

MA/MSc Open | Map Your Qualification



Study Areas

1

Art, Humanities, Music and Language

2

Education, Psychology, and Health Science

3

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

4

Business, Finance, Human Resources and Law

Further Professional Development

Explore the full list of modules available for the MA/MSc Open on the [online prospectus](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The programme is periodically reviewed, and the availability of modules is subject to change. Before planning your qualification, make sure that you check the final presentation dates of your intended modules.

Personalise your learning

- Decide which area you would like to specialise in (from Study Areas 1 to 4).
- Map your route through the qualification (Route 1 or Route 2).
- Choose your modules and plan your studies for your Open Masters degree.

You will need a minimum of 120 credits of study within ONE of the four specialist study areas (Study Areas 1-4). This will be your area of specialism for your masters.

There are two routes through this qualification:

ROUTE 1: Study 180 credits and specialise *exclusively within one* study area (Study Areas 1-4).

ROUTE 2: Combine 120 credits from a specialist area (Study Areas 1-4) with up to 60 credits *from any other area* including the 'Further Professional Development' modules.

ROUTE 1 EXAMPLE – 180 credits from Study Area 4

Employment relations and employee engagement (B813)	30 credits
Financial markets and the financing of organisations (B815)	30 credits
Learning and development at work (B814)	30 credits
The role of the human resource professional (B810)	30 credits
Financial strategy and governance (B816)	30 credits
Research methods for finance (B817)	30 credits

ROUTE 2 EXAMPLE – 120 credits from Study Area 1

MA Creative writing part 1 (A802)	60 credits
MA Philosophy part 1 (A853)	60 credits

Plus 60 credits from Further Professional Development

Project management (M815)	30 credits
Advance your independent learning (YXM830)	30 credits

MA/MSc Open | Personalise your learning – Plan your studies for your Open Masters degree

EXAMPLE PLAN*	Module Title	Group	Credits	Start Date	End Date	Study Order
	Employment relations and employee engagement (B813)	4	30	May 2026	Oct 2026	1
	Financial markets and the financing of organisations (B815)	4	30	Nov 2026	Apr 2027	2
	Learning and development at work (B814)	4	30	May 2027	Oct 2027	3
	The role of the human resource professional (B810)	4	30	Nov 2027	Apr 2028	4
	Financial strategy and governance (B816)	4	30	May 2028	Oct 2028	5
	Research methods for finance (B817)	4	30	Nov 2028	Apr 2029	6

Choose your modules (check their availability, note final presentation dates) and plan the order of your studies towards your degree.

YOUR PLAN	Module Title	Group	Credits	Start Date	End Date	Study Order

Explore the full list of modules and module-specific information (including module descriptions, entry requirements, key dates) on the [online prospectus](#).

Check the length of your study. How long will your planned route take you? If you are applying for postgraduate funding (England and Wales), you will receive instalments over the first 2 or 3 years of your qualification, depending on the duration you have applied for. [Postgraduate fees and funding](#)

Free preparatory course. If you are new to postgraduate study or returning to academic study after a considerable break, this free course offers essential grounding for pursuing your learning at this level. You can also earn a free Digital Badge from the OU if you complete the related assessment. Click on the link below to visit the course website for more information. [‘Succeeding in postgraduate study’](#)

(*) NOTES: This example is the shortest route to gain the qualification for this combination of modules. The average time to complete an OU masters degree (part-time) is 3 to 4 years. 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 each year due to the demands that studying at this level will make on you.

MA/MSc Open | Pre-Registration Checklist

Area of specialism	Check that you have a minimum of 120 credits of study in ONE of the four Study Areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entry requirements	Check that you meet the entry requirements for this qualification AND your chosen modules.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Module-specific requirements	Some restrictions or pre-requisites (such as access to specific work environments) may apply to certain modules. Check the module descriptions for any requirements to ensure you are adequately prepared.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completing your qualification	You can study modules in any order. The maximum time to complete the qualification is 8 years. If you are 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concurrent study	Depending on the combination of modules selected, it may be possible to complete the qualification in less than 3 years. We recommend you take no more than 90 credits each year due to the demands that studying at this level will make on you.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognition of prior learning	If you've successfully completed some relevant postgraduate study elsewhere, you might be able to count some of your previous study credits towards this qualification. Further details and an application form are available on the Credit Transfer website .	<input type="checkbox"/>
Module availability	The availability of modules may change periodically. Up-to-date information will be available on the OU website.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic enquiries	Depending on your previous qualifications or experience, some background study may be necessary before registering for this qualification via its constituent modules. If your first degree is not in a subject relevant to your intended area of specialisation for this masters degree, we would, for example, expect you to have completed at least 60 credits of study at FHEQ level 6 or equivalent that is relevant to your chosen specialist area, before you register for this qualification.	<input type="checkbox"/>