

# SUPPORTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



## Getting started: free courses

[OpenLearn.com](#) is designed for both non-confident learners and lifelong learners. Learners can explore a subject, get inspiration, build skills and confidence, and earn recognition – all for free.

- **Flexible:** Courses are available immediately, and you can work through them at your own pace.
- **Scale:** With almost 1000 courses, 10m people a year visit OpenLearn.
- **Recognition:** Track progress and work towards a free statement of participation and/or digital badge.
- **Impact:** 92% satisfaction rates, 65% intend to share their achievements with their employers.

[All courses](#) – with printable certificates; browse by subject, level and length.

[Skills for work](#) – including digital, leadership, etc.

[Skills for study](#) – including critical thinking and writing.

[Skills for life](#) – including family and relations, health, and money and finance.

[‘Badged’ courses](#) – provide badges that can be shared on social media.

[Everyday skills](#) – functional skills courses at Level 1 and 2 in maths and English.

[Newsletter](#) – with updates and recommendations of new free materials.

[Most popular](#) – our 10 most popular courses, and 10 most popular short learning materials.

[All business and finance courses](#) – over 130 courses, including ...

## Courses

### Introductory

[Risk management](#)

[Effective communication](#)

[Entrepreneurship](#)

[Understanding your sector](#)

[Supply chain sustainability](#)

### Intermediate undergraduate

[Leadership challenges in turbulence](#)

[How to frame a business case](#)

[Creativity and innovation](#)

[Operations management](#)

[Innovation and entrepreneurship](#)

### Advanced postgraduate

[Marketing in the 21st century](#)

[A framework for strategy](#)

[Virtual project teams](#)

[Understanding and managing risk](#)

[What is strategy?](#)

### Courses that support career development

[Developing career resilience](#)

[Succeed in the workplace](#)

[Mentoring and coaching](#)

[Understanding your sector](#)

[Communication in the workplace](#)

[Personal branding](#)

[Leadership and followership](#)

[Working in diverse teams](#)

[Internet of things](#)

### Learning materials related to specific career interests

[Business and Administration](#)

[Childcare and Education](#)

[Design and Media](#)

[Health and Science](#)

[Legal, Finance and Accounting](#)

[Social Care](#)



# SUPPORTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

## We can provide learning for more advanced and confident learners:

**FutureLearn:** hundreds of free courses from a wide range of providers that are more focused advanced skills

**OpenSTEM Labs:** a series of open, virtual labs, with free access to virtual experiments and equipment

## We can provide learning on different platforms and formats:

OpenLearn on [Kindle](#)

OpenLearn on [Google Play](#)

OpenLearn on [YouTube](#)

## Stepping forward: curated services and co-development

We can develop packages of open learning with local stakeholders:

- Working with businesses and sectors:
  - We can develop tailored packages to meet specific learning needs. Examples of work with employers includes [Google](#), [Michelin](#), [Rolls-Royce](#), [Cisco](#) and the [English Football League](#). [Uber](#) co-developed a loyalty programme for drivers in the UK, including provision of free higher education through The Open University. This allows drivers to study free or to pass this 'credit' onto a direct family member.
  - With sectors, this includes functional skills for [construction](#) and for [health and social care](#); there are also collections of courses for the [British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy](#) and in [voluntary leadership](#).
  - We have also co-developed courses for [carers](#).
- Working with communities/groups:
  - [Social Partnership Network](#) (including WEA, Unionlearn and UNISON) have co-developed a series of free 'career start' [courses](#).
  - Co-developed courses for [migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#).
  - Schools and STEM – via [Computers for Schools](#).
- Working with local or national agencies:
  - With the support of the DfE, in collaboration with FE colleges, we have built free Level 1 and 2 [functional skills courses](#).
  - With [JobCentre Plus](#), a space that introduces courses and content relevant to its users; employees, job seekers, family members, staff etc. Kingston JCP has propagated awareness and use of the courses in related organisations such as adult education, the local FE college, Fulham Football Club and Unilever.
  - With the [BBC/Channel 4 and Sky](#) we develop journeys from broadcast to online learning.

## Going deeper: co-developing local services

We can work with you to develop more in depth and tailored or bespoke packages to meet local needs:



### Building capacity

We have a range of free resources to help build capacity in online teaching and learning, supporting the learning community (especially FE colleges) in moving online with [teaching and learning](#).



### Licensing

The OU has an extensive library of course designed for online distance learning. The free resources outlined above represents a small part of our total content repository. ([More information](#) about OU licensing.)



### Consultancy

The OU can provides experts in open and distance education (organisation design, programme design, learning design, learning analytics, etc.). ([More information](#) about consultancy from the OU.)



### Validation

The OU has extensive experience of [accrediting institutions](#) to offer programmes leading to an OU-validated award.



### Build your own course

If you want to build your own free course and share it with others you can use [OpenLearn Create](#) and join us and others in making courses open. A version of OpenLearn Create is available if you want to close your course or present OU-licensed materials.



### Learning design

If you want support with learning design, we have [expertise](#) and [support](#); from thinking about learning needs, your learner characteristics and to how to develop and deliver the most effective solution.



### Production services

The OU offers [production services](#) to create new courses, adapt materials for online learning and curated content sites to support individual learning. We also offer editorial, graphics and interactive media development services.