

# CHANGING LIVES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Sharing the gift of education through a legacy



“ The first, and most urgent, task before us is to cater for the many thousands of people, fully capable of a higher education, who, for one reason or another, do not get it... a great unused reservoir of human talent and potential.”

Lord Geoffrey Crowther  
First Chancellor of The Open University  
Inaugural Address, 23 July 1969



The Open University's founding charter





Graduates attending their Degree Ceremony at the Barbican

## A unique University: offering higher education to everyone

The Open University is absolutely unique amongst UK universities. It is the only university to accept anyone as a student, whatever their educational background. We give people the opportunity to achieve their dreams, studying whenever and wherever they wish.

Our vision is that everyone should have access to high quality learning. Through The Open University, higher education is no longer reserved for the few, but available to everyone with the determination to study.

We've seen open education change over 2 million lives, offering people the chance to discover what they are capable of. With your support, we can extend these opportunities to so many more.

Legacy gifts play a key role in ensuring The Open University remains open to all for generations to come. Thank you for considering supporting The Open University. By continuing your own commitment to education, you can share the joy of learning with tomorrow's students.



The Jennie Lee Building at The Open University's main campus in Milton Keynes

# Open to people, places, methods and ideas

There is no typical Open University student. Our graduates range in age from 16 to 93, and around 20,000 people with disabilities study with us. For every one of them, The Open University opens up new opportunities and changes their lives forever.

Many would not have been able to gain qualifications and expand their horizons without our uniquely flexible supported distance learning, twinned with the financial and practical help we offer.

Our commitment to social justice relies heavily on philanthropic donations,

such as gifts in Wills. This generous support ensures that limited finances, disability or difficult circumstances do not prevent people from pursuing their goals.

If The Open University has played a part in your life, you will know the big difference it can make. Together we can bring life-changing learning to those who thought they would never have the chance to study.

We hope you will consider sharing the opportunity to learn and achieve with the next generation, through a gift to The Open University in your Will.



## When did your journey begin with The Open University?

1969: The Royal Charter was granted and the OU was officially a university



1973: 867 students graduate at first degree ceremony

1971: 20,000 people register on first OU courses

1975: 79 research students studying at the OU

1979: The Queen visits the Milton Keynes campus

1980: New interdisciplinary courses combine topics across faculties (course code U)



1984: OU students win University Challenge - and again in 1999

1982: First Masters degrees launched



1988: First OU course requiring use of a computer

1989: OU proud to have almost equal numbers of men and women

# Sharing the opportunity

Both Patricia Campbell and her husband Norman Walton studied with The Open University. Norman wanted to share the opportunity to learn with other students who have disabilities. When he passed away, he left a gift to the University in recognition of the support it offered him.

## Support for students

Norman achieved his BA in 1977 and continued studying with the OU for a further decade. Remembered as an inspiration to all who met him, Norman never let his blindness get in the way

of his career in teaching, and neither did the OU.

Patricia says, "If you're thinking of leaving a legacy, or giving a donation now, you couldn't leave it to a better cause. You cannot give people anything better in their lives than education, because it frees them from poverty of knowledge. Once you give people knowledge, you empower them."

