

# OpenMINDS

2018

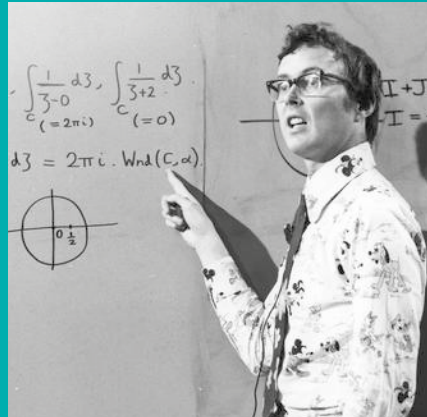
NEWS FROM YOUR UNIVERSITY



The Open  
University



OPENING UP THE NEW  
ALUMNI WEBSITE



DIVE IN AND  
START LEARNING



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ON A MISSION



FINANCIAL AWARENESS  
FOR YOUNG ADULTS



TOGETHER  
WE CAN OPEN  
UP THE FUTURE

# WELCOME








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## What next?

Social media is a great way of keeping in contact. Why not join the OU social media community to share news, ideas and catch up?

-  Alumni website [alumni.open.ac.uk](http://alumni.open.ac.uk)
-  Giving website [giving.open.ac.uk](http://giving.open.ac.uk)
-  LinkedIn alumni [linkedin.com/groups/2385051](https://linkedin.com/groups/2385051)
-  Twitter
  - [@OpenUniversity](https://twitter.com/OpenUniversity)
  - [@OUBelfast](https://twitter.com/OUBelfast)
  - [@oucymru](https://twitter.com/oucymru)
  - [@OUIreland](https://twitter.com/OUIreland)
  - [@OUScotland](https://twitter.com/OUScotland)
-  Facebook
  - [/theopenuniversity](https://facebook.com/theopenuniversity)
  - [/OpenUniversityIreland](https://facebook.com/OpenUniversityIreland)
  - [/OpenUniversityNI](https://facebook.com/OpenUniversityNI)
  - [/OpenUniversityinScotland](https://facebook.com/OpenUniversityinScotland)
  - [/OpenUniversityWales](https://facebook.com/OpenUniversityWales)
-  Instagram [/theopenuniversity](https://instagram.com/theopenuniversity)
-  Youtube [youtube.com/user/TheOpenUniversity](https://youtube.com/user/TheOpenUniversity)

## HOW WE LOOK AFTER YOUR DATA

We are extremely proud of our global alumni community and the life-long relationship we have with each one of you. The University delivers a wide range of alumni services and benefits to you as part of our commitment to the alumni community.

You may be aware that data protection laws are changing from 25th May 2018 with the introduction of the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The new legislation is aimed to provide individuals with more control over their personal information and here at The Open University we are committed to taking care of your data and privacy.

We have recently made some changes to our alumni, donor and supporter privacy policy. The privacy policy clearly explains how we will manage and use your data to communicate with you as either a member of The Open University Alumni Association or as a valued donor or friend of The Open University. If you would like to find out more about how The Open University manages and takes care of your data please do visit [www.open.ac.uk/privacy](http://www.open.ac.uk/privacy) to view our latest privacy policy.

We believe that our global alumni community play a crucial role in helping to shape the future of The Open University and delivering our mission of being open to people, places, methods and ideas.

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# UNITED IN OUR MISSION, PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE AND COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS



It gives me great pleasure to share with you the latest and revitalised OpenMINDS. Having qualified with the OU, you are a member of a movement of millions; valued friends and important ambassadors.

In the almost 50 years since the OU began, we've seen over 2 million individuals achieve their educational goals; helping students like you change lives and change the world around them – and we will be changing many more lives in the years to come.

Across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, our current cohort of nearly 174,000 students continue to achieve their academic dreams, with the vast majority learning whilst earning – a major feat as all of you know only too well.

Whilst the funding for part-time students across the four nations differs, in England there are positive signs that the Government is starting to take notice of our lobbying. We hope that the Post-18 Education review will make recommendations to better support part-time higher education, in particular, supporting our calls for a 'flexible learning incentive' reducing fees for part-time students in England. [Please join us in the fight for part-time. Follow #PartTimeMatters and be part of the story.](#)

## A University of the Future

In 2018 we are just as focused on our social justice mission as we were in 1969. We take immense pride in that distinctiveness and our reputation for embracing innovation. In a fast-moving world, where student and employers needs are constantly changing, the OU continues to be best and uniquely placed to respond, and to do that, we know we must continue to focus hard on improving student success and securing long term financial stability.

You may have seen the recent news coverage about the OU, reflecting on both the fall in part-time student numbers since fee changes in England and the strong debate within the University about how best to improve our student experience and respond to the changing world. I would like to personally reassure you that, while there has been a change

in leadership, the University remains united behind our mission, proud of our heritage and committed to working together to help us stay strong for the future. We have been buoyed by recent public support from key politicians and higher education sector experts in the media.

## My commitment

It's an honour to have been asked to serve as Acting Vice-Chancellor. I intend to give my all to that role and I see one of my most important jobs as listening to students, alumni and staff. Over the next couple of months, we are taking a pause to listen, think, and plan, before moving forwards in making organisational changes.

One thing is certain: united, we will continue to be a world-leading institution that grows and develops with and for its students for the next 50 years and beyond.

## Celebrating success

During the last year, your University has seen its world-renowned research and BBC broadcast partnership receive numerous accolades and awards, including a BAFTA. 2017 was the most successful year to date for streaming the OU's academic excellence into viewers' homes and mobile devices

Away from broadcasting but equally exciting, the OU has been announced as a major partner in the UK's new £40 million Institute of Coding to train the next generation of digital specialists. And there are many more such stories, some of them in your magazine.

I am so proud of all of our alumni and students and their inspirational stories. Thank you for being part of our OU family.

Mary Kellett  
Acting Vice-Chancellor



email [alumni@open.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@open.ac.uk)

# PROUD TO BE A PART OF A UNIQUE UNIVERSITY



The first Open University graduation ceremony, held at Alexandra Palace in 1973

## Our story so far...

What one man considered to be his greatest achievement has led to many others achieving what they never thought possible.

