

OU Careers and Employability Services

Everyone is different, everyone is valued

"I've just had an in-depth careers consultation and it's honestly among the best things I have done. Easily the most useful hour I've spent this year."

We are here to help all OU students achieve their ambitions, students of diverse goals, passions and interests, backgrounds, locations, ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, mental and physical health conditions, ages, identities and differences. The employers we work with also value OU students and alumni and welcome applications from you. Employer research found the words employers most often use to describe OU students are 'self-starters', 'adaptable', 'diverse', 'determined' and 'ambitious'.

► open.ac.uk/careers

93% of users of the service recommend us.

CES provides group workshops, employer panel events, site visits, flexible paid internships, a wide range of self-service tools and resources, and individual student careers consultations from the first week of study to three years after qualifying.

Careers support and study success

Students with clear goals do better in study and in life. OU student data show engagement with careers services is a strong predictor of higher module pass rates. Helping you be clear about your goals and how to achieve them, we'll help you stay motivated, choose the right modules and focus on where you want to be when you qualify.



Clarify your goals with our 3-minute careers check-in

If you're not sure about your goals, you're not alone. Our [3-minute careers check-in](#) is designed to help you kick-start your thinking. Your answers help us provide the support you need to achieve your goals.

Find your next step with Navigate Your Future

"It opened up my understanding."
Student tester

The [Navigate Your Future](#) activity pathway is an automated series of careers skills activities, making the process of working out your goals and next steps simpler.

Inclusive employers and welcoming workplaces

► opportunityhub.open.ac.uk/students

Our Employer Engagement team has relationships with hundreds of employers across the UK, providing inclusive recruitment and workplace guidance. You can connect directly with them on OpportunityHub. Browse vacancies, graduate schemes, paid internships and volunteering. Find information and book career learning and employer events, workplace visits, mock assessment centres and individual careers consultations.

"The internship helped me get back my self-confidence and develop a better idea about what to do in future."

Career readiness gives you clarity



After several years testing, the OU has adopted a careers service approach called 'career readiness'. It helps you more easily understand your current situation, what you have to offer, and how to express it in the world beyond study. Imagine your future, build your confidence and navigate your path to achieving your life and career goals.

Discover

If you don't yet know where you want your OU qualification to take you in life, 'Discover' activities help you get clarity about your goals, based on your skills, passions and values. Examples are the [idea-generating tools](#), [live workshops and forums](#) and [Your Career Planning Guide](#).

Explore

If you have a specific career in mind but don't know how to achieve it. Explore helps identify pathways and additional requirements you need such as work experience, further study or professional training. Activities include [live workshops and on-demand podcasts](#), [downloadable guides](#), [paid internships](#).

Achieve

If you're ready to research and apply for specific roles. Connect to inclusive employers and search opportunities on [OpportunityHub](#), book [employer panel events and site visits](#). Hone your [application skills](#) with Artificial Intelligence-powered tools CV360 and Interview360.

Progress

If you want to track personal progress and make your OU study count in your life in community and charity work, volunteering or self-employment. Use the FutureYOU Personal Development Planning tool in your Study Home page to build your confidence and apply your new skills to your life.