

The Open University



The Open Futures Fund Commemorative Book





Introduction



For over 50 years The Open University has been committed to its mission: to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. The belief that education should be open to all lies at the heart of everything your University stands for and why we launched the Open Futures Fund.

This book commemorates the official launch of the Open Futures Fund and contains the names of, and messages from, donors to the Fund in its first year, sharing both their favourite memory of the OU and their advice to future students. A copy of the book is held in the University's archive for future generations as a testament to the power of philanthropy.

Thank you to the OU family, alumni, staff, students and supporters for your kindness and generosity to students who otherwise would have been unable to study, reigniting passions, renewing purpose and giving hope for the future. At the time of writing, the Open Futures Fund has supported scholarships for disabled veterans, unpaid and young carers, refugees and asylum seekers, those leaving care and Black students. In addition, the fund has provided bursaries for students from Black, Asian or other minority ethnic backgrounds and more widely, financial support for students through crises.

The gift of education is life-changing – it opens up futures, gives hope and opportunity, and has a lasting impact on our students, their families, communities and beyond. Thank you to everyone in this book who has made that possible.

Tim Blackman



Professor Tim Blackman
Vice-Chancellor



Visit the OU website
www.open.ac.uk





The Open Futures Fund

Providing life-changing scholarships, bursaries and support to students who would otherwise miss out on education

In many ways the story of the Open Futures Fund started when the University launched a five-year fundraising campaign to “Open up the Future” – the campaign concluded in July 2020 and was an overwhelming success. Together, we raised over £60 million and launched life-changing scholarships for disabled veterans and carers, whilst using our world-leading research to continue making learning more accessible in the UK and overseas.

From there the Open Futures Fund grew, offering a unique range of OU scholarships and bursaries, which will continue the legacy of the Open up the Future campaign for generations to come. The Fund encompasses our initial scholarships, and has built on the campaign’s success, to support even more students and keep education open to all.

At the time of publication, here are just some of the important causes that have been supported through the Open Futures Fund:

- **Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships** – for veterans disabled during or due to service
- **Carers Scholarships** – which offer carers the opportunity to study for free
- **Black Student Support** – specifically designed to provide support for Black students to reduce inequalities in Higher Education
- **Sanctuary Scholarships** – for people arriving in the UK seeking refuge from threats to their lives
- **Open Futures Bursaries** – for students who identify as being from a Black, Asian or other minority ethnic background
- **Student Assistance** – financial support for students when they need it most

The latest scholarship programme to launch is for care experienced students (for those under 25 who are, or have been, in care). Over time, this list will doubtless grow and develop as the University, and its supporters, respond to changing times.





Disabled Veterans' Scholarships

 Launched in 2018

The Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund was launched in 2018 and thanks to the incredible generosity of donor support, over 260 scholarships have been awarded to help disabled veterans rewrite their futures.

The first of its kind in the UK, this pioneering scholarships fund was designed in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and in consultation with several organisations who work with veterans.

There are estimated to be around 2.6 million veterans living in the UK, who have served in the Armed

Forces and dedicated their lives to the safety of the nation, having trained explicitly for the demands of military life.

When veterans are injured or disabled during or due to service, adapting to civilian life can feel like an impossible feat. The Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund offers these brave personnel free access to life-changing Open University education, along with dedicated careers and disability support. Studying enables these military heroes to retrain for the civilian jobs market, to gain new skills and to take their first steps towards new dreams.

Carers Scholarships

 Launched in 2019

The Carers Scholarship was launched in 2019 as part of the University's 50th anniversary celebrations and offers unpaid carers the opportunity to study for qualifications with the OU for free. The Fund has been specially created to offer carers a chance to study and develop their sense of identity outside of caring.

The day-to-day life of an unpaid carer is incredibly challenging. By giving so selflessly to others, unpaid carers are often forced into unemployment or have to

give up on their dreams of higher education.

The flexibility of OU study and the fact students can study anywhere and at any time, means that carers no longer need to put their dreams on hold. They can continue their caring role whilst still achieving a qualification and working towards their futures.

Since launching the Fund, 112 scholarships have been awarded and this has only been made possible thanks to the incredible support of our donor community.



Black Students' Support

 Launched in 2022

The Open University is committed to driving change and in 2022 extended the Open Futures Fund to include scholarships and bursaries specifically to support Black students through the Black Student Support Fund.

For more than 50 years, The Open University's social justice mission has been breaking down barriers through its open access policy and unique distance learning model. Yet evidence shows that certain groups of students,

especially Black students, have access to fewer opportunities to higher education.

The Fund helps towards improving the representation of Black students across the University and work towards closing the Degree Award Gap so that students are supported to fulfil their potential.

The Fund has already provided 48 scholarships and 73 bursaries in its first year thanks to the kindness and generosity of donors.



Sanctuary Scholarships

 Launched in 2022

The University launched Sanctuary Scholarships in 2022. Building on the success of the Open Futures Fund, Sanctuary Scholarships offer financial support for refugee, forced migrant and asylum seeker students, providing futures full of hope and opportunity.

People arriving in the UK seeking refuge from threats to their lives face many challenges, but they also have the opportunity to build a new life and a hopeful future for their families.

For many people seeking sanctuary, the security of arriving in the UK after fleeing armed conflict or persecution in their

home nation, often means they have their very first opportunity to engage with higher education and/or have access to meaningful employment. Other people seeking sanctuary are successful and highly qualified professionals in their country of origin but need recognised qualifications to continue their careers in the UK. Sanctuary Scholarships enable students to rewrite their futures and contribute to the society in which they make their new homes.

Since launching in 2022, twelve scholarships have been awarded, including eight to Ukrainian students.

The Open University would like to thank donors for their generosity and gifts to the Open Futures Fund, which was launched in 2021. Their support has helped students to transform their lives, realise their potential and rewrite their futures.

Mrs Dawn Abbott BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening my first set of books for AA100 and wondering how I would get through them. Then I did and looked forward to the boxes arriving for five more years!

My message to future students is...

Concentrate on a week at a time, a block at a time and keep making your progress. You will get there quicker than you can believe!

Ms Lynda Abrahams

My favourite memory of the OU is...

An art history tutorial in Leeds Art Gallery. I learnt how to really look at a piece of art, and am still discovering so much.

My message to future students is...

If you're enthusiastic about a subject you will learn! There is no other real measure of achievement.

Mr Keith Abrathat BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Providing the opportunities missed when young.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to learn. A day when you don't learn anything is a day wasted.

Mr John Acton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Writing my TMA in a holiday caravan in Wales and rushing in to Swansea to catch the post – in the nick of time as usual!

My message to future students is...

It'll be worth it, it was for me despite much midnight oil!

Mr Ivan Adams BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school at Loughborough, with really helpful tutors.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, it's worth it.

Mrs Sandra Adams BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The moment I was able to link themes and core concepts to evidence – making each course more understandable.

My message to future students is...

Always engage with your tutor and student groups; you will be amazed at the feedback and conversation.

Miss Theresa Adams BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My time at summer school in Manchester.

My message to future students is...

Just go for it.

Dr John Adsetts BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The pleasure of teaching and learning with my best ever student.

My message to future students is...

This is not an investment in work – it is an investment in worth!

Mrs Christina Ahern MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finding I could still write an essay! Stepping up onto the stage to receive my degree.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the opportunity to keep the brain active.

Mr John Aherne BA (Hons) BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Prime Minister Harold Wilson's announcement of the creation of a University of the Air.

My message to future students is...

The OU has made and will make the concept of quality lifetime learning an affordable reality.

Mr Joseph Ahmed BSc (Hons) PG Dip

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony. A much more relaxing and enjoyable OU experience than the many exams.

My message to future students is...

Study subjects that really interest you and not ones that appear to offer the best employment opportunities.

Mr Alan Ainsworth BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the many summer schools at Keele, Nottingham, Warwick, Sussex and Bath universities. The good company of fellow students in our efforts to learn.

My message to future students is...

No matter how hard the struggle, keep on going and you shall achieve your aim.



An OU student working in his kitchen with a colorimeter from an S100 home experiment kit, 1973.

Mrs Ebum Akanni BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting and making friends with students from different professional fields. I also learnt from them.

My message to future students is...

I encourage you to be an OU student because it makes a lot of difference to academic life, it did for me.

Miss Abiola Alabede BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first year whereby I had to go to the local library to complete and submit my assignment. This was a very challenging experience; I never had my own computer then.

My message to future students is...

They have to be very optimistic and always look at the bright side of things. They should always have the "I can do it!" attitude.

Miss Norma Alexander BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I enjoyed all my studies with the OU because it foretold the timely self advancements of our future.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU is a passage that invited me to reflect on issues of joy and human sources, that we must not lose sight of.

Mr Stuart Alexander BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being supported and encouraged to study by like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

No one can ever take your achievements away.

Mr Khalil Ali MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fun of learning at the residence, particularly at Robinson's College, Cambridge during my MBA course.

My message to future students is...

As you embark on your OU course as a life-changing event for yourself, you will also be helping others to change theirs in the future!

Ms Nisa Ali BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My mum attending my graduation ceremony in Brighton - it was a wonderful day, with my son, husband and sister enjoying the ceremony and off to a lovely lunch afterwards.

My message to future students is...

You can't beat the feeling of learning something new and seeing how it connects with everything else you've learned - it's mind expanding, revelatory, eye-opening, exciting, satisfying, and worth the work!

Mrs Hadeel Alkhazaali LLB (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself. Never doubt your abilities. That's all it takes to reach your goal.

Mr Ian Allan BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That you are never alone, made plenty of friends during my studies, top class education.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience and should you struggle at any period during your studies, reach out for help at the OU.

Mr John Allan BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation and the sense of achievement it gave me.

My message to future students is...

I believe quality of teaching in the OU is among the best. The course books are excellent.

Mrs Elaine Allen BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The open summer schools filled with equally keen students enjoying the break away from home commitments to fully partake in university life.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy all the learning you are doing whilst you can.

Mr Mohamed Ally LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

New way of learning.

My message to future students is...

Follow your dreams.

Mrs Rosemary Alonso

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

My message to future students is...

Keep on keeping on!

Miss Valerie Alsop BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day! With everyone so happy. Also, of course the enjoyable summer schools, meeting with students from all walks of life. I even enjoyed the lectures.

My message to future students is...

The OU is a wonderful opportunity to get a higher qualification, receive new interesting information, which you thought you had missed out on. It may help in your career, it is time well spent.

Mr Nicholas Ambler BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The memory of my inspirational first OU tutor Mrs Audrey Want.

My message to future students is...

Have faith in yourself.

Mrs Rachel Ambler BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools!

My message to future students is...

The OU provide you with most of what you need to help you achieve your qualification.

Mr Joseph Anderson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sitting up in the evening or very early morning listening to the OU broadcasts. It was all worth it.

My message to future students is...

If you really believe in yourself, you can achieve many of your dreams.

Mrs Pauline Anderson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and when my BA arrived in the post.

My message to future students is...

Never stop dreaming. Go for it!

Mrs Christina Andrews BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Watching others fulfilling their career dreams, whilst getting the qualification I'd always wanted to have. Thank you OU.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to get that qualification that will change your work prospects for the better.

Mr James Andrews BA

My message to future students is...

Above all, enjoy!

Mrs Mary Andrews BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoying to learn again at the age of 55!

My message to future students is...

Keep going! It's hard but worth it!

Mr Ronald Andrews BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools in the 70s.

My message to future students is...

Keep going.

Miss Augustina Annor BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working hard.

My message to future students is...

Hard work pays off.

Mr Michael Antrobus BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending with my parents the first ever graduation ceremony at Alexandra Palace in 1973.

My message to future students is...

Reach for the stars and you'll easily get to the moon with The Open University.

Mrs Patricia Appleby BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Art history lectures with illustrations in Manchester.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU opens up your life.

Mr Edison Appoo BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Do what makes you happy.

Mrs H Arafah BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Bath University summer school, 3 friends – one from Ireland, one from Scotland and one from England – what fun we had!

My message to future students is...

If you are interested in studying, don't wait and don't give up, as it's a wonderful achievement at any age.

Mr Roderick Arbuckle BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The simple enjoyment of subjects studied.

My message to future students is...
Enjoy the experience.

Mr Christopher Arcari

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The moment I opened the email with my first marked assignment for which I was given a distinction, along with some very useful feedback from my tutor.

My message to future students is...
Ignore the naysayers. Hard work and determination will transform your whole life. You get from The Open University what you put in. Good luck and enjoy!

Mrs Alison Archard BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Receiving the study pack – overwhelming maybe, but I still use my books from the modern art courses for reference.

My message to future students is...
You will not regret it once you have finished, I love receiving letters from the OU which say BA (Hons) after my name. I’m still very proud decades later.

Mrs Vivienne Armstrong BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Attending my graduation ceremony with my family in the audience.

My message to future students is...
The Open University teaches students to believe in themselves.

Dr Trevor Arnold BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
I was taught how to teach myself, with brilliant learning materials and superb tutors.

My message to future students is...
Do not miss a golden opportunity to get a qualification which is highly prized by most international and national institutions.

Mr Walter Arnold BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Passing!

My message to future students is...
Hang in there!

Mr Alan Arnot BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Meeting others in tutorials and residential summer courses.

Mr Viktor Asanov

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Being able to study and work at the same time without attending any lectures.

My message to future students is...
Don’t be afraid to try a new way of doing things.

Mrs Patricia Ashcroft BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The Art and Environment course, TAD 292, which myself and my husband both completed.

My message to future students is...
A course like TAD can lead to a future in Art. I joined Arts clubs and ran a watercolour group for 6 years with the U3A.

Mrs Christine Ashton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Receiving my degree and knowing that all that hard work had been worthwhile.

My message to future students is...
The OU gives you the chance to fulfil your potential.