Harold Wilson outlined his radical idea of a 'university that was open to everyone' in a speech in 1963, and on 23rd April 1969 The Open University was granted a Royal Charter. As we approach our 50th Anniversary, our mission remains the same, 'to be open to people, places, methods and ideas'. Today The Open University is the UK's largest academic institution empowering over two million students worldwide to transform their lives and to achieve their dreams.



We were the first university in the world to have the imagination and foresight to embrace the new technologies of television and radio, in addition to extensive printed material to deliver our courses.

Our long standing partnership with the BBC continues today enabling us to educate and inspire the widest possible audiences with landmark programming such as *Blue Planet II*, *Horizon* and *Coast*.



In addition, our free online platforms OpenLearn and FutureLearn, along with our partners and businesses, continue to innovate and inspire learning for millions across the globe.

**We couldn't have done it without YOU - our alumni. We always love to hear your OU stories - what inspired you to sign up, what you gained from the experience, and what made you proud!**

We are planning an exciting programme of events and initiatives to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We hope you can join us!



**Get involved and share  
your story** [alumni.open.ac.uk](https://alumni.open.ac.uk)

# ONE UNIVERSITY. FOUR NATIONS.

The OU is proud to be a four nation University offering local support to students through offices in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Here is some of the exciting and valuable work that is happening.

## OU in Scotland brings ZEST to Zambia

Zambian Education School-based Training (ZEST), a project to help primary school teachers develop their skills, started work in October 2017. Led by The Open University in Scotland (OUIs) with support from the International Development Office, ZEST will reach 4,000 teachers across Zambia's Central Province.

"Quality primary education is critical to the economic and social wellbeing of Zambia and we are delighted to receive funding which will help to make that a reality," said Susan Stewart, Director of OUIs.

"Building on the OU's skills in, and experience of, education and teacher training across Africa, we will work with World Vision Zambia and Zambia's Ministry of General Education to create an online professional development programme for primary school teachers across Zambia, focused on enabling them to take a student-centred approach to teaching."

 [open.ac.uk/scotland](https://open.ac.uk/scotland)

## OU in Wales launches new 'STEM talent' programme

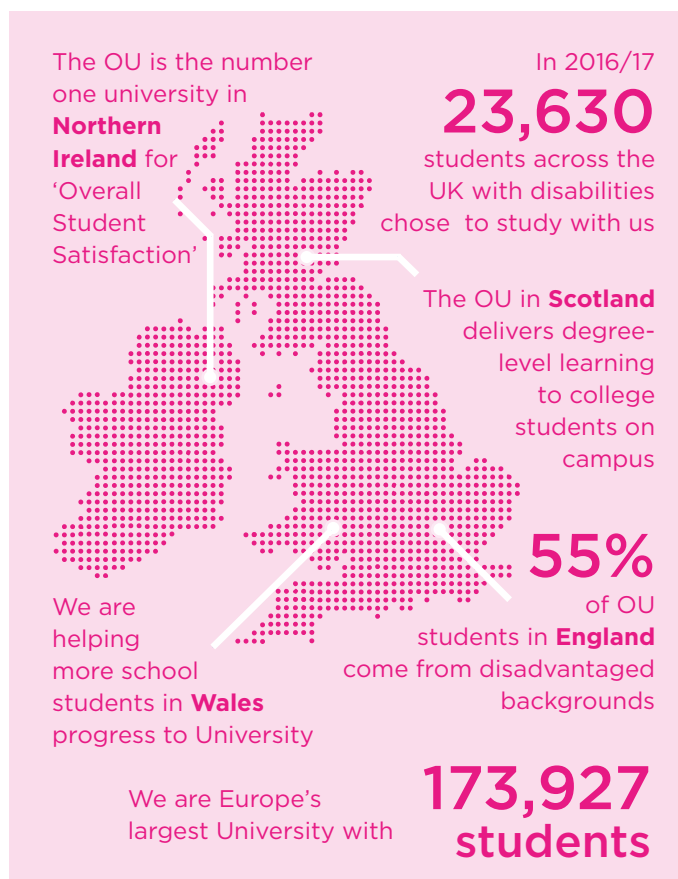
The Open University in Wales has launched a new 'STEM talent' programme which enables sixth form students to study an OU science, technology, engineering or mathematics module during their studies.

It will provide them with evidence which can help to strengthen their UCAS applications and help them to stand out when applying for competitive university courses.

As part of this programme, The Open University in Wales is offering students from under-represented groups a bursary to study one of these courses for free. The initiative has been developed in partnership with the all-Wales Reaching Wider network.

Eleri Chilcott, Widening Access Manager, OU in Wales said: "We are delighted that through this project we can offer more Welsh students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to undertake OU study."


 [open.ac.uk/wales/stemtalent](https://open.ac.uk/wales/stemtalent)



## OU in Ireland hosts panel discussion on Languages of Ulster

The Open University in Ireland recently hosted a discussion event on the recent BBC/OU co-production *Languages of Ulster*. The three-part documentary series, explored Ulster's unique linguistic traditions – Irish Gaelic, northern Hiberno-English and Ulster-Scots – and the relationship between them.

Chaired by John D'Arcy (Director, OU Ireland), the panel discussed a number of aspects relating to language in Ulster, common words and some of the highlights from the series. On the panel were some of the key contributors to the series and experts in Irish and Ulster-Scots: Michael Fanning (Below the Radar TV), Laura Spence (local historian and author), Pauline Holland (Queen's University Belfast) and Máire Bhreathnach (broadcaster).

 [open.edu/openlearn/languagesofulster](https://open.edu/openlearn/languagesofulster)



# GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER...

The OU's partnership with the BBC has had one of its most successful years and continues to go from strength to strength reaching millions of people with ground-breaking programmes. *Blue Planet II* had tremendous success and inspired hundreds of thousands of people to request our Oceans poster with over 800,000 visitors to the broadcast pages on OpenLearn. OU/BBC programmes also generate unique assets for our teaching and learning: the Brontë drama, *To Walk Invisible* provided content for Creative Writing (A803), and *The Detectives* was used extensively including in Forensic Psychology (DD802).

There were a number of highlights from last year including: *The Human Body: Secrets of Your Life Revealed* (accompanied by an OU poster with Augmented reality app); *Hospital*; *Dangerous Border: A Journey Across India and Pakistan*; and *The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway*.

We are continually working hard to bring you a great range of inspiring programmes that support our teaching and learning as well as providing engagement opportunities.

