Young Applicants in Schools Scheme

Course list and guide to studying university level courses in S6

2025–26

The Open University
Scotland

Hello and welcome to the 2025 YASS Guide

At The Open University, 1st in Scotland for student satisfaction, and the UK's largest university, we have around 168,000 students worldwide and over 22,000 in Scotland. We continue to be leaders in offering flexible learning to suit you, anywhere, any time.

Whether you know what you want to focus on, or you'd like to explore options, the YASS programme offers a wide range of courses, so I'm sure that you will find something that appeals. YASS is a brilliant opportunity to develop online learning skills that are more valuable than ever in today's world, alongside other skills for life for young people. I hope you will make the decision to join over 13,000 students from Scottish schools who have taken part in YASS so far.

Good luck and happy studying.

Susan Stewart
Director of The Open University in Scotland

Introduction

What is YASS?

YASS is The Open University (OU) in Scotland's national bridging programme for S6 pupils, supporting your transition from school to university (and college or work). It offers the opportunity of studying a university level course in school alongside other S6 studies. It supports the development of a range of skills and knowledge that will help you succeed at university, college, or in the workplace as well as giving you the chance to explore a subject in more depth.

This guide is designed to introduce you to the Young Applicants in Schools Scheme (YASS), explain what you can study, and how it can help develop some of the key skills you will need to succeed when you leave school.

There is a dedicated **section for teachers** at end of this guide which includes information on registration

Who can study YASS?

YASS is open to all S6 pupils in full-time education in Scottish schools. Since the programme began, over 13,000 students have studied with us across all 32 regions.

> It's helped me build communication skills with other students and independent study skills. The content of the course has also helped me to decide if I'd like to continue learning about engineering in the future and it's just helped me build loads of skills that are useful in university.
>
> **YASS student**

Contact us
Scotland-YASS@open.ac.uk

What are the benefits of taking part in YASS?

90% of students surveyed last year told us that they gained at least one new skill by taking part in YASS. The most common skills that students tell us they have developed are independent learning, time management, study and IT skills – all of which are key to success at university, college or in the workplace. Taking a course through YASS also lets you explore a subject in more detail before starting university or college, as well as helping to strengthen your application. 94% of students surveyed recently told us that taking the YASS modules had clarified their plans post S6 whether to go to further or higher education or into employment or a gap year.

How much does it cost?

YASS is fully funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), meaning courses are completely free for pupils in local authority schools and there is no competition for places – any S6 student can register on a course.

Pupils who attend independent schools can self-fund their course or be sponsored by their school.

What impact has Brexit had on registering for a course?

Post-Brexit changes have an impact on EEA (European Economic Area) and Swiss nationals and their family members starting a course in 2025/26 – **this means that additional fee assessment checks need to be asked by registration teams.** To avoid delays in registering on YASS modules, we recommend you aim to complete registration early and ahead of given deadline dates so all the appropriate checking processes can be undertaken. These checks are an OU requirement so that the correct funding can be applied to students.

What subjects can I study?

We offer courses in a wide range of subject areas including Maths, Science Law, Sport and Exercise, Arts, Language, Business, and Health and Social Care.

YASS courses are at first year university level (level 1 at The Open University) which equates to level 7 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. The courses carry 10 or 30 credit points. For a full list of courses, see the Course Guide.

How do I plan my YASS study?

We recommend that you start thinking about YASS in S5. This will give you time to choose the right course for you and think about how you will fit YASS study around your other S6 commitments. Speak to your guidance teacher or the YASS co-ordinator in your school about courses that would be a good fit. You can find details of all the courses on offer through YASS in the Course Guide and on the YASS website.

How long do courses last?

Most courses start in October and finish in March or June. There are exceptions to this so always check the length of a course before deciding to register.

How much time do I need to study for a course?

A 30-credit course requires 300 hours of study, and a 10-credit course requires 100 hours of study. Generally, you will need to set aside 3-4 hours a week for 10-credit courses and 8-14 hours for 30-credit courses.

Are there any computing or software requirements?

It's possible to access some module materials on a mobile phone, tablet device or Chromebook but as you may be asked to install additional software or use certain applications, all students need access to a desktop PC or laptop computer with an up to-date version of Windows (10 or 11) or macOS (11 Ventura or higher) and broadband connection. Please check the Study Materials tab on the course information website page for details of any other specific requirements.

How do I register for a course?

Registration is completed through your school. If your school is participating in YASS, speak to the designated YASS co-ordinator, they will arrange your registration. If your school does not currently participate in YASS, you can ask a teacher to contact us at Scotland-YASS@open.ac.uk or you can get in touch yourself to find out more.

More information on how to register can be found in the Guide for teachers.

Being a
YASS student

YASS study is different to school:
Key points

- All learning with the OU through YASS is done online.

- This means that most of the information about your course will be sent via your email address.

- You will be given a login to StudentHome, where you will be able to find and track all the information related to your course.

- This includes the link to your course page, your study planner, contact details for your tutor/study adviser/student support team, and how to submit assessments and work.

- You may be asked to complete interactive online activities, take part in forums, real time online tutorials and sessions. These activities are where you will get to meet and talk to other OU and YASS students.

Did you know over
13,000 school pupils
have already
studied an OU
course with YASS?

Online learning

Here are some of our top tips for getting started with online learning:

Make sure your email address is correct and clearly legible on your registration form. Your login details will be sent to this address, and you won't be able to get started on your course without them. Use a personal email address.
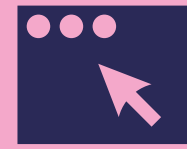
If you have any problems getting logged in, or you can't see the details for your chosen course on StudentHome, get in touch with the YASS team straight away so there's no delay to you getting started with your course.

Make sure you check your emails regularly once you are registered with YASS, as that's where all the important information about your course will be sent.

Check your spam filter isn't screening out our emails. Add the OU addresses you receive emails from to your contacts list, so your spam filter won't block them. Also check your Junk mailbox for anything from us and move it to your inbox.

You can use StudentHome to see all the emails that have been sent to you already.

Most courses have an introduction or course guide on the course website that will give you loads of information about how to study your course online, including things like how to book tutorials, using online forums and submitting assessments online.

