

The OU Essentials : How do I study at the OU? Introduction to what's what

First things first



- Not in Kansas anymore...
- Aka you are in University

What do you think this means?

- Please suggest some things that might be different about studying at university compared to school / college

Our ideas

- You will be treated as adult learners
- This means whilst you will get plenty of support it is your choice whether to study, no one will force you
- There is no such thing as a detention 😊
- Depending on the level you are studying at, things can be hard!

So what does OU mean?

- It is the OPEN University
- This means that most modules are open to anyone, regardless of previous experience, who they are, what they are and where they are
- This also means that you as students have carefully read through what is required for your module and have made a considered decision about whether you can do it
- <http://www2.open.ac.uk/students/charter> covers useful information about the student commitment

What makes the OU special?

- Flexibility to study alongside other commitments
- Opportunity to learn something that has always interested you
- Chance to develop yourself and learn new employability skills
- No need to move to a new location to 'go to university'

Free course

- Being an OU student
- <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/being-ou-student/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab>

Course content		
SESSION 1	Session 1: What's OU study all about?	∨
SESSION 2	Session 2: Where do I find everything?	∨
SESSION 3	Session 3: How will I get support?	∨
SESSION 4	Session 4: How will I learn?	∨
SESSION 5	Session 5: How can I be a successful student?	∨
SESSION 6	Session 6: What do I need to do before I start studying?	∨

TLA

The OU has lots and lots of TLAs (three letter abbreviations) – you will get used to them. Please use the poll pod to say some you have come across so far

- Common ones may be TMA, EMA, eTMA, iCMA, SST, DA, SHL

You'll get used to them so welcome to the club 😊

Key places

- Studenthome
- Your module website
- Your Tutor Group Forum
- Qualifications website
- Library
- Careers and Employability Service

Studenthome



Welcome name

Profile +

Tools +

Services +

Links +

Personal links +

Your qualification name here

Supporting you through your qualification study journey +

- ▶ View your study record
- ▶ Your tutorials and study events
- ▶ Student Support Team

Your module name here +

Thinking about what to study next?

You'll find the information and advice you need on your [next module page](#).

Qualifications +

How do I?

- ▶ Prepare for exams?
- ▶ Get help studying with a disability?
- ▶ Get an official record of my studies?
- ▶ Change my password?

news for all students is here

Module website



Your name (PI Number) | Sign out | Contact the OU | Accessibility | Search the OU

StudentHome | Profile | Study | Library | Careers | Community | Help Centre

Assessment | Tutorials | Forums | Resources | News | Help ? | Search

module code

module title

0% ?

Current weeks

All weeks

EXPAND ALL

WEEK

0

Module preparation
30 January – 5 February

0 of 3
completed



The study planner and planning

Block 2 Unit 3



3.1 Introduction

3.2 Planning your study

3.3 What is work?

3.4 Working with data

3.5 Businesses and organisations

3.6 Thinking about happiness at work

3.7 Working on your TMA

3.8 Check your understanding

References

Acknowledgements

3.2 Planning your study

This section should take about 15 minutes to study


Table 3.1 provides the breakdown of timings for this week's study.

Table 3.1 Study timings for Unit 3

Section	Duration	When	Where
3.3 What is work?	1 hour	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.4 Working with data	1 hour 45 minutes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.5 Businesses and organisations	2 hours 30 minutes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.6 Thinking about happiness at work	2 hours 15 minutes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.7 Working on your TMA	1 hour	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.8 Check your understanding	30 minutes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Activities

Activity 3.2 What does work mean to you?

 This activity should take about 20 minutes

This activity has two tasks

Task 1

Make notes in the text boxes or, if you prefer, in your learning notebook, in answer to the following questions. You only need to write a few words or a sentence for each answer but do spend a couple of minutes thinking about and reflecting on your answers. You don't need to worry about making your answer perfect; this is just a chance to think about your own views.

- What does 'work' mean to you?

Save

Reset

-
- What 'work' do you do now, or have you done in the past?

Save

Reset

Forums

- Depending on the module there may be a welcome forum, topic forums, cluster forum and tutor group forum
- Please look very carefully at any instructions about where to post messages
- New messages in any forum can be seen in recent activity (module website > right hand side > scroll down)
- Subscribe to discussions that are relevant
- Search for discussions



How do you feel about assessment?

- What is the first thing you think of when you see the word assessment? Please use the polling pod provided to add your one or a few word reaction

Don't worry!

- Assessment is not designed to upset you or stress you out.
- It has a purpose to help you achieve your learning goals

Why does assessment exist?

- Assessment exists to allow you to know whether you are learning what you need to, and whether the module is delivering what it says it will.
- Think about it as a checklist of achievement
- It's all very well saying you know something but this way you can prove it
- Likewise you know where you need to focus efforts moving forward

Assessment

- Most assignments (called tutor marked assignments – TMAs) are submitted electronically
- There is a dedicated system called the eTMA system where you upload your completed work. Your tutor will then collect after the deadline and return the marked work, through the same system within 10 working days after the deadline



[TMA/EMA service >](#)

TMA's

TMA stands for tutor marked assignment as it is the work that you are doing (assignment) that goes to your tutor through the electronic TMA system and enables them to provide feedback which you then read and act upon. *Remember to read the feedback and act upon it!!*

You will very likely find that TMA's will get gradually more complex as you progress through the module – don't worry about this it is totally normal – you will be building and growing so gaining more understanding.

eTMA system

The eTMA system is accessible through your module assessment page

Do take the chance to submit a TMA00 (dummy TMA) according to module requirements so you can get used to how the system works.



TMA/EMA service >

Degree classification

- Note that the OU uses a system called pass level 1, 2, 3 and 4 which equate to 1st, 2:1, 2:2 and 3rd respectively
- Level 1 does not normally count towards your degree classification overall. This means the marks you get won't affect the final 1st / 2:1 etc grading. BUT you do need to pass!
- However students who do well at level 1 have shown they have gained the skills and can apply them so it is always better to start out as you mean to go on.

Important things!

- There will be some deadlines so you are going to have to plan to meet them
- Note down any deadlines as soon as you start
- If available print out the study calendar and stick on the wall or add key dates to your existing calendars
- The student assessment handbook is at <https://help.open.ac.uk/documents/policies/assessment-handbook> and covers policies
- We'll cover more on time management in a future session

Useful services option

Services



- ▶ Help Centre
- ▶ Services for disabled students
- ▶ Careers and Employability Services
- ▶ Library Services
- ▶ Computing Guide
- ▶ OU System Status

Discussion activity

- Discuss as a group things that you are looking forward to this year, and if there is anything that concerns you at all
- Please bring back a few points that you can share with the rest of the group
- We can then try and discuss some of the common points
- You do not have to speak on mic if you don't want to but please do interact with your group using the chat option

Take home message

- Studying at the OU offers flexibility to study around other commitments although there are fixed deadlines and other set events that need to be scheduled into a diary / calendar
- As an adult learner you will need to take responsibility for your own learning, but have access to lots of support and advice



18th 11am Jan live broadcast Well Being

24th 11am Jan Effective Academic Communication

31st Jan 7pm Applying other peoples ideas

1st Feb 11am Freshers live broadcast event

2nd Feb 7pm Freshers Social Event

7th Feb 7pm Introduction to Essay planning

14th Feb 7pm Developing your essay planning

Details and booking information from

<http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>

Past student hub live online study skills sessions [here](#)

Visit us at <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/> and subscribe for events as they are announced. Send us feedback at studenthub@open.ac.uk