## Civilisations

This fascinating new nine-part series explored the visual culture of societies from around the globe revealing not only the magnificent objects made in the West but the wealth of treasures created by other cultures, from the landscape scrolls of classical China to African bronzes, Japanese prints and Mughal miniatures. There are also a range of events taking place at galleries and museums across the nations and regions. Free poster available (pictured) on OpenLearn. Available on iPlayer.



## Super Sewer

*Super Sewer* is a new three-part documentary series following Thames Water's £4bn construction project, the biggest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the UK water industry, designed to address the problem of around 39 million tonnes of raw sewage flowing into the Thames every year. As well as being a mega-engineering documentary it will explore London's rich history and the characters who've shaped it. With London's population set to swell to over 10 million within the next 15 years, Thames Water has addressed the situation with a radical solution: the enormous Thames Tideway Tunnel. (BBC2, Summer 2018)

## Inside the Foreign Office

The Foreign and Commonwealth office is one of our oldest, most prestigious, yet least understood government departments. For the first time in over twenty years, the FCO opens its doors to the BBC to examine some of the major issues of our time. (BBC2, Autumn 2018)

## School

The education system is facing the most significant financial pressures in decades and schools are under closer scrutiny than ever before. With unprecedented access to a Multi-Academy Trust, this series examines the parallel experience of school leaders, teachers and students as fundamental questions are asked about how to educate a new generation of young adults. (BBC2, Autumn 2018)



For more details  
about OU/BBC series,

including printed items, more content  
and information about the amazing  
academics who work on the programmes

[open.edu/openlearn/tv-radio-events](https://open.edu/openlearn/tv-radio-events)



Interested in a new topic and want to dig deeper? Or maybe you're passionate about a subject. Whether it's a five minute exploration or a 24-hour expedition into learning that you're after, you'll find it on OpenLearn for free.

There are almost 1,000 free courses, topical and interactive content, videos and online games on OpenLearn. Join the 7 million learners inspired to study for free. Here are just a few of the exciting courses available:

### Collection of badged employability courses

Did you know that the OU offers a range of free Badged Open Courses (BOC) all geared toward helping you improve your employability skills and benefit your career? Courses include: Leadership and followership; Developing career resilience; Working in the voluntary sector; Returning to STEM – and much more!

➤ Search: **EMPLOYABILITY**

### Digital literacy: succeeding in a digital world

Develop your confidence and skills for life online, whether study, work or everyday life. Explore a range of digital skills and practices, including digital identity, digital well-being, staying safe and legal, finding and using information and online tools, and dealing with information overload.

➤ Search: **DIGITAL LITERACY**



➤ Search: **BOOKS FOR CHILDREN**

### Exploring books for children: Words and pictures

Many people have fond memories of the wonderful picture books and illustrated tales they encountered as a child, which fired imaginations and transported them into magical worlds. This course looks at how children's books use words and pictures together, in remarkably sophisticated ways, to communicate both to young and older readers. It draws on examples from the classics, such as Beatrix Potter's Tales of Peter Rabbit, and from contemporary children's authors such as Anthony Browne, author of Gorilla.



➤ Search: **SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY**

### Exploring sport coaching and psychology

Have you ever wondered how coaching and psychology really influence sports people? This course explores the subject from an athlete's point of view and includes specially shot videos featuring GB hockey player Alex Danson (pictured above), who draws on her own experiences of coaching and psychology and how they contributed to her success in sport.

➤ For more information or to get started [open.edu/openlearn](https://open.edu/openlearn)

## AN OPEN MIND TO AN AWARD WINNING ENGINEER

The OU was founded to offer people who, for whatever reason, had missed out on a University education. For many this remains true today.

After growing up in care, Faye Banks left school at 16 with no qualifications and started working in low skilled manual jobs. Bored and frustrated with her limited career options she decided to go back to college to get her GCSEs – she achieved straight As proving herself more than capable. Then something momentous happened...

“ I saw an advert for the OU in the local newspaper and it ticked every box, so I enrolled and have never looked back. I chose to study Engineering because I knew there was (and still is) a shortage of female engineers in the UK. ”



In 2000 Faye began her OU journey and, over the last 18 years, she has continued studying to achieve an MBA, MSc, MEng and started an LLM in November 2017. Her

OU qualifications have seen her career go from strength to strength as Engineering Consultant for Enzen Global Ltd and she has recently secured a role as Director of Energy for Costain.

Faye describes the OU as life-changing, yet challenging. Studying around a full-time job was tough but she was organised, reading in lunch breaks and in the evenings and listening to tutorials whilst travelling.



“ It has enabled me to achieve my dream of becoming an Engineering Consultant and without my OU qualification, I would never have had the opportunity to develop into this role. ”

In 2004 Faye became the *UK Young Woman of the Year*, won the *National Higher Educational Gold Award* in 2005 and became the Institute of Engineering and Technology's (IET) Youngest Fellow in 2015, as well as being listed in the *Telegraph's Top 50 UK Female Engineers* 2016.

➤ **More Student and Alumni Stories**  
[alumni.open.ac.uk](http://alumni.open.ac.uk)

## THE ANTOINE COUSOT SCHOLARSHIPS FUND



© Eye Liner Photography

**Antoine Cousot**

Life-long sailing enthusiast Antoine Cousot left school at 17 to travel the world. He chose to study with The Open University, over an offer from Harvard, as distance learning was the only way he could study while at sea.

Studying Earth Sciences with the OU enhanced Antoine's skills and knowledge as a skipper. Now he wants to use what he has learned in a round-the-globe sailing race, to raise funds for more students to share the opportunities that he had. Antoine will be sailing in the 2018 Golden Globe Race, a celebration of the 1968/69 race in which Sir Robin Knox-Johnston became the only entrant to complete the race. This year competitors will sail single-handed, non-stop, around the world with only the same types of yachts and equipment that were available 50 years ago.

The Antoine Cousot Scholarships Fund will give students the opportunity to transform their futures with an Open University education in Environment, Earth and Ecosystem Sciences.

➤ **Follow Antoine's progress or for more information**  
[giving.open.ac.uk](http://giving.open.ac.uk)



## BUILDING YOUR CAREER CONFIDENCE

Whether you're a student or have qualified with the OU within the last 3 years, the OU Careers and Employability Services are here to help you make the life or career change you dream about.