Mr David Ashton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Meeting my wife at a gloriously sunny summer school at Stirling University in 1976.

My message to future students is...
Sometimes the work seems relentless and all time-consuming, sometimes it is exciting and inspiring, in the end persistence pays off and the personal rewards make it worthwhile.

Mr David Askew BA (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Discovering the ways and methods of learning new skills and knowledge from within my own home.

My message to future students is...
Don’t let the hard work and uphill struggles of your studies deter you. The end rewards are something to cherish.

Mrs Iris Assing BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The day I received my BA Hons degree during a ceremony at the Barbican. I couldn’t stop smiling, I was so happy!

Mrs Jennifer Astley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Looking through each new course material and realising how much there is to know.

My message to future students is...
Keep going and keep in touch with each other. Remember that progress comes a little at a time, so work patiently.

Mrs Lorraine Atherton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
When I realised that I could enjoy studying.

My message to future students is...
Believe in your own ability and the power of The Open University to help your growth in knowledge.

Mr Paul Atkinson BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The excitement of opening new course mailings. Realising I can actually do this! Being proud of my achievement on graduation day. Being part of the OU community.

My message to future students is...
Just sign up, you can do it. It’ll be one of the best experiences of your life!

Mr Martin Avey BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The opportunity to meet other students and my tutors at tutorials and gallery visits.

Mrs Yvette Ayers BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Whatever module I took, the moment I clicked SUBMIT for assignments, be it an essay or a dissertation. There was always the “Do it” moment, then relax.

My message to future students is...

Whatever your goal, step by step YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT! You are a member of one of the best universities in the world. Go for it!

Ms Eunice Bacon

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Relevant resources, helpful and enthusiastic tutors, and the opportunity to share learning with like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

If you put in the effort the rewards are great, and it's never too late to learn something new.

Mrs Jennifer Baillie BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Students and staff I met at summer schools, and being a student rep both there and at conferences.

My message to future students is...

Throw yourself into an OU degree, enjoy it; but beware, completion sneaks up on you. THEN what will you do with the spare time?

Mr Michael Baker BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I was in the Royal Navy and took exams in Amsterdam (Flying Angel), Naples and Gibraltar. I became a teacher and summer school tutor for the OU.

My message to future students is...

The best way to eat an elephant is a bit at a time and it's the same way with studying.

Mr Paul Baker BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the teaching material and the summer schools.

My message to future students is...

If you are finding it difficult, don't give up. It will change your life.

Mr Kenneth Balfour BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A geology summer school in the early seventies.

My message to future students is...

Rest assured, all the hours you will study will be very worthwhile in ways you may not have imagined.

Ms Frances Ball BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the awards ceremony and seeing so many people full of enthusiasm and optimism as they prepared to make use of their new qualifications.

My message to future students is...

Make a start, you have no idea where the journey will take you.

Mrs Janice Ball

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Two French summer schools at the University of Caen. Helped with my book 'In Leafmeal Lies'. Also gave me the confidence to write a second book 'The Colour Dilemma'.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to discover new ideas and new people. Loved it!

Mr Trevor Bannister BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A proud moment when my tutor asked permission to use one of my assignments as a model for subsequent students. Tears come as I write, years after.

My message to future students is...

Congratulations upon making such a life affirming and rewarding decision! Whatever your destination, your journey will be remarkable – with exciting excursions, engaging fellow travellers & inspiring guidance. Welcome aboard!

Miss Margaret Barlow BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

There are many, but I think the most enjoyable was playing the cymbals in the OU orchestra!

My message to future students is...

Sometimes it gets tough – but keep going. It is well worth it in the end.

Mr Robert Barnes

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I know that The Open University is long-distance learning, but I really enjoyed the regular get-togethers and the OU's support.

My message to future students is...

Basically... be brave and follow your dreams.

Dr Roma Barnes

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting and sharing experiences.

My message to future students is...

Keep going!

Mr Christopher Barnett BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working with fellow students. Making the links with Industrial Britain and my professional background in property management and development law. Property and housing standards have their roots in the Industrial Revolution.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the discovery and keep at it even when the going gets tough. You will find it's been worth the hard work!

Mrs Maureen Barney BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

On holiday, sitting by a lake and writing a project, and getting the hotel to fax it to my tutor so that it was in on time.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and complete the course you have chosen.

Mrs Gillian Barrett BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoying all the debate and discussion during tutorials. This motivated and inspired me and I realised that I was part of something bigger when working alone at home.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, take advantage of the tutorials and enjoy it! Never think you are not good enough. Have faith and you will be surprised at the results!

Mrs Angela Barron BA (Hons) MA MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The sense of achievement when I was awarded my degree, and being one of those very first pioneers, the first OU intake.

My message to future students is...
Aim high, that way you will always achieve.

Mr David Barrowclough BA

My message to future students is...
Work hard, make the most of your studies and enjoy yourself.

Mrs Beverley Barton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Unpacking new course books. Getting to grips with new ideas. Achieving.

My message to future students is...
Keep going. Don't give up. Ask for help when you need it.

Mr William Barton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Meeting people from all walks of life and ages and hearing their stories of how and why they study.

My message to future students is...
All things are possible.

Mr Stephen Bassett MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Receiving my MBA certification.

My message to future students is...
Never give up, stick with it!

Mrs Caroline Batchelor MA BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Receiving, with excitement, course material in the post. The feeling of being a real student studying with the OU was exhilarating. The joy of learning has never left me.

My message to future students is...
Be resilient, enjoy being a student and open your mind to the wealth of knowledge on offer. Enjoy every minute of your journey with the OU. I certainly did.

Mrs Dorothy Bates BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Reading chemistry lecture – in middle of long equation, the Head of Chemistry called out, ‘Dorothy, are you okay?’ I looked around the large hall and found him concentrating on me. I was new to chemistry. Lovely man!

My message to future students is...
In late 1970s, I only had a 1st class technical certificate. In 1975, the OU accepted me, and the state paid most of my fees and summer school costs. Knowledge gained is valuable.

Mrs Jacqueline Bates BA

My message to future students is...
Enjoy your studies.

Miss Julie Baxter BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Getting all the new books at the start of a module.

My message to future students is...
Work it, you're worth it.

Mr John Beach

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Being able to discuss my favourite subjects with open-minded people.

My message to future students is...
To become a student at The Open University is to make one of the best decisions of your life.

Mr Frank Bean BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Obviously graduation was great but interaction with other course students was even better.

My message to future students is...
It's a slog but go for it! Advice: Make an unbreakable routine for study time. I found it best to get up early and put in regular time while still ‘fresh’ before going to work. Good luck.

Mrs Freda Bean BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The friendship and morale boost of my local study group.

My message to future students is...
Good luck and make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

Mr William Bean BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The day in which I was admitted and provided the opportunity to further my education.

My message to future students is...
Your journey may be hard and toilsome, but your destination will fill you with great enlightenment.

Mr D Roger Beaumont

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The work I did after midnight, including submitting TMAs by driving to the tutor's address VERY late indeed.

My message to future students is...
While you are studying and preparing TMAs it will seem like too much work to do, but persevere, when your grades arrive all the work will seem worthwhile.

Mr Michael Bechley BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The summer schools, especially at Bath (for environmental courses).

My message to future students is...
It really is worth all the effort!

Mrs Elaine Beckett BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Receiving my degree from Asa Briggs – for a history graduate, an unforgettable day.

My message to future students is...
Just believe in yourself and this life-changing organisation.

Miss Betty Bee BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
They do care.

My message to future students is...
Take advantage.

Mr David Beesley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Completing a really good essay.

My message to future students is...
After marrying my wife, studying with the OU has been the best thing I have chosen to do in my life.

Mr David Bell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of achievement on graduation.

My message to future students is...

It opens doors in unexpected ways.

Mrs Dilys Bell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of achievement I felt every time I completed a course successfully!

My message to future students is...

Take advantage of every opportunity!

Miss Heather Bell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I was always sad to return the microscope at the end of the course.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the study. Discipline yourself to study at set times. Don't get behind!

Mrs Helen Bell

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people of my age (50s) and experience and learning together without criticism, but lots of encouragement.

My message to future students is...

Never give up. Believe in your abilities no matter your age, background or experience.

Mr Lawrence Bell BA (Hons) MTh

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting some very charming like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

Gives the opportunity to write extended essays.

Ms Margery Bell MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation – and being able to choose Paris as the location. A wonderful experience!

My message to future students is...

Keep going.

Mr James Belmont BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools.

My message to future students is...

I hope you enjoy your OU experience as much as I did.

Ms Pauline Belton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Early 1970s – running home from the post office with my new pile of study books. I couldn't wait to get started on them!

My message to future students is...

I hope you find life as an OU student as enjoyable and enriching as I have.

Mr Stephen Bench BSc (Hons) BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people from all walks of life seeking a better future for themselves.

My message to future students is...

I gained two degrees with the OU. If I can do it, so can you!

Mrs Diane Benjamin BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting such a diverse range of people, fellow students of all ages and experience and of course the tutors, and feeling part of something so worthwhile.

My message to future students is...

The feeling of achievement and confidence when you gain your chosen career is so worth all that effort.

Mr Alan Bennett

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The five summer schools I had. Meeting other students from all walks of life and the excellent lectures, made it an enjoyable experience.

My message to future students is...

The OU is a great place to learn and to gain new experiences. Hope you enjoy your studies as much as I did.

Mr Roger Bennett BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy and emotion of students and their families at graduation.

My message to future students is...

Be as organised and disciplined as possible. Never be afraid to ask for help from work, family and friends. Those who help can share the load.

Open University home experiment kits being packed by staff in the University's warehouse in Wellingborough, 1970.



Mr James Bennie

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My favourite memory from studying with the OU is the feeling of real progression from tackling the structured, time-limited assignments that stretched my capacity to learn.

My message to future students is...

My message to future students is even if you're worried you won't have time to fit in the study, you will soon learn to adapt, persist and it will become an enjoyable part of your routine.

Mrs Anne Benyon BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Started with the OU in 1973, to get my essays in on time I would cycle to my tutor's house and post them through the letterbox at all hours of the night.

My message to future students is...

The struggle was worth it, don't give up.

Mr Jacek Bernasinski BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The most exciting part for me were the summer schools where you met real tutors and real people.

Mr Peter Besong

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The residential weekends. They offered the chance to meet with other students from different backgrounds, studying different courses, thus providing a stimulated learning environment and friendships.

My message to future students is...

To persevere and utilise all the OU's resources. Value any moral support given.

Miss Susan Bettle BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of achievement when at the age of 67, I was awarded a Masters degree.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, you've nothing to lose and much to gain.

Mr Michael Biggs BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students at residential weekends. As an oldie (now 83) being told I was an "old swinger" (20 years ago).

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, it will come good in the end.

Mrs Jennifer Billany BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Great enjoyment of the two residential summer schools which I attended many years ago. Hard work, good fun and I learnt a lot.

My message to future students is...

Education is the key to achieving your free potential - embrace it and enjoy it.

Mr David Bilton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Joining with others at Saturday monthly classes and the satisfaction upon completion.

My message to future students is...

It is hard to juggle family, work and life but it can be done and is a lifetime achievement.

Mr David Birch BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Above all, the moment my foundation course tutor introduced me to art history. It brought a new, immensely pleasurable, ever-developing dimension to my life.

My message to future students is...

Studying with The Open University is difficult and demanding. You will struggle, you may contemplate giving up. Don't! The sense of satisfaction and fulfilment on graduating is incomparable.

Dr Angela Bishop BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Thank you for FutureLearn!

Mr Norman Bishop BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My wife, Stella, recently retired from teaching, decided to do a science degree and biology diploma (which she achieved). This gave great pleasure to me and our three sons.

My message to future students is...

Whatever age, do take up studying with the OU, it made a promotion possible and will give you great achievement.

Mrs Denise Bitar BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...

I hope you achieve your dreams.

Mrs Freda Black BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school in Stirling, meeting other students!

My message to future students is...

However hard you find it - keep going! The effort is worth the result.

Mr Jonathan Blair

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting to meet new amazing individuals and gaining knowledge about the subject you're doing.

My message to future students is...

You'll never regret studying with the OU. You can achieve anything when you put your mind to it.

Mr Robert Blayney BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing this wonderful learning experience with my eventual wife Molly.

My message to future students is...

The Open University is an excellent learning experience. Try to make the most of it.

Ms Sandra Bligh BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The amazement and satisfaction of completing and passing the pure mathematics module.

My message to future students is...

Even if you do not use your degree to improve or change your job, the satisfaction of completing an OU degree stays with you.

Mrs Sheila Blow BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It gave me purpose after my husband's death and when my dependent children flew the nest. I started at 53 - graduated at 60 and discovered philosophy.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to learn.

Dr Alexander Blower BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The Open University, The Greek Meeting, summer schools, meeting professors from Oxbridge and 4 years of great memories. Best years of my life.

My message to future students is...

Go for it. It's hard but rewarding work. Get to study, make friends with other students – keep looking forward. Wonderful times.

Mrs Gwyneth Bluck

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Bath University during my arts foundation year. Mrs DeGansford, a truly inspirational tutor.

My message to future students is...

Don't let anything stand in your way. The world The Open University opens up is phenomenal.

Mrs Violet Blues BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The way everyone helped one another.

My message to future students is...

Keep your dream alive.

Mrs Fioretta Blyde BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school!

My message to future students is...

Hang in there!

Mrs Sylvia Bober BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Actually getting my degree.

My message to future students is...

Never give up – you can achieve anything.

Mrs Paula Bock BSc (Hons) PG Cert Bus Admin MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Expanding my knowledge and being at a residential school with like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

Always believe that you are greater than you are today. Lifelong learning will open doors that you never thought were possible. Never give up your dreams.

Mrs Elizabeth Boddy MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Lovely tutors who treated you as an equal, and were always encouraging and positive. High quality material to guide you in your studies.