If your course will include OpenLearn content, have a look at this website for answers to frequently asked questions: **open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/frequently-asked-questions-on-openlearn**

Learn more about the computing skills needed for YASS study here **open.ac.uk/courses/do-it/computing-skills**

YASS and your next steps

More than a qualification

A YASS course can widen your horizons, boost your CV and help build your confidence. Universities, colleges and employers respect and value the skills, knowledge and personal strengths you gain by completing a YASS course.
It shows you are up for a challenge, have initiative and are self-motivated, and that you can learn independently and manage your time.

> I would absolutely recommend the YASS course and that's because it helps you learn initiative, self-discipline and also forward-planning which are not just study skills but also life skills.
>
> **YASS student**

Skills gained through YASS

Teamwork	Discipline	Organisation	Commitment	Confidence	Research
Working independently	Resilience	Communication	Managing conflicting priorities	Time management	IT & digital literacy

University and college

Studying a course through YASS can help you to feel more prepared for your next steps, not only with skills that will help you to make the step into learning at university or college, but also by introducing you to new ways of learning.

UCAS applications

If you are applying to university, you can add your YASS course into the 'Education' section of the UCAS form. Just enter Open University, select 'Add Qualification' and choose YASS. You can then enter the name of the OU course that you are taking with us. You can also highlight what you have learned from your YASS course in your personal statement – not just the knowledge you have gained but the skills too and how it has helped you to prepare for studying at university.

> I think that studying my course has helped not only confirm what I want to study at university but also branch out into other topics that I wouldn't have considered.
>
> **YASS student**

92% of students surveyed last year agreed that YASS helped develop their independent learning skills

Further OU study

Once you have completed your YASS course you may be able to use it to help towards an Open University degree either when you leave school or at another point in the future.

Your career

One of the big benefits of studying through YASS is access to the Careers and Employability service at the OU. This support is available throughout your YASS course and for three years after you finish. Support includes:

- Online webinars.
- Downloadable guides and the Career Planning and Job Seeking Workbook.
- Online interactive career planning and CV building tools.
- One-to-one guidance from experienced careers consultants.

> Taking a YASS module has definitely helped bridge the gap between university and school.
>
> **YASS student**

Find out more about YASS
open.ac.uk/scotland/study/young-applicants-schools

Preparing for YASS

Before you get started

This part of the guide lists the different courses that you can take through YASS. You can only pick one so ensure you read the descriptions and details carefully to make the best choice.

Here are a few details to think about when you are reading the course descriptions and before you pick your YASS course.

- **Entry requirements**

  Some courses require you to have a Higher in a specific subject so make sure you know what you need.

- **Start and finish dates**

  How long will the course last and when do you need to get started?

- **Required study hours**

  This gives you an idea of how many hours each week that you will need to put in to be successful on the course.

- **Exam/assessment dates**

  It's a good idea to check whether any of these dates clash with exams or deadlines in school.

- **Required online activities**

  Will you need to work with other people online as part of the course and do you feel comfortable doing that?

- **Academic support provided**

  Will you have a tutor, academic advisor or a support team available on a course?

- **IT requirements**

  Is there any specialist IT that you need access to? How will you access it if so?

- **You have a valid email account**

  It's vital that we have the correct email address as it will be used to send you important information about your course. You also need to be able to check your emails regularly. Please ensure you provide a personal email address, rather than your school email address.

Discover Distance Learning

Taking a YASS course will be quite different to how you are used to learning at school. To find out more about what distance learning is, and what it's like to study with us, you can look through the resources available on our website.

Learn more
open.ac.uk/courses/what-is-distance-learning

open.ac.uk/courses/what-is-distance-learning/faqs

What is OpenLearn?

You can also try out independent, online learning by exploring the materials and short courses available on our Openlearn website. OpenLearn is the OU's site for free learning that anyone can sign up for and delivers bite-sized learning experiences designed to fit easily into daily life. There are hundreds of courses available on OpenLearn, that cover a huge range of topics. Some of our most popular YASS courses involve choosing several Openlearn courses, as part of self-directed study. There are also lots of courses to help you develop key study skills, like using online forums.
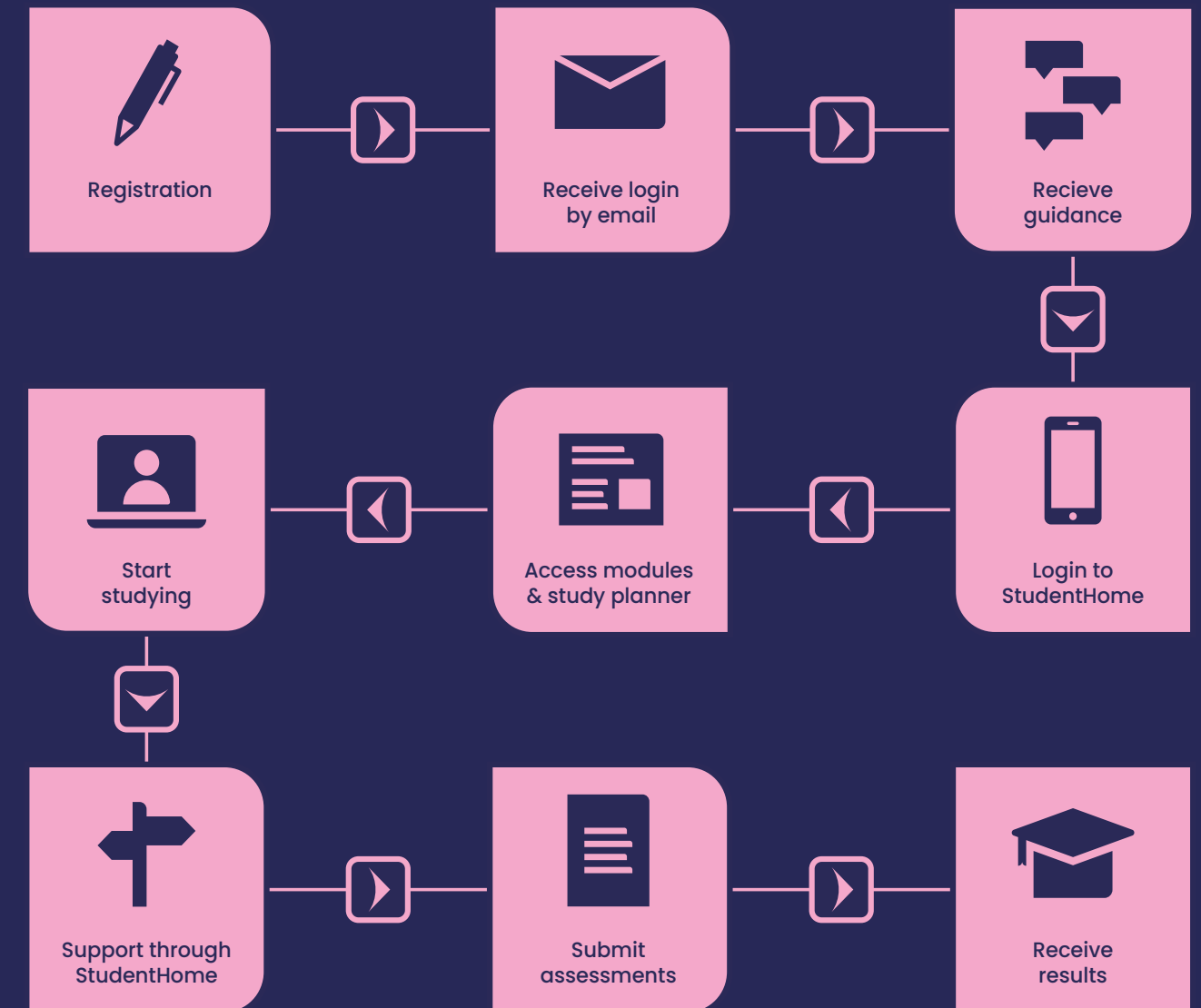
Anyone can set up an account on OpenLearn and enrol on the courses available, including the recommended taster courses listed for most courses in this guide. All you need to do is search for the course title included in the Preparatory Work section of each course's description on OpenLearn and get started!

