

NEWSLETTER

October 2022



Welcome

A warm welcome to the October issue of the Open Learning Champions newsletter. My name is David Johnstone, and I am excited to be working on this programme for the next 6 months along with the wonderful Ewe and Kat. I have been at the Open University for just over 10 years, with previous roles as an Educational and Careers Guidance Advisor, manager of one of the 3 Student Support Teams in Scotland, with a particular focus on Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI).

In this newsletter we have some new and existing resources focussing on EDI, supporting Ukrainian clients and for people concerned about what's on everyone's mind, the cost-of-living crisis. We also have a section dedicated to first steps into OU courses for those that are ready to take that step.

If you have trouble opening this, please contact scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk and Kat will send you a link to the online version.



From left to right: David and Kat

Champions coffee morning - 29 November



We hope that you will be able to join us for our next coffee morning on **Tuesday 29th November 11:00 - 12:00**. We will have cake, of which I am a huge fan, so please do let us know your dietary requirements when you register.

At the coffee morning I am really looking forward to hearing how things have been going working with your clients over the last few months. On the registration form we are asking you “***What one piece of advice would you give to someone thinking of becoming an OpenLearn Champion***” which we will use as part of our discussion on the day.

As well as new courses in OpenLearn, Kat and I will also give you an insight into how we support students at The Open University in relation to individual needs and circumstances.

We can't wait to meet you there!

[To register for the event click here](#)

EDI Resources

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in workplaces, communities, sports clubs and all spaces you can think of is something I believe in so strongly which is why working for the Open University fits so well with the values of those us lucky to do so. Recently the University won Silver Award in the ‘University of the Year’ category at the sixth annual [UK Social Mobility Awards](#). As you are likely already aware, OpenLearn has a huge range of resources to support learners who want to develop understanding in all things Equality.

Newer Resources

[Translated Ukrainian resources hub](#)

In previous newsletters we let you know about the number of FREE OpenLearn resources for Ukrainians settling in the UK & Ireland. 6 courses have now been fully translated into Ukrainian.

[Introduction to Ukrainian language and culture](#)

The Open University has launched this new free online course for people housing, caring for or working with Ukrainians in the UK. This course provides an insight into the Ukrainian language, food, housing, and healthcare as well as other cultural elements. OpenLearn have produced a flyer to advertise this new course

and the translated Ukrainian resources hub. If you are interested in receiving this flyer to print, please contact us at scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk.

[Exploring the history of prisoner education](#) (Badged Course)

This free badged course tells you about the history of prison education in the British Isles. It will examine the motivations behind the provision of education, the types of learning that were offered and the experiences of prisoners, over the first 100 years of education in prisons.

Other Resources

[Race and Ethnicity Hub](#)

October is Black History month, and this hub offers fresh perspectives on race, racism and ethnicity through free courses, and audio-visual materials. Within the hub there is material curated for [2022 Black History month](#) which is being celebrated with a theme of 'Time for Change: Action Not Words'.

At this year's [Open Education Awards for Excellence](#) the Race and Ethnicity hub has won the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award.

[LGBTQ+ Hub](#)

A collection of free resources exploring sexuality and LGBTQ+ history across the core faculty areas within The Open University (sociology, psychology, health, education and criminology).

Cost of living



It is a hugely worrying time for us all as we go into this winter and I am sure you are supporting clients who have similar concerns as our students about how challenging things are now. We thought it would be timely to re-share some resources that may be of use.

[Money & Finances in 'Skills for Life'](#)

Included here is [Money Saving Experts \(MSE's\) Academy of Money](#). This free course written by the OU with support & guidance from MSE gives people the skills and knowledge to master their finances. If you are working with young clients there is also [Financial Planning for Young Adults](#) which includes real case studies as well as useful videos from money experts. You may also be working with people worried about retirement and the course [Retirement Planning Made Easy](#) produced by the Open University in collaboration with Legal & General can help break planning down into manageable steps.

I would also like to signpost you to the resources in the [World Mental Health Day](#) page which has a range of free courses, interactive activities and quizzes.

Next steps for your learners



I understand that many of you will be working with people who are nowhere near ready to move on to a next step, and words like career and education may seem alienating. I did want to add a next steps section for those of you who are working with clients who may be at a stage where they are asking that all important question, **'What next?'**. Below are a few resources/options that may be helpful.

Volunteering & Employment

[Using Voluntary Work To Get Ahead in The Job Market](#)

Volunteers benefit society in so many ways, but those undertaking volunteering are developing skills, networks, experience, and confidence that can help them take a first step, change direction and turn what has perhaps been a passion into a great job. This course helps people understand what they are getting from volunteering and what they have to offer

[Succeed In The Workplace](#) (Badged Course)

Not knowing what you want to do, no idea how to write a C.V or those horrible interview nerves. All of us will likely experience this at some stage. This course breaks down career planning, self-reflection, getting experience, applications, and interviews in a way that you could adapt in your work with clients at this stage.

[Open University Study - Access Modules](#)

Our Access modules are focussed on developing core study skills including time management & IT skills. There is 1:1 support from dedicated tutors who are experienced at meeting the needs of individuals and supporting their success. People may do an Access module to develop confidence, move on to further OU study, or courses more locally.

A range of support is available including disabled student support and a fee waiver for people who are

- Resident in Scotland
- Personal income below £25K
- Have not completed one year or more on any full-time undergraduate programme at SCQF Level 7 or above, or completed 30 credits or more of

More information about Access Modules can be found [here](#)



Remember to follow @OUScotland and @OUfreelearning on Twitter for updates and tweet us using **#OLchamps** if you have anything to share.

You're welcome to share this with your colleagues, learners and networks. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, you can [unsubscribe here](#) and we'll take you off the mailing list.

If you have any questions about Open Learning Champions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk.

Keep well,

David, Ewe and Kat



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