

MA/MSc Open | Study Plan

Study areas:

**1 Arts, Humanities,
Music and Language**

**2 Education,
Psychology, Health
Sciences and
Healthcare**

**3 Science,
Technology,
Engineering and
Mathematics**

**4 Business, Finance,
Human Resources
and Law**

**5 Professional
development options**

This plan will help you to:

1. Choose your route through the qualification (Route 1 or Route 2)
2. Select modules you would like to study for the MA/MSc Open ([Find the full list on the online prospectus](#))
3. Consider the module order and timelines to complete your MA/MSc Open qualification. The table on page 2 can help you with this.

The two routes through this qualification:

☐ **ROUTE 1:** Specialise in one study area from 1 to 4. Study 180 credits.

☐ **ROUTE 2:** Study 120 credits from one specialist area from study areas 1 to 4. Then select to study a further 60 credits from any other area, including the 'Professional development' modules.

You will need a minimum of 120 credits of study within ONE of the four specialist study areas (Study Areas 1-4).

The area of specialism will determine whether you are awarded an MA Open or an MSc Open.

Free preparatory course

If you're new to postgraduate study or returning to academic study after a considerable break, this free course offers an essential grounding for pursuing your learning at this level. You can earn a free Digital Badge from the OU by completing the assessment. See [Succeeding in postgraduate study](#) for more information.

Counting previous study

If you've successfully completed some relevant postgraduate study elsewhere, you may be able to count some of your previous study credits towards this qualification. Further details are available on the [Credit Transfer website](#).

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Before planning your qualification, make sure that you check the final presentation dates of your intended modules.

Module title	Study order	Study area	Credits	Start date	End date

NOTES:

- The maximum time allowed to complete the qualification is 8 years.
- If you're applying for postgraduate funding (in England or Wales), you will receive instalments over the first 2 or 3 years of your qualification, depending on the duration you have applied for.
- Modules can be studied in any order, and depending on the combination of modules selected, it may be possible to complete the qualification in less than 3 years. However, we recommend that you take no more than 90 credits per year due to the demands of studying at this level.

Route 1 example:	
Modules	Credits
MA History part 1 (A883)	90
MA English literature part 1 (A893)	90
MA Open	
Route 2 example:	
Modules	Credits
Information security (M811)	30
Digital forensics (M812)	30
Data management (M816)	30
Network security (T828)	30
Learning and development at work (B814)	30
Advance your independent learning (YXM830)	30
MSc Open	