

DR ALAN CAYLESS: There's a lot going on in the sky tonight. Ever since I was young, I've been fascinated by the night sky. And now through my work at the Open University, I'm lucky enough to be involved in using our telescopes here at Tenerife at the observatory. It's a marvellous facility, perfect for astronomical observing.

DR JO JARVIS: And through this Astronomy with an Online Telescope course, you'll have the opportunity to use these telescopes as well. You'll be finding your way around the night sky. You'll be exploring different types of telescopes and the uses that they have. By midway through the course, you'll already be producing your own stunning images of Messier objects using the COAST telescope.

Later on, we'll start to explore stellar evolution and take a look at pulsating stars. And then finally, as the climax of this course, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to a citizen science project studying variable stars. All the observations that you make using the COAST telescope and all the observations made by your colleagues working through this course will all be combined to produce a light curve of a variable star.