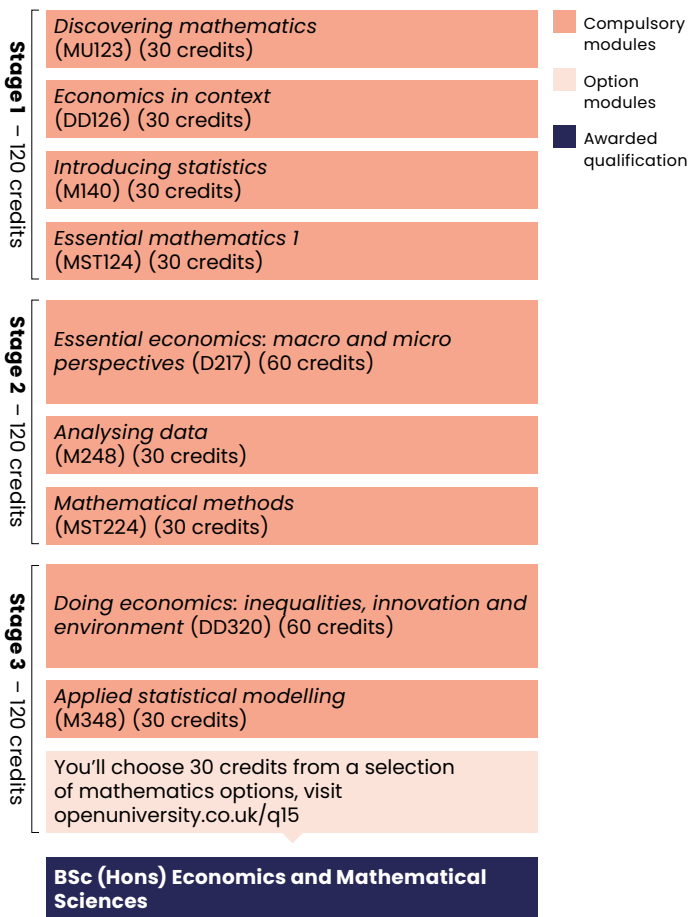
Qualification structure

You'll choose either:

1. The **default** start
2. The **intensive** start.

The example below shows the **default** start; the intensive start will differ at Stage 1. Visit openuniversity.co.uk/q15 for details.

Example route



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q15

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026

Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years¹

¹ See openuniversity.co.uk/q15 for further details.

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q15
Call
0300 303 5303



Diploma in Economics

Explore contemporary socio-economics issues by learning to apply economic theories and techniques to real-world situations.

You will learn macro and microeconomic theories; to use specialised software; to apply statistical concepts to economic data (econometrics), and to carry out your own research project. The analytical skills you will learn are greatly valued by employers.

This diploma is ideally suited to a graduate in any discipline and can be completed in as little as two years. You'll have evidence of a systematic study of economics without having to complete a full degree.

If you later wish to study our BA (Hons) Economics, you will be able to count the credit gained from this diploma.

Why this qualification?

- Gain core knowledge of economic theory and an understanding of economic issues.
- Analyse some of the most compelling challenges facing us today, such as inequality and unemployment, and issues facing business.
- Engage in economic debate and assess different kinds of evidence, both qualitative and quantitative, and their usefulness in relation to economic theories and issues.
- Learn to analyse economic data using statistical techniques and how to apply the knowledge and skills learnt by carrying out your own project work.

The Diploma in Economics is made up of modules at OU levels 2 and 3 taken from our undergraduate programme. There are no entry requirements, but you must be suitably prepared for study at this level.

Check you are ready and get advice on how to prepare at openuniversity.co.uk/ready-econ.

At a glance

Course code V13

Total credits 120

Start date

Oct 2026

Register by 10 Sep 2026

Entry requirements

No specific requirements. You must be suitably prepared to start studying at OU level 2

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Essential economics: macro and micro perspectives (D217) (60 credits)

Doing economics: inequalities, innovation and environment (DD320) (60 credits)

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Diploma in Economics

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/v13**
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Environmental Studies

This innovative degree combines the social and natural sciences to offer a truly interdisciplinary understanding of contemporary environmental issues.

The necessity of taking seriously the complex connections between the human and biophysical dimensions of environments is now clear.

This qualification explores the socially uneven ways in which the consequences of environmental change are felt, the political factors that influence whose environmental concerns are addressed, and the cultural shifts required for sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

Amongst the environmental issues explored on this degree are climate change, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, sustainable development and deforestation.

Why this qualification?

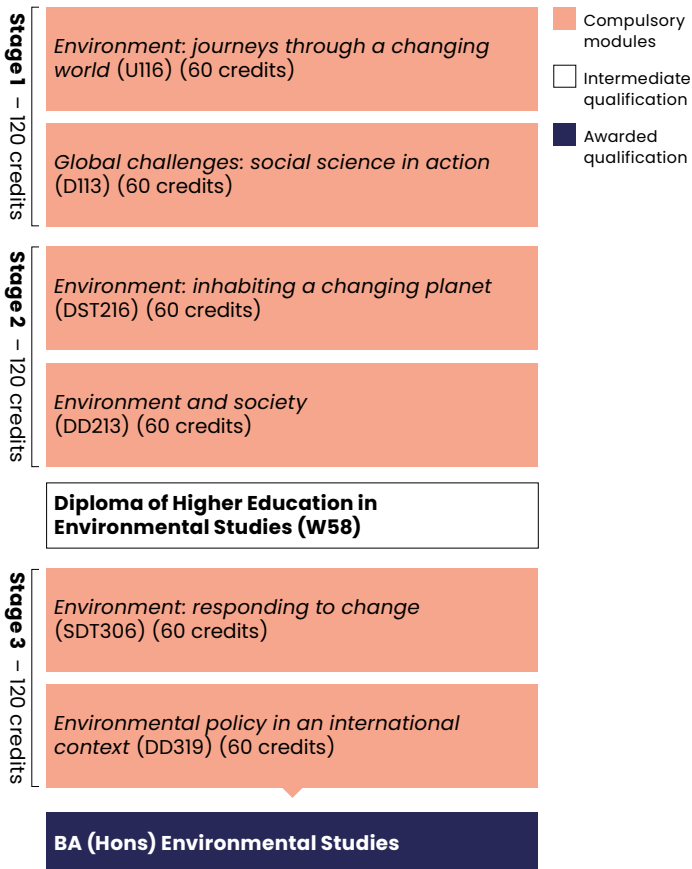
- Equips you to actively engage with some of the most significant issues in the world today.
- Combines a thorough interdisciplinary grounding in environmental change with a distinctive social science approach to environmental issues.
- Enhances your employability through a highly valued combination of social science and natural science knowledge and skills.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Studies (W58)
openuniversity.co.uk/w58

Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)
openuniversity.co.uk/t16

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q99

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Meet our academics

Dr. Lucy Baker is a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Geography. Her research expertise lies in energy, renewable technologies, and development. She has worked in countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Through her research, Lucy asks critical questions such as: How can we ensure equitable access to renewable energy? What role does finance play in shaping sustainable energy pathways? How do technological capabilities impact global energy production networks?

To find out more about Lucy's work, visit openuniversity.co.uk/energy.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q99
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Geography

Geographical thinking offers vital insights into how we interpret and respond to the most pressing issues of the twenty-first century such as climate change, migration, inequality and urbanisation.

By studying how places, policies and landscapes are being made and reinvented in a changing world, this degree will equip you with a deep understanding of the social, cultural, economic and political processes transforming our human and natural environments.

Developing your 'geographical imagination' through innovative virtual fieldwork, you'll discover new perspectives on how the world is made and the possibilities for how it could be remade differently.

You'll also gain the knowledge and skills to investigate, analyse and communicate effectively with different audiences about how geography matters in our everyday lives, and complete your degree with an independent research project, which will all support your career progression.

Why this qualification?

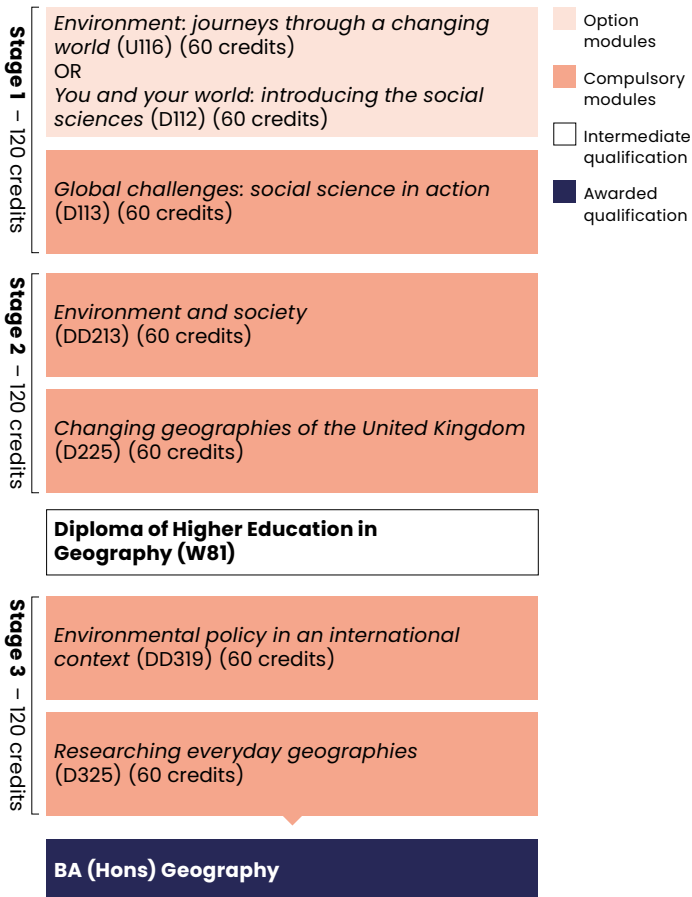
- Develop an advanced understanding of the dynamic relationships between human and natural environments.
- Opens up new perspectives through innovative virtual fieldwork.
- Learn to generate, analyse and evaluate geographical information to make connections across a range of local and global issues.
- Gain vital transferable skills, including conducting independent research and communicating effectively.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in Geography (W81)
openuniversity.co.uk/w81

Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)
openuniversity.co.uk/t16

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R44

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

Meet our academics

Gunjan Sondhi is a Senior Lecturer in the Geography and Environmental Studies Department. Her research focuses on migration, involving efforts across South Asia, Southeast Asia, North America, and the UK/EU to examine the mobility of international students and highly skilled migrants within universities, the IT sector, and finance.

She was one of the co-chairs who oversaw the making of our flagship dissertation module, *Researching everyday geographies* (D325). To find out more about Gunjan's work visit openuniversity.co.uk/migration-studies.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r44
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Geography and Environmental Science

This degree will help you understand and consider responses to urgent environmental challenges, including climate change, globalisation, development, biodiversity loss, migration and urbanisation.

It takes a holistic approach, combining geography and environmental science. You'll discover the complexities of our relationship with the natural environment by exploring topics like deforestation, sustainable water-resource management, pollution control, conservation and governance.

Throughout this journey, you'll examine the consequences and implications of environmental change for sustainability and learn about the social and natural processes and interactions operating in different environments.

Why this qualification?

- Develop your understanding of the interrelationships between human activity and environmental change.
- Use geography and science concepts and theories to make sense of environmental challenges.
- Enhance your employability by working between the social and natural sciences.
- Build analytical and reasoning skills needed for assessing environmental evidence.

Accreditation

- Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)*.
 - Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES).
- * Please note that at the time of printing, we're in the process of reaccrrediting our qualifications with CIWEM. For the latest information, see our website.

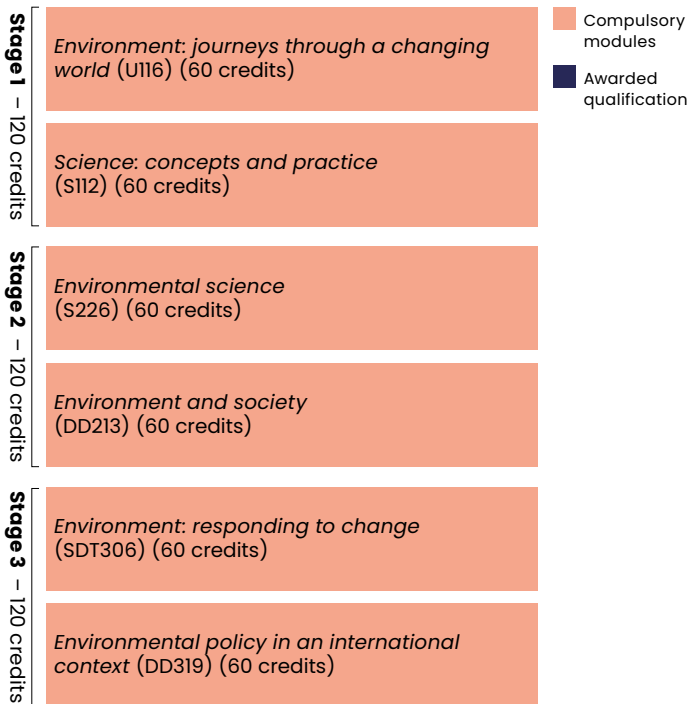
CIWEM Chartered Institution of
Water and Environmental
Management
Accredited Course



Related qualification

Certificate of Higher Education in Environment (T16)
openuniversity.co.uk/t16

Qualification structure



BSc (Hons) Geography and Environmental Science

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R16

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **mostly online with some print**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r16
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) International Relations

Explore current issues of global importance and gain an in-depth understanding of how the international system has developed and the interactions between states and other actors.

You'll discover the sources of order and disorder within the international system and learn about the key issues in international relations, such as security, justice, conflict, change and co-operation. You'll also add to your knowledge of international relations by specialising in either Politics, Development, Environment or History.

This qualification will extend and deepen your ability to demonstrate critical thinking and evaluative skills, as well as transferable skills and attributes that are crucial to enhancing your career development, including time management, collaboration and independent working.

Why this qualification?

- Gain an understanding of contemporary global politics and international systems.
- Examine order and disorder within the international system.
- Study security, justice, conflict, and co-operation.
- Specialise in Development, Environment, History or Politics.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in International Relations (W95)
openuniversity.co.uk/w95

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits

Environment: journeys through a changing world (U116) (60 credits)
OR
You and your world: introducing the social sciences (D112) (60 credits)

Global challenges: social science in action (D113) (60 credits)

Option modules

Compulsory modules

Intermediate qualification

Awarded qualification

Stage 2 – 120 credits

Exploring international relations: actors, issues and perspectives (D228) (60 credits)

Politics route

Understanding politics: ideas and institutions in the modern world (DD211) (60 credits)

Development route

Introducing global development: poverty, inequality, sustainability (D229) (60 credits)

Environment route

Environment and society (DD213) (60 credits)

History route

The British Isles and the modern world, 1789–1914 (A225) (60 credits)

Diploma of Higher Education in International Relations (W95)

Stage 3 – 120 credits

International relations: people, power and change (D322) (60 credits)

Politics route

Modern political ideas (DD316) (60 credits)

Development route

Investigating global development: crisis, complexity, change (D329) (60 credits)

Environment route

Environmental policy in an international context (DD319) (60 credits)

History route

Empires: power, resistance, legacies (A328) (60 credits)

BA (Hons) International Relations

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R83

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026

Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r83
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Philosophy and Psychological Studies

Philosophy and psychology seek to answer profound questions about ourselves, our minds, our behaviour, and our place in the social and physical universe.

This degree addresses a range of philosophical questions, including questions about ethics, politics, science, religion, art, and the self. It covers core approaches in social, cognitive and developmental psychology, and applied aspects of professional practice.

You'll learn to read and understand scientific and philosophical texts, use different research methods, communicate clearly and logically, and work and think independently.

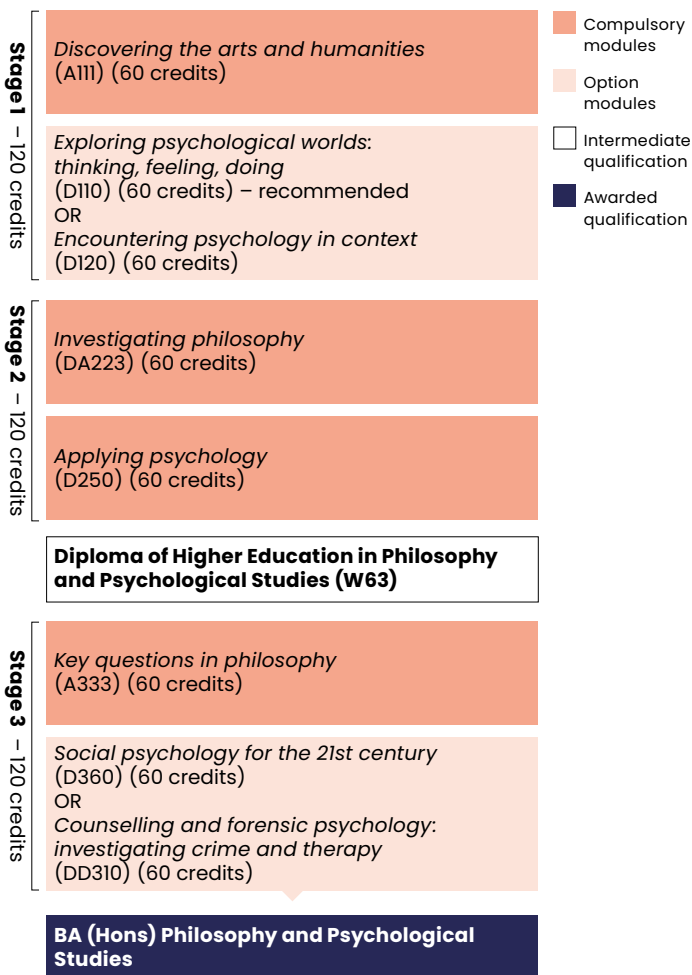
Why this qualification?

- Investigate profound questions about human minds and behaviour from two complementary perspectives.
- Develop clear, logical thinking and communication skills.
- Learn to construct and analyse informed, reasoned arguments.
- Understand and use a range of research methods.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy and Psychological Studies (W63)
openuniversity.co.uk/w63

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q43

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum
Compulsory

Collaborative work
Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q43
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

A deep knowledge and appreciation of ethical and philosophical issues, and how they relate to different religious traditions and societies, is crucial in making sense of the world today.

In this qualification, you'll explore human systems of thought and practice, both 'secular' and 'religious', in ways which allow you to engage with wide-ranging and often controversial issues and challenges affecting different cultures and societies across Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.

You'll investigate current questions and themes in these disciplines from both historical and contemporary perspectives. This includes the ethics of war, political justice, race and colonialism, health and ageing, religious nationalisms, the 'sanctity of life' and human relationships with the environment.

In engaging with the core disciplines of religious studies and philosophy, you'll develop critical skills and expertise across a range of key approaches and methodologies.

Why this qualification?

- Engage with key philosophical debates about ethical and other fundamental questions.
- Learn about the traditions of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and minority religions as they relate to various cultures and societies.
- Investigate selected classic and contemporary philosophers and a range of religious practices and beliefs.
- Develop skills of critical analysis, empathy and communication relevant to a wide range of careers.

Related qualification

Diploma of Higher Education in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (W79)
openuniversity.co.uk/w79

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits	<p><i>Discovering the arts and humanities</i> (A111) (60 credits) OR <i>You and your world: introducing the social sciences</i> (D112) (60 credits)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Option modules
	<p><i>Revolutions</i> (A113) (60 credits) OR <i>Global challenges: social science in action</i> (D113) (60 credits)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compulsory modules
Stage 2 – 120 credits	<p><i>Investigating philosophy</i> (DA223) (60 credits)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate qualification
	<p><i>Exploring religion: places, practices, texts and experiences</i> (A227) (60 credits)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awarded qualification
<p>Diploma of Higher Education in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (W79)</p>		
Stage 3 – 120 credits	<p><i>Key questions in philosophy</i> (A333) (60 credits)</p>	
	<p><i>Religion and global challenges: past and present</i> (DA332) (60 credits)</p>	
<p>BA (Hons) Religion, Philosophy and Ethics</p>		

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code R45

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026

Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Interactive computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Meet our academics

Dr Liudmila Nikanorova's work focuses on indigenous religions in Siberia with a particular interest in shamanism.

Her article '*What does Siberian shamanism do for the academic study of religion?*' investigates the exotification and dehumanization of indigenous religious practitioners and their incarceration during the Soviet regime. As she argues, the study of Siberian shamanism tells us more about Soviet scholarship on shamanism than about the people who actually live in Siberia.

Find out more about Liudmila's work at openuniversity.co.uk/religion.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/r45
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) are central to understanding how modern societies are organised and governed. Studying them together gives you a combination of skills that's in high demand across the private, public and non-profit sectors.

PPE is sometimes described as 'the degree that runs Britain' because of the number of politicians who studied it, and this combination gives excellent preparation for other careers in the public and private sectors or for further study.

You'll explore and analyse how countries are run, what motivates and constrains their rulers and residents, and what is required for a society to become prosperous and stable.

All three disciplines are presented in an up-to-date form, covering alternative as well as 'mainstream' approaches and firmly rooted in the real world.

Why this qualification?

- Gain insight into debates that dominate the news, and underlying issues.
- Learn skills and techniques to help you analyse and contribute to the discussion.
- Explore how arguments (and public policies) are constructed in theory and tested in practice.
- Increase your employability across the private and public sectors.

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits	<p><i>Global challenges: social science in action</i> (D113) (60 credits) OR <i>You and your money</i> (DB125) (30 credits) AND <i>Economics in context</i> (DD126) (30 credits)</p>	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <p>Option modules</p> <p>Awarded qualification</p>
	<p><i>Understanding politics: ideas and institutions in the modern world</i> (DD211) (60 credits)</p>	
Stage 2 – 120 credits	<p><i>Essential economics: macro and micro perspectives</i> (D217) (60 credits)</p>	
	<p><i>Investigating philosophy</i> (DA223) (60 credits)</p>	
Stage 3 – 120 credits	<p>You'll choose two from three PPE subjects:</p> <p>Politics <i>Modern political ideas</i> (DD316) (60 credits) OR <i>International relations: people, power and change</i> (D322) (60 credits)</p> <p>Philosophy <i>Key questions in philosophy</i> (A333) (60 credits)</p> <p>Economics <i>Doing economics: inequalities, innovation and environment</i> (DD320) (60 credits)</p>	
	<p>BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics</p>	

Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q45

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027
Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations
- Project or dissertation

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 4 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

Meet our academics

Dr Donna Smith's work through Open Politics, in partnership with the UK Parliament, led to the innovative *Changemakers Guide*. It encourages people to engage with politics and the UK Parliament, providing the essential knowledge and practical tools needed to make change.

The free course *An introduction to making political and social change* builds on the guide, and includes content on working with the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Parliament, and Northern Ireland Assembly. Dr Smith was awarded the Jennie Lee Prize for Outstanding Teaching by the Political Studies Association (PSA) in recognition of her work.

Find out more about Changemakers and Open Politics at openuniversity.co.uk/outreach.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q45
Call
0300 303 5303



BA (Hons) History and Politics

This degree will develop and deepen your knowledge of different periods of history while providing a critical understanding of political ideas, institutions, issues and theories.

You'll tackle challenging issues such as power and warfare, security and insecurity, global justice, culture and beliefs, health and medicine, imperialism and resistance, and class and gender.

You'll learn the skills of both the political scientist and the historian: studying historical and contemporary problems as well as future trends. You'll also gain an adaptable set of skills that includes critical thinking, analysis, and communication, which can lead in many directions and are greatly valued by employers.

Why this qualification?

- Study a range of periods and societies from 1750 onwards, using social scientific theories and historical analysis.
- Offers a choice of modules in each subject to match your interests or requirements.
- Develop skills relevant to political and historical research and writing directed to a range of audiences.
- Gives you the opportunity, tools and guidance to develop an independent project on a subject of your choice.

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education in History and Politics (W64)
openuniversity.co.uk/w64

Certificate of Higher Education in Arts and Humanities (T32)
openuniversity.co.uk/t32

Qualification structure

Stage 1 – 120 credits	<p><i>Global challenges: social science in action</i> (D113) (60 credits)</p>	<p>Compulsory modules</p>
	<p><i>Revolutions</i> (A113) (60 credits) – recommended OR <i>Discovering the arts and humanities</i> (A111) (60 credits)</p>	<p>Option modules</p>
Stage 2 – 120 credits	<p><i>Understanding politics: ideas and institutions in the modern world</i> (DD211) (60 credits)</p>	<p>Intermediate qualification</p>
	<p><i>The British Isles and the modern world, 1789–1914</i> (A225) (60 credits)</p>	<p>Awarded qualification</p>
<p>Diploma of Higher Education in History and Politics (W64)</p>		
Stage 3 – 120 credits	<p><i>International relations: people, power and change</i> (D322) (60 credits) OR <i>Modern political ideas</i> (DD316) (60 credits)</p>	
	<p><i>Empires: power, resistance, legacies</i> (A328) (60 credits) OR <i>Europe 1914–2014: the remaking of a continent</i> (A337) (60 credits) OR <i>The making of Welsh history</i> (A329) (60 credits)</p>	
	<p>BA (Hons) History and Politics</p>	
	<p>Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.</p>	

At a glance

Course code Q97

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026

Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q97
Call
0300 303 5303



BSc (Hons) Social Psychology

In this degree, you'll consider how social psychology can be applied to contemporary life. You'll explore psychology more broadly, gaining insights into people's behaviour.

Why do good people do bad things? What does it mean to be a good citizen? What role do digital technologies play in our relationships? How have gender identities changed? And has globalisation made people across the world more similar, or do old differences persist? You'll examine these and many other important psychological questions about the relationship between individual psychology and the complex social world.

The Open University has a long-standing reputation for cutting-edge research in social psychology. You'll draw on this research strength to consider debates on a wide range of social issues, including equality, prejudice, migration, and happiness and well-being.

And you'll learn how psychology is critical to understanding employment, mental health, and relationships.

Why this qualification?

- Explore how social psychologists study people as social beings in different contexts.
- Investigate the connections between individual lives and social problems.
- Gain an appreciation of different perspectives within psychology and the ability to evaluate them critically.
- Prepare for a wide range of career opportunities, including social justice, public policy, media and communications.
- Can be the first step towards professional accreditation as a psychologist.

Accreditation

This degree is designed to deliver the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society (BPS). To be eligible for GBC you must achieve a 2:2 or higher.



the british
psychological society
accredited

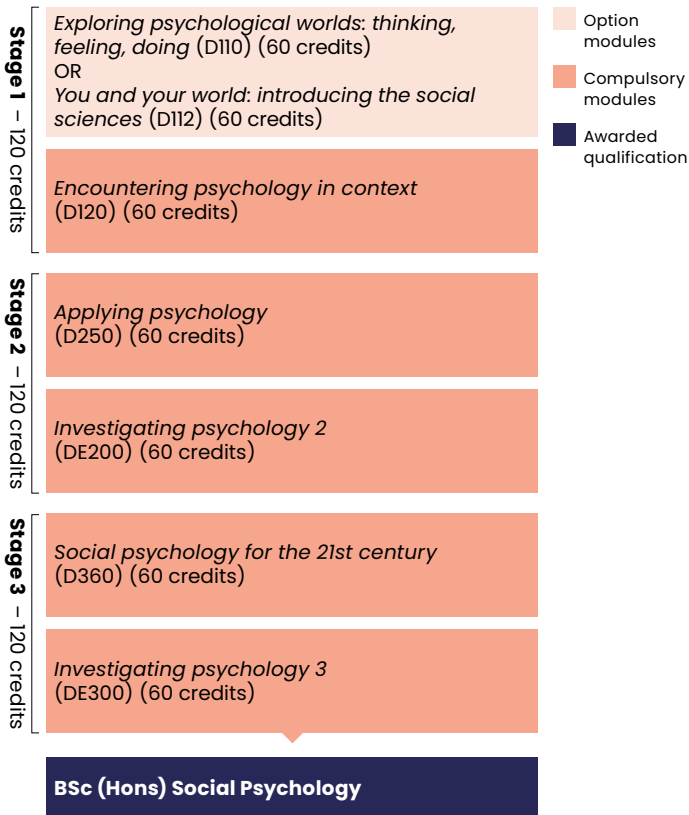
Related qualifications

BSc (Hons) Psychology (Q07)
openuniversity.co.uk/q07

Diploma of Higher Education
in Psychology (W45)
openuniversity.co.uk/w45

Certificate of Higher
Education in Psychology (T22)
openuniversity.co.uk/t22

Qualification structure



Qualification delivery, module availability and qualification structure are subject to change.

At a glance

Course code Q83

Total credits 360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Based on a mix of:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years
Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

The learning materials provided are **a balance of print and online**

Electronic versions of printed materials are available (e.g. PDF)

Online forum

Compulsory

Collaborative work

Compulsory

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/q83
Call
0300 303 5303



BA/BSc (Hons) Open

No two students or career paths are the same. That's why our Open degree puts you in charge.

Some of the most important challenges in the world today demand expertise across a range of subjects. Multidisciplinary study has always been at the heart of The Open University and our Open qualifications let you bring together different areas of study in a completely flexible way to develop broad, transferable knowledge and skills you can apply anywhere.

The BA/BSc (Hons) Open lets you choose modules from a wide range of subject areas. Helping you connect ideas, broaden your thinking, and shape a degree that reflects your ambitions. You could, for example, combine social science modules with modules from other disciplines, such as science or the humanities. It is a degree with a difference. Free from the restriction of a subject-specific specialism, you're in control of the direction of your learning – and where it can take you.

Why this qualification?

- Tailor your qualification to suit your needs.
- Create your own unique multidisciplinary degree and skill set.
- Adapt your study plans to match your evolving aspirations.
- Count previous university study towards your qualification.

Open qualifications and your career

Our Open qualifications equip you with a wide range of expertise, skills and capabilities through multidisciplinary study. These qualities are sought after in today's highly competitive job market. An Open qualification on your CV shows more than your level of knowledge about a subject; employers know that you are flexible and adaptable, potentially having studied across a range of topics. You'll have a highly employable set of skills and attributes, including:

- self-management and resilience
- critical thinking
- analysis and problem solving.



The flexibility of the Open degree helped keep things new and exciting. Plus, studying all these different topics means I now have a skill set that's unique to me.



Luke Simmons
BSc (Hons) Open

Related qualifications

Diploma of Higher Education Open (W34)
openuniversity.co.uk/w34

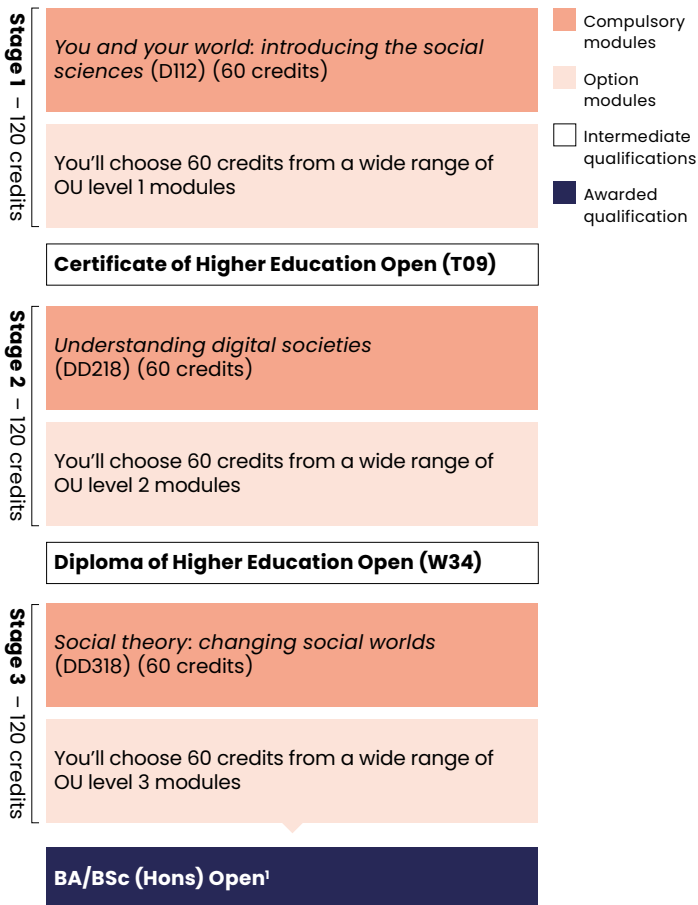
Certificate of Higher Education Open (T09)
openuniversity.co.uk/t09

How you can focus your Open degree on the social sciences

This selection of modules shows how you can focus on aspects of the social sciences and combine them with other subjects that are of particular interest to you.

However, this is just one example of the many combinations you can study, and you're not restricted to this route.

Example route



¹ Whether you qualify for a BA or BSc (Hons) Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for a BA or for a BSc.

At a glance

Course code	QD
Total credits	360

Start dates

Oct 2026
Register by 10 Sep 2026

Feb 2027

Register by 7 Jan 2027

Entry requirements

No specific requirements

Assessment

Depending on the modules you choose to study, you may be assessed in any or all of the following ways:

- Tutor-marked assignments
- Computer-marked assignments
- End-of-module assessments
- Examinations

Study duration

Part-time study: 6 years

Full-time study: 3 years

Mode of study

As the BA/BSc (Hons) Open can be made up of a range of different modules, the learning materials provided, use of online forums and inclusion of collaborative work will depend on the modules you choose to study.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/qd
Call
0300 303 5303



Find your postgraduate course

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MSc in Environmental Management (F65)	68
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International relations	
MA in International Relations (F94)	71
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Thinking about studying Psychology?

If you're looking for a postgraduate course with more of a focus on psychology, we have the:

- MSc in Forensic Psychological Studies (F73)
- MSc in Psychology (F74)
- MSc in Psychology (Conversion) (F92)

Request or download a copy of our Psychology and Counselling Prospectus at openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus.



MA in Crime and Justice

This masters degree explores new perspectives and ways of thinking about crime, harm and justice.

It is concerned with examining problematic areas of social life, transgression, crime, social harm and justice. You'll consider the significance of power, social structure, and economic and social inequalities in understanding crime, and processes of criminalisation in local, transnational and global contexts.

This qualification will enhance your ability to think critically about the problems of crime, social harm and the delivery of justice.

Please note that this MA does not include a research methods component. This may present an impediment for entry to some PhD programmes. If you wish to go on to PhD level study, we recommend you check the regulations of the potential programme of interest.

Learn more

OU criminology and social policy academics have produced a series of resources for anyone with an interest in crime and global justice.

To find out more, visit openuniversity.co.uk/crime.

Related qualification

Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Psychological Inquiry (K26)
openuniversity.co.uk/k26

Qualification structure

Principles of social and psychological inquiry
(DD801) (60 credits)

Postgraduate Certificate in Psychological Inquiry (K26)

Crime and global justice
(DD804) (120 credits)

MA in Crime and Justice

- Compulsory modules
- Intermediate qualification
- Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

At a glance

Course code F75

Total credits 180

Start date
Oct 2026
Register by 17 Sep 2026

Entry requirements
UK honours degree (2:2 at least) or equivalent in criminology or a social science discipline or appropriate experience

Study duration
Part-time study: 2 years

For those considering the MA in Crime and Justice, I promise it will significantly broaden your perspectives. It will challenge your assumptions on crime and justice and expose you to diverse viewpoints, ultimately providing a solid foundation for success in the field.

Murugi Murekio
MA in Crime and Justice



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f75
Call
0300 303 5303



MSc in Environmental Management

This MSc expands your knowledge and skills needed for effective, informed and creative environmental management.

You'll examine current local and global concerns in areas such as environmental protection, legislation and policy, natural resource management and sustainability, developing your skills in analysing the issues and improving environmental performance in all sectors. You'll choose option modules from project management, environmental science, innovation management and systems thinking. Finally, you'll conclude with an in-depth investigation of a topic or problem of your choice.

Accreditation

- Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)¹
- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP)

CIWEM Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
Accredited Course



¹ Please note that at the time of printing, we're in the process of re-accrediting our MSc with CIWEM. For the latest information see our website.



Meet our academics

Professor Toni Gladding describes herself as a 'dirty microbiologist'. Hear how her research into the health and safety of waste management informs Environment Agency policy at openuniversity.co.uk/environmental-management.

Qualification structure

Making environmental decisions
(T891) (30 credits)

Sustainable organisations: theory and practice
(T892) (30 credits)

Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Management (K19)

Environmental monitoring and protection
(T868) (30 credits)

You'll choose 30 credits from:

Project management
(M815) (30 credits)

Environmental science challenges
(S831) (30 credits)

Technology and innovation management
(TB801) (30 credits)

Making strategy with systems thinking in practice
(TB871) (30 credits)

Managing change with systems thinking in practice
(TB872) (30 credits)

Advance your independent learning
(YXM830) (30 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management (E79)

You'll choose either 60 credits from:

Research project
(T802) (60 credits)

Or 60 credits from:

MSc project: researching in context
(T803) (30 credits)

Plus, another 30 credits from the option modules

MSc in Environmental Management

- Compulsory modules
- Intermediate qualifications
- Option modules
- Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

At a glance

Course code	F65
Total credits	180

Start dates
Nov 2026
Register by 8 Oct 2026

May 2027
Register by 8 Apr 2027

Entry requirements
This qualification has no entry requirements. However, some option modules do – check the requirements online

Study duration
Part-time study: 3 years

Related qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management (E79)
openuniversity.co.uk/e79

Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Management (K19)
openuniversity.co.uk/k19

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f65
Call
0300 303 5303



At a glance

Course code F86

Total credits 180

Start date

Oct 2026

Register by 17 Sep 2026

Entry requirements

Normally a UK honours degree (or equivalent), but this is not compulsory – for more information, speak to an adviser

Study duration

Part-time study: 3 years

MSc in Global Development

In these times of uncertainty and change, this masters degree equips you with interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, to understand, investigate, and respond to the major global challenges of the modern world.

Studying this innovative, interdisciplinary, and flexible course involves critically examining development theory, policy, and practice across a range of contexts.

Engaging with diverse perspectives from around the world, you'll interrogate dominant approaches to development and explore development alternatives. This includes the policies needed to change conditions of social injustice and inequality, and the types of public and private action that can be taken.

You'll have the opportunity to build the skills needed to negotiate development effectively and bring about more socially and environmentally sustainable futures.

Qualification structure

Understanding global development
(DD870) (60 credits)

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Development (K37)

Key challenges in global development
(DD871) (60 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Development (E86)

Researching global development
(DD872) (60 credits)

MSc in Global Development

- Compulsory modules
- Intermediate qualifications
- Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

Related qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Development (E86)
openuniversity.co.uk/e86

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Development (K37)
openuniversity.co.uk/k37

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f86
Call
0300 303 5303



At a glance

Course code F94

Total credits 180

Start date

Sept 2026

Register by 13 Aug 2026

Entry requirements

UK honours degree (2:1 at least) or equivalent, ideally in a closely related subject

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

MA in International Relations

This masters degree will equip you with the tools to understand and analyse a range of contemporary global issues.

You'll look at real-world challenges, including international division, rising powers, national and global security threats, the rise of populism, and worldwide ethical dilemmas. This will give you a comprehensive grounding in core conceptual, empirical and theoretical debates in international relations.

Mainstream and critical approaches are taught side by side, covering a range of practical cases and perspectives from around the world.

In addition, you'll deepen a number of skills that are crucial to enhancing your career development and research ability.

Qualification structure

MA International relations part 1 (D818) (90 credits)

MA International relations part 2 (D828) (90 credits)

MA in International Relations

Compulsory modules

Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/f94**
Call
0300 303 5303



At a glance

Course code F30

Total credits 180

Start date

Oct 2026

Register by 17 Sep 2026

Entry requirements

UK honours degree or equivalent in philosophy or a related subject

Study duration

Part-time study: 2 years

MA in Philosophy

Studying the MA in Philosophy will hone your ability to think clearly, reason logically, and develop your essay writing, research and analytical skills.

You'll study texts from different periods and philosophical perspectives, including works by Plato, Friedrich Nietzsche, Michel Foucault and Hannah Arendt, and you'll investigate contemporary debates on environmental aesthetics, consciousness, global justice, emotion, and morality in politics.

Finally, you will undertake a substantial piece of independent research, writing a dissertation on a topic of your choice.

Qualification structure

MA Philosophy part 1¹
(A853) (60 credits)

MA Philosophy part 2
(A854) (120 credits)

MA in Philosophy

■ Compulsory modules

■ Awarded qualification

Module availability is subject to change.

¹ Students who pass A853 may claim the Postgraduate Certificate in Arts and Humanities (C20).

More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
**openuniversity.
co.uk/f30**
Call
0300 303 5303



MA/MSc Open

This innovative masters degree gives you the opportunity to create a personalised postgraduate qualification.

You'll expand your discipline-related knowledge at masters level, gain broader subject-specific knowledge and pursue further professional development in areas suited to your professional needs and personal interests.

To gain this qualification, you need **180 credits**.

Route 1: You can study **180 credits** and specialise in one of the following broadly related study areas:

- Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
- Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law.

Route 2: You can choose to study a **minimum of 120 credits** in one study area (chosen as your specialism) and take **up to 60 credits** from any other study area, including:

- Further professional development.

On completion

When you've achieved a minimum of 180 credits, you'll be awarded either a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MSc) degree. Whether you qualify for the MA Open or MSc Open will be determined by the number of credits you have from modules suitable for the MA or MSc.

