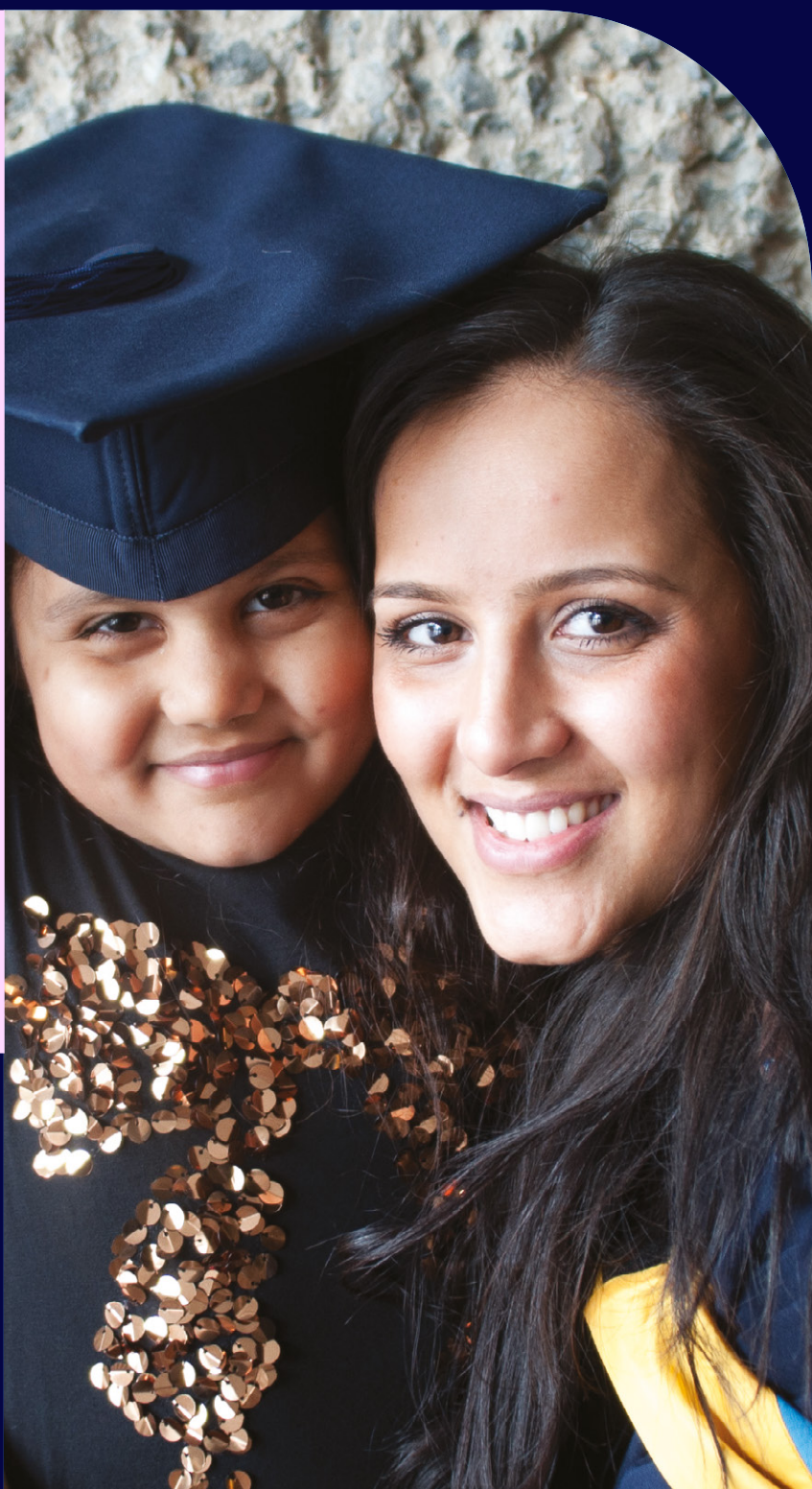