My message to future students is...

Just do it, you won't regret it.

Mr Robert Bodey

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It was the studying that was the highlight of my time with the OU, but I have to say that walking through Cardiff in my graduation robes was a real buzz!

My message to future students is...

If you enjoy your subject then enjoy it. Don't be daunted by the volume of work in front of you, take it one step at a time and enjoy!

Miss Laura Bok

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How proud I felt after achieving top marks on a challenging and unusual assignment on the Arctic – very different from a “traditional” university.

My message to future students is...

Improving the quality of your mind is one of the most enriching things you can do.

Mr John Bolt BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools, meeting a wide range of students with healthy discussions.

My message to future students is...

It's hard going at times but persevere. It put me in good stead. I had a teaching position at a good school and with an engineering background was appointed head of careers.

Mr Anthony Bond BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A discussion about the Mona Lisa displayed in the Louvre. Your opinion is as good as anyone else's as long as it is fully informed and well argued.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies. What you learn will be with you for the rest of your life.

Mrs Amber Bonham-Carter BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

One of the most enjoyable periods of my life.

Miss Karen Boote BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

All the great people I met through my studies.

My message to future students is...

With the OU you can achieve anything.

Mr Bob Booth BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the learning materials.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, be determined and achieve.

Miss Joanna Booth

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Not only did it boost my self-confidence in my ability, but it gave me a new and successful career path. Thank you.

My message to future students is...

This is an excellent organisation. Whatever your previous education, I recommend The Open University to anyone wishing to study for a degree.

Mr Brian Boothroyd BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The constant and continual study of new ideas.

My message to future students is...

Never think that you are too old to learn.

Mrs Caroline Boreham MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating with my Masters degree in Education at Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Keep your end goal in mind, and remember that every action you take in your studies is an incremental step to achieving that goal. Good luck!

Mrs Lillian Bottomley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school, sitting on the grass on a summer's evening discussing the Pre-Raphaelites!

My message to future students is...

Squeeze every ounce out of your time with the OU.

Mr Gordon Boutelle BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The inspiration and support given at summer school when attending Loughborough (Earth Sciences), Warwick (Electronics) and Reading (Mathematics).

My message to future students is...

The Open University provides excellent opportunity to achieve success in whatever area of education you are genuinely motivated to pursue.

Mr Lyndon Bowen BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school as a favourite of mine, meeting people and making new friends.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of your education, don't give up! Once you have an education no one can take it away.

Mr Wheyon Bowes

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The flexibility of my course and programme.

My message to future students is...

Awesome institution to study with. Tutors are very supportive and reference materials are excellent. Very affordable fees and flexible programme.

Ms Ruth Bowles BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning from the experts, whether the lecturers or fellow students. Everyone has something to offer as experts in their areas of work or life. Thanks submarine radio operator, crystal clear.

My message to future students is...

Choose your door – your ambitions are behind one of them. Open your door – step through and prove it's possible. Keep the door open – let others through when you can.

Mrs Margaret Bowling BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students and studying a variety of subjects.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up even if you need to take some time out.

Ms Ann Bowyer BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and meeting so many people enthusiastic about learning.

My message to future students is...

Study hard, but enjoy studying too!

Mrs Sandra Bowyer BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The amazing feeling of doing something I thought I could never achieve.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! It is there, you can do it.

Mr John Boxall BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools.

Mr Alan Boyd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU's Arts Foundation course opened my eyes and fired my enthusiasm going forwards. Two summer schools at Stirling and Cardiff were particular highlights, with a course choir conducted by John Rutter.

My message to future students is...

Savour every moment, submersing yourself in all that's offered. Be determined to keep striving for excellence even if the going gets tough from time to time. It will reap rewards.

Mr Clive Boyd BSc BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Two fabulous summer schools at Westfield (London) for A315 and York University for A309.

My message to future students is...

An absolutely life changing organisation! A fantastic achievement of the Labour government of Harold Wilson.

Mrs Gabrielle Bramwell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy I felt on opening the first results envelope to find I had a distinction in S102!

My message to future students is...

Don't rush, don't leave every assignment to the last minute. Build your study into your daily routine. Enjoy that feeling when you have understood something that you found difficult previously.

Mrs Helen Bravey BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Interesting people.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up!

Mrs Mary Breading BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning more about subjects I thought I already knew about.

My message to future students is...

Do not give up even when the marks are not what you have hoped for.

Miss Johanna Breen BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My French residential school, where I got a whole week devoted to learning something I love.

My message to future students is...

Writing an EMA in French was one of the hardest things I've ever done but I got through it. You will too.

Mr Anthony Breslin BA (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Late night, last minute TMAs – a rite of passage!

My message to future students is...

Keep going, tough times and all. The light and joy at the end is worth it all.

Mrs Eileen Brierley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school at Stirling University and seeing the beautiful campus during the science foundation course 1977.

My message to future students is...

At your first tutorial forum join a study group and keep in touch with your fellow students. You will be helped more than you expected by the exchange of ideas. Don't be alone, enjoy your studies.

Mrs Catherine Briggs BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree at the Corn Exchange Cambridge after 6 years of enjoyable, stimulating study.

My message to future students is...

Always feel proud of the education the OU gives you, and what it enables you to achieve. Always value what the OU gives to the world and its people.

Mr Alan Brighthouse BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning keeps you alive and young.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the journey.

Mrs Janette Bright BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded people at tutorials and day schools. Then my graduation and sharing the day with my OU friend and families.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, if necessary ask for help. The satisfaction of overcoming difficulties is worth it in the end.

Ms Jane Brignull BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first course 'K301 Promoting health: skills, perspectives and practice', a truly inspirational tutor, Beverley Haynes, who helped me to believe in myself and the joy of education.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, you can do it and it will all be worth it when you graduate.

Mr David Brilliant LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Real world, 'hands on' tutorials with experienced legal professionals and interaction, both at Regents Park and online.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to learn and enjoy this experience of knowledge.

Miss Lisa Brindle BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day. Such an emotionally charged ceremony which is truly a celebration of all you have achieved. An unforgettably proud day for me and my family.

My message to future students is...

Choose a subject you are interested in as this will make your studies more enjoyable. There will be challenges but the end result is definitely worth it. You can do this!

Mr James Brindley BSc

My message to future students is...

Whatever your disability, the journey to a degree with the OU, however challenging, can be fully satisfying. My reward was a senior position in management with a progressive Swedish company.

Mr John Bristowe BA BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools.

Mrs Jenny Brooks BA (Hons) MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My MEd Graduation ceremony at Portsmouth Guildhall on 21st June 2003 – when I met and got a kiss from Paul McCartney!

My message to future students is...

Always believe you can do it! It will change your life. Good Luck!

Mr Joseph Brooks BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Friendship.

My message to future students is...

Keep going.

Mr Stuart Brooks LLB

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The French language course. This involved interaction with other OU students on a week's long residential element of the course in France.

My message to future students is...

The OU provides courses with first class tuition and instruction and OU students are eager to learn and progress in the subject they have selected, which makes for an excellent learning environment.

Mrs Brenda Brown BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The many friends I made and some of the wonderful tutors. I developed new interests.

My message to future students is...

I hope you enjoy your years with the OU as much as I did.

Mr Darren Brown BA (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Achieving, succeeding, meeting like-minded people and feeling proud.

My message to future students is...

Keep turning the pages, take regular breaks. Not every day will be a good day. Enjoy the journey.

Mr Donald Brown BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Geology summer school, the view from the Scottish mountain top.

My message to future students is...

The general knowledge alone, from the OU BSc course, is extremely valuable, especially the foundation course. No matter what your expectations in life are.

Mr Geoffrey Brown BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finishing! It seemed a long (1995–2002) and hard road then to a BA(Hons) degree! – But totally worthwhile for self development and future career (Archivist).

My message to future students is...

Whatever obstacles, there's no time like the present for studying! Toil and enjoy! Best of luck to all!

Mr Ian Brown BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Wonderful experience, the people, the study and the degree. Well done OU.

My message to future students is...

Grasp the opportunity with both hands, your application to study is vital. Every good wish.

Creating magical moments since 1973

In the summer of 1973, the OU's very first graduates walked the stage of Alexandra Palace to collect their degrees in a ceremony which was broadcast live on BBC2.

Since then, we've had the pleasure of welcoming thousands of new graduates each year in ceremonies across the UK and Ireland. Each day is slightly different, but one thing remains the same: the absolute joy that fills the room as new alumni and their guests clap, cheer, cry happy tears and raise a glass of fizz to celebrate their success.

The Open University is proud of all our alumni.





Mr James Brown BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to study from home.

My message to future students is...

Hard work but well worth it.

Mrs Judith Brown BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools allowed me a brief immersion into a new world. It was the best thing.

Mr Kenneth Brown BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

You don't know what you can achieve until you try.

Ms Pauline Brown BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fact that I miss The Open University when I'm not engaged with a course. I love it!

My message to future students is...

Learning is a good thing. Continue to grow and develop, lifelong learning benefits us.

Mr Peter Brown BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning about and developing a lifelong interest in subjects I had never considered before.

My message to future students is...

Be inspired and keep an open mind.

Mr Roger Brown BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Completing assignments on business flights!

My message to future students is...

Just stick with it – it is worth every hour of study.

Mrs Shirley Brown BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Excitement of opening my parcel of study books. I never looked back!

My message to future students is...

The start of a new life for you, whether you like it or not.

Mr Simon Brown BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Completing my science education whilst working and progressing in my career, and the very enjoyable summer school weeks!

My message to future students is...

The learning environment and educational materials and support are exceptional. Just follow your dreams, do the work and you will achieve everything you are looking for.

Mr William Brown BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools, the superb tutors, the excellent teaching material and the joy of graduating.

My message to future students is...

Do it! That feeling of fulfilment is beyond words. You won't regret it.

Mr Michael Browne BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of opening the unit package and comparing notes at tutorials.

My message to future students is...

In the beginning it seems the course is a long time, but it goes in a flash.

Dr Janis Brumwell MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being given the opportunity to study an MBA, which lead to a doctorate. Fantastic OU support from student colleagues.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! You can do it. The OU will support you even when studying is tough.

Mrs Sharon Bryson BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having the courage to study at The Open University. Support from my family, tutors and peers. Completing my degree, feeling proud attending my graduation ceremony at The Bridgewater Hall.

My message to future students is...

Have faith in your own abilities, do not compare your journey with that of others. Your Open University journey is yours and only yours. Be proud of every achievement no matter how small.

Mr Harold Buck

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Support available at tutor sessions.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it!

Mr Ian Budd BSc (Hons) Comp & IT

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony at the magnificent Ely Cathedral. It was an honour and a privilege to receive my degree in such a historic and impressive setting.

My message to future students is...

Visualise receiving your award at the end of your OU journey, with applause from your peers and family. This will help you through the tough times during your studies.

Mrs Maureen Budd BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my first 'A' for an essay! And my degree ceremony.

My message to future students is...

It will be the best thing you have ever done.

Mr Gordon Bullard BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and The Open University will help you achieve your dream.

Mrs Joyce Bullen BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer school – meeting up with students from all walks of life to study and also socialise is definitely a high point.

My message to future students is...

Juggling the pressure of work, family and study is never easy but the satisfaction and rewards of acquiring new knowledge and ultimately graduating is well worth all the effort.

Mr Paul Bumstead BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Good and friendly tutors.

My message to future students is...

Keep up the hard work – it's worth it.

Mr Neil Burnett BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree, after years of study, as well as making new friends.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! Never give up, think of achieving your degree and receiving it.

Mr Anthony Burns BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Course presentation was brilliant. The creative juices really got going as I worked on them.

My message to future students is...

The courses are well presented and very enjoyable.

Mr Michael Burns BA (Hons) Hist

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Travelling into Birmingham on the bus to attend tutorials with my books in my rucksack, imagining I was 21 again.

My message to future students is...

Doing the OU History degree gave me confidence and greatly altered how I viewed the world. It made me a wiser, more thoughtful and better citizen. Thank goodness for The Open University.

Mr Christopher Burt BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Inspirational tutors helping me achieve my academic potential. Also, my family cheering at my graduation. Seven years later, it brings back warm memories.

My message to future students is...

Never give up. Ask for help if needed. Be immensely proud of yourself. And follow the advice I was given at my graduation –“BE SOMEBODY”.

Mrs Edith Burton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Staying up all night to finish assignments on time. Excitement and challenge at the start of each new year. Meeting people from all walks of life and different views and ideas.

My message to future students is...

Be positive. If you get despondent sometimes it is natural. Most of us feel like that at some point, but it passes so just keep going. It is a wonderful opportunity and you should find time to have fun.

Ms Jennifer Bush BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enjoyment of learning my chosen subject of Humanities and Art History and being able to meet and discuss the courses with other students and OU teachers.

My message to future students is...

The flexible learning will enable you to continue earning a living whilst studying and the excellent teaching will give you the confidence to discuss and write about the subjects studied.

Mr Darren Butler BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of receiving boxes of course materials and celebrating my graduation day with my family.

My message to future students is...

With hard work, commitment and determination anything is possible. The wonderful OU will support you all the way and you will be united by success with your fellow alumni.

Mr Arshad Butt BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When graduating with an honours degree in Mathematics in 2002; A Honours Master in Mathematics in 2004 and a Masters of Science in 2015, contributing towards a research degree, PhD.

My message to future students is...

Study with the OU community and plan your teaching through the semesters, completing the chosen course of learning assignments, then prepare for the written examination.

Mrs Cleo Butterfield BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day in Newcastle after three years of hard, enriching work, whilst also teaching full time.

My message to future students is...

The study may be hard and time consuming but it is worth the effort. When you encounter difficulties, reach out for help.

Miss Charlotte Butterworth BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I was awarded by The Open University my Master of Science Degree in Medicinal Chemistry in December 2020.