Learn more
open.edu/openlearn

YASS Student journey

Here's what to expect throughought your course as a YASS student

Registration → Receive login by email → Recieve guidance → Login to StudentHome → Access modules & study planner → Start studying → Support through StudentHome → Submit assessments → Receive results

Results are usually released to students in July and co-ordinators in September.

To succeed at university, you need to be able to read and think about a wide range of study material, make useful notes, and write assignments that answer the question. This course will help you to develop the skills and language to do this. You'll explore how university study materials are organised and how academic language is used in them.

You'll work with authentic materials from a range of Open University courses which cover areas of academic study such as: science, the arts, humanities, social sciences, business, and health studies. You'll look at the similarities and differences in language across these areas. This will give you the chance to develop the particular language and skills you need for your own chosen areas of study.

The course is made up of 40% reading, 40% writing, 10% listening and 10% speaking. Your interactions with the study materials, your tutor and other students on the course will take place online. You'll complete interactive activities, contribute to forums and participate in online tutorials in real time.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *How to be a critical reader*

YASS courses 2025–26

Arts

English for Academic Purposes Online

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/l185

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L185

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 – 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
1 Interactive computer-marked assignment (iCMA)

Required online activities
Contribute to forums and tutorials

Academic support
Tutor

Business and Management

Communication Skills for Business and Management

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/lb170

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
LB170

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 – 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

This course enhances your language and communication skills needed in the world of business and management through the application of key business concepts and frameworks to real business case studies from various organisations.

This course is designed to develop your use of business language through developing your written and spoken communication skills. You will look at case studies and texts prepared by businesses and business studies students.

The course has three blocks:

▸ **Analysing and reporting**
▸ **Influencing**
▸ **Collaborating**

You will also be asked to reflect on how your communication skills have developed during the course and how you can put these skills into practice in your studies and workplace, both now and in the future.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Business communication: writing a SWOT analysis*

This course covers the fundamentals of financial and management accounting as well as the essential skills, knowledge and ethics required to be a professional accountant.

You will learn the fundamental concepts and techniques of financial and management accounting as well as a range of relevant skills. These include double-entry bookkeeping, advanced numeracy, reading and analysing relevant case studies, using information and communication technologies, preparing appropriate reports and using spreadsheets.

Proper accounting is crucial for the prosperity and survival of any organisation. While this course focuses on the accounting required for a sole trader, the skills and knowledge you'll learn are of central importance for accounting and managing in any organisation, whether for-profit, not-for-profit or governmental.

Careers and professional recognition

This course is of particular relevance if you wish to qualify as a professional accountant as this module is designed to be an ideal springboard for such an ambition. This course is accredited by the International Association of Bookkeepers (IAB) and on successful completion, you will be able to apply to become a Member of the IAB.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Fundamentals of accounting*

Business and Management

Fundamentals of Accounting

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/b124

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
B124

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

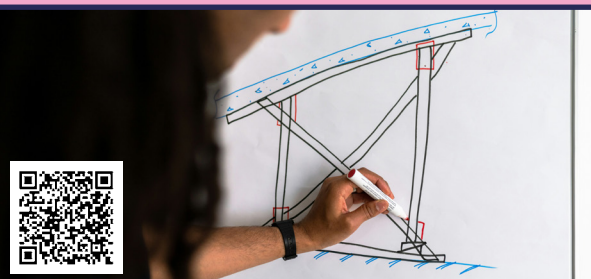**Recommended weekly study hours**
8 – 10

Assessments
3 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs), Exam at end of course

Academic support
Tutor

Engineering, Computing & Technology

Engineering: Origins, Methods, Context

Wesbite
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/t192

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
T192

Duration
October 2025 to March 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
12 - 14

Assessments
3 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked assignments (iCMAs)

Compulsory collaborative working
Working with other students in a virtual engineering studio

Academic support
Tutor

This course examines the range of human activity that is 'engineering', setting current practice in a historical context and looking forward to new developments that will help shape the future. Key scientific principles, mathematical techniques and design methodologies are introduced and explained, to equip you with a basic toolkit on which to build further study. Mathematics is presented in an engineering context to emphasise relevance and build your confidence in framing problems, addressing design challenges and formulating solutions. Reflective practice is encouraged throughout, and you will have the opportunity to share and discuss aspects of your work with other students.

