



The Open University Worldwide

Teaching at the Open University

Lord Puttnam

Every scrap of evidence in terms of educational attainment sooner or later ties to quality of teaching.

Billy Khokhar

I work for the Open University but I'm also a student myself as well. And really it's about the support that we get as students and the support that we give as people who work there. And the support is holistic. You've got academic support. You've got pastoral support.

Professor Jonathan Silvertown

Over the years the University has put a lot of effort into helping students who were essentially working on their own to get as much support as possible.

Dominic Newbould

The first time an academic gave a student a reading list and sent them off to the library, they became distance learners. They became isolated. What's different about the Open University is the range of support services we offer our students.

Billy Khokhar

Probably the unique selling point is the actual material itself. The teaching that you get from the materials is actually the biggest supportive mechanism that there is.

Hazel Rymer

The books and the DVDs and things that students receive though are the tip of the iceberg. That's just a small amount. What's behind that is the infrastructure and the whole resources of the Open University in the support of the students.

Billy Khokhar

Whether it's through a tutorial at a weekend or whether it's a telephonic support or through an e-learning mechanism whatever that might be.

S. Bobby Jena

I am in fact a student of UK Open University just to experience myself how they operate.

Hazel Rymer

If you can't get up for a 9 o'clock lecture or tutorial or something in a conventional face-to-face University - tough luck you're not going to learn that material. You've got to look at somebody else's notes. With the Open University you study when it's convenient to you. When you're best able to learn.

Ruth Stokes

I actually did my course primarily online. So although I collaborated with people, I didn't actually meet them. But we all got on so well that actually we did communicate offline as well and I would speak to people on the telephone. I always knew my tutor was at the end of a telephone or indeed available to meet. So it was a personal choice but I certainly didn't feel cut off. I knew that there was support there.

Professor Josie Taylor

We know now that in certain areas there is 100 per cent access to the Internet, so we don't worry about that for UK based students. For students in other parts of the world of course,

access is an issue and it may not be because they don't have the computing devices it may be because they don't have electricity or it may be that they have things like mobile phones rather than desktop computers.

Daniel Nti

Africa at this stage is leapfrogging technology so the penetration of mobile phones and the use of mobile is quite extensive across the region. In Ghana for example most people have two mobile phones.

Professor Josie Taylor

So all of this is stuff that we know about. We research it so that we understand when we're putting courses out into different parts of the world we're trying to make sure that we're hitting the right technology for the target audience.

Peter Scott

It's in our DNA to question what we do, to evaluate its impact and not just look at it as something that we did last year and the year before and we're going to do again. So you look at what we need to give the learner and you make it happen.

Professor Josie Taylor

The Open University made a strategic decision to put Open University materials online in a site called OpenLearn, which means that they're accessible to anyone.

Laura Dewis

OpenLearn currently has over 5,400 learning hours of quality assured content from Open University courses.

Andreia Inamorato Dos Santos

It's a project funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation which has been running for about two years now.

Laura Dewis

It's free to use. It's open access so you can use it as long as you have access to the Internet, 24/7 anywhere in the world.

Professor Josie Taylor

There are also tools on that site that would enable anyone to take the materials.

Andreia Inamorato Dos Santos

Translate them. Localise them. Adapt them to their cultures and they can also publish their own content.

Laura Dewis

Published under a Creative Commons licence, so we see lots of examples where Open courseware and our open educational resources from OpenLearn have been taken by international audiences, by people working in education across the world and they've been repurposed and they've been localised to make them relevant for learners in their location.

Professor Josie Taylor

We always used to broadcast television and radio programmes. And those would be available for anyone to listen to, anyone to watch. So in that sense, putting materials on the web is just an extension of that philosophy where we are Open to all.

Lord Puttnam

Our ability to survive as a confident society moving forward will depend on the quality of teaching over the next 20 to 30 years.