My message to future students is...

Academic study with The Open University develops ideas, skills and competencies such as writing, research and presentational skills to enhance your personal development and career progression whilst making new friends.

Mr Peter Butterworth BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people with the same values as me.

My message to future students is...

Keep on keeping on!

Mr Richard Buxton BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting so many people from different walks of life.

My message to future students is...

Cherish this wonderful opportunity.

Mr Antony Byrne BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As an Associate Lecturer of over 20 years I can still remember students knocking on my front door late in the evening to hand in their TMA before deadline!

My message to future students is...

Never stop learning!

Mr Michael Byrne BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the monthly tutorials, and meeting fellow students. Discussions with the lecturer about the next segment to be studied were an enjoyable and helpful part of understanding and progressing.

My message to future students is...

It is a very fulfilling experience and on completion will give you a feeling of achievement and great satisfaction, knowing your hard work and dedication was worth the effort.

Mr Philip Byron BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Joining with other students at summer school and participating in field projects.

My message to future students is...

Learning is food for the mind, without it the mind cannot grow and will recede.

Dr David Caddick MBE MBA

My message to future students is...

Learn, live and enjoy doing both.

Mrs Patricia Caddick BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening my eyes and brain beyond myself and my slot in history.

My message to future students is...

Never stop learning, and be kind to your fellow human beings.

Mrs Mary Cairns BA PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The generous support and help given by OU tutors.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, don't give up.

Mr Stuart Cairns BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school experiments and lectures.

My message to future students is...

Hang in there. Once you're an OU grad, you're on your way and you are special. Good luck.

Mr Colin Callaghan MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Putting my pen down at the end of my final exam, having completely messed up my timings, but still believing I'd done enough to get my MA.

My message to future students is...

Education can open so many doors and lead to a genuine sense of personal achievement. If you're even half thinking of taking the plunge, just do it.

Mr Michael Callow BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I was an 'A' student. Struggling with advanced Maths formula and visiting an aircraft factory with a lecturer.

My message to future students is...

As well as studies for your own satisfaction, look for practical applications.

Mrs Samantha Calwell BA (Hons) Env Studs

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending a field trip to Mount Stewart, Co. Down as part of my Environment Studies degree. It was great fun and educational.

My message to future students is...

Achieve your dreams, anything is possible.

Mr Ian Cameron BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of achievement after applying myself to the hard work involved. The experience of attending summer schools. The joy of learning which expands the mind.

My message to future students is...

Find a subject which really inspires you. Be disciplined and keep your goals in mind. Enjoy meeting other students and perhaps making good friends.

Mrs Morag Campbell

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Field studies for Earth Sciences/Geology.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, enjoy and profit from Open University opportunity.

Miss Patricia Campbell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When Norman Walton, a blind veteran, and I went on educational weekends with the OU to Durham and Brighton.

My message to future students is...

Norman Walton and I benefitted from the OU. So can you.

Mrs Sheila Campbell BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Excellent summer school; meeting tutors and other participants. My graduation day with my family and friends present.

Mr Detlef Campion BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going on the Geology summer schools.

My message to future students is...

It is important that everyone who wants to, should be able to obtain a qualification.

Mrs Aileen Cane BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendship with fellow students. Visiting the pub after a lecture and carrying on talking mathematics until we were thrown out.

My message to future students is...

It is all so worthwhile. At the end, receive your degree with pride!

Ms Sarah Cantelo BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fun of doing psychology experiments with other students at summer schools.

My message to future students is...

'We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.' – T. S. Eliot.

Mrs Janet Care BA (Hons) Soc Sci PG Dip Glob Dev

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Conducting research on lone parenting. It was interesting and sad, but it made me think that studying at the OU can change an individual from being vulnerable to a heroine to her family.

My message to future students is...

Have a go! Do not be hindered by those who give their opinions. Just take a step, you will be surprised with the outcome. I am proud to have a degree now, after 6 years.

Mr Bernard Carney BA MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Knowing that both my wife and I would have the opportunity of gaining a (well respected) degree, something denied to us at 18. It was an opportunity grasped and enjoyed.

My message to future students is...

Don't think twice, if you can do it, go for it.

Ms Sylvia Carpentier BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The confidence they had in me to achieve my goals. I achieved with the OU's support – thank you!

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, persist and you will achieve!

Ms Sheila Carr BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The pure enjoyment of learning when I thought it was too late.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! You will do it!

Mr Edward Carrington BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving the largest chemistry set in the world by post, while studying a science foundation course.

My message to future students is...

Never give up. There is always an alternative way or an alternative route to what you want to achieve.

Mr Anthony Carroll BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working with the other students.

My message to future students is...

Keep going. Don't give up. You will get there.

Mrs Elizabeth Carroll BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being awarded a BA (Honours) along with the very good new friends made over 8 years of study.

Mrs Joyce Carroll BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of receiving new course material and also – for the first time ever – enjoying the challenge of exams.

My message to future students is...

Don't ever feel daunted, tutors will always help and your confidence will flourish.

Ms Judith Carson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Advice and support from most of the tutors and the face-to-face tutorials with fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Even if you feel you aren't getting anywhere, don't give up!

Mrs Amanda Carter BA (Hons) Hum

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Great lectures.

My message to future students is...

Just keep going and enjoy the reading.

Mr Gerald Carter BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to university at Keele in Staffordshire. Wonderful!

My message to future students is...

Do your best with what you have. All else will follow.



A photograph of the front facade and radio mast of Alexandra Palace from the 1970s, where the very first OU degree ceremony was held.



Senior OU staff and dignitaries awarded Honorary Degrees during the 1974 degree ceremony at Alexandra Palace. From L-R (back row) Paul Chambers (University Treasurer), Walter Perry (Vice Chancellor), Lord Gerald Gardiner (Chancellor), Frederick Warner (Vice Chairman of the Council), Anastasios Christoudoulou (University Secretary), (front row seated) Willem Adolf Visser't Hooft, Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, Lady Bridget Plowden, Chief Simeon Olaosebikan Adebo, Sir Cyril English.

Mrs Julie Carter BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow OU language students at the residential school at the University of Jena, Germany, whilst studying my level 2 German module. It was a fantastic experience!

My message to future students is...

Use all the advice available to you from your tutor and OU resources, but don't be afraid to study in whatever way works best for you. Everyone is different!

Mr Michael Carter BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at York University.

My message to future students is...

All the hard work will be worth it on your graduation day.

Mrs Doreen Cartmell BA MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of starting a new topic with the exploration of the stimulating resources accompanying it.

My message to future students is...

The OU will support your ambitions by providing you with the skills to get ahead with nationally recognised qualifications. You need to show commitment and enjoy the excellent experience.

Mrs Angela Carver BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Stimulating experience and enjoyed the summer schools and evening classes. A great chance to meet other students and have relevant discussions.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of this unique experience.

Mr Brian Case BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excellent studies of Shakespeare plays.

My message to future students is...

Even if you fail, try again.

Mrs Moira Castell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie and support from fellow students and encouragement of the tutors.

My message to future students is...

Have self belief in what you can and will achieve.

Mr Norman Castleton BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The degree ceremony at Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Persist, persist and more persistence!

Mrs Margaret Caulfield-Browne BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The exchange of ideas and the social interaction of group tutorials and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Don't let anyone make you believe you can't do it. You can.

Mrs Jane Cawsey BA MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending my first summer school, meeting fellow students and members of staff.

My message to future students is...

Your study with the OU will lead to fulfilment both in a career and in your educational wellbeing.

Mr Peter Cearn BA MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Camaraderie of tutorials and summer school with hands-on lab and fieldwork.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your learning.

Miss Giorgia Cerruti BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Fantastic resources, great community, sense of belonging despite distance learning. So much fun!

My message to future students is...

The OU completely changed my life. It opened many doors, I gained confidence and the opportunity to have a career.

Mr Stewart Chalkley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and meeting like-minded people of all ages and backgrounds.

My message to future students is...

Stay positive. Learn and enjoy.

Ms Jane Chambers BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My realisation that I could succeed in something I had really wanted, and in the process make wonderful new friends.

My message to future students is...

It may seem like a struggle at times, but it is definitely worth all the effort and you will get excellent support.

Mr Martin Chandler MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school evenings.

My message to future students is...

Walk in the light of knowledge.

Mrs Joyce Chang BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie of my fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and you can achieve anything.

Mrs Elizabeth Chaplin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Seeing Sylvia Plath in her bathing costume at Cambridge University – on a video/literature tutorial – it was my husband's photo! Bit of a pleasant memory.

Mrs Elizabeth Chapman BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A beautiful summer week in Stirling Uni sharing seminars, experiences, knowledge; and running the Dumyat to relax!

My message to future students is...

Most of all, enjoy the learning process.

Mr Geoffrey Chapman BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer schools. A rewarding and fun week of socialising with other students, attending lectures, meeting tutors and consolidating one's course understanding.

My message to future students is...

Sometimes the course material seems very difficult but stick with it. I found that at some stage, with tutor help and completing assignments, it all comes together.

Mr John Chapman BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Was the pay rise I achieved after completing my final third level course which resulted in an upgrade to BA (Hons)!

My message to future students is...

Do not be constrained by your potential weaknesses, think outside your comfort zone in terms of your direction of study as curiosity, diligence and hard work will pay off!

Mrs Mallika Chaudhuri

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the once a week class and having a group discussion about our work under the kind guidance of Mr John Dixon.

My message to future students is...

Never stop learning, never stop enjoying it.

Mrs Lisa Cheadle BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I really enjoyed the face-to-face tutorials and study days. It was great to meet other students.

My message to future students is...

Grab every opportunity and enjoy your studies. The sense of achievement as you graduate is priceless.

Mrs Brenda Cheeseman

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying with The Open University is a brilliant experience.

My message to future students is...

The OU are a family, so don't be nervous, take the plunge, enjoy and achieve, I did at 74 years.

Miss Clare Cheetham BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Completing the exam for 'Elements of Music' and realising that I had successfully written a few bars of Beethoven's Fifth! Magic!

My message to future students is...

Study what you are really interested in. There's no knowing where it may lead.

Mr Alain Chevalley BA

My message to future students is...

Grab the opportunity with both hands.

Mrs Elizabeth Chidgey

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my TMAs back with better than expected marks.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, and enjoy!

Dr Andrew Chitty MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Degree ceremony at Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Be resilient! The OU will always support you.

Mr Stephen Cholerton BEng (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The relief when an assessment is completed and you know you have done your best.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, put in the hard work and the results will speak for themselves. Very best wishes on your OU journey.

Mrs Maherun Choudhury

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting similar background mature students, sharing stories and very friendly, understanding tutors. Loved the variety of venue lectures.

My message to future students is...

Anything and everything is possible if you are determined to achieve it. The OU breaks down barriers to help you succeed.

Mrs Gillian Christie BA

My message to future students is...

When the going gets tough, keep going. If you can manage only small steps, it will be so worth it when you reach your goal.

Mrs Barbara Christoforou BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Unpacking the most amazing science kit. A magnificent organisation that immediately made me feel that I was valued; that the OU saw me as a human being, worth the outlay, a real vote of confidence.

My message to future students is...

This is the best and most long-lasting gift you can give yourself.

Mrs Hilary Christy BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making new friends and exploring and discussing our chosen subjects together, especially at summer school.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of every moment and opportunity to expand your knowledge and your thinking and understanding of the wider world with this great organisation.

Mrs Lesley Chrysanthou BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being in the lab trying to synthesise bee pheromones. After lunch we found someone had made a massive bee from a scrubbing brush and hung it from a light. (Who says biochemists don't have a sense of humour?)

My message to future students is...

My message to future students is be prepared for this to change your life!

Mrs Margaret Clague BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The day the OU gave me a second chance. I am an ‘A’ student. I had completed 2 years of my BSc at another university, they let me down.

My message to future students is...

It will be the most worthwhile thing you do in your life. Be determined. A degree from the OU is the very best.

Mr David Clapp BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and meeting the OU staff.

My message to future students is...

Go for it and do your best.

Dr Terry Clapp BA BSc (Hons) MSc PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Re-engaging with mathematics and sharing with other students and the tutors, especially at the summer schools.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late and always a pleasure to learn something new, or deepen your understanding of things that are a little rusty.

Mr Angus Clark BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Achieving my OU degree – magical.

My message to future students is...

There is no limit to what you can achieve, it’s up to you.

Mr Harold Clark BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending tutorials away from my home turf at weekends.

My message to future students is...

Through education a wonderful world of discovery and opportunity will open up. You will become a better and more insightful person with a positive approach to life.

Mr Kenneth Clark BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at the summer school.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and enjoy it. It’s a very good university.

Miss Sheena Clark BA

My message to future students is...

You CAN do it.

Mr Simon Clark BA (Hons) Hist

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The first face-to-face tutorial held at Northumbria University and hosted by Dr Nick Cott. It was great to meet like-minded students.

My message to future students is...

Accept that there will be time pressures especially close to deadlines. This is normal. Do not be afraid, you will get through.

Mr William Clark BA BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Friendship and camaraderie with students and lecturers.

My message to future students is...

It is a great learning experience. It is very hard work but the effort is worth it.

Miss Caroline Clarke BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of discovery and learning with others.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every moment and make it worthwhile.

Mr Mark Clarke BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I found the course very interesting.

My message to future students is...

Study for a better future.

Mr Peter Clarke MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My MBA summer school at Warwick University which was challenging, stimulating and great fun, and was a spring board to a new job.

My message to future students is...

My OU studies opened up new opportunities for a more fulfilling life so go for it and enjoy your learning experience.

Miss Anne Clarkson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning from some enthusiastic tutors and meeting a wide range of like-minded fellow students.

My message to future students is...

You can only realise your potential as you follow your dreams.

Mr Philip Clayton BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The award ceremony, standing and receiving my degree with fellow students, together on a momentous day.