The course is presented in two parts. Part 1 introduces the scientific and social context within which engineering has developed and is currently practised while design engineering is the focus of part 2.

Your study will be guided from the course website, which includes interactive online activities, practice quizzes and media clips. You will have opportunities to communicate and work online with other students and have tutor support throughout the course.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *An introduction to design engineering.*

You can also complete the quiz available at the following webpage, as preparation for this course: **students.open.ac.uk/openmark/ engineering.ayrf/**

This course will equip you with a comprehensive toolbox of relevant knowledge, understanding and skills and introduce you to issues encountered in computing and IT, including the profound social and ethical challenges posed by these technologies. You will also develop your key skills including communication, numeracy and digital and information literacy (DIL).

This course is presented in three blocks:

The digital world: the digital technologies that pervade our home, work and social lives.

Creating solutions: programming skills for creating solutions to simple problems.

Connecting people, places and things: the computer networks that allow us to interact with others.
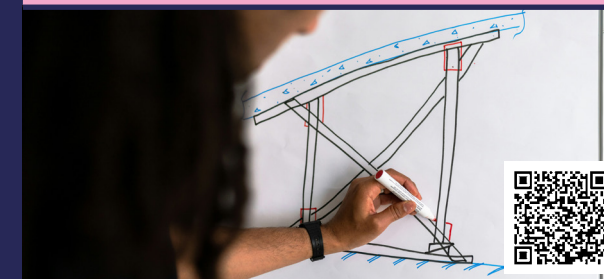
Careers

This course has particular relevance for those wishing to develop a career in the computing and IT industry – providing many opportunities to demonstrate relevant technical knowledge and practical IT skills.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Introducing Computing and IT*

Engineering, Computing & Technology

Introduction to Computing and Information Technology 1

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/tm111

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
TM111

Duration
October 2025 to March 2026

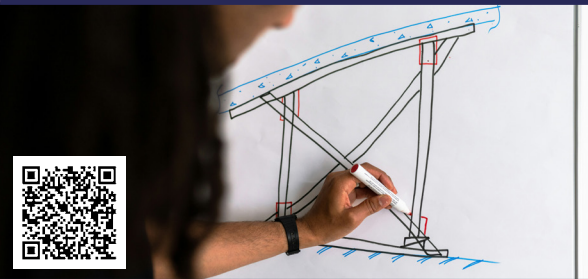**Recommended weekly study hours**
12 - 14

Assessments
3 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
3 Interactive computer-marked assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

Engineering, Computing & Technology

Technologies in Practice

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/tm129

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
TM129

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
3 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
End-of-module assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Tutor

Entry requirement
Higher Computing or related subject

This course provides an opportunity to sample some of the key areas in computing and information technology. You will be introduced to three topics as tasters for your future studies and career: robotics, networking, and operating systems. Studying these topics will enable you to develop essential skills for future employment in the computing and IT industry and better understand the different routes through our curriculum.

This course will enable you to:

► Increase your knowledge of robotics, computer networks and operating systems.

► Develop a variety of skills appropriate to a career in the computing and IT industry.

► Demonstrate your understanding of technical subjects and your technical skills through the development of a portfolio.

Careers

This course has particular relevance to those wishing to develop a career in the IT industry. It provides many opportunities to demonstrate relevant technical knowledge and practical IT skills.

Please see the course website for IT and computing requirements.

Preparatory work

Complete this quiz as preparation for this module: **students.open.ac.uk/openmark/ tm129.ayrf/**

This course is designed to introduce key concepts relating to languages, language learning, plurilingualism and intercultural communication.

Exploring languages and cultures will equip you with a sound linguistic and intercultural awareness. The former will help you get the most out of your language studies and the latter will help you develop a critical understanding of intercultural issues throughout your further study.

The course consists of three blocks:

Language and Culture: you will learn basic concepts about the nature of language and culture, and their relationship. You will explore the human need for myths and stories and examine how the components of language work together, and the complex relationships that exist between language, culture, and the concept of nation.

Identity and Ideology: you will examine languages and cultures in context across different nations and communities, exploring the complex web of values and beliefs that shape individual and collective identity, holding nations and communities together.

Communication in the Workplace: you will develop your intercultural competence with a special focus on teamwork and leadership. Working with the materials in this block will enhance both your intercultural communication and employability skills.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Exploring languages and cultures*

Languages

Exploring Languages and Cultures

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/l161

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L161

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
2 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
1 interactive computer-marked assignments (iCMA)

Academic support
Tutor

Languages

Beginners' Chinese

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/l108

Credits
30 SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L108

Duration
October 2025- June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
3 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
3 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

This introductory module is designed to develop the skills you need to speak and understand basic Mandarin Chinese in everyday contexts such as family life, eating out, shopping and travelling. You'll also learn how to read characters and explore the life, geography and history of Chinese-speaking cultures. The study resources include a dedicated website with a variety of activities which support independent learning, a beautifully printed Workbook, and a Chinese@OU character learning app. Together, they'll give you not just language-learning skills, but also a real awareness of the diversity of the Chinese-speaking cultures.

Learning Chinese involves acquiring the skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing (Word-processing and handwriting). Beginners' Chinese (L108) allows you to practise those skills and offers a variety of activities and topics to cater for different learning needs and interests.

Your tutor will support you throughout with tutorials, and you'll also have the opportunity for online conversation practice with native speakers. This course is designed to enable you to achieve a level of language proficiency equivalent to level A1 and working towards A2 of the Council of Europe Common European Framework of Reference for languages.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Beginners' Chinese*, and download the Chinese@OU character learning app

This course is designed to develop the skills you need to speak and understand simple French in everyday contexts. It explores life in French-speaking countries and communities, introducing you to a wide range of practical situations such as travelling, shopping, working and eating out. Study resources include printed materials and a dedicated website with a variety of online activities which support independent learning. Together, they'll give you not just language skills but a real feel for French-speaking cultures too.

Learning to use another language involves acquiring the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Introduction to French studies (beginners) (L102) allows you to practise those skills and offers a variety of activities and topics to cater for different learning needs and interests.

This course is designed to enable you to achieve a level of language proficiency equivalent to level A2 of the Council of Europe Common European Framework of Reference for languages.

You will have developed your knowledge and understanding of the language as well as an awareness of cultural diversity in French-speaking countries which form a key part of the learning outcomes for studying at this level.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Get ready for beginner's French*

Languages

Introduction to French Studies (beginners)

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/l102

Credits
30 SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L102

Duration
October 2025- June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

Languages

Introduction to German Studies (beginners)

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/L103

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L103

Duration
October 2025- June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

This course is designed to develop the skills you need to speak and understand simple German in everyday contexts. It explores life in German-speaking countries and communities, introducing you to a wide range of practical situations such as travelling, shopping, working and eating out. Study resources include printed materials and a dedicated website with a variety of online activities which support independent learning. Together, they'll give you not just language skills but a real feel for German-speaking cultures too.

Learning to use another language involves acquiring the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Introduction to German studies (beginners) (L103) allows you to practise those skills and offers a variety of activities and topics to cater for different learning needs and interests.

This course is designed to enable you to achieve a level of language proficiency equivalent to level A2 of the Council of Europe Common European Framework of Reference for languages.

You will have developed your knowledge and understanding of the language as well as an awareness of cultural diversity in German-speaking countries which form a key part of the learning outcomes for studying at this level.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn courses:
Getting started with German 1, 2 and 3

This course is designed to develop the skills you need to speak and understand simple Spanish in everyday contexts. It explores life in Spanish-speaking countries and communities, introducing you to a wide range of practical situations such as travelling, shopping, working and eating out. Study resources include printed materials and a dedicated website with a variety of online activities which support independent learning. Together, they'll give you not just language skills but a real feel for Spanish-speaking cultures too.

Learning to use another language involves acquiring the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Introduction to Spanish studies (beginners) (L106) allows you to practise those skills and offers a variety of activities and topics to cater for different learning needs and interests.

This course is designed to enable you to achieve a level of language proficiency equivalent to level A2 of the Council of Europe Common European Framework of Reference for languages.

You will have developed your knowledge and understanding of the language as well as an awareness of cultural diversity in Spanish-speaking countries which form a key part of the learning outcomes for studying at this level.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course:
Getting started with Spanish 1, 2 and 3

Languages

Introduction to Spanish Studies (beginners)

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/L106

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L106

Duration
October 2025- June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

Languages

French Studies 1 (Intermediate French)

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/l112

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L112

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 – 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

Entry requirement
Higher French

On this course, you will develop your confidence in listening, reading, writing, speaking and interacting in French, as well as your knowledge and understanding of French-speaking societies and cultures. In addition, the module is designed to expand your academic, digital and employability skills in French contexts. You will have the option to study most activities in a book or as interactive online activities on the module website. The website uses authentic online resources in support of independent and collaborative learning.

This course is based around six themes: geography; celebrations, customs and traditions; work; leisure and culture; society and history.

Alongside language-specific skills and knowledge (e.g. grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, reading, writing, listening, speaking, interacting, cultural knowledge), you will develop intercultural communication skills, translation skills, as well as academic, digital and employability skills. You will also learn about working practices in French-speaking countries and about using appropriate conventions for writing CVs and letters of application.

This course will develop your proficiency in French to a level equivalent to B1 level of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for languages.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Intermediate French: Understanding spoken French*

On this course, you will develop your confidence in listening, reading, writing, speaking and interacting in German, as well as your knowledge and understanding of German-speaking societies and cultures. In addition, the course is designed to expand your academic, digital and employability skills in German contexts. You will have the option to study most activities in a book or as interactive online activities on the module website. The website uses authentic online resources in support of independent and collaborative learning.

This course is based around six themes: geography; leisure, culture and the media; work and education; traditions and celebrations; history and society.

Alongside language-specific skills and knowledge (e.g. grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, reading, writing, listening, speaking, interacting, cultural knowledge), you will develop intercultural communication skills, translation skills, as well as academic, digital and employability skills. You will also learn about working practices in German-speaking countries and about using appropriate conventions for writing CVs and letters of application.

This course will develop your proficiency in German to a level equivalent to B1 level of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for languages.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn courses: *Intermediate German: The world of work* and *Intermediate German: Understanding spoken German*

Languages

German Studies 1 (Intermediate German)

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/l113

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L113

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 – 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

Entry requirement
Higher German

Languages

Spanish Studies 1 (Intermediate Spanish)

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/l116

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
L116

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs)

Academic support
Tutor

Entry requirement
Higher Spanish

On this course, you will develop your confidence in listening, reading, writing, speaking and interacting in Spanish, as well as your knowledge and understanding of Spanish-speaking societies and cultures. In addition, the module is designed to expand your academic, digital and employability skills in Spanish contexts. You will have the option to study most activities in a book or as interactive online activities on the module website. The website uses authentic online resources in support of independent and collaborative learning.

This course is based around six themes: leisure and culture; geography; work, employment and unemployment; history; celebrations, customs and traditions; and society.

Alongside language-specific skills and knowledge (e.g. grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, reading, writing, listening, speaking, interacting, cultural knowledge), you will develop intercultural communication skills, translation skills, as well as academic, digital and employability skills. You will also learn about working practices in Spanish-speaking countries and about using appropriate conventions for writing CVs and letters of application.

This course will develop your proficiency in Spanish to a level equivalent to B1 level of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for languages.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Intermediate Spanish: Understanding spoken Spanish*

Top study tips for YASS students

Set Goals
Break your learning into small, clear targets to stay focused

Take Breaks
Use short breaks to recharge

Create a Study Space
Find a quiet, organised spot free from distractions

Use Tech Wisely
Digital calendars and study apps can help keep you on track

Stick to a Routine
Plan your study time like an appointment and stay consistent

Ask for Help
Don't hesitate to reach out to tutors or peers for support

Learn Actively
Take notes, ask questions, and teach what you've learned to others

Celebrate Wins
Reward yourself for hitting milestones, no matter how small

Law

Law Making in Scotland

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/wxm151

Credits
10 SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
WXM151

Duration
October 2025 to April 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
4 - 6

Assessments
3 Badged Open Courses as part of OpenLearn self-directed study, End-of-module assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Study advisers via an online forum

This course introduces you to the Scottish legal system. You will consider the distinct nature of the Scottish legal system and Scots law and the influence both they and Scottish lawyers have had internationally. You will explore key skills including academic writing, using digital tools, articulating and engaging with legal issues, developing a persuasive argument, developing and managing your own study goals and time management.

The aims for the course are:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how law is made in Scotland,

- analyse, explain and evaluate Scottish law making and Scottish legal culture,

- select, interpret, communicate information relevant to law making in Scotland in a way appropriate to your subject, purpose and audience,

- digital literacy, using digital tools for learning and working,

- articulate and engage with relevant legal and ethical issues,

- demonstrate insight into personal goals, preferences and aptitudes.

The course begins with a focus on independent learning. To start the course you can choose options that appeal to you via our OpenLearn courses. You must complete and gain a digital badge for three of the four OpenLearn Courses listed, by the end of January.

The choice of OpenLearn courses is made from the following:

- *The Scottish Parliament and law making*

- *Scottish courts and the Law*

- *Legal skills and debates in Scotland*

- *Law and change: Scottish legal heroes*

All the materials you require for successful study are contained within the course materials, which are all online. You must successfully complete your three chosen OpenLearn courses before continuing the rest of the course.

Having completed the OpenLearn courses and gained a digital badge for each, you will then move on to next section of the course which explores a range of important skills used in legal study and in the legal profession.

You will learn about developing a persuasive legal argument, reading for academic purposes, academic writing skills, evaluating sources of information and using evidence to develop a persuasive argument.

Careers

This course provides an opportunity to develop a number of sought after skills relevant to both further study and employment. It is also an excellent beginning if you want to expand your understanding of the distinct nature of the legal system in Scotland and the role of the Scottish Parliament.

Marketing

Marketing Essentials

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/b128

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
B128

Duration
October 2025 to March 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
12 - 14

Assessments
2 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
End-of-course assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Tutor

This course introduces you to the basics of marketing. You will explore what marketing is, why it matters, and how it works in different types of businesses.

Through real-world examples you'll see how marketing connects to everyday life and why it's so important in today's world. You will learn about topics like understanding customer needs, creating strong brands, and using tools like the marketing mix to plan successful strategies.

The course also looks at how new technologies, like digital marketing, are changing the way businesses work and helping them find new opportunities. You will even get to practise solving marketing problems by working on a case study.

This course is perfect for those who are new to marketing and want to learn how to think like a marketer. You will build useful skills, like analysing information, planning strategies, and understanding what makes customers happy. These skills will not only help you in your studies but also prepare you for jobs in marketing and business. By the end of the course, you will have a solid understanding of how marketing works and feel confident in applying what you have learned to real-world challenges. Whether you are interested in working for a business, a charity, or even starting your own project, this course gives you the tools to succeed.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course
Marketing communications in the digital age

This course provides a gentle start to the study of mathematics. It will help you to integrate mathematical ideas into your everyday thinking and build your confidence in using and learning mathematics. You'll cover statistical, graphical, algebraic, trigonometric and numerical concepts and techniques, and be introduced to mathematical modelling. Formal calculus is not included, and you are not expected to have any previous knowledge of algebra.

In order to study this course successfully you should expect to be actively doing mathematics, rather than just reading it. You will also be encouraged to develop skills in interpreting and explaining mathematics, and this aspect will be assessed in some of the assignment questions.

The course contains many real-world contexts such as journey planning, glaciers, supply and demand, depreciation, poverty levels, chance events, and medical conditions (such as cancer), to help illustrate mathematical topics.

Preparatory work

Visit our MathsChoices website:

mathschoices.open.ac.uk

Here you will find advice about where to begin your study in maths. You can also take a self-assessment quiz to help you decide if this is the right course for you.

Mathematics

Discovering Mathematics

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/mu123

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
MU123

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
5 Interactive computer-marked assignments (iCMAs),
End-of-course assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Tutor

Mathematics

Introducing Statistics

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/m140

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
M140

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
3 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAS),
End-of-course assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Tutor

From this course you will learn how to use basic statistical tools and quantitative methods that are useful in business, government, industry, medicine, the economy, and most academic subjects. Topics covered include summarising data; examining relationships; randomness and sampling distributions; probability; testing hypotheses; and estimation.

Using data from a range of applications, you'll learn practical statistical techniques and fundamental principles, as well as using software and a calculator to analyse data. The skills introduced will be ideal if you plan to study more mathematics courses or if you encounter data in another subject or your daily life.

This course is designed for people who have not studied statistics before. It focuses on the application of statistics, adopting the attitude that statistics is about solving problems.

Careers

This course may help you to gain membership of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA).

Preparatory work

Before undertaking this course, we recommend that you work through courses 1 - 6 and course 8 on our Maths Help website:

mathshelp.open.ac.uk

This course provides a broad and enjoyable foundation for university-level mathematics, but you do require some prior knowledge. It teaches you the essential ideas and techniques that underpin university-level study in mathematics and mathematical subjects such as physics, engineering and economics. You'll study a range of fundamental topics – including calculus, vectors, matrices and complex numbers – and use mathematical software to solve problems.

There are eleven study units that are assessed in this course.

In the first two, you'll revise and extend the basic mathematical knowledge and skills in basic algebra and graphs that should mainly be familiar to you. This revision material should help you identify and fill any gaps in your previous knowledge and develop your basic mathematical skills to the level that you'll need in the rest of the module. The first two units also teach you about communicating mathematics and introduce you to the mathematical software that you'll use in the course.

Preparatory work: much of the material in the first two units will be available online, so you can make a start on revision before the course begins.

You can also visit our MathsChoices website:

mathschoices.open.ac.uk

Here you will find advice about where to begin your study in maths. You can also take a self-assessment quiz to help you decide if this is the right course for you.

Mathematics

Essential Mathematics 1

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/mst124

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
MST124

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
4 Interactive computer-marked
assignments (iCMAs),
Exam at end of course

Academic support
Tutor

Entry requirement
Higher Maths

Science

Physics and Space

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/sm123

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
SM123

Duration
October 2025 – June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
4 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
Exam at end of course

Academic support
Tutor

Entry requirement
Higher Maths or Higher Physics

In this course, you'll examine fundamental concepts in physics and the space sciences. You'll learn through solving physical science problems while acquiring computer programming knowledge and practising your existing maths skills.

To begin, you'll develop your understanding of different scales – particularly those that are much larger or smaller than will be familiar to you. Through the nine topics, you'll then meet concepts and principles in classical and quantum physics and the space sciences.

Topics include the quantum realm, components of the universe, exploring the solar system and energy in society.

Careers

While exploring a variety of interesting topics, you'll develop your problem-solving abilities and improve your computing, mathematical and communication skills. These are valued in all work contexts, but particularly in jobs requiring a precise and quantitative approach.

Preparatory work

Before you can register on this course you must complete the *Are you ready for SM123* self-assessment course. You can access this quiz at the following webpage:

learn1.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=35667

You can also look at the free short taster OpenLearn course: *Particle Physics*

YASS Roadmap: Your pathway to success

See how YASS can help you achieve your academic and career dreams

The starting point: Joining YASS
Students select their courses and begin exploring university-level study

Skills gained:
❯ Time management
❯ Independent learning
❯ Critical thinking

Developing academic confidence
Students gain knowledge in their chosen field and adapt to higher-level study

Skills gained:
❯ Subject expertise
❯ Research skills
❯ Problem-solving

Preparing for higher education
YASS experience boosts UCAS applications and personal statements

Benefits:
❯ Demonstrates initiative
❯ Self-motivation
❯ Readiness for university life

Pathways to university or career
Students progress to higher education or vocational training

Options include:
❯ Joining The Open University for undergraduate studies
❯ Applying to other universities with a strong portfolio and confidence
❯ Exploring apprenticeships or internships

Beyond YASS: Careers and lifelong learning
Students apply their YASS experience to their professional goals

Potential careers:
❯ Science & Technology: Engineer, Data Analyst, or IT Specialist
❯ Social Sciences: Teacher, Social Worker, or Researcher
❯ Arts & Humanities: Writer, Filmmaker, or Historian

Science

Contemporary Topics in Science

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/
sxm150

Credits
10 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
SXM150

Duration
October 2025 – March 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
5 - 8

Assessments
Open Learn Courses as part of OpenLearn
self-directed study,
End-of-course assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Study advisers via an online forum

This innovative and flexible course allows you to tailor your study by choosing from a list of topics across a range of the science disciplines. This course will make use of OpenLearn and other OU topic content. Depending on the length of the topics chosen, you may focus on one topic or study three different topics. The end of course assessment will explore what you have learned along with the skills you have developed to be a successful science student.

Single topic subject choices include:

- *Galaxies, stars and planets* which explains how the Sun gets its energy and how astronomers observe the Sun and its interior as well as providing an introduction to the planets and their satellites.

- *Molecules, medicines and drugs: A chemical story* which focuses on the chemistry that underlies the development of drugs and medicines that relieve pain and effect cures as well as how drugs interact with and affect their target areas in the human body.

- *Plants and people* which explores the role that plants play in our everyday lives, in food, biofuels, bioplastics and medicines as well as their role in combating climate change.

- *The frozen planet* which explores the wonder of the polar world and explains how ice has shaped and controls our planet.

Or alternatively you can create your own topic by choosing three short courses from the following options:

- *An introduction to exoplanets*
- *Astronomy with an online telescope*
- *Citizen science and global biodiversity*
- *Discovering chemistry*
- *Microgravity: Living on the International Space Station*
- *Moons of our Solar System*
- *The science of alcohol*
- *The science of nutrition and healthy eating*
- *Understanding antibiotic resistance*
- *Understanding autism*

Social Sciences

Economics in Context

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/dd126

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
DD126

Duration
October 2025 – June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
3 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
Exam at end of course

Academic support
Tutor

Why are markets so powerful in most economies today? What is the role of the government in different economies, and how does this role shape opportunities of different people and firms? What explains global inequalities? You'll unravel these and similar questions using insights from recent history, key economic thinkers, and drawing on economic perspectives and examples.

This course primarily aims to:

▸ Provide you with foundations of economics and an initial set of skills and tools economists use.

▸ Provide an insight into how economics and the economies have evolved over time.

▸ Engage you with a large number of perspectives within and around the discipline of economics, and to embed standard economics in context.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course:
Exploring economics: The secret life of t-shirts

This innovative course sets personal finance against its wider social, economic and political background. You'll be provided with a gentle introduction to aspects of economics, while also gaining practical tools and ideas on how to manage your own money effectively. The course is structured around four themes: the changing economic, political and social context; individuals, households and other relationships; economics and the real world; and the life course and financial planning. You'll study income, expenditure, debt, savings and investments, housing, insurance, pensions and caring, critically appraising the balance between personal and social responsibility for financial well-being.

This course has three primary aims to give you:

▸ The knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to manage your own money well.

▸ Introduce the social sciences, especially economics, relating them to the real world in which we live.

▸ Gently build and practise your study skills and employability skills as a strong foundation for your further studies at the OU and life beyond.

Throughout the course, you'll share in the lives of 12 households, two each from the UK, USA, Germany, Sweden, Brazil and India.