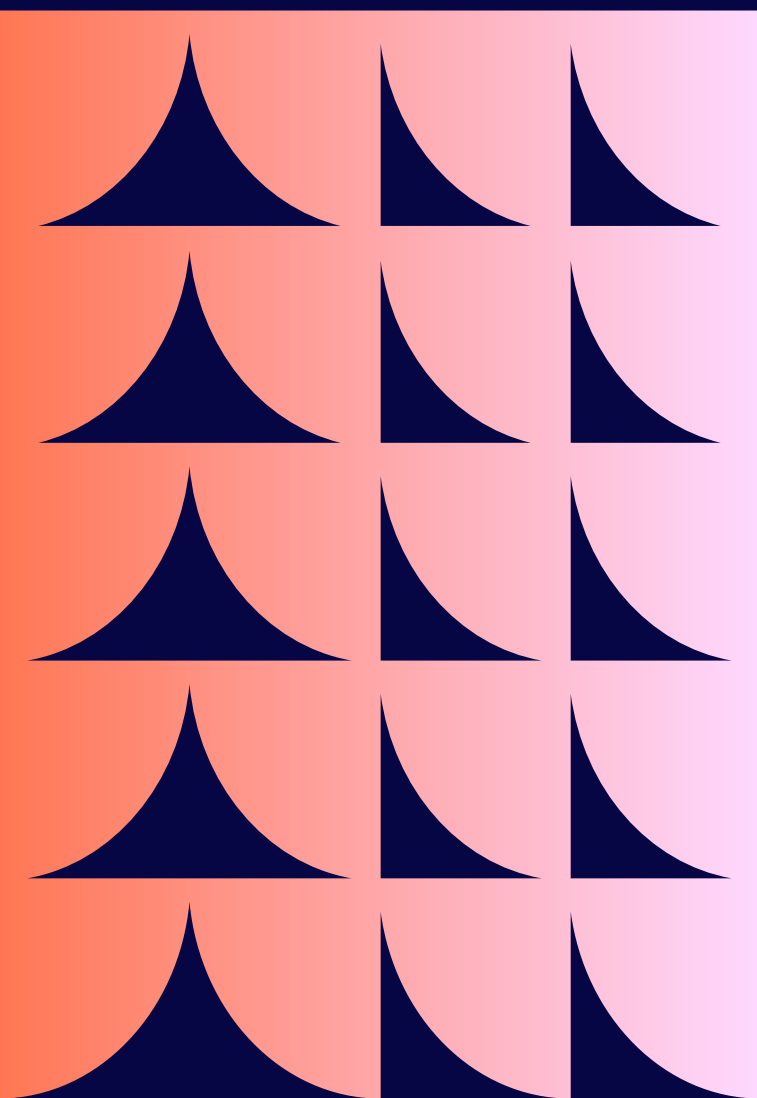