We offer online and useful downloadable tools such as our Career Planning and Job Seeking Workbook; live and recorded webinars; forums from CV workshops run by OU specialists to skills sessions run by guest experts and employers; JobZone, our online vacancy service; and one-to-one professional careers guidance.

Newly qualified OU graduates and students are at the heart of our work. To help connect you with employers, our Employer Engagement Team work with companies and organisations large and small, demonstrating the talent, experience and added value that OU students and alumni can bring to their teams.



**Follow us on social media**

**@OpenUniCareers** on Twitter, **OpenUniCareers** on Facebook - for current careers news, events and employer opportunities; and join **The Open University Careers Network (TOUCaN)** on LinkedIn to hone your networking skills.



The help I received helped me get a job with much better prospects and has lifted my spirits. ”

## WORKING WITH INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP STAFF – HOW YOUR COMPANY COULD BENEFIT TOO

You have experienced learning with the OU, so you understand how unique we are. High quality, flexible, scalable and affordable learning – delivered when and where it is needed. But we're not only academic experts, we understand industry too. By bringing these two elements together we have an exciting offering of cost-effective solutions for organisations large and small to help them to invest in, develop and upskill their staff.

We offer more than 600 modules across a range of subjects, with flexible teaching methods and we can adapt solutions to any organisation's unique needs.



I would recommend working with The Open University to other businesses. Their flexibility, professionalism and quality of management training are of great value to us. ”

Kay Devine, Graduate Development Lead, FirstGroup plc.

We meet all these needs and more with a range of workforce training solutions which include undergraduate and postgraduate modules and qualifications, short courses, higher and degree apprenticeships and tailored learning programmes.

We launched our degree and higher apprenticeships offering in 2016 and currently provide employers with flexible, technology-enabled apprenticeship training for new and existing staff in leadership and management, digital skills and healthcare. Later this year, we'll be launching degree apprenticeships for social work and policing.

**60%**

of FTSE 100 companies sponsored staff with the OU in 2016/17



**Find out more**

**business@open.ac.uk**  
**0300 303 0122**  
**open.ac.uk/business**

# FASS FACTS



In FASS, our subjects cover the full range of humanity and society, and this is reflected in our teaching, research, and our engagement with other global institutions. From consulting on the award winning *Exodus: our journey into Europe*; through exhibitions on the historical importance of Indians in Britain; debates on Grenfell Tower; the place of women in the IT sector; and climate change, our academics explore all aspects of human societies, and bring that learning directly to our students and alumni.”

Ian Fribbance, Executive Dean

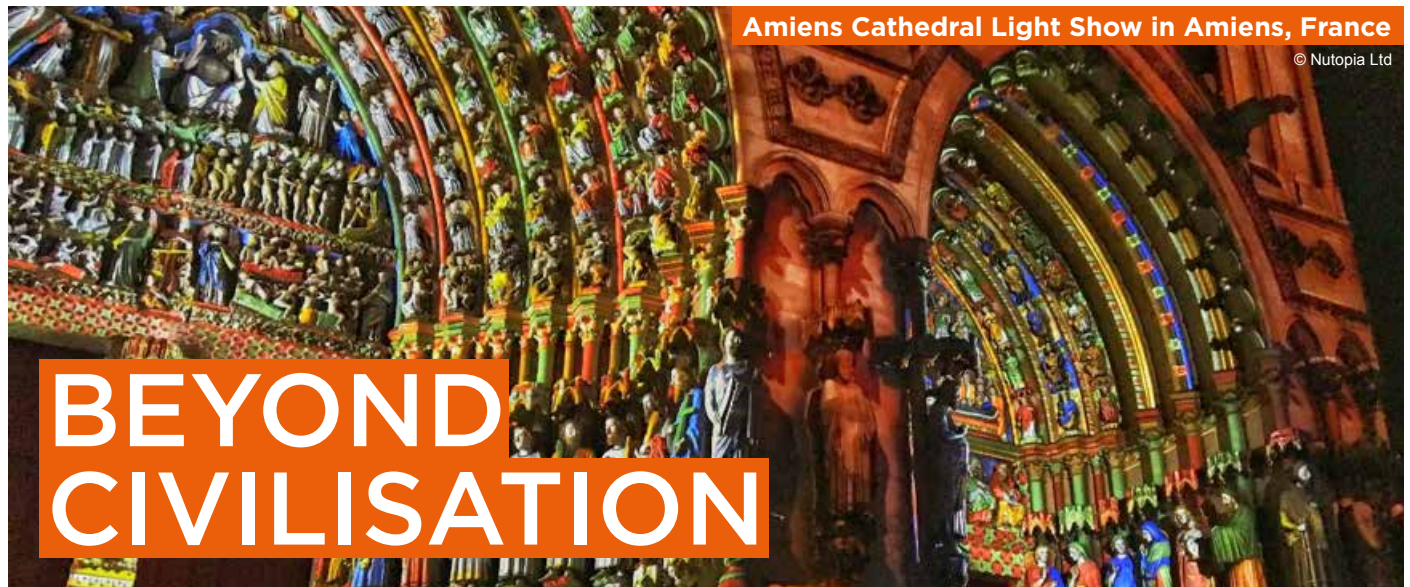
The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences comprises four schools:

- Arts and Cultures
- History, Religious Studies, Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology
- Politics, Philosophy, Economics, Development and Geography
- Psychology



For more  
information

[fass.open.ac.uk](http://fass.open.ac.uk)



Amiens Cathedral Light Show in Amiens, France

© Nutopia Ltd

## BEYOND CIVILISATION

Our long-standing relationship with the BBC continued with a new major landmark series *Civilisations* (co-produced by the BBC and The Open University with Nutopia and PBS). The series presented by Simon Schama, Mary Beard and David Olusoga, explored the visual cultures of societies from around the globe, speaking to local experts, artists and practitioners, those who live with and love the art as well as those who make or study it. Academic consultants for the series were Dr Kathleen Christian and Professor Emerita Gill Perry of the discipline of Art History in the School of Arts and Cultures.

Prof Perry and Dr Christian explained that this new series explores multiple civilisations that emerged independently in places and periods across the world. Each episode focused on a universal theme such as the human body, landscape, colour, religion, and contact between cultures, meaning that “We

come away with a richer and more complex notion of what ‘civilisation’ might mean.”