Preparatory work

Look at the free short taster OpenLearn course:
You and your money

Social Sciences

You and Your Money

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/db125

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
DB125

Duration
October 2025 – June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
3 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
End-of-course assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Tutor

Making Your Learning Count (4 Pathways)

Including Arts, Health and Social Care, Social Sciences, and Sport and Exercise options

Website
www.open.ac.uk/courses/modules/
yxm130

OpenLearn Courses
www.open.edu/openlearn/health-
sports-psychology/openlearn-choices-
yass-students

Credits
30 at SCQF (Level 7)

OU code
YXM130

Duration
October 2025 to June 2026

Recommended weekly study hours
8 - 10

Assessments
OpenLearn courses, as part of
self-directed study,
6 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs),
End-of-course assessment (EMA)

Academic support
Tutor

Entry requirements
1 Higher of your choice

Making your learning count is a flexible course which gives you the power to choose what you study. This way you can design your learning to fit your own interests. It builds on the learning you have previously undertaken and gives you the opportunity to learn new things too. During the course you will develop an appreciation of inter-disciplinary and multidisciplinary study, this will help you see the strength of considering things from different perspectives and will give you an understanding of how different subjects consider the world.

Importantly, it is also designed to develop your skills by helping you become:

▸ **A more effective learner**, for example identifying what you want to learn, and reflecting on and communicating about your learning.

▸ **More confident online**, for example by practising and using digital tools and resources.

▸ **More employable**, for example by demonstrating how to plan, organise and evaluate your work.

Using Your Higher

This course is designed to help you reflect on your previous learning and develop skills needed to succeed at university or college. Throughout the course you will use a Higher of your choice and your OpenLearn units to bring different knowledge, skills and learning experiences together.

A key part of your learning experience is selecting what you would like to study. The units you choose are up to you, but they must add up to 100 hours of OpenLearn units.

There are hundreds of courses available on OpenLearn so some have been grouped together to help you select what you may find interesting:

▸ **Arts**

▸ **Health and Social Care**

▸ **Social Science**

▸ **Sport and Exercise**

This provides the flexibility to choose your study to suit your interests and future plans.

These suggested learning options are designed to give you some ideas of areas you might want to explore, especially if you're interested in a career or further study in this area. You can also choose your own route made up of what options or courses interest you. See the module website for more information.

open.ac.uk/courses/modules/yxm130

Each route has a range of units offered. You can select all your units from one route, or you can mix and match. Choosing units from at least two different subjects will ensure you can complete all the assessment tasks. It's also a good idea to choose at least one study skills course.

You will also have the support of a tutor by email and on the phone throughout the module. Along with the learning materials, your tutor will guide you through choosing subjects to study and the various activities on the module.

Arts

Using the wide choice of Arts OpenLearn units you can tailor the course content to suit you.

What you could study

- *Introducing philosophy*
- *What is poetry?*
- *Understanding musical scores*
- *Getting started on ancient Greek*
- *Gaelic in modern Scotland*

Health and Social

Using the wide choice of Health and Social Care OpenLearn units you can tailor the course content to suit you.

What you could study

- *Exploring learning disabilities: supporting belonging*
- *Introduction to adolescent mental health*
- *An introduction to social work*
- *So, you want to be a nurse? A brief introduction to nursing*
- *Supporting children's mental health and wellbeing*

Social Sciences

Using the wide range of Social Sciences OpenLearn units you can tailor the course content to suit you.

What you could study

- *Investigating a murder with forensic psychology*
- *Human rights and law*
- *Introduction to making political and social change*
- *Starting with psychology*
- *Exploring economics: the secret life of t-shirts*

Sport and Exercise

Using the wide range of Sport and Exercise OpenLearn units you can tailor the course content to suit you.

What you could study

- *The football World Cup: where sport and politics collide*
- *Exploring sport coaching and psychology*
- *The impact of technology on children's physical activity*
- *The Ancient Olympics: bridging past and present*
- *Supporting female performance in sport and fitness*

You will need to study 100 hours of OpenLearn units.

The courses listed here are just some from the huge catalogue available.

You can also choose your 'own' route and make up your own areas to study from the 100's of choices on OpenLearn

Most YASS students select OpenLearn courses aligned to what they have applied to study at other universities in the following year. If you are unsure about your future choices YXM130 offers the opportunity to test different subject areas, and you can change your study plans as you progress through the module.

Which YASS Course is Right for You?

Not sure where to start? Take this quick quiz to find out which YASS course matches your interests and goals. Tick your answers, tally up your score, and discover your perfect fit!

1. What excites you most about learning?

	A	Exploring how things work behind the scenes (STEM)
	B	Understanding people and their behavior (Social Sciences)
	C	Expressing creativity through new ideas (Arts & Humanities)
	D	Planning and leading projects to success (Business & Management)

2. What's your favorite way to spend a weekend?

	A	Building or experimenting with something new (STEM)
	B	Volunteering or helping a community project (Social Sciences)
	C	Visiting a gallery, writing, or creating art (Creative Writing & Media)
	D	Organising a team event or solving puzzles (Leadership & Business)

3. How do you like to solve problems?

	A	Analyse data and test different approaches (Computing/Engineering)
	B	Look at the problem from multiple perspectives (Psychology/Philosophy)
	C	Brainstorm bold, imaginative solutions (Arts & Humanities)
	D	Break it into smaller steps with a clear plan (Finance/Management)

4. What's your ideal work or study environment?

	A	Hands-on with tools or tech (STEM)
	B	Collaborative and social (Social Sciences)
	C	Calm, focused, and creative (Humanities/Arts)
	D	Structured with clear goals (Business/Management)

5. Which future career excites you the most?

	A	Software developer, engineer, or scientist (Technology & STEM)
	B	Psychologist, social worker, or teacher. (Social Sciences)
	C	Writer, filmmaker, or artist (Creative Arts)
	D	Manager, entrepreneur, or financial analyst (Business/Management)

Mostly A's
Science & Technology
You're curious, logical, and love exploring how things work. Great options for you: '*Introduction to Computing and Information Technology 1*,' '*Contemporary Topics in Science*,' or '*Engineering: Origins, Methods, Context*'

Mostly B's
Social Sciences
You're empathetic, insightful, and curious about people and societies. Check out: '*You and Your Money*,' or '*Human rights and law**'

Mostly C's
Arts & Humanities
You're creative, imaginative, and inspired by storytelling and culture. Explore: '*English for Academic Purposes Online*,' '*What is poetry?**,' or '*Introducing philosophy**'

Mostly D's
Business & Management
You're organised, driven, and love leading others to success. Try: '*Communication Skills for Business and Management*' or '*Marketing Essentials*'

*See YXM130 Making your learning count