My message to future students is...

Get into a routine, but more importantly, enjoy your studying.

Ms Valerie Clayton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving confirmation of my degree award, it felt like such an achievement and I was very proud of myself especially since I didn’t do well at school.

My message to future students is...

Your OU degree will open doors for you whatever your chosen career so work hard and enjoy your studies.

Mrs Margaret Cleary BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The helpfulness of all the staff, from telephone contacts right through to tutors, all amazing and encouraging.

My message to future students is...

You are never too old to learn and succeed, I was in my late 70s when I received my BA, so good luck.

Mr Michael Clegg BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree in Paris and explaining to locals that we were part of a strange religious order.

My message to future students is...

The harder the work, the easier it becomes.

Mr Maxim Clements BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie of summer schools spent with kindred spirits excited by the thrill of learning that we knew would expand our futures and increase the joy of living.

My message to future students is...

Every OU student who completed their course is with you every step you take. And every step takes you closer to the best you can be. Go get it.

Mr Michael Clifford BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Challenging myself.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, you'll thank yourself.

Mr Peter Cloke BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Participating in the science summer school at Heriot-Watt University during my first year of OU study.

My message to future students is...

The extent of your achievement is only limited by the size of your willingness to work for it. Seize the opportunity!

Mrs Catherine Coates BA (Hons) MA

My message to future students is...

Persevere – it is worth it.

Mr Phil Cobley MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That sense of achievement when you get the TMA and EMA results in throughout any module. The anticipation followed by the relief and excitement – it genuinely helped drive me forward!

My message to future students is...

We are all lifelong learners, no matter who we are or what we do. The OU helps channel and focus that learning to guide you on your journey towards learning and achieving your passions. Give it time and it will give back to you so much more than a qualification!

Dr Lesley Coburn BA MPhil

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving course books as part of the aid given to me by the OU, and treasuring grades and feedback – exhilarating brain work beautifully rewarded.

My message to future students is...

Do it for yourself and keep on doing it.

Mr Alan Cochrane

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Looking at new learning materials either online or printed, knowing that a well-structured and supported challenge lies ahead.

My message to future students is...

The OU enabled me to update and enhance my knowledge and skills at post-graduate level. In a fast-changing world, an OU course or qualification provides you with quality learning for the future.

Mrs Catherine Cockram BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising I could do the assignments and get a good grade.

Mr Alexander Coe BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school in West Sussex.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy what you do more than worrying about the result.

Mr John Coe BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful summer schools where I met so many inspirational people. I even married one of them!

My message to future students is...

An Open University degree actually says more about you than a 'conventional' degree ever could, about self-discipline, tenacity and self-motivation over many years and often in difficult circumstances.

Mrs Sylvia Cohen BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting and interacting with fellow students during tutorials and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, whatever the challenges – snatched half hours of reading and studying in a busy life can achieve a great deal.

Mr Ormonde Cole BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting Betty Boothroyd. She called Order, as in the Commons.

Mr Robert Coleman BSc (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The genuine excitement of new course material arriving, and the anticipation of getting stuck in!

My message to future students is...

The lasting sense of pride and achievement makes all the hard work worthwhile – that feeling has never left me.

Miss Deborah Collier

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studying, the OU can open up your world.

Ms Julia Collier BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The monthly face-to-face lectures. Summer schools!

My message to future students is...

Don't give up!

Mr John Collins BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!



Queen Elizabeth II meeting OU staff and visitors on her first visit to the Walton Hall campus in 1979.

Ms Eileen Collisson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising that my opinions are important.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the whole experience.

Mrs Sarah Colquhoun BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Keele campus, beautiful situation, beautiful summer weather and friendships.

My message to future students is...

To take a deep breath before you plunge into submitting your TMAs and do not be afraid. Join your local support group.

Mr Ian Comerford BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As a soldier sitting on a camp bed in Western Bosnia flicking through my course book. The OU helping me gain access to a PGCE upon leaving the Army.

My message to future students is...

Think ahead and no matter what you're doing now, the OU can help you qualify for the future.

Mr Richard Connell BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning how to defeat procrastination.

My message to future students is...

Whatever you learn, you will learn to study properly and transpose those skills to whatever task you face in the future.

Mrs Dorothy Connolly

My message to future students is...

Take this opportunity.

Mr Maurice Cool BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Obtaining a pass for my first 60 points and sitting having a little cry on the stairs, knowing that this could be the start of something very special.

My message to future students is...

My BSc opened previously closed doors, it's time those doors opened for you... you can do it!

Mr Clive Cook

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The well organised way the learning was structured.

My message to future students is...

Find time and stick with it.

Miss Mollie Cook BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school. Met some amazing people.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every moment of your journey – this will change your life.

Dr Penelope Cook BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutorials (excellent) and the wide variety of attendees.

My message to future students is...

Seize the opportunity and enjoy.

Miss Jane Coombs BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree at Ely Cathedral, wearing my best dress. I was the only one not wearing a robe.

My message to future students is...

You can achieve great things and the process of learning itself will give your life a boost.

Mr Gregory Coop BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to Milton Keynes to receive my degree. It was a fantastic feeling after all the years of study and sacrifice.

My message to future students is...

Stay focussed and keep going. It will be worth it in the end. You know that.

Mr Alan Cooper BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The discussions in the first Foundation course!

My message to future students is...

Enjoy but be selective in course choice.

Mrs Barbara Cooper BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Amazing choices of subjects available, coupled with first-class support and guidance, thus enabling me to fulfil my ambition of becoming a TESOL teacher (eventually a college lecturer).

My message to future students is...

Never give up. The result is worth the effort. DREAM – BELIEVE – ACHIEVE

Mr Edward Cooper BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day in Harrogate, aged 70. Summer schools in Caen (France), Friedrich Schiller University (Germany) and Keele and UMIST (UK).

My message to future students is...

Work hard at your studies with the OU and it will bring you satisfaction and rewards.

Mr Anthony Coote BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at Westfield College in 1988.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it!

Mr Anthony Coots BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having a sense of purpose, then of achievement.

My message to future students is...

Immerse yourself in your subject!

Mr Roger Cope

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I struggled through years spent at school, So learning, for me, wasn't cool. Finding OU quite late, Learning then became great! And I recall the thought, "It's so cool!"

My message to future students is...

Never doubt what you can now achieve, You, just in yourself must believe, The OU is inviting, A new life that's exciting! Unique thoughts just for you to conceive.

Mr Nicholas Copeland BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As a mature student, the OU gave me a great sense of purpose in my retirement.

My message to future students is...

Be determined and really focus on your studies. That will ensure your success.

Mrs Norah Copeland BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Lying on the drawing room floor studying!

My message to future students is...

You should do it, you would enjoy it.

Mr Robert Copeland BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I found that attending weekend tutorials helped me greatly, I was not the only one who needed explanations and advice.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, and you will be rewarded... if you need help, please ask.

Mr David Cotterill BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How it opened up a whole new world of knowledge – it's 45 years since I first registered and I am so pleased it is as strong as ever.

My message to future students is...

Grasp this opportunity and you will never look back.

Mr Fenton Court BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I dreaded summer school, but actually enjoyed the experience; being at an actual university was inspiring, with lecturers normally only seen on TV or corresponded with by post in 1988.

My message to future students is...

Immerse yourself in the experience, stick to the course materials; copiously use the 'buzzwords' so that it's obvious you have read the units, and notice the change for the better.

Mr Alan Cowell BA MA

My message to future students is...

Keep going whatever.

Mrs Lynne Cowtan BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Researching for my essays from books (before the internet!) whilst my family were asleep at night.

My message to future students is...

Never give up! Small steps will get you there in the end.

Mrs Christine Cox BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friends I met, the fun we shared. The assignments personally delivered at midnight. The TV lectures at 6am on Saturdays – those were the days!

My message to future students is...

Make this the start of a life-long learning plan and never give up on it!

Miss Enid Cox BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Keep working at it and remember that studying is enjoyable for a lifetime. Since the OU, I've branched into Christian Theology.

Mrs Philippa Cox BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer school.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! It is worth all the hard work and effort.

Mr Stephen Cox BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That great sense of anticipation each time when opening up the new books and learning materials received for the next module to be studied arrived in the post.

My message to future students is...

By studying with the OU your self-motivation and dedication marks you out, it's no easy option but hugely rewarding to learn with such a great, innovative institution, enjoy it.

Ms Anne Coyle

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How easy and professional the whole experience was, right from registration to teaching and completion.

My message to future students is...

Participate and be your best, exceed your potential, all the tools are there and available to you.

Mrs Elizabeth Coyne BSc

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to learn.

Mr James Craig BSc (Hons) STEM

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The inspiring graduation.

My message to future students is...

Keep going you will get there, and enjoy the journey.

Ms Nicola Craig

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making lasting friends and the mutual support we gave each other, particularly when the level of work got really quite difficult to maintain.

My message to future students is...

You signed up because you wanted to learn. Stick at it and ask for help; my tutors were a great source of encouragement and advice. Enjoy the journey and good luck!

Hon~Dr Philip Cramer

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying and struggling through the module on Electromagnetism, it suddenly all came together in my head. This reflects how good the teaching material was. A peak experience throughout.

My message to future students is...

If you are really enjoying studying mathematics and physics modules, however difficult you're finding them, then you may find the grades look after themselves.

Mrs Carol Crawford BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I started study in 2010. My first module was AA100 The Arts Past and Present. I have been studying ever since. My current module is DD213 Environment and Society.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies with the OU, it's a great university where tutors and students alike are very helpful. The courses are well structured and interesting.

Mrs Monica Crawford MA MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Lectures with students, so eager and enthusiastic to learn.

My message to future students is...

Keep going. You WILL get there!

Mr Gerald Crawley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Stirling University summer school - 1988.

My message to future students is...

Hang in there!

Mr Francis Creagh BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools - social and cultural interactions with all ages, classes and backgrounds - intellectual stimulations, both varied and profound!

My message to future students is...

My degree launched me on a teaching career and gave me confidence to complete studies at three other universities.

Ms Denise Creamer BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going on stage to collect my degree. What a proud moment.

My message to future students is...

You CAN do it. Don't worry about how long it might take. The journey is fun.

Mr Thomas Cribb BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience.

Mr Gabriele Crisci MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Participating in University education.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and you will succeed.

Dr Valerie Critten EdD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being accepted onto the EdD programme as a student, and graduating after long years of study while teaching full-time. My supervisors were an inspiration!

My message to future students is...

Everyone is scared when they first start as it is such a commitment, but it is hugely worthwhile.

Mr Jeremiah Cronin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Witnessing the pride and joy of fellow students at their graduation ceremony, many of whom had never had the opportunity of further or higher education during the post war austerity years. Very moving!

My message to future students is...

May God bless you.

Mr Bernard Crooks BA MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Still remember my PI number!

My message to future students is...

You will never regret it!

Mrs Evelyn Crosbie BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at Stirling University.

My message to future students is...

It will be worth it!

Mr David Cross BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The boost summer schools gave me.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up. All the effort is worth it!

Mrs Florence Cross BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I liked it all.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it! It's worth the effort. It took me 8 years overall!

Mrs Pauline Cross BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school at Bath, where I learnt I had a positive contribution to make in a group and made an enduring friendship with a student from Brussels.

My message to future students is...

When things are tough stick with it. Imagine receiving your degree. Never give up. Find a supportive friend to be your companion on the amazing journey with the OU.

Miss Elaine Crossfield

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting lovely like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

The OU gives you confidence at work, to know you can do the job and strive for more than you realised you are capable of.

Mr Garry Crossley BSc (Hons) BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The S100 Home Experiment Kit. S100 was like reading a novel, the next chapter was too long coming... The summer school university learning experience, amazing places.

My message to future students is...

The amount of information available is just unbelievable, and your view on life changes with every new discovery. Stick in there and enjoy the experience.

Mrs Sally Crouch BSc MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fun and friendship of 'study buddies' and summer schools!

My message to future students is...

Do OU for U.

Mrs Diane Culberson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Be brave – accept the challenge. There is more inside you than you will ever have believed. The OU can make you into a confident, new person. It did for me!

Mr Michael Culham

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My weeks at Caen University, speaking French and meeting fellow OU students.

My message to future students is...

It may be hard work but stick at it. It's worth all the effort.

Ms Yvonne Cullen BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Another world outside work... like-minded people, brilliant conversations, friends, achievement.

My message to future students is...

I changed my life through a long-term plan, a BA and MA, and now I'm where I want to be.

Mr Peter Culman

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools. Meeting other students from all over the UK who were struggling with the same issues I was.

My message to future students is...

Keep trying. Don't give up. It is worth it when you finally understand what it is you are trying to learn.

Mrs Patricia Cumming BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Reading the novels, opening the clean new pages and settling down to read and take notes. Marvellous!

My message to future students is...

Take a leap of faith, faith in yourself. The result is well worth the hard work, a new beginning.

Miss Anne Cunningham BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Feeling that everyone, teachers, mentors or back room staff wanted me to achieve my goal.

My message to future students is...

Take every opportunity to learn, who knows where it will take you.

Mrs Alison Currie BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day! Gaining a BSc Honours in Psychology at the age of 73 was the proudest day of my life.

My message to future students is...

I didn't think I was clever enough to go to university. Until you try, you don't know what you can achieve. If I can do it, you can do it too!

Mrs Gillian Curry BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning whilst teaching full-time, it was very interesting, but a bit of a slog. Don't give up!

My message to future students is...

Persevere, it is not easy but worth it in the end, and can lead to new things in life.

Mrs Margaret Curry BSc MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day! It was the culmination of many years of blood, sweat and tears and a wonderful occasion for the whole family.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it. Gaining my BSc enabled me to be considered for, and appointed to, a job in distance learning which doubled my salary.

Mr Bruce Curtis BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The encouragement of my tutors and the self-confidence that gave me to study again.