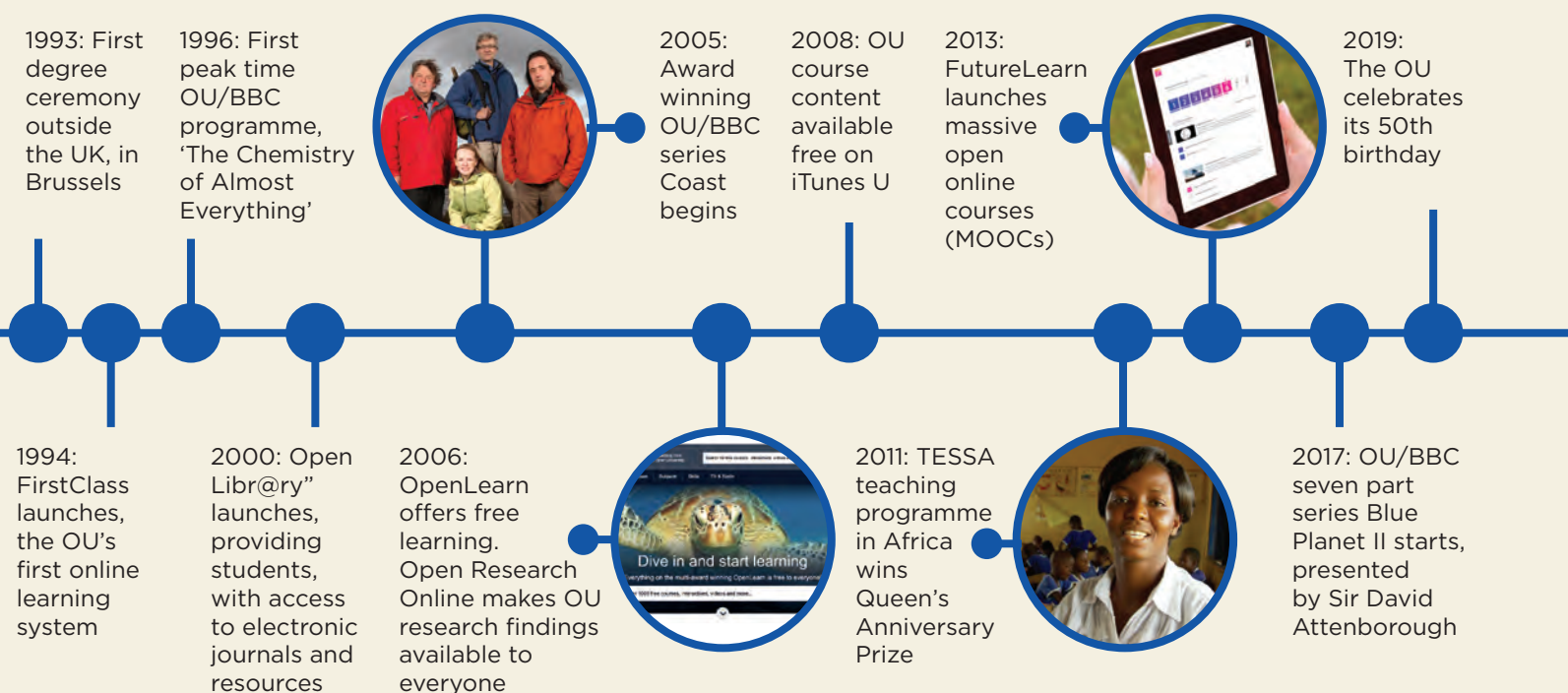
Norman left an unrestricted gift to the University, meaning it could be used wherever it was needed most. His legacy supported the OU's current priorities,

which include students with disabilities, students on low incomes and education in developing regions.



Patricia Campbell, visiting The Open University's Legacy Garden for the unveiling of her husband's memorial plaque: "I know Norman would have been very proud; I certainly was. It was such a happy day."

## Where has it taken you to in your life and career?





# Your support can give OU students the chance to cha



“ The Open University became the family I never had. They helped me at every step – arranging a computer and software for me, and the books I needed. Everyone was rooting for me. I’d never had that in my life.”

John was bullied at school because he couldn't read, and by the time he left aged 16, his confidence was so shattered that he developed a stammer. John joined the Army enjoying a successful military career. After leaving the Army, John began working as an ocean paramedic. He started The Open University where he was diagnosed with severe dyslexia, ADHD, and Meares-Irlen syndrome. John graduated in 2017 with a 2:1 in Health Sciences.

“ I think The Open University is just brilliant, because I think I wouldn't have started studying nearly so easily – I don't know how I would have started at all – if I had had to go away to university. With The Open University you start while you are working, you don't need to change your life.”

Victoria is a social worker in the Shetland Isles and has combined her studies with working.

“ Without them, our journey would have been impossible.”

Julie and Phil, both registered blind, needed audiobooks and a helper at residential school to complete their degrees.



“ I am so grateful to the Beevers Memorial Fund for giving me the opportunity to do something practical to help.”

A legacy scholarship has made Craig's research possible. Craig is investigating how lasting peace can be built in the aftermath of a civil war. He plans to share his findings with policy makers working on post-war reconstruction.



“ I am eternally grateful that there was financial support when I needed it most.”

Mrs Tibbett plans to leave something in her Will for future Open University students who suffer hardship as she did.

change their lives. Here's what a few of them have to say:

“This course feels like the first step towards a different life, a new beginning. The OU has helped me through one of the hardest steps to better myself: the first step. The flexibility to learn, work and look after my children is truly amazing.”

Michelle studied a subsidised introductory “Access” module. Now she is working towards a Psychology degree.

“Earning a degree has always been an ambition of mine – especially since I’m the first person in my family to go to University.”

Lucie Asher started with an Access course to give her a flavour of what OU study entails and from there developed the confidence to go on and study for a degree - which she achieved, with honours in 2017. Since studying with the OU she has been promoted within her company and is sure her new academic status will keep opening doors.



“It does make a big difference... Before TESSA we had nothing else.”

Thanks to support from OU alumni, the TESSA programme brings distance education to Africa. Teachers like Millicent can train while staying in the classroom.



“It takes me three weeks to finish an exam, blinking out one word a minute - but I’m determined to prove what I’m capable of.”

Two weeks after Dawn Faizey-Webster’s son was born, she collapsed with a stroke. Paralysed by the locked-in syndrome it caused, the only way she could communicate was by blinking one eye.

She thought studying would be impossible, but with the support of donors who help fund unique specialist support through The Open University, her dreams became reality.



