



The University of the Future

Hazel Rhymers

These days, students can actually study everything, without a book.

Claire Hedges

The OU is one of the first institutions in the world, which is actually set up to be a distance learning education. So it's not something that we do as an extra, and we have forty years experience of doing that, now to two hundred thousand students across the world.

Claudia Rossini- Allen

I work full time and I've got family so The Open University definitely fits in with my life a lot better than, say, if I had a commitment to go to a bricks and mortar University.

Lesley Ann Long

That boundary-less way of working that The Open University has pioneered is now actually placing it in central stage on a global platform.

Martin Weller

The O.U.'s evolving to take advantage of new technologies particularly things around social networking and delivering content online and its much more of a digital university.

Claudia Rossini- Allen

You get things like podcasts and videos and you can put them on your MP3 player and you listen to the podcast whilst driving to work or you can watch a video when you're taking a train. So there's always something you can take with you.

Martin Weller

We developed some facebook applications and we didn't want to be going in as a kind of big brother, we wanted to go in there and give students tools that would help them find each other

Peter Lloyd

We've been able to create online environments for students to study, do the work in their own homes and upload and really share their work with other students.

Student 1

...and the support you have by phone, by e-mail: all this makes it special. It's as if they are right inside.

Student 2

It's all about change. It's all about innovation. It's all about keeping up and the OU is already there and doing it.

Student 3

Being at the forefront of a technological innovation when it comes to studying is fantastic.

Claudia Rossini- Allen

You go to the online forum and there will always be a student there, probably with the same question you have, or with the answer which is even more useful. So it's even better than a normal university because there's always somebody who can give you some help. If you can't find help it's because you haven't looked hard enough.

Ann Long

There's nobody else that can do scale and quality in the way the Open University can and I think when you add to that the innovation and technology that we are pioneering then it makes the university an incredibly special organisation.

Hazel Rhymers

Now the OU can get to you wherever you are.

Claudia Rossini- Allen

Because everything's completely portable. All I need is my laptop, and I could be outside in the garden with the beautiful weather.

Hazel Rhymers

It's a much, much more effective teaching system.

Student 3

It's probably been the best experience of study. Everything is in your room, in your space, in your time. It's an absolute pleasure.

Student 1

For anybody whose hearing it this might sound like a taped commercial but if they want to cross check, they can contact me in person and I can tell them that I'm not working for the Open University, I'm just telling them my experience.