

Training for Members

# The Open University



# THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

The Open University (OU) offers all adults, and particularly those who have very few previous academic qualifications, a unique opportunity to study without leaving home or employment.

The courses are easy to understand and build on your learning as you progress, allowing anybody the chance to gain a qualification.

Udsway members can get help with studying costs via our OU Grant Scheme.

## What is study with the Open University like?

Using innovative teaching methods and study materials, you will learn at a time and place that suits you through course books, online resources, DVDs, face-to-face and online tutorials.

Your tutor will help you with the module material and will provide advice and guidance. They will also mark and comment on your assignments.

Progress in your study will be measured by assessed assignments and written exams or project work. Your tutor will give feedback on your work and guide you through anything you find difficult.

Visit [www.open.ac.uk/study](http://www.open.ac.uk/study) to see the wide variety of degrees and qualifications available.

“You’ll spend around eight hours a week studying for a 30-credit module, or 15 hours a week for a 60-credit module. You may also be able to transfer credit if you’ve studied at higher education level in the past.”

## Is financial help available?

In recent years the Open University has changed its funding models in the UK. To find out which Open University funding scheme or student loan applies to you, check the Open University website [www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding) or contact your Lifelong Learning Project Worker.

“IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO IMPROVE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND/OR ENHANCE YOUR JOB PROSPECTS YOU MAY WANT TO THINK ABOUT USING THE OPEN UNIVERSITY.”



## Can Usdaw help?

Yes! Usdaw's OU Grant Scheme offers assistance to fully paid-up Usdaw members, who have been in the Union for 12 months and are registered on the OU degree programme. The scheme makes payments upon completion of degree-related modules. Claims must be submitted within 12 months of the date on the module results letter in order to be eligible for payment.

The grant only applies to 30-point or 60-point OU modules that form part of a degree programme.

“ I've been awarded almost £800 from the Usdaw OU fund. It was a great help and allowed me to keep out of debt. ”



## Access Modules

As well as courses that count towards a degree, the Open University offers three Access modules. These courses help build your confidence and develop your study skills, and let you try out the OU's style of learning before starting a qualification.

[www.open.ac.uk/courses/do-it/access](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/do-it/access)

The available modules are:

- Arts and languages.
- People, work and society.
- Science, technology and maths.

Each module lasts 30 weeks and you may be eligible to study for free.

You could also access 'FutureLearn'. FutureLearn is a private company wholly owned by the Open University, offering a wide selection of FREE, high quality online courses from some of the world's leading universities and other outstanding cultural institutions, including the British Council, the British Library and the British Museum. They are delivered one step at a time and are accessible on mobile, tablet and desktop, so you can fit learning around your life. For more information, visit [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)

“ USDAW CAN HELP WITH THE COST OF STUDY VIA OUR OPEN UNIVERSITY GRANT SCHEME. ”



*Usdaw*  
Education

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further details are available direct from the Open University at [www.open.ac.uk/union/](http://www.open.ac.uk/union/) alternatively you could contact your Union Learning Rep or Lifelong Learning Project Worker via your Divisional Office or Usdaw's Education and Training Department.

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### **Eastern**

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### **Midlands**

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### **North Eastern**

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### **Southern**

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### **North West**

Warrington Office

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**For further information, contact:**

### **Education Department**

Usdaw

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*Usdaw*  
*Union of Shop, Distributive  
and Allied Workers*

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