My message to future students is...

You are never too old to learn something new – and to enjoy it!

Mr Rodney Dailey BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded people all striving to improve their knowledge, experience and future prospects.

My message to future students is...

Knowledge is everything.

Mrs Margaret Danby

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sheer joy of learning, and then applying new knowledge and skills.

My message to future students is...

To persevere. Your studies will boost your confidence and job prospects.

Mrs Patricia Daniels BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Letting me meet so many other people who wanted to further their education in an entirely new field, away from my nursing and midwifery career.

My message to future students is...

Never lose faith in yourself, or in those who offer you help.

Mr Hans–Wolfgang Danziger BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As I studied in 2002, the excitement at receiving a box of books and tapes every year.

My message to future students is...

I never cease thanking the OU for opening my mind and hope it will be so for you.

Mrs Jacqueline Davey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

‘Holiday’ in Florence when studying Renaissance and Reformation.

My message to future students is...

The OU is life changing – making new friends, learning new skills, opening new opportunities and giving greater confidence.

Mrs Annette Davies BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree at Birmingham Town Hall. It was a very proud moment and shared it with my family.

My message to future students is...

Keep working hard – it is well worthwhile.

Dr Elwyn Davies BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools! We had great times and did some serious study! I am in my 85th year and have very fond memories of the time I spent with you.

My message to future students is...

Go to it!

Mrs Heather Davies BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Discovering the sheer joy of choral singing and performing on stage at my summer school. It was a foundation course and compulsory.

My message to future students is...

Don’t give up. Stick with it. Help is always there.

Mrs Janet Davies BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Departing for my first summer school by train, not knowing quite what to expect. A definite feeling of excitement and apprehension.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! You will not regret it.

Mr Robert Davies BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students and supporting each other when things got tough.

My message to future students is...

Good luck with your studies, stick at it and it will open up a whole new world and opportunities.

Mrs Sylvia Davies BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying subjects that I have liked and going to courses in Wales.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it even though it takes up a lot of time. The results are so worthwhile.

Mrs Anna Davis BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonder and pleasure of learning, the camaraderie of residential schools and the award ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall made the OU an unforgettable experience.

My message to future students is...

It is not easy and requires commitment but if you stick with it, you will never regret it.

Mr Keith Davis

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Starting OU work after finishing my day job!

My message to future students is...

Seize the opportunity to learn – it opens all sorts of doors.

Mrs Patricia Ann Davis

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finding courses with no exams, just an extended essay.

My message to future students is...

I left school at 15 with no qualifications. If I can do it so can you.

Mr Robert Davis BA MA (Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being part of a community of learners.

My message to future students is...

Have a go! It's not as daunting as it sometimes seems.

Dr Daphne Dawson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The palpable enthusiasm for learning that I saw and felt around me at summer school.

Mr Dennis Day BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Classroom tutorials – then the pub!

My message to future students is...

Don't fear failure; you learn from it.

Dr Michael Day BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutors – they were excellent!

Mrs Gillian De La Torre BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Crouching on the pavement, in the dusk of an evening, learning how to measure the distance of the moon from Earth with my newly discovered skills.

My message to future students is...

Whatever the difficulties you are having just keep going, and step by step you will achieve.

Mr Albert Deadman BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My OU tutor's comment on an assignment stating that I had the honour of being the first to quote his recently published book back at him!

My message to future students is...

There will be many hurdles to cross before completing the course but the end results are well worth all that effort.

Mr Eric Dean BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting with other students at the face-to-face tutorials.

My message to future students is...

It's never too late to have a go. 50 years after leaving school I finally graduated with a first class honours BSc.

Mr Graeme Dean BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Visiting Dublin for my graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Keep on trying, even when it's hard. Take a year off if necessary but do return to studying and reach your goal.

Ms Anne Deane BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Knowing I had actually managed to gain a degree when my life was so hard at the time.

My message to future students is...

Never give up, even when you think you can't go on. You will get there, and you will be so pleased!

Mr Michael Deegan BA

My message to future students is...

Make the most of this opportunity.

Mrs Kim Degroot BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

S102 summer school.

My message to future students is...

Do not procrastinate but enjoy the ride and keep the faith.

Mrs Elizabeth Delaney BA (Hons) MBA MSc MA (Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When it opened to offer opportunity to many.

My message to future students is...

Grasp the gifts of the current hour.

Ms Rose Delaney BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being accepted as a student and embarking on my academic journey, also the joy and pride I felt upon donning a cap and gown at my graduation.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, it is worth it in so many ways.

Mr John Deller BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Seeing other students at summer school.

My message to future students is...

It's never too late to get a degree.

Mr Raymond Denis BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It opened up a world of computing.

My message to future students is...

Just do it.

Ms Melissa Dennison BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Awaiting the postman with the next textbook, or box of scientific goodies.

My message to future students is...

Seize this opportunity – explore all the subjects that you have longed to and are passionate about. Nurture your understanding, let your knowledge grow... develop into the person you always wished you could be, but perhaps never had the chance.

Mr Hamish Dermit LLB (Hons) LLM

My message to future students is...

The OU can give you a second start. Take it!

Mr Mike Deval BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation at age 63!

My message to future students is...

Learning is lifelong.

Mr Cecil Devonish BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having set my objective I was able to realise the outcome in relation to the programme of study. I appreciated the interaction socially and educationally with fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Work towards an objective. Your mode of study will involve planning and preparation. Develop interests by accessing other publications.

Mr David Dewey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having contact with fellow students on the same course, contact with my tutor (personally) and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it; you will feel great when awarded your OU degree!

Mr Mandip Dhesi BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU helped me expand my mind and I gained confidence through my studies.

My message to future students is...

You have an exciting opportunity ahead of you. I wish you all the best on your journey.

Mr Malcolm Dick BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree, knowing that failures in the past due to dyslexia had now been overcome, due to modern methods of teaching. Thank you.

My message to future students is...

The early strain is worth the ultimate gain.

Ms Janey Dillon MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation. We were all asked if we had raised children, cared for parents, juggled work etc. while studying. Everyone raised their hands and I have never been prouder to sit among such a hard-working, tenacious group.

My message to future students is...

Persevere. And do attend the graduation – you will love it! The OU will support you every step of the way, so ask for help if you need it!

Mr Stephen Dilworth BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying D301 Historical Sources in 1984 and the inspirational lectures from Deirdre Mageean and Michael Drake.

My message to future students is...

Never stop learning and embrace both the educational and social side of the OU.

Mr Gordon Diment BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and my degree ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Good luck, it will change you as an individual and your life.

Mrs Elaine Dimon BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Day schools at the Design Museum, making models of designs for a community hub on a local piece of land.

My message to future students is...

Participate in tutorials and group forums and activities as much as you can. Someone else may ask a question you haven't thought of.

Mr Nigel Dix BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The realisation I was capable and could enjoy studying due to the fantastic course material and tutors, particularly Dr Mike Follows.

My message to future students is...

To start it seems daunting but soon, you look forward to choosing the next course, then before you realise, you have a feeling of enormous pride and satisfaction on your graduation day.

Miss Jazzmynne Dixon BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials on Saturday mornings with our tutor, Tim Reeves, discussing poetry and prose; and of course, graduating at the magnificent Symphony Hall in Birmingham!

My message to future students is...

Structure your time carefully to make time for studying and for fun; plan ahead for TMAs; read everything if you're studying English literature! Most of all, enjoy yourself!

Mr William Dixon BA

My message to future students is...

If a problem crops up, tell the OU.

Mrs Nova Dobb BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The week I spent at summer school and the events organised by the London Regional Arts Club (LRAC), especially the OU tutors who brought everything to life!

My message to future students is...

A pass mark is a pass mark – never give up!

Mr Malcolm Dobbins BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree from Baroness Betty Boothroyd, and on the 50th anniversary finding my shield on the Tree of Learning.

My message to future students is...

The future is yours so make sure your study with the OU enables you to create a page or two of future history. Be proud to be a graduate of this great university.

Mrs Wendy Doble BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The day I graduated, and the pride on my husband's and parents' faces.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, no matter how weary you feel. It really is worth all the effort you put in, and you will feel wonderful when you complete the course.

Mr Gerald Dobson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Gratitude. The OU gave me a bursary when I couldn't afford the fees.

Mr Francis Doherty

My favourite memory of the OU is...

All of it really. Opening the first page of a book to closing it upon completion!

My message to future students is...

The Open University helped me to change my outlook on life. Just do it!

Mr Ian Dolby BA BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools in Manchester and Nottingham. Enthusiastic, amazing lecturers.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, it opens your eyes.

Mrs Anne Dommett BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful people I met whilst studying. The help and advice I received from tutors and also the support of the OU staff.

My message to future students is...

However hard it seems, keep going. You are not alone. The rewards gained have no price and last a lifetime.

Mr Michael Donaldson BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school UMIST 1993.
Comprehensive course material.

My message to future students is...

Whatever you end up doing in life,
education enriches the experience.

Mrs Ewa Donnachie BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school experience. Getting
away for a week to work and play hard.

My message to future students is...

You can do it, your confidence and belief
in yourself will grow enormously and
benefit you in all parts of your life.

Mrs Christine Donnelly BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The study week at Nottingham.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! You can do it!

Miss Elfreda Dookhan

My favourite memory of the OU is...

This was a life-changing experience,
I came from an underprivileged
background and achieved a diploma
whilst working part time as a teacher and
studying a BA.

My message to future students is...

The OU provides different courses
at different academic levels to suit
your needs and caters to your social
environment. I would highly recommend
The Open University.

Mrs Gillian Dootson

My favourite memory of the OU is...

All the amazing things I learned, the
discipline of studying, the people I met,
everything, even the exams!

My message to future students is...

Keep going, it will be worth it, you are the
future, bless you.

Mr Ian Dormer BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Setting up the home experiment for ST291
Images and Information. The small laser
and other accessories led me into the
fascinating world of optics.

My message to future students is...

Keep on learning – may be cliché but true.

Mrs Nancy Doughty BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Bath – Christmas party
in July, complete with fire alarms going
off! Singing carols in the square outside.

My message to future students is...

You never know what you can achieve,
unless you try!

Miss Elaine Dove BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of study and discovery.
Well produced units of study.

My message to future students is...

Wonderful way to further your studies.

Mrs Brenda Downes BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at tutorials and
study days. It was very helpful to be able
to share ideas and greatly increased my
confidence.

My message to future students is...

You can do it!

Mr Peter Downes BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The huge envelope of books every month.

My message to future students is...

Keep up the enthusiasm.

Mr Kevin Draper

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The encouragement and support you feel
from the tutors and group.

My message to future students is...

When things go wrong as they sometimes
will, when the road you're trudging up is all
hill, care is pressing down a bit, rest if you
must – never quit.

Ms Susan Drury BA (Hons) BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students in our own study
group.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up.

The original OU Library (The Jennie
Lee Library) displaying an Open
Library banner.



The Betty Boothroyd Library on The
Open University campus in Milton
Keynes, which replaced the original
Jennie Lee Library.



Mr Philip Duffin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The help and support of all of the tutors at tutorial days, and the constructive comments on the TMAs, and the sense of achievement.

My message to future students is...

You will definitely enjoy being a student with the OU and all the reasonable adjustments will be made for you to study well.

Mr Aiden Duffy BSc (Hons) Psych

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Coming home to a delivery of new textbooks. Flicking through them and feeling amazed that by the end of the year I will have absorbed all of this knowledge.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the process. Be present and engage fully with what is in front of you. That is the joy of learning.

Mrs Sheila Dundas BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting such a wide range of students, and enthusiastic lectures.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up and enjoy every minute.

Mr Owen Dunn BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first tutor (Dr Valery Jansen) reaffirming that I belong, when it's all a bit weird at the beginning. 75% well written TMA will do fine – the path was set!

My message to future students is...

Fully embrace the range, diversity, skill set, character and egos of your fellow students and tutors! People make the world go around.

Mr Samuel Dunnachie BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Evening classes and summer schools where I met an amazing range of interesting people.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your experience and achievements.

Miss Ann Dunning BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating in Ely Cathedral, having been diagnosed with cancer three months previously.

My message to future students is...

The OU is an excellent route to a degree, whatever your age.

Mr Paul Durkin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Obtaining sponsorship as a technician at a college. My employer considered a degree in a teaching qualification. When I moved to work in industry, they did sponsor me.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it. It took me 11 years. I came through a postal strike, a divorce, a theft of my course units, job career change, house move and serious illness.

Ms Marilyn Dury BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I always felt academically inclined until I failed my 11+ exam. My world was shattered! The OU changed all that for me – wonderful.

My message to future students is...

If you want to achieve, you will do it with no regrets.

Mrs Ida Dyan MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The satisfaction of learning to research, write questioning essays, achieve my Masters degree and hear my children say “Wow, Mum, you're better educated than any of us! You did it!”

My message to future students is...

Whatever the stress and time constraints you can work through it. The sense of achievement is well worth the time and effort.

Mrs Barbara Dye BA (Hons) BSc (Hons) Nat Sci

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of receiving a package of course books by post, unwrapping them, savouring the ‘new’ smell and then flicking through them in anticipation of the pleasure to come!

My message to future students is...

When the going gets tough, keep going, one small step at a time and success will be yours!

Mr Timothy Dye

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The support from staff.

My message to future students is...

Remember to study hard.

Mr David Dyer

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The seemingly endless patience in helping a hopeless student like me who stresses over the slightest problem.

My message to future students is...

The OU opens doors and continues to support students to success.

Mrs Angela Dynes BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making lots of new friends as well as top quality tuition. Great variety of courses, something for everyone.

My message to future students is...

Just do it! You won't regret it.

Mr Andrew Eames BA (Hons) BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The kindness and dedication of tutors.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up – you can do it.

