The Open University in Scotland
Facts and figures
Our learners

- 21,300 OU students across Scotland in 2021-22
- 250+ employers across Scotland sponsor OU students
- 400 Open Learning Champions across Scotland
- 297,000+ visitors from Scotland to OpenLearn in 2021-22
- 309 schools have participated in Young Applicants in Schools Scheme since 2007
- 29,000+ modules studied in 2021-22
- 120+ commissioned nursing pre-registration places
- 28 years old is the average age of new undergraduates
- 250+ commissioned nursing pre-registration places
- 25 apprenticeships offered across Scotland
Making an impact

The total impact from expenditure and employment in Scotland is £55m supporting 570 FTE jobs.

Students in Scotland whose highest prior qualification is National 5s could earn an extra £200,000 on average in real terms over their career if they study an OU part-time degree.

Formal teaching and learning activities in Scotland generated £160.4m to the economy.

85% of OU graduates remain in the location where they studied - so their talent and skills benefit local communities.

The OU in Scotland boosted the economy by £217.4m in 2018–19.

We have students in all 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies, work with schools in 29 local authority areas and partner with 16 regional colleges.

Students in Scotland whose highest prior qualification is National 5s could earn an extra £200,000 on average in real terms over their career if they study an OU part-time degree.
Widening access

23% of OU students live in rural or remote areas

In Scotland we recruit more students from the most deprived areas than the least deprived areas

850 students have transferred credit from their HNC or HND to OU studies

20% of new undergraduates join without standard university entrance qualifications

26% of OU students in Scotland declare a disability

530 Access modules studied in 2021-22
Upskilling the nation

**168** community learning and development practitioners gained new skills through our online teaching microcredentials

**76** health and social care staff gained new skills through funded modules and microcredentials

**74%** of our students are in full-time or part-time work

**980** applications for funded microcredentials in business and management, leadership, computing and IT, and sustainability

**587** fully-funded places awarded

**40%** of our students study Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths subjects

**85%** of alumni say OU studies improved their job skills

**88%** of graduates in Scotland say OU study supports their career goals

Working with over **250** employers across Scotland

**76** health and social care staff gained new skills through funded modules and microcredentials

**78** small and medium-sized enterprises across Scotland accessed OU training via the Flexible Workforce Development Fund
Contributing to Scotland’s wellbeing

219,600 people have studied with The Open University in Scotland

90% of graduates in Scotland say OU study supports their personal goals

Our students range from school age to 92 years old

2nd in Scotland for student satisfaction*

94% of alumni say OU studies improved their personal development

86% of alumni say OU study improved their personal wellbeing

*based on data provided by the OU, using the same question and selection criteria as the National Student Survey 2023
OU students by Scottish Parliament region 2021-22

Highlands and Islands: 2,070
Glasgow: 2,210
West Scotland: 2,420
South Scotland: 2,890

North East Scotland: 3,070
Mid Scotland and Fife: 2,600
Central Scotland: 2,240
Lothian: 3,570

Number of schools participating in YASS by Scottish Parliament region 2021-22

Highlands and Islands: 27
Glasgow: 8
West Scotland: 21
South Scotland: 33

North East Scotland: 27
Mid Scotland and Fife: 23
Central Scotland: 22
Lothian: 18
Data: Unless otherwise stated, figures are for 2021-22. Widening access and Upskilling percentages, and SIMD data, are Full-Time Equivalent statistics. Local authority areas and regional college partners refer to 2022-23. Impact and alumni data is from the Economic and Social Impact of The Open University in 2018-19, London Economics, November 2020, plus the OU Employability of Qualifiers Survey 2022. Student satisfaction data is for 2023. Open Learning Champions data is from 2022. Cumulative number of people that have studied with the OU includes 2022-23.

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