# Supporting learners where the need is greatest

We don't yet know what the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow will be. Below are three examples of how we are using unrestricted gifts where the need is greatest today.

## Support students in financial hardship

The average undergraduate degree takes seven years to complete with the OU - a lot can happen in that time. Those studying for a brighter future can be derailed by unexpected, life-changing events.

Legacies are ensuring that all those who aspire to a qualification don't have to give up their dream, through:

- Subsidised introductory modules
- Financial support to help students get to their exams
- The Open University Undergraduate Bursary Programme



## Support students with disabilities

The Open University is determined that everyone should have the opportunity to learn. A disability should not be a barrier to learning.

Gifts in Wills are enabling the University to offer tailored support to students with disabilities, including:

- Assistive technology such as dictation software
- Helpers at day schools and residential schools, so students can focus on learning instead of the logistics.



## Support teachers in developing countries

Education changes lives. At The Open University, we want to take distance learning as far as it can go. Our teacher education programmes in developing regions offer teachers urgently needed training.

Legacy donations are taking us into more schools:

- Giving teachers the skills to change their pupils' lives
- Provide the teaching materials missing from so many classrooms







Unveiling the plaques at the 2018 Legacy Garden event

## The Legacy Garden

The Open University has created the Legacy Garden as a lasting visual testament of our gratitude to legacy donors.

Nestled in the heart of The Open University campus in Milton Keynes is our Legacy Garden. A place of quiet contemplation and reflection, it is an oasis on the busy university campus.

White flowers in spring, representing generosity and kindness, lead into the many colours of summer, demonstrating the huge range of students and projects which donors support. Shrubs and perennials will blossom year after year, speaking of our supporters' continuing impact on our work. Repurposed Victorian gates symbolically protect the sites of legacy plaques, showing how much we value our donors' support.

### Remembering donors and their lives

The walls of the Legacy Garden are home to legacy plaques, providing a tribute to the generosity of our donors and celebrating their lives, achievements and values. The plaques are sited around the Legacy Tree, an original bas-relief sculpture by a local artist in clay.

### **“A society grows great when we plant trees in whose shade we shall never sit”**

This adapted Greek proverb, featured on the Legacy Tree sculpture, speaks of the opportunity we have today to make a real difference for the next generation.

### Visit the garden and campus

If you would like to visit the Milton Keynes campus and the Legacy Garden to find out more about how you can support The Open University and its students, please do get in touch.

We also host regular events for friends and supporters. Please let us know if you would like to receive an invitation to the next event.

# Next steps

We would love to talk with you about how your legacy can support The Open University and our students.

Unrestricted gifts offer the most flexibility to respond to future developments, as these can be put to use wherever the need is greatest at the time. Alternatively, you may wish to leave a gift to a specific area of our work. We would be happy to talk to you personally about what options are right for you.

## Understanding your intentions

If you have already included a legacy in your Will, we would be very grateful if you felt comfortable letting us know. This would mean we can thank you for your generosity, confirm whether you would like to be remembered in the Legacy Garden and ensure we write to you appropriately in the future.

## Get in touch with us

To find out more, please complete and return the enclosed enquiry form, telephone us on 01908 659 141 or email us at [giving@open.ac.uk](mailto:giving@open.ac.uk) or by writing to us at:

The Legacy Team  
The Development Office  
The Open University  
Walton Hall  
Milton Keynes  
MK7 6AA

All enquiries will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and in confidence. We fully understand that your priorities may change over time. If you choose to remain anonymous, we will respect your wishes - this in no way diminishes our gratitude for your support.



## Photograph credits

Coast: BBC

FutureLearn course: FutureLearn

Woman in blue at library desk: René Mansi, iStock

Man studying on beach, two women studying, woman in yellow studying in garden, man in red studying at work: Richard Learoyd

Graduates hugging: Karen Parker

Three students on lawn: Andy Hendry

The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England & Wales, and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302). The Open University is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.







Thank you for considering making a gift to The Open University in your Will. As an educational charity, gifts of all sizes play a vital part in supporting students.

- John Warnaby, whose studies with us “changed his life completely”, helped to purchase state of the art technology through his gift of £2,000. It is now used by students who are visually impaired, as John was, to view study materials.
- With her gift of £31,000, Agnes Punter helped students with disabilities learn with The Open University. Her generous gift enabled transformation of a number of courses from conventional printed teaching materials to new, more accessible formats.
- An anonymous gift of £600,000 helped to construct the Jennie Lee Building, home to world class facilities for research and learning.
- Colin Hume was a passionate and regular supporter of the OU. Colin was a serving member of the Royal Air Force in the 1950’s and his generous legacy will be used to support the University’s Disabled Veterans’ Scholarship Fund.
- Barbara Pegram was a passionate teacher and left a £5,000 legacy to the OU, allowing students to follow in her footsteps and study with the University.

[www.open.ac.uk/legacy](http://www.open.ac.uk/legacy)