Changing Lives now and in the future

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

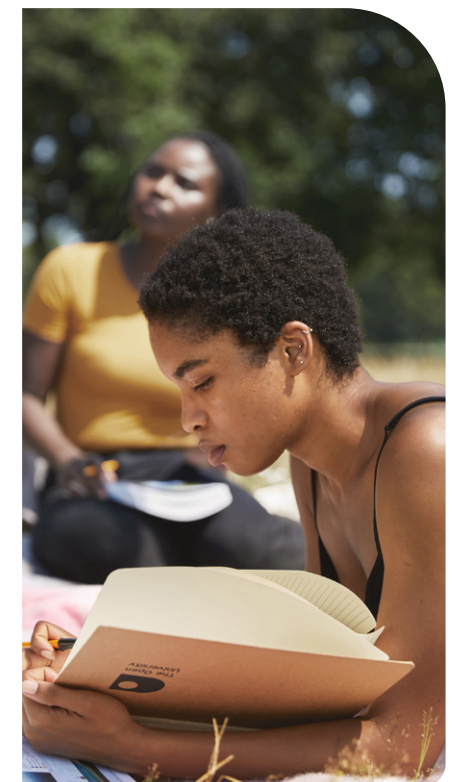
A unique University: offering higher education to everyone

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.

Since the OU's launch in 1969, we've seen open education change more than 2.3 million lives worldwide, 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.



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 37,000 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.



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 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."

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



1982

First Masters degrees launched

1984

OU students win **University Challenge** - and again in 1999

1989

OU proud to have almost equal numbers of men and women

1993

First degree ceremony outside the UK, in Brussels



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)

1988

First OU course requiring use of a computer



1994

FirstClass launches, the OU's first online learning system

1996

First peak time OU/BBC programme, *'The Chemistry of Almost Everything'*



2006

OpenLearn offers free learning. Open Research Online makes OU research findings available to everyone

2017

OU/BBC seven part series *Blue Planet II* starts, presented by Sir David Attenborough

2022

Launch of the **Open Societal Challenges** research programme

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

2000

Open Library launches, providing students with access to electronic journals and resources

2005

Award winning OU/BBC series *Coast* begins



2008

OU course content available free on iTunes U

2019

The OU celebrates its **50th birthday**

2020

Launch of the Open Futures Fund



Your support can give OU students the chance to change their lives. Here's what a few of them have to say:



Studying is the light at the end of a very dark tunnel.

Steven Wilson served as a Private in the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and put his life on the line rescuing hostages in a top-secret mission.

It was during the mission that Steven was involved in an explosion and suffered multiple shrapnel wounds. The injuries were so severe that Steven had to endure open surgery in the field and was later discharged. This period of his life was extremely difficult, as he struggled to adapt to life outside of the military.

Over 20 years on, Steven now says his life has changed considerably. He was awarded a scholarship to study with the OU and has now achieved a Diploma in Adult Health and Social Care.



As a carer I have often felt unseen, unvalued, and lonely, my study has given me a new purpose and feels incredibly positive.

Rebekah is an OU student and Carers Scholarship recipient.

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. Since studying with the OU she has been promoted within her company and is sure her new academic status will keep opening doors.

I think the OU 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'd 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 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.

My Scholarship is allowing me to study for free and has removed the barriers that were in front of me. It is helping me to pursue my dreams. I know this is all thanks to the generosity of the OU family.

Jaden is an OU student and scholarship recipient.



Words scarcely capture my gratitude for the scholarship. I am exactly where I need to be, and everything happens for a reason. My heartfelt thanks for not only an educational opportunity but also for instilling hope and inspiring a brighter future.

Mariia is an OU student and Sanctuary Scholarship recipient.

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 our current fundraising priorities.

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:

- Financial assistance to support students in moments of crisis
- Additional support for study related costs



Scholarships

We believe that where you start in life shouldn't limit where you go. Scholarships and bursaries are breaking down barriers for students who would otherwise miss out on higher education.

Gifts in Wills are helping students to transform their lives and rewrite their futures through scholarship programmes providing access to free education that empower students to pursue their academic ambitions.



Research at The Open University

The Open University research programmes aim to tackle some of the most important societal challenges of our time through impact-driven research.

Legacy donations are funding vital research in the following areas:

- Sustainability
- Tackling inequalities
- Living well



The Open University Legacy Garden

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 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 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
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

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. Our latest privacy policy at giving.open.ac.uk/privacy sets out how the Development Office obtains, manages, uses and protects your data.

Gifts in Wills make a real difference to the lives of so many and in helping the OU to be open to all.

- **Heidi Hillman** was deeply passionate about the OU and its mission to help bring learning to all, wherever they came from. Heidi's legacy gift supported a conference which brought together policymakers, education and employment providers, refugees and asylum seekers, and organisations that support them.
- 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.
- **Patricia Littlewood's** gift to The Open University helped launch the Open Societal Challenges research programme and supported scholarships through the Open Futures Fund.
www.bit.ly/opensocietalchallenges
www.bit.ly/openfuturesfund
- **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 was used to support the University's Disabled Veterans' Scholarship Fund.
www.bit.ly/oudvsf
- **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.



Find out more today

www.open.ac.uk/legacy