*Civilisations* is the latest broadcast success for FASS following, in 2016-17: *Blitz: the bombs that changed Britain*; *The Music of Time*; *Dangerous Border*; *Hugh's Wild West*; *The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway*; *Prejudice and Pride*; *To Walk Invisible*; *Living Shakespeare*; *Sleuths, Spies & Sorcerers*; *Meet the Lords*; *Exodus: our journey to Europe*; and *Thinking Allowed*.



For more information

Material, discussion and debate around these and other programmes, our research, and courses, is available on OpenLearn [open.edu/openlearn](http://open.edu/openlearn)

# HERITAGE IN WAR

In December last year, the UK finally ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in war zones. Deliberately damaging 'cultural property' ('movable and immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people') without 'military necessity' will be a war crime. This raises complex ethical issues involving a trade-off between protecting heritage and risking human life. Taking ground, or damaging the enemy's military capability, in a way that does not damage buildings often involves a greater risk to our soldiers than it would if we were able to damage buildings. How much risk is acceptable? Can we ask our pilots to put their lives at greater risk so as not to damage a museum? Can we ask them to find riskier ways to oust the enemy from ancient sites than the traditional method of lobbing in quantities of high-explosive?

We can put the matter another way around. Can we kill people to prevent them from damaging cultural property? The UN resolution for activities in Mali seems to think so; allowing 'all necessary means' to support a mission that includes 'protecting from attack the cultural and historical sites in Mali'. This follows in the wake of allowing lethal means to preserve environmental heritage; rangers appear to be free to kill poachers in National Parks in both India and Africa.

To try to sort some of these problems out, Derek Matravers from the OU and Helen Frowe from the Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace are running a government-funded three-year project involving the military, politicians, lawyers, archaeologists and heritage professionals. They aim to produce a comprehensive theoretical background to these issues, which will improve the quality of thinking and decision-making when it comes to practical action.

For more information  
[heritageinwar.com](http://heritageinwar.com)

## LATEST COURSES

You can choose if you want to study the whole qualification or individual modules - as Continued Professional Development or learning for personal pleasure.



**>> BA (Hons) Criminology:** Cover topical and controversial issues, examine social economic and power relations which change how crime and justice are understood, and learn how to apply research tools and evaluate data on crime.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**>> Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza support for Classics.** Thanks to a generous donation, the Department of Classical Studies has been able to appoint Virginia Campbell as The Baron Thyssen Lecturer in Classical Studies for the current academic year. Virginia's research focuses on the graffiti and social networks of ancient Pompeii as well as political campaigning in the ancient world. Previously, Baron Thyssen's donations have supported the development of the level 3 module on the Roman Empire, resulting in the launch of the single honours degree in Classical Studies.

**>> The School of Psychology is investigating our interaction with the modern world.**

Dr Liza Lazard's Digital Mothering Project explores the online life of mothers in the context of 'sharenting', parenting apps and wider social media. [open.ac.uk/ccig/blogs/methods-in-motion-26-lisa-lazard-on-digital-motherhood](http://open.ac.uk/ccig/blogs/methods-in-motion-26-lisa-lazard-on-digital-motherhood)

**>> Ground-breaking research by Professor of Sociology Marie Gillespie,** with France Media Monde, explored the risky but essential use of mobile phones by Syrian and Iraqi refugees in "Mapping Refugee Media Journeys", contributing to BBC's award-winning *Exodus*. [open.ac.uk/ccig/research/projects/mapping-refugee-media-journeys](http://open.ac.uk/ccig/research/projects/mapping-refugee-media-journeys)

**>> Research by Professor of Criminology Steve Tombs into the Grenfell Tower fire** is contributing to the debate on the dimensions of harm and of justice around the tragedy. [oucriminology.wordpress.com/2017/12/14/grenfell-unfolding-dimensions-of-harm](http://oucriminology.wordpress.com/2017/12/14/grenfell-unfolding-dimensions-of-harm)

**>> Our live online streamed events,** where you can engage with our academics and their work, include Brexit, our new qualifications, courses, and research projects. Previous events are available on catch-up. [studenthublive.open.ac.uk](http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk)

**>> BA (Hons) Economics:** Highly applicable to many professional workplaces, you will analyse real-world topics, apply statistical methods and develop skills in analytical thought, research and numeracy.

**>> BA (Hons) Music:** Relevant to many careers, including teaching and sound-recording, you'll study a wide range of musical genres, and develop practical music making, as well as creating, analysing, and studying the social context of music.



# FBL FOCUS



“As Interim Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL), I am delighted to introduce the achievements and successes of the Faculty. The stories highlighted in this edition are just a handful of what’s been going on and what we are able to deliver as a Law School and a world-class, triple accredited Business School.”

Professor Devendra Kodwani

The Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) comprises **The Open University Business School (OUBS)** and **The Open University Law School (OULS)**

➔ **For more information**  
**[business-school.open.ac.uk](https://business-school.open.ac.uk)**  
**[law-school.open.ac.uk](https://law-school.open.ac.uk)**

## HELPING YOUNG ADULTS WITH THEIR PERSONAL FINANCES

More than 300,000 people have benefited from the mission of The True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance, housed under The Open University Business School, ensuring everyone feels confident to manage their own personal finances.

The Centre of Excellence for Personal Finance, established in 2013, has launched dedicated learning materials for young adults and teachers to support personal finance education as part of the national curriculum.



**Bobby Seagull**

Bobby Seagull, star of BBC's *University Challenge* joined forces with MoneySavingExpert's Martin Lewis to develop a free course specifically designed for the financial education needs of 16-18 year olds. *Managing my money for young adults*, available on OpenLearn, was launched in November 2017.

The course, funded by The Chartered Accountants' Livery Company Charity, comprises eight bite-sized, video-based sessions of learning and quizzes – each involving around three hours' study time. It covers the financial education needs of those moving on in their adult lives to employment, apprenticeships and higher education, and can be studied alone by students at times that suit them or in group sessions in schools or colleges, facilitated by teaching staff.



Students from Denbigh School, one of the Business School's academic partners, were featured on *BBC Look East* discussing the course.

The course was produced by Martin Upton, Director of the True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance, who said: "The financial challenges now facing young people are daunting – including choosing the financial products, understanding higher education finance, living in shared accommodation and trying to get onto the property ladder."

"This free online course enables young people to get to grips with personal financial management and make well-informed decisions. The course, which comes with an online budgeting tool, can be studied at home or in the classroom. To assist teachers delivering its content, a detailed study pack is also provided."