Mrs Barbara East BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree at Alexandra Palace after being told by my teacher that ‘I wasn't University material!’

My message to future students is...

Keep going!

Mrs Sheila Eaton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The discussions and friendships made in the study groups we set up. Plus the study weekends at universities and the confidence I gained from them.

My message to future students is...

It's never too late to train or get an education. I left school at 14, got my degree on retirement. The next 20 years were the most productive of my life as a Charity President, activist and campaigner.

Dr Michael Eccles

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful summer school in Germany (Diploma in German).

My message to future students is...

No matter your previous education or your age, give it a go! I did at 65, and succeeded!

Mr Royston Edgington MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Of learning a new skill one day and applying it the next day.

My message to future students is...

Don't give in, stay to the end, the benefits are so great.

Mr Alan Edmondson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having my family – wife, children and parents at the degree ceremony. I'll have the photos forever.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and enjoy the ride. Be proud of your achievement.

Mrs Penelope Eginton BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My favourite memory from studying with the OU is attending tutorials and the summer school. We had the chance to work in laboratories with other students from the course and shared our experiences.

My message to future students is...

My message to future students is never give up. Sometimes you may find it challenging, but the end is so worthwhile.

Mr Douglas Eke BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It taught me to question what I read i.e. to not take everything at face value.

Mrs June Elford BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A taste of university life, meeting other students from all walks of life.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, you'll never regret taking this chance of being offered a place with The Open University.

Mr George Elix BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day at Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies, whatever outcome, it will be an enriching experience, well worth the effort.

Mr Gilbert Elks BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer tutorials at a university with other students – you are not an island.

My message to future students is...

In your studies with the OU you will find other doors open for you – go through them with an open mind, enjoy it and the best of luck.

Mr Jonathan Elliman BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

OU studies gave me a clear purpose every day. The urge to get up in the morning, to continue my OU studies.

My message to future students is...

Keep right on to the end of the road.

Mr Gareth Ellis BA BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The whole experience.

My message to future students is...

Just do your best and enjoy it.

Mrs Jacqueline Ellis BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie experienced at summer schools and day courses. At Keele, in 1984, 'medallion man' wowed us with his piano playing.

My message to future students is...

Don't be discouraged – most problems can be overcome with advice from tutors.

Mr Richard Ellis

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My great teachers on the Spanish diploma course – Maria from Peru, Patricia from Colombia and the tutors on the summer school in Santiago de Compostela.

My message to future students is...

The OU opens up whole new possibilities in your life. I was able to represent my employers at conferences in Spain.

Mr Robert Elston BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Teaching style and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Good luck – enjoy every moment!

Miss Doreen Ely BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU widened my thinking and helped me tackle new subjects. I met some great people too.

My message to future students is...

Be disciplined in your study and you can achieve your dream.

Mr Robert Emerton

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excellent lecturers, who always had time to discuss any problems you may have with the research and learning process.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the process of learning the subject you wish to gain a degree in. The OU is a great learning institution.

Mrs Patricia Empsall BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being surprised and excited by new things I learned.

My message to future students is...

Congratulations on joining the OU, it may be hard at times but it is so worthwhile.

Mrs Janet Emsley MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sitting up till the early hours finishing my assignments as the dawn was breaking, then catching a couple of hours sleep before going to work!

My message to future students is...

It's never too late to learn, and learning never ends. Sometimes it's difficult but stick with it, you CAN do it.

Mr Clive Entwistle MA MSc LLB

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Returning from Pakistan, there was intense airport security, suitcases emptied and contents searched. Asked the contents of my briefcase and told "law books", I was waved through. The power of the OU.

My message to future students is...

Never give up. However much you might think you are struggling, the effort is worthwhile. OU tutors will help you see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Mrs Jacqueline Erasin BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That fantastic feeling when you receive feedback from your tutor for that assignment you have sweated over for so long. It really boosted my self-confidence.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of this opportunity and never stop believing in what you can achieve.

Mr David Etherington BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful people I met on my courses and especially those life-long friends that I made at Keele summer school in 1976.

My message to future students is...

Keep believing in yourself and that you can be successful whatever moments of doubts beset you during your courses.

Ms Miriam Evan

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Weeping with laughter at the performance of a French stand up comic during summer school in Manchester, and forgetting that it was done in a foreign language.

My message to future students is...

Fight for free higher education for all who have the intellectual capacity to benefit. Have the courage to express your views freely, even if they are not fashionable. Challenge orthodoxies.

Mrs Christine Evans BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school. Meeting up with such diverse people, all with the aim of acquiring knowledge for a rich and rewarding future.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, however long it takes. It is worth it for enjoying and understanding ideas and expanding the mind.

Mr Frederick Evans BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The 3 summer schools. My Degree Ceremony in Cardiff. The birth of my son in May '81.

My message to future students is...

Persevere and good luck.

Mrs Geraldine Evans BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Growth of my self-confidence and the helpfulness of the tutors. Well structured courses.

My message to future students is...

It's worth your time and effort.

Dr John Evans BA (Hons) MEd

My message to future students is...

Work hard.

Mrs Julianna Evans BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The challenge of study and meeting like-minded people. Also, seeing myself in a mirror wearing a cap and gown.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience as I did. Good luck with your studies.

Mr Michael Evans BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation!

My message to future students is...

Keep at it as employers will recognise your efforts and your route to success.

Mr Peter Evans BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and revision weekend M500.

My message to future students is...

Any new knowledge you learn has the potential to be useful; you may never know when you will need it.

Mr Rodney Evans BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Geology field visits and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the journey of companionship!

Miss Sian Evans BA (Hons) Hum

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being the first cohort to undertake a wholly online module - A329 The making of Welsh history.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it - it is well worth it!

Mrs Susan Evans BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How it enabled me to become a teacher. My OU degree led on to a PGCE at a local uni. I couldn't have done all this without the OU.

My message to future students is...

An OU degree can open doors, lead on to where you want to go and achieve what you want. Try and don't give up.

Mr David Everard BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending my Graduation walking on stage at the Barbican after 7 years' studying thinking what an achievement gaining my BSc Honours. Feeling so grateful to God, my tutors and staff.

My message to future students is...

I WILL NEVER GIVE UP! Even when you are exhausted and want to give up. Press on. You know you can do it!

Mrs Sandra Eyre BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

First course, first essay due, my daughter faced another hospitalisation. Believing this would all be too much, my tutor advised an extension, no hasty decisions. How right she was.

My message to future students is...

Whether your qualification brings you your preferred job, desired promotion or not, the journey of study and support of the OU will replenish the soul and revitalise one's life.

Mr John Fairclough BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Very early morning radio broadcasts.

My message to future students is...

No matter how long it takes, see it through.

Mr Michael Fairfield

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Indulging my interest in science using Tesco points.

My message to future students is...

Pursue knowledge for its own sake.

Dr Nigel Fairweather BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Doing research into topics I chose myself.

My message to future students is...

Keep trying!

Ms Angela Falk

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Delivering my essays to my tutor's house at 11.55 pm.

My message to future students is...

You can do it!

Mrs Catherine Fallaize BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The two summer schools I attended at York University in the 1970s.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up. Even if your personal circumstances are difficult and you have to take a year off. Make sure you go back and finish your course, eventually.

Mrs Alison Falls

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students on the summer school – so many interesting people from so many unexpected backgrounds. We helped each other to study, and we had a lot of fun too.

My message to future students is...

It's hard work but an OU qualification is well worth it. If times get tough, don't be afraid to ask the OU for advice. They're there to help you.

Mr Colin Farey MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Taking the B882 Creative Management course. Creative solutions will always be needed!

My message to future students is...

Online teaching is now mainstream but you will be rewarded by attending in person whenever you can.

Mr Robert Farrar BA

My message to future students is...

I wish you every success in your time with The Open University, grasp the opportunities on offer and be as good as you can be.

Mr Richard Fawcett BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That with each course completed I was one step closer to completing one of my greatest ambitions, to have a science degree.

My message to future students is...

Keep going no matter how hard it can be at times. It will all be worth it in the end.

Miss Surrey Felix BA

My message to future students is...

Do not give up. Obtaining an OU degree changed my life.

Mrs Celia Ferguson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

In my third year while attending a lecture in a Glasgow gallery, I met someone who lived nearby and became a life-long friend.

My message to future students is...

Never think that you don't have ability to start/finish a course. It's amazing and rewarding to discover that you are able to do what you once thought you couldn't.

Mr Robert Ferguson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it, you will get there in the end.

Mr Norman Ferrett BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony!

My message to future students is...

Don't ever give up.

Mr Gordon Ferrier BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

M335 studies in Pure Mathematics. The combination of Turing's work and Gödel's incompleteness theorem was inspirational.

My message to future students is...

Learn what you love, and love what you learn.

Mr Kevin Field

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Scoring a merit in Project Management.

My message to future students is...

Keep your skills up to date in an ever changing world.

Miss Marion Field BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As I had been unable to go to university in 1954, the OU was tailor-made for me. I particularly enjoyed my first summer school at York University.

My message to future students is...

Do make the most of the number of opportunities offered you by the wonderful institution, The Open University.

Mr John Finney BA PGCE MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I attended 2 summer schools in the 1970s and had a glimpse of university life. Very enjoyable to meet fellow students made much easier now with the onset of FaceTime and Zoom!

My message to future students is...

Study for enjoyment, create friendships where possible, share your thoughts and be grateful to family and friends for their support.

Miss Sara–Dawn Fippard BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising I had enough points to gain a degree even though I was only doing courses for fun!

My message to future students is...

Keep smiling! Even when things get tough, dig deep and think of the moment when you are up there being awarded your degree knowing how hard you worked.

Mrs Anne Flather BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The mental stimulation in working towards an assignment and the satisfaction in completing it.

My message to future students is...

All your efforts will be rewarded.

Mr Leon Flegg MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my masters degree at Ely Cathedral with my family there to see it, a very proud moment.

My message to future students is...

Study hard, but enjoy the experience, reach out to others on your course, you'll meet some amazing people.

Mr Andrew Fletcher MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I took advantage of the flexibility of learning opportunities in a range and variety of subjects to reflect changes in my work ambition.

My message to future students is...

Good luck and happy learning.

Mr George Fletcher BA

My message to future students is...

Keep going. It is well worth the joy you will get from achieving your degree.

Mrs Louise Fletcher BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My husband handing me a glass of champagne in the car park after finishing my last exam.

My message to future students is...

This is no easy journey but keep pushing yourself and never give up. The destination is worth it.

Mr Matthew Fletcher MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Carrying out digital forensics on a memory stick containing an image of a suspect's work computer.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourselves. You are the future!

Ms Sarah M. G. Fletcher BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The Open University gave me the confidence to open my own prep school. Now 22 years on, it has been chosen as one of the top 50 prep schools in the country by the Sunday Times.

My message to future students is...

If you work hard and believe in yourself, you can do anything and make things happen!

Mr Declan Flynn Sc BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting a life chance.

My message to future students is...

Lifelong learning will secure your future.

Mrs Isabel Fogg BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Hard work and challenging, my first positive experience of formal education. Loved it!

My message to future students is...

Rise to the challenge and enjoy the ride!

Mr Nicholas Fogg BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning new things.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it. My OU degree helped my career and earning potential enormously.

Mrs Julie Foley BSc (Hons) PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer school and feeling like a real student.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy making friends with study buddies, they will be friends for life.

Mrs Thelma Forder BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Exciting to be learning with like-minded students and discussions led by enthusiastic leaders.

Mr Clarence Forster BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Value its establishment.

Mrs Jennifer Foster BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My summer school in Jena in Germany in 2004.

My message to future students is...

The Open University will support you every step of the way in your studies.

Miss Karen Foster MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of learning something new with like-minded people in a supported environment. Everybody had a different journey and had come via different routes.

My message to future students is...

Do not be afraid to challenge yourself as the support is there when you need it. Go get it and enjoy your journey to success.

Mrs Maree Foster BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Geology fieldwork at Durham University, fossil hunting on the beach.

My message to future students is...

Never give up, you'll get there in the end!

Mrs Sally Fothergill

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of achievement when a course is completed. I enrolled to encourage my son to study and then got hooked!

My message to future students is...

Enrol! Although it's hard at times, it's amazing the support that's available and the choice of courses. You never know where it might lead.



The Walton Hall building is a late 17th Century manor house with medieval origins, which was extended in the 18th century. The front section was added in 1830. It is a Grade II listed building and home of the OU since 1969.

Mrs Sue Fox BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My amazing tutor – Dr Eileen Fitzgerald.

My message to future students is...

Don't be afraid to do it just for you!

Mrs Valmai Fox BA SRN

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools boosted my confidence and further qualifications followed.

My message to future students is...

The best weapon is the weapon of knowledge.

Mrs Suzanne France BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded people and 2 fabulous summer schools – then walking across the stage at my graduation ceremony in Cardiff.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up when it all looks daunting – believe me – you can do it.

Mrs Brenda Fraser BA (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I remember with delight my first introduction to the OU – The University of the Air. We are now known across the world.

My message to future students is...

This is a great university which has paved the way for my career. There is no limit to the goal you can attain if you believe you can!

Miss Irmine Fraser BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying with the OU is just great! I really enjoyed the summer schools. Especially the one in York. It was an opportunity to see that beautiful city.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies, have fun, work hard and keep focused. Don't let anything stop you.

Mr Alan Frederick

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Spending time in the company of other people with a similar interest in something.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU opened my mind a little more.

Mrs Joyce French BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools – freed from family concerns to concentrate on the course.

My message to future students is...

Put your doubts to one side and seize the opportunity of widening your horizons.

Mr David Friday BA (Hons) H Pol

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Logging in and seeing I had got my degree. Knowing the hard work I had put in over those three years had paid off was a very satisfying feeling.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and enjoy it. The time will fly by and before you know it, you will be staring at your computer screen to see your result.

