

Facts and Figures 2014/15



Headlines

About the OU: Operating at scale

Total number of students taught since 1969	1.94 million
Total number of students in 2014/15	173,889
OU's proportion of part-time undergraduates taught, in UK sector	38%
Students on validated programmes	35,479
FTSE 100 companies that have sponsored staff on OU modules	86

About the OU: We are global

Overseas students directly studying with the OU	8,353
Teachers who have benefitted from OU's TESSA project	800,000

About the OU: Our students

Percentage of OU students working full or part-time	76%
OU undergraduates who had no previous HE qualifications on entry	77%
OU UK undergraduates who live in the 25% most deprived areas	21%
New OU undergraduates aged under 25	30%

About the OU: Research and Enterprise

UK research position (REF 2014 Power rankings)	41st/128
Research deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2014)	72%
Number of doctoral degrees awarded in 2014/15	192

About the OU: Innovation in learning

Downloads of OU material on iTunesU	69.9 million
Visits to OpenLearn website since launch in 2006	38.5 million

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Student and customer statistics*	2013/14	2014/15
Undergraduate-level students	140,056	126,215
Postgraduate-level students		
Taught	12,106	10,139
Research part-time	474	440
Research full-time	568	539
Initial Teacher Training	426	245
Collaborative	47	46
Students on non-credit-bearing courses	26	225
Overseas special scheme students	1,578	561
Students on validated programmes	32,057	35,479
Total Students	187,338	173,889
Study packs and materials sold	67	24
Total students and customers	187,405	173,913

*All student statistics are student headcount unless stated otherwise

Student distribution	2013/14	2014/15
UK students		
England	118,828	105,209
Scotland	14,655	14,189
Wales	7,711	7,001
Northern Ireland	3,896	3,658
Total UK students	145,090	130,057
Republic of Ireland	2,080	1,801
Other EU	5,878	5,355
Non-EU	2,233	1,197
Students on validated programmes	32,057	35,479
Total	187,338	173,889

International Students	2013/14	2014/15
Global Direct students in Europe	7,920	7,123
Global Direct students outside Europe	675	626
Total Global Direct students	8,595	7,749

Students by subject area (FTEs)*	2013/14	2014/15
Subjects allied to medicine	2,341	2,108
Biological and physical sciences	11,998	11,247
Mathematical sciences, computer sciences and engineering & technology	13,372	13,016
Social studies	15,154	12,704
Law	2,716	2,998
Business and administrative studies	7,391	6,100
Languages	6,209	5,665
Historical and philosophical studies	7,364	7,221
Creative arts and design	1,421	1,250
Education	5,561	6,341
Total	73,562	68,649

*Excludes non-credit-bearing modules, study materials, packs and validated programmes.

Features of Open University students	2014/15	
	UG level	PG level
Male:female ratio	41:59	48:52
Age profile		
17 and under	1%	0%
18-21	7%	0%
22-24	10%	4%
25-34	34%	29%
35-44	24%	34%
45-54	15%	23%
55-64	6%	7%
65 and over	3%	3%
Median age of new undergraduate-level students	29	

Ethnic origin of new undergraduate students*	2014/15
White	89%
Asian	4%
Black	4%
Mixed and Other	3%

*where ethnicity was disclosed.

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Qualifications on entry of undergraduate level students	2014/15
No formal qualifications	2%
A Levels - amount not specified	12%
1 A Level or lower	38%
2 A Levels or equivalent	25%
HE qualification	20%
Postgraduate qualification	3%

Other student information	2014/15
Number of students receiving help with fees	22,773
Number of students with disabilities	21,684
Number of credit transfer awards for prior study	6,830
Number of students working full/part time	97,595

Qualifications awarded	2014/15	1971 2014/15
Foundation degrees	644	5,062
First degrees	12,684	380,816
Higher degrees	2,049	63,522
Undergraduate certificates and diplomas	3,442	347,500
Postgraduate certificates and diplomas	3,239	73,135
Validated qualifications (under/post-graduate)	5,189	144,671

Student Assessment	2013	2014
TMA and CMA assignments submitted	920,802	868,407
Examinations taken	74,932	66,359
End-of-module assignments submitted	111,173	100,584

Student Contact	2013/14	2014/15
Number of telephone calls from students	463,746	394,770
Number of Emails received from students	226,375	176,179

Modules information	2014/15
Number of standard modules offered	
Undergraduate level	340
Postgraduate level	129
Overseas versions	33
Curriculum partnerships	18

Most popular undergraduate modules*	2014/15
DD102 - Introducing the social sciences	6,302
AA100 - The arts past and present	4,746
DE100 - Investigating psychology 1	4,036
MU123 - Discovering mathematics	4,036
MST124 - Essential mathematics 1	3,840

*Based on number of students.

Validated Programmes	2013/14	2014/15
Number of validated programmes	294	258
Number of approved validated institutions worldwide	26	25
Total students to have achieved validated awards	4,612	5,189

Research and Enterprise	2014/15
Value of research grants and contracts awarded in year	£21.6m
Number of running research grant and contract awards	Approx. 470
Number of postgraduate research students registered for study	979
Research quality Grade Point Average (GPS) score (REF 2014)	2.91
Open Research Online (ORO) UK ranking (Ranking Web of Repositories)	7th/146
Number of research outputs downloaded from Open Research Online (ORO)	788,713

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Media	2013/14	2014/15
Average daily usage of Moodle	35,610	34,505
Views of OU programmes via BBC	220 million	307.6 million
Accumulative years of OU/BBC partnership	43	44
Peak-time TV and radio co-produced programmes	32 series	27 series
Downloads from OU on iTunes U	3.4 million	2.4 million
Average weekly downloads from OU on iTunes U	66,200	46,154
Visitors (since launch) to OU on iTunes U	9.6 million	12.1 million
Countries accounting for over half of downloads from OU on iTunes U		
USA	26%	25%
UK	12%	11%
China	15%	16%
OU videos on YouTube	1,336	1,436
OpenLearn visitors	4.4 million	4.9 million
OpenLearn modules	798	835

Notes on fees and funding

The way higher education is funded is determined by each of the national governments of the UK, so the cost to students in each country reflects the amount of teaching grant the OU receives directly from each of these administrations and the support that is available to students to pay their fees.

Fees	2014/15	
Undergraduate module (60 credit points)		
England and non-UK		£2,632
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£535 to	£2,875
Undergraduate residential school		
England and non-UK		£658
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£555 to	£690
Postgraduate taught module (60 credit points)	£1,290 to	£2,825
Research degree		
Full-time		£3,996
Part-time		£2,034
Study packs and materials	£12.99 to	£29.99

Cost of study	2014/15	
Typical total fees for BA/BSc (Hons) degree		
England and non-UK		£15,792
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	£4,530 to	£5,575

Finance	2013/14	2014/15
	(£ millions)	(£ millions)
Income		
Funding body grants	149.0	134.3
Tuition fees and education contracts	213.1	241.0
Research grants and contracts	15.5	16.6
Other income	23.4	24.5
Endowment and investment income	3.2	5.2
Total income	404.2	421.6
Expenditure		
Staff costs	281.6	286.9
Depreciation	9.6	9.1
Other operating expenses	129.5	132.6
Interest payable	0.4	0.2
Total expenditure	421.1	428.8

Staff statistics	2013/14	2014/15
Salaried academic staff	1,148	1,116
Academic-related staff	1,844	1,873
Support staff (secretaries, clerks, technicians etc)	1,742	1,718
Associate lecturers	5,921	5,604