➔ **Find out more**  
**[open.edu/openlearn](https://open.edu/openlearn)** and search for  
**'Managing my money'**

## ENSURING POLICING CAN MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES

The Centre for Policing Research and Learning has an ambitious and innovative programme of education, research and knowledge exchange and collaborates closely with 18 police forces in the UK and more than 50 academics across all faculties and institutes of the OU in a range of projects.

One of the Centre's projects involves working with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to undertake action research to support all 43 police forces in England and Wales to transform their training, learning and development functions.

This £1.1m two-year Home Office funded project is designed to help forces meet the changing demands of policing, including cybercrime and vulnerability, and community policy. The project will prepare forces for the implementation of the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF) which will require all new entrants to policing to be graduates or studying for a degree by 2020. In another project, the University is also involved in preparing qualification materials for the police constable degree apprenticeship.

## THE REEF RESEARCH CENTRE

REEF (Research into Employment, Empowerment and Futures), co-founded in 2017 by Dr Peter Bloom and *The People Space*, is the first research centre of its kind to focus on the future of empowerment in the age of coming technological 'disruption'. It is devoted to co-creating and putting into place concrete proposals, practices and strategies for making empowered futures a reality today.

The Centre is currently working on a range of funded projects around themes of 'virtual citizenship', 'mobile organising' and 'digital inclusion'. This includes a near £100,000 grant for 'Virtual Inclusion: Tackling Hate and Extremism through VR (Virtual Reality) Technology' funded by Google and the Institute of Strategic Dialogue, as well as a recent £250,000 Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 'transformative research' bid investigating the role of virtual technology for reinvigorating democracy and civil society. It has also started a new £72,000 corporate partnership with MHR to research and develop 'people first analytics' in the workplace.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**>> On TV - *Flatpack Empire*:** Dr Fiona Harris and Julian Cooper were the two academic consultants from the Business School working on a three-part OU / BBC 2 documentary, *Flatpack Empire*. This focused on Swedish furniture retail giant IKEA.

**>> Open Justice Centre's funding success:** The Law School's Open Justice Centre has been awarded more than £67,000 from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to develop a prototype online learning module in discrimination and human rights law training. This is a five-month collaborative project with AdviceUK.

**>> On the radio - *The Bottom Line*:** A new eight-part series of the OU / BBC partnership, *The Bottom Line*, was broadcast on Radio 4 during February and March 2018. Presented by Open University Honorary Graduate Evan Davis, it covered a variety of topics and big issues with top business leaders from the UK and around the world.

**>> Collaborative European project on the horizon:** Professor Edoardo Ongaro is leading a large Horizon 2020 consortium project comprising 11 European partners. The European Commission is funding the project examining European public agencies with a total amount of €4,559,298 from which the University's share is €184,972.



Dr Peter Bloom



Find out more

A new feature length documentary, ***The Future of Empowerment Today***, is available on **YouTube** and **OpenLearn**

# SPOTLIGHT ON STEM



2018 is an exciting year for STEM. We are working with government and industry on new apprenticeships for students, and, of course, forging new partnerships. As part of our endeavour to encourage more women into STEM we are very excited to announce our partnerships with the Women's Engineering Society (WES) and with STEM Returners. I am delighted to share with you some of our achievements. ”

Professor Josie Fraser, Executive Dean

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) comprises:

- **Computing and Communications**
- **Engineering and Innovation**
- **Environment, Earth and Ecosystem Sciences**
- **Life, Health and Chemical Sciences**
- **Mathematics and Statistics**
- **Physical Sciences**
- **Knowledge Media Institute**



**For more information**  
**[stem.open.ac.uk](http://stem.open.ac.uk)**



The Open University is a lead partner in the Institute of Coding (IoC) ([www.instituteofcoding.org](http://www.instituteofcoding.org)), a new national initiative that brings together a range of universities with industry, training providers and professional bodies to address the UK's digital skill gaps. Led by the University of Bath, the Institute's vision is to enhance the education and employability of every IoC learner, to ensure that employers and individuals across the UK can access the skills they need to compete in the global digital economy.

The Open University's STEM Faculty, specifically the Knowledge Media Institute and the School of Computing and Communications, will lead on the project, upholding our culture of innovation in education at scale, combined with our social mission. We will lead the first theme *University Learners*, working to transform graduate employability through a new standard, co-designed with industry, for the accreditation of IoC programmes. This work will build on our experience with distance education and learners studying while in work. We will also contribute to the development of a range of courses, including data science and cyber security, to provide relevant and timely enhancements to digital skills. The Open University will also investigate innovative ways of recording students' learning achievements on an educational blockchain, which will allow learners to carry their progress from one employer and education provider to others.

Project lead at the OU, Professor John Domingue, also Director of the Knowledge Media Institute, said:

"We are extremely excited to be playing a leading role within the IoC as there is a fabulous fit between our values and expertise and the goals of this enterprise."

Professor Arosha Bandara, Head of the School of Computing and Communications at The Open University said, "Being a leading partner of the Institute of Coding provides a unique opportunity to enhance the way we teach a range of digital skills, from programming and networking to cyber security and data science. We look forward to working with partners in academia and industry to deliver on the vision of the IoC"

This unique and innovative collaboration has been made possible with £20m from the Higher Education Funding Council for England and match funding from universities and industry partners.



There are some exciting developments in the STEM curriculum with substantial strategic investment in new areas, including Cyber Security, Data Science and Coding for problem solving across STEM disciplines. Our Engineering curriculum is also expanding with a new Electronics pathway already available to students and a Mechanical Engineering pathway which will become available from 2020.

Our portfolio of degree apprenticeships is growing, with undergraduate and postgraduate offers in a number of Computing specialisms, and for Laboratory Scientists, all to be available from October 2018. More specialisms are in the pipeline, such as Systems Practitioner and Data Scientist, and we'll be ready to go once the related standards are approved by the Institute of Apprenticeships. ”

Lucia Rapanotti, Associate Dean - Curriculum





## BLUE PLANET II

One of the latest successful collaborations between the STEM Faculty and BBC Natural History unit was *Blue Planet II*. The four STEM academics who advised throughout production were Drs Pallavi Anand, Mark Brandon, Mandy Dyson, and Phil Sexton. Their role was to provide the science background to underpin the series. They also compiled the “Oceans” poster that was requested by around 500,000 people.