Mr Robert Friday BA (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening my science foundation course material for S100, my first course.

My message to future students is...

This will be long and hard, but has to be to present the standards required.

Mr Peter Fry BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating, thanks to some inspirational tutors and brilliantly structured courses.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy it.

Mrs Janette Fulford BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Banging the big gong at Durham summer school.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy yourselves whilst you study and learn from others.

Mrs Janet Fuller BA MA

My message to future students is...

Persevere, it's worth it.

Mrs Brenda Furby BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making friends.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and be friendly.

Mr Bryan Furlong LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting my fellow students at a sunny Saturday morning tutorial.

My message to future students is...

Persevere; you'll get there, and it's worth every minute.

Mrs Cathleen Furness BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

So many I can't choose! A great experience in so many ways and on so many levels.

My message to future students is...

One step at a time! At times it may seem daunting but it is worth it – believe me!

Mr Edward Fussey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The confirmation of my OU degree.

My message to future students is...

Never give up, no matter what! The feeling of achievement is incredible.

Mr Ian Gabey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Six years of being part of an organisation which does so much to give its students back their confidence and faith in their own abilities.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! I never regretted a minute of it. It gave me great satisfaction and a new career.

Mrs Sheila Gainford BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The experience of studying for a degree with The Open University was absolutely amazing, and the best thing I have ever done. It opened my eyes to a new world.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience, study hard and you will achieve your goals.

Mr Patrick Gale

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Mature student learning.

My message to future students is...

Keep going and use the skills you learn.

Mr John Gamlin MPhil

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The time I spent as a tutor/counsellor for 25 years. I also gained an MPhil for a period of research.

My message to future students is...

There are many more graduates than in my time so you will need to work hard to get a good job.

Mrs Lesley Garbutt BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I had my photo taken with all my family at my graduation ceremony. They had all helped me. My husband, daughter, brother, father and sisters-in-law. It was a family achievement.

My message to future students is...

If you have a problem, always ask for help. There are so many people there trained to help you, so don't give up.

Mrs Doreen Gardner BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing experiences with other students at summer school and tutorials, knowing others were coping with challenges and achieving.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the ride however bumpy – there is no better feeling than the sense of achievement on graduation day.

Mr Floyd Gardner

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The residential summer schools for Introduction to Calculus, Physics and Biology.

My message to future students is...

Please choose maths and physics modules because there is a shortage of these in the teaching world.

Mrs Margaret Gardner BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I achieved my degree 30 years ago. Now, aged 90, I have fond memories of summer schools and the lasting friendships forged as OU students.

My message to future students is...

Go for it – you won't regret it. Learning is so fulfilling. You will gain a new perspective on life in so many ways.

Mrs Heather Garrett BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Allowing me the opportunity to gain a degree. The summer schools were wonderful.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! Your tutor helps you all the way.

Mrs Patricia Garrett BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement I felt when receiving the package of books at the start of every new course! Wonderful!

My message to future students is...

I was forced to leave school at 14 years old (1944) and start work, my message is that it is never too late, I received my BA (Hons) in 2003 so “go for it!”

Ms Judith Garvey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising what I didn't know.

My message to future students is...

It changed my life for the better!

Mr Richard Garwood BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Stirling University, a never to be forgotten experience.

My message to future students is...

OU gave me confidence in myself.

Revd Janet Gasper BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The arrival of the study pack.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up – keep going.

Mrs Philippa Gates BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning something new!

Mr William Gault BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoying learning new things.

My message to future students is...

Go behind the detail and consider how new knowledge will affect you and how you can apply this new knowledge positively.

Mrs Fiona Gavigan MEd MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I first opened the study materials box at the start of the module.

My message to future students is...

Keep strong and reach out for help... there's always someone waiting for you.

Mr George Gavin BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

At my graduation ceremony being told by the presiding officer to go out and make a difference.

My message to future students is...

It will be difficult at times but can open up a whole new world and career. The best employers recognise the effort and willpower.

Mr Leslie George BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning things that enriched my knowledge about computing that I would not have otherwise been able to do.

Mrs Mary George BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening the box of study books, DVDs etc. at the beginning of each course. Great anticipation.

My message to future students is...

Believe you can do it. With encouragement from my grandchildren I achieved my degree at the age of 88.

**Miss Rosie George BSc (Hons)
Psych**

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The feeling of joy and achievement as I worked my way through each milestone of my degree; something I didn't think was possible to achieve.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, work hard and you can achieve anything.

Mrs Mary Gibbons BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being accepted for studying for a degree.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of a wonderful opportunity.

Mr Robert Gibbons BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The now defunct Arts and Humanities courses.

My message to future students is...

Study the Arts and Humanities!

Mrs Rachel Gibson BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Posterum Sine Metu.

Mr Michael Gifford BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being awarded my first OU degree.

My message to future students is...

Be bold, be challenged!

Mrs Kim Gilbert MBA

My message to future students is...

Of course you can!

Mr Geoffrey Gilbey BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As a mature student able to study at home and completing the 5 year course, it gave me a huge sense of achievement with the award of my BSc.

My message to future students is...

Support is there; you can achieve a qualification if you stay focused and enhance your future prospects.

Mr John Gisby BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie of the students during the summer schools at the various universities around the country. The fun, discussions and laughter while learning.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of the opportunities learning with the OU provides. The qualification is fine but the journey to get there is better.

Mrs Marion Glen BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my degree at Brighton.

My message to future students is...

If you really want something, go for it and never give up. You won't regret it.

Mrs June Glover BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

All those wonderful packages arriving in the post, taking me to fresh insights and new challenges.

My message to future students is...

You, like me, are immensely privileged to be part of the OU. Enjoy it!

Miss Doris Godfrey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The visits annually to universities for the summer courses – I was able to visit five different ones across the UK and found the visits inspiring.

My message to future students is...

Even if the studies seem hard, don't give up. The result is really worth it!

Dr John Goldberg BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoyment in learning something new.

Mr William Golden BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day which I was able to celebrate with my family. It took place at Wembley and we all went for a meal in the 'Swiss Cottage' afterwards. Happy memories.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience of OU study.

Mrs Nicky Goldfinch BA MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving and unpacking my first science experiment kit, and the non-stop activities and lectures of summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Stay curious, question everything and above all enjoy the whole experience!

Ms Joanne Gollins BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Rushing to the post box with my assignments. The final exam on the final day. My 40th birthday and I got my degree!

My message to future students is...

Don't give up – there is a way to get what you want!

Mr Nigel Goodall BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools and being with like-minded people and also learning new things. It was magical.

My message to future students is...

It's not easy and you have to manage your time really carefully. But it's worth it in the end and gives you a great sense of achievement.

Mr John Goodyer BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting my fellow students and together feeling my horizons expand.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it! It's well worth the journey. There are bumps in any road worth taking.

Mr Keith Gordon BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Posting last minute TMAs through the tutor's letterbox!

My message to future students is...

Stick with it!

Ms Mary Gordon MA EdD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Doing an Ed.D. which kept me sane when my husband died unexpectedly aged 48.

My message to future students is...

Never give up. YOU can do it! You have a brain! Enjoy it!

Mr Andrew Gorton

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting and working with other students at the residential schools.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU was a life-changing experience for me, and I hope it will be for you.

Mrs Pauline Goslin BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The degree ceremony where at last I could wear the colours of the OU with pride and achievement (and the mortarboard).

My message to future students is...

Keep a steady flame of desire to succeed burning in your heart.

Miss Sarah Gould LLB (Hons) LLM

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising that I'd passed my finals and had a degree.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, you can do it. The support is there and nothing is impossible. Good luck!

Ms Lorna Gourley MA (Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The opportunity to meet up with colleagues and prominent researchers. Together we explored and discussed the theory and practice of educational leadership. This enriched me educationally, professionally and personally.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the opportunity to meet people you otherwise would not have the chance to. Embrace the challenge and joy of learning. Even when you find it hard, don't give up!

Miss Elizabeth Graham MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enlightenment.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! Your life will be transformed.

Mr Ian Graham

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at Santiago de Compostela University toward my Diploma in Spanish.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Miss Margaret Graham BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A passion for art history resulted from my OU study; initially focused on psychology to develop my career in education.

My message to future students is...

Reach for the stars and beyond; you will amaze yourself.

Mrs Judith Grant BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutorials, also the feeling when a TMA was completed and sent off – hand written in those days of course!

My message to future students is...

Good luck and well done!

Mr Peter Grant BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working and studying with highly motivated, like-minded people, at summer schools.

My message to future students is...

The teaching is excellent, second to none. Courses are designed to be as interesting as possible. Go for it!

Mrs Patricia Grassick BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students and the anticipation of starting a new course!

My message to future students is...

Don't be afraid to question.

Mr Alan Graves BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow mature students and great tutors; forming study support groups with a common goal and going to summer schools – something I thought I had missed out on!

My message to future students is...

It gives opportunity and self-belief that you can achieve a personal academic goal – I thought it had passed me by. But also was a fundamental requirement for a work promotion.

Mrs Diana Graves

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools for geology were a wonderful experience and great fun.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of the opportunities provided by the OU.

Mrs Valerie Graves BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools! Meeting so many interesting people.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! It is worth it in the end.

Mr Andrew Green BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Taking part in a War Game scenario based on events leading up to the outbreak of WWI at a summer school for my Social Science foundation course.

My message to future students is...

Keep going and don't give up. Achieving your degree is worth all the difficulties you encounter on the way.

Mr Ian Green BA

My message to future students is...

Sometimes you are a square peg but life is forcing you into a round hole. Education helps change shapes. Good luck.

Mr John Green BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enjoyment of learning and achieving with like-minded students.

My message to future students is...

At times when it seems an impossibility to keep going, speak to your tutor who will help you make the impossible, possible.

Mr John Green BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools, absolutely invaluable.

My message to future students is...

Get your TMAs in on time.

Mrs Josephine Green BA (Hons) ELL

My message to future students is...

Best of luck in your studies and future employment.

Mr Peter Green BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My degree ceremony.

My message to future students is...

You are never too old to begin studies.

Miss Jill Greenan BA (Hons) Des Inn

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The day I opened Lola (U101) and it gave me permission to think creatively without beating myself up about ‘wasting time’. I cried with happiness.

My message to future students is...

Do what you enjoy, not what anyone else tells you is right for you. You’ll always be better at something you like.

Mrs Lynda Greene BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to study whilst being a stay-at-home mum looking after my young children.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU can change your life, so good luck with your studies.

Miss Diane Greenwood MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Successfully completing assignments one by one to build up to the degree.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the studies and your achievements.

Mr Joseph Gregory BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The helpful, friendly tutors, the summer schools and all the friends I made.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it – it’s worth all the hard work!

Dr Margaret Gregory BA (Hons) PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools in London. At one, the lecturers dressed up at the end of the week and turned themselves into a brilliant pastiche of Ford Madox Brown’s “Work”.

My message to future students is...

Don’t give up on the fantastic journey the OU will take you on. It will be the biggest and best learning curve of your life.

Miss Pamela Gregory BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising that I had OU support, giving me the opportunity and confidence to study, whilst bringing up my daughter and working full time.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late, just go for it. The OU will give you the opportunity to reach your potential.

View of the walled garden at The Open University Walton Hall campus which is now home to the Legacy Garden.



Mrs Suzanne Gregory BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Keep going even when things get difficult. Remember Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Mr Edwin Gren BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting a 2:1 presented to me at the graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Keep going and don't give up!

Mrs Ann Griffin BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Fabulous courses, summer schools and my graduation day which was a dream. The culmination of all my hard work, the euphoria I felt remains with me now and will forever.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your courses, I learnt so much and you will too. You will discover a whole new world. I gained a BA (Hons) 2:1, you can do it too!

Mrs Ann Griffin BSc (Hons) PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students with a variety of back stories at tutorials and summer schools, all with the same purpose of enriching their lives with knowledge.

My message to future students is...

Try it! Sometimes it is tough, sometimes you imagine there is no time but the feeling of accomplishment after each TMA and finally a degree is amazing.

Mr David Griffin BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school practical activities.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, the end result will be life-changing.

Mr Philip Griffin BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Everything about the OU was wonderful. I often used your superb material with my own students, it was so good!

My message to future students is...

Better than the LSE by far!

Mrs Selina Griffin MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising that it was all possible.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late, it is never too early – just start. You owe it to yourself.

Mrs Anne Griffiths BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools in York and London.

My message to future students is...

So many opportunities for study and further study.

Mrs Janet Griffiths BA (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools, they are a wonderful way to meet other students and to completely immerse yourself in your chosen subject.

My message to future students is...

Keep going. It may take longer than you thought but you will get there.

Mrs Jennifer Griffiths BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the summer schools: Westfield College, York x 2 and UEA and two more wonderful weekends (for Shakespeare and romantic poetry) at St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

My message to future students is...

All the considerable effort is well worth the end result! The OU is a wonderful opportunity to widen one's horizons and enrich life's experiences.

Mrs Christine Grimshaw BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Designing and conducting field experiments at summer school.

My message to future students is...

You will know that juggling priorities with looming deadlines was worth it when you step onto that stage in your gown to be presented with your degree.

Ms Kirsten Gronning BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening the email which confirmed my final result, a 2:1!

My message to future students is...

The OU makes learning accessible, do-able, attainable and (sometimes) fun. Yes, it can be hard at times, but it is so worth the effort.

Mrs Rita Gronow BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first 'A' mark. I left school in 1948 at 16 years. In WW2 I went to 5 different schools. I thought I was no good.

My message to future students is...

Perseverance when you get stuck on an essay. I went to the library and looked at children's books on history etc. and it helped me to get started.

Mr Peter Groves BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being chased by a flock of geese while at summer school in York.

My message to future students is...

Never give up. Once you have your congratulations letter and know you have achieