



Open and Distance Learning in STEM – UKOU Visiting Scholars Programme 2020

Further Information

The Visiting Scholars Programme 2020 is open to early and mid-career scholars at Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Universities working in the STEM disciplines. During their visit, the group will be given opportunities to experience the pedagogical innovations offered by the UKOU STEM Faculty and to participate in a range of workshops and events to share and develop their professional practices.

Successful applicants are expected to be proficient in English. The scholars will be invited to give a short presentation on their own institutional research/scholarship and potential for future research/scholarship collaborations during their visit.

Some suggested topics that we would welcome presentations on include, but are not limited to:

- Quality Assurance
- Professional Development
- Personal Tuition
- Learning Analytics
- Team Teaching
- Pedagogical Innovation
- Learning Design

After the event, the visiting scholars will be asked to:

1. Complete an evaluation questionnaire to help us improve the programme.
2. Submit a final report (3,000 to 5,000 words) outlining what they have learned from their visit to the UKOU, including a summary of their future research/scholarship plans – to be submitted by: 30th May 2020.

How to Apply

Your application should include the following items:

- A statement of suitability (maximum 1,000 words) covering why you wish to participate in the Visiting Scholars Programme and how your home institution will benefit from your visit.
- Your Curriculum Vitae.
- A reference from the president/chancellor of your home institution.
- A reference from your direct line manager.
- A recent photo.

Places will be awarded to applicants who are able to demonstrate their academic credentials, articulate their research interests, and present a convincing case for their strategic vision on how ODL can be developed within their home institutions and communities.

Applications should be submitted by email to esteem@open.ac.uk with 'UKOU Visiting Scholars Programme 2020' in the subject line. The deadline for applications is midnight (UK time) on **Friday 22 November 2019**.

To assist with the shortlisting process, we may be required to contact candidates after the application deadline date to arrange a short online or telephone interview.

Please note any information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and used only by Open University staff as part of this International Visiting Scholar Programme. All personal information will be destroyed once it is no longer needed. This project is administered under the Open University's general Data Protection policy guidelines.

Travel and Expenses

The UKOU's STEM Faculty will pay for accommodation and transport to and from the UK arrival airport, provide vouchers for university lunches, and reimburse the cost of local transport and meals during the visit.

The home institution of the candidate is expected to pay for return flights, visa application and transport expenses to and from the departing airport.

The UKOU will provide advice and contacts for candidates from developing countries to apply for financial assistance from their local British Council office for the return flights.

Health Insurance Requirements

All successful candidates are required to show evidence of adequate health insurance for the entire length of their stay (please send this via email in advance of your visit). Candidates who bring health insurance from their home country must bring a copy of the complete policy in English with them. If these conditions are not met, they must purchase health insurance in the UK.

Once accepted, applicants are expected to keep in regular electronic contact with the OU regarding the progress of their visa application and travel plans. **The OU reserves the right to cancel any offer if full visa and travel plans have not been successfully completed.**

Queries

If you have any queries, please contact the Programme Coordinators by emailing esteem@open.ac.uk