Qualification structure

Route 1	Route 2	
Study 180 credits specialising in one of the following broad study areas	Study a minimum of 120 credits in one study area	+ 60 credits from any other study area
Arts, Humanities, Music and Language	Arts, Humanities, Music and Language	Arts, Humanities, Music and Language
Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare	Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare	Education, Psychology, Health Science and Healthcare
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law	Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law	Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law
		Further professional development
MA/MSc Open	MA/MSc Open	

At a glance

Course code F81

Total credits 180

Start dates

Sep 2026

Oct 2026

Nov 2026

Feb 2027

May 2027

Entry requirements

Entry to this qualification will typically require a UK honours degree or equivalent qualification relevant to your intended specialist area of study. If you have other study or experience that you believe equips you to take this qualification, you can still apply but must supply evidence of your study or experience.

Study duration

Part-time study: 2–3 years

Planning your studies

Our online study plan can help you map your route through the MA/MSc Open. Find the modules and microcredentials that best suit your study interests and career objectives at openuniversity.co.uk/f81.

Some restrictions or prerequisites apply to certain modules and microcredentials within this qualification. Refer to their individual entry requirements and descriptions to ensure you're adequately prepared before registering.

Our Student Support Team can provide support and information to help you make an informed decision about your education and future career. Visit openuniversity.co.uk/contact.

Please note: module availability is subject to change.



More online

Find out more about this course, fees and funding, and how to register.



Visit
openuniversity.co.uk/f81
Call
0300 303 5303



How to apply

We recommend registering as early as possible to secure your place. Once you're registered, you'll have access to our learning tools, materials and student support to help you get started.

Undergraduate study

1. Register

Go to your chosen qualification webpage, select your start date and click 'Register now'.

2. Choose your module(s)

Select the module(s) you want to study in your first year. Some may be compulsory, while you may select others from a list of options.

3. Organise your funding

Tell us how you'll be funding your chosen module. You'll find all your options at openuniversity.co.uk/ug-fees.

4. Complete your registration

Confirm your funding method. That's it – you're ready to start learning.

Learn more about how to apply at openuniversity.co.uk/ug-apply.

Postgraduate study

To work towards a postgraduate qualification, register on a module that counts towards it.

1. Choose your qualification

Once you've decided on a qualification, go to our website for the full course details and entry criteria you'll need to meet.

2. Register on your first module(s)

Modules within postgraduate qualifications have more detailed entry requirements, so make sure you've read these before registering.

3. Arrange your funding

You'll find all your options at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-fees.

4. Send us evidence that confirms you meet the entry requirements

Once your evidence has been assessed and approved, your registration will be complete.

Learn more about how to apply at openuniversity.co.uk/pg-apply.

Have you studied before?

If you've studied at university level before, you may be able to transfer the academic credit you've been awarded towards an OU qualification. This could save you time and money by reducing the number of modules you need to study with us.



Learn more at openuniversity.co.uk/credit-transfer

Useful information

Study from outside the UK

You could study with the OU wherever you are in the world.

Find out more by visiting openuniversity.co.uk/international or call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**.

Students with additional study needs

When you register, we'll ask if you have a physical or mental health disability, health condition, or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia) that could affect your study. If you do, we'll give you more detailed information about how we can help.

For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/disability or call us on **0300 303 5303**.

Equality and diversity

We're committed to creating an inclusive university community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

We do this by challenging inequality, celebrating diversity and ensuring everyone has the support needed to achieve their goals.

Find out more by visiting openuniversity.co.uk/equality.

Students under the age of 16

Very exceptionally, we accept applications from gifted students under the age of 16.

Call us on **0300 303 5303** if you'd like to apply.

Sustainability and the OU

We embed sustainability across all aspects of your learning, equipping you with science-based knowledge for social and environmental justice, transformational skills, and the courage and confidence to be a force for regenerative practices in all areas of your life.

For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/sustainability.



Data protection

We record your personal information when you contact us. We use this to manage enquiries, registration, study, examination and other services. We may record calls to help us improve our service to you. When you contact us, we'll tell you more about how we treat your personal information.

For more information, visit openuniversity.co.uk/privacy.

Other ways to read this prospectus

You may find it easier to access information from our website at openuniversity.co.uk.

We can supply this prospectus as a printed booklet, PDF and in other formats. Please call **0300 303 5303**, or email us from our website at openuniversity.co.uk/contact.

Explore our other prospectuses

Learn more about the qualifications we offer in other subject areas.

Subject-specific prospectuses

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Management
- Computing and IT
- Design, Engineering and Technology
- Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport
- Geography, Environment and Development
- Health and Social Care
- Languages and Applied Linguistics
- Law
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Psychology and Counselling
- Science

Other prospectuses

- Access Modules
- Open Qualifications
- Postgraduate Courses
- Undergraduate Courses

We have made all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this prospectus is accurate at the time of publication. However, we shall be entitled, if we consider it reasonably necessary (including in order to manage resources and improve student experience), to make changes, including to the availability of modules and qualifications, to qualification structure and to our regulations, policies and procedures. For current information, please refer to our online prospectus at openuniversity.co.uk/courses.

If you require further information about the circumstances in which we may make changes, please contact us or refer to the Academic Regulations on our website at openuniversity.co.uk/academic-regulations.

Request a prospectus

Download or order a prospectus.



Visit openuniversity.co.uk/prospectus

openuniversity.co.uk

Get in touch

If you're in England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or have a British Forces Post Office address

- Email us from our website openuniversity.co.uk/contact
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **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.

In Northern Ireland

- Email northern-ireland@open.ac.uk
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **028 9032 3722**

In Ireland

- Email ireland@open.ac.uk
- Call our Student Recruitment team on **(01) 6785399**

All other countries

- Visit openuniversity.co.uk/contact
- Call **+44 (0)300 303 0266**

I siaradwyr Cymraeg

Os ydych yn siarad Cymraeg a byddai'n well gennych drafod eich anghenion astudio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, cysylltwch â:

Y Brifysgol Agored yng Nghymru
18 Heol y Tollty
Caerdydd
CF10 1AP

- Ffoniwch **029 2047 1170**
- E-bost cymorth-cymru@open.ac.uk

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