*Blue Planet II*'s footage of the human impact on the oceans was, in places, hard to watch. Plastic bags floating at depth drift through our seas, and plastic debris has been found in the stomachs of albatross on remote islands. Perhaps more insidious are micro-plastics: the tiny remnants that are now found in almost every sea studied. But use of plastic is endemic and it will need Government intervention to improve the situation.

We are rightly proud that we can tie so many of our Open University mission goals in education, research and impact together.

To find out more and download a poster visit [open.edu/openlearn](https://open.edu/openlearn) and search Blue Planet II.

## WIPING OUT FOOD WASTE

In response to the huge impact that food waste and packaging has on the planet The Open University is working on plans to create The Centre for Waste Innovation and Public Education (WIPE). A bold and ambitious alliance of physical and social sciences working together, the Centre will enable government, industry and the general public to access new and unique waste related research and policy guidance.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

>> To celebrate the Year of Engineering, the STEM Faculty will be launching **#EngineerMe**, a social media campaign to share and celebrate all things Engineering, and in June the Faculty will be hosting our annual Women in Engineering Conference for OU students.

>> **Mathematics & Statistics Senior Lecturer Tim Lowe** and his development team have won a funding prize at the HEA Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence awards, for a three-year dissemination plan of their opensource ‘System for Teaching and Assessment using a Computer algebra Kernel’ (STACK) software that powers our iCMAs and online practice quizzes.

>> The School of Physical Sciences are pleased to announce their **new Badged Open Course Astronomy with a robotic telescope** which will launch in the summer and will give free access to the OpenSTEM Observatories for a period of time. Also, watch out for the first science results from the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, currently orbiting Mars.

>> **Life, Health and Chemical Sciences (LHCS) Lecturers Simon Collinson and Nick Chatterton**, with LHCS colleagues and collaborators from industry, are processing crop by-product into nanomaterials for food shelf-life extension. The research involves so-called electrospinning of crop by-products blended with antibacterial compounds and biodegradable natural polymers, such as chitosan from shellfish, to yield new food packaging materials.

>> **KMi's OUAlyse Project builds machine learning models** to identify students at risk of dropping out of courses. In a current pilot, tutors use OUAlyse to support students. It also enables student services to make personalised study recommendations.

>> **The OU's OpenWASH project**, providing learning resources for the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in Ethiopia, is



progressing well. In partnership with WaterAid, we are preparing a new module about accessibility and the challenges of ensuring WASH facilities are available to all.

# WELCOME TO WELS



“ WELS spans a fascinating range of subjects from early years to end-of-life care – including childhood and youth; education; foreign languages; inter-cultural communication; linguistics; health; nursing; social care; social work; and sports and fitness.

If you are one of our Nursing or Social Work graduates, you will know that WELS plays a UK-wide role addressing the shortage of practitioners. Here is a compilation of some of recent our activities.”

Dr Sally Hayes, Interim Executive Dean

The Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS) comprises three schools:

- **Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport**
- **Health, Wellbeing and Social Care**
- **Languages and Applied Linguistics**



**For more information**

**[wels.open.ac.uk](http://wels.open.ac.uk)**



## SUPPORTING TEACHER EDUCATION IN SIERRA LEONE

For a number of years, WELS colleagues Kimberly Safford and Martin Crisp have been working alongside the Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and teacher training colleges to plan for, and support, young women's progress through the Learning Assist programme in Sierra Leone.

Thanks for the UK Government funded Girls' Education Challenge, and a combination of OU distance learning resources and in-school work experience, the programme has provided a route into teaching for over 500 young women.



## MAKING TEACHER EDUCATION RELEVANT FOR 21ST CENTURY AFRICA

Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA) is the Faculty's long-running and highly-regarded teacher development project. TESSA's latest development is a new MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) *Making teacher education relevant for 21st century Africa*.

The MOOC has attracted over 1,800 participants from across the globe, mainly from African countries and is supporting teachers making major changes in African schools to raise achievement and to cope with rapidly increasing student numbers.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

>> **Understanding Mental Capacity is a new FREE Badged Open Course (BOC) available on OpenLearn.** The course covers the principles and criteria underpinning the assessment of mental capacity and decision making. It explains the legislation across the four nations of the UK, and how it is applied in practical ways. [open.edu/openlearn](https://open.edu/openlearn)

>> **German: A new MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)** *German at Work Post - Beginners 1: Deutsch am Arbeitsplatz* is the first in a series of four MOOCs which were commissioned by, and available on FutureLearn as part of the European Union's *Your first EURES job* programme. [futurelearn.com](https://futurelearn.com)

### >> New languages and communication skills:

We are developing a suite of exciting short courses, perfect for OU graduates looking to enhance their skills and capabilities in a range of subjects, from beginners and intermediate language courses. Keep an eye on the website for future announcements:

[wels.open.ac.uk/news](https://wels.open.ac.uk/news)

## BLAZING A TRAIL ON APPRENTICESHIPS

As pioneers of work-based learning, WELS is at the forefront of developing and delivering Higher and Degree Apprenticeships.

We were one of the first universities to be approved by the Nursing & Midwifery Council to deliver the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship in England and our first nursing student-apprentices are already studying and learning in healthcare practice.

In 2017 we secured funding from the Higher Education Funding Council in England (HEFCE) to lead a national project, working with employers to plan ahead for the upcoming Social Worker Degree Apprenticeship (expected to be available from autumn 2018).

“ There are countless capable and talented people from many diverse backgrounds - including people with disabilities as well as people of different ages and from under-represented ethnic groups - who have the potential to be good social workers but either lack the confidence in themselves or have simply never given social work or university a second thought. ”

Jenny Simpson, Head of Social Work England

## LATEST COURSES: MOVE ON UP TO MASTERS

Postgraduate loans and other grants and funding options (including employer support) can make moving on to Masters more accessible and affordable than you think. And, if you found study rewarding and successful, why not explore options to continue your study with us. *Here is a sample of some Masters programmes available:*

**MA in Education (F70)** Our Masters in Education (F70) offers four specialist routes - applied linguistics; inclusive practice; leadership and management; or learning and teaching. This means you can choose a pathway to support your professional development and specific skills in academic research.

**Masters in Social Work (F80)** WELS now offers a postgraduate programme in Social Work (a PG Diploma and MA in Social Work) offering the opportunity for graduates (of any discipline) who work in, or have experience of, social care to qualify as social workers in 18 months.

### **MSc in Advancing Healthcare Practice (F52)**

If you are a graduate working in healthcare, a postgraduate qualification is now becoming a requirement for moving on to senior roles. This postgraduate programme will equip you with knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to senior roles in health and social care.



### **MA in Childhood and Youth (F55)**

This interdisciplinary study of childhood and youth will enhance your knowledge of this area, whether you're already working in the field or planning to do so. You'll begin by exploring areas such as family; law; children's rights; consumerist childhoods; education; ethnicity and religion; and, child criminology, using case studies linking theory to practice.



### Next steps

For more information on these courses or to check your eligibility for postgraduate loans, visit [open.ac.uk/postgraduate](https://open.ac.uk/postgraduate)



# OPEN UP THE FUTURE



Our Open Up The Future campaign is our first major fundraising campaign, aiming to raise £50 million by the end of our 50th anniversary year in 2020. Now in its third year, the fundraising campaign is over half way through and has raised £29 million thanks to the generosity of alumni, businesses and foundations.

The campaign centres on one simple act that has always come naturally to the University: that of Opening up:

Opening up **OPPORTUNITY** through multi-million pound scholarships programmes so that barriers of financial need and circumstance of birth, gender and life don't prohibit an individual from learning.

Opening up **MINDS** through the power of connected, open and free learning.

Opening up **THINKING** through our leading and cutting-edge research: research that encompasses our day to day lives, our careers, our children, our oceans, our planet and much more.

Opening up **LIVES** across the world and playing our part in the world achieving its Global Goals in Quality Education and Health.

Our alumni are proof that with the OU where you start in life doesn't limit where you go. A stay-at-home mum can become an engineer, an African schoolboy living in poverty can learn to set up his own business and ground-breaking research can lead to a dog helping to detect cancer. Our Open Up The Future campaign has been supporting this, and so much more.



If you'd like to know more or contribute to our Open Up The Future campaign visit [giving.open.ac.uk](https://giving.open.ac.uk) and help us make the impossible possible.



Veterans who are disabled in the line of duty find themselves abruptly robbed of both a career and a way of life. Everything changes. They have to come to terms with a major transformation of their life – one that they were unlikely to be prepared for.

To help veterans with a disability unlock their potential, and to help utilise their extensive practical experience, we are offering 100 full scholarships. These scholarships will be supported by bespoke disability and career support.

The Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund has been designed to help veterans by offering the financial support they need to embark on higher education study along with vital care and advice to help them

succeed and start the next chapter of their lives.

We are now accepting applications from disabled veterans for scholarships in this programme. For more information, or to apply, visit [open.ac.uk/courses/choose/veterans](https://open.ac.uk/courses/choose/veterans)

# WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS OUT OF THIS WORLD RESULTS



## On a mission – students and alumni collaborate on space project

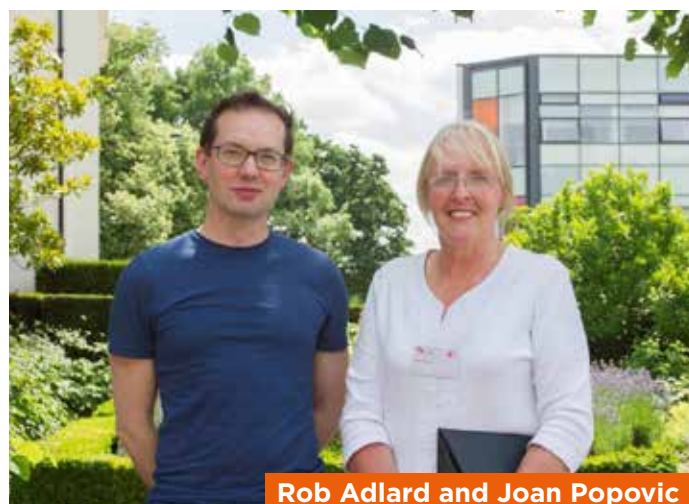
The Open University may not be the traditional University experience but its students and alumni still form a strong community. Only those who have been involved truly know the hard work and determination that goes into OU study – long nights, early mornings, missed social events and often all whilst balancing learning with work and family life. Study methods may have changed over the last 50 years but the sense of a shared experience remains.

Last year, we launched the OU's crowdfunding platform, *The OU Crowd*, and the OU Rover team, led by OU engineering student, Rob Adlard, was the inaugural project and did much more than raise funds – it brought OU graduates and current students together.

Over 80 OU alumni, staff and supporters contributed to help a team of OU students build a Mars Rover to compete in the 2018 University Rover Challenge in Utah, USA. The competition was tough with 95 Universities entering from around the world and only 36 teams advancing to the finals. Although the team didn't make it through this year they are determined to be there in 2019. And not disheartened, they are currently working on their competition entry for the 2018 European Rover Challenge. The University is so proud of the team and can't wait to see what the future brings.

One of the particularly generous donors was OU graduate Joan Popovic. She says, "I loved that there was an OU team brave and bold enough to compete on a global level."

The crowdfunding project raised £5000 and the team grew from 5 to 30 through the power of social media – all are now part of the team working to make the next Mars Rover a success.



**Rob Adlard and Joan Popovic**



I had a maths teacher who didn't seem to like maths or me!

It discouraged me from doing the academic things I wanted to do, as maths is key to space research, but I kept making spaceships out of anything I could get my hands on. ”

Rob Adlard

Thanks to his OU studies, Rob is now on his way to achieving his dream of becoming a qualified engineer.



## For more information

You can follow the OU Rover Team's progress through their Twitter and Facebook pages

[twitter.com/OUroverteam](https://twitter.com/OUroverteam)

[facebook.com/OUroverteam](https://facebook.com/OUroverteam)

to see upcoming crowdfunding projects  
[theoucrowd.hubbub.net](https://theoucrowd.hubbub.net)

# OPEN UP YOUR NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE



## Unveiling our new website

We are excited to announce the launch of our new alumni website



## REGISTER TO:

- Update your contact details, view your qualifications and much more
- Read inspirational fellow alumni stories (and share your own)
- Discover what the OU is doing on social media and on TV
- Read the latest news on events, appeals and projects



Get started today [alumni.open.ac.uk](https://alumni.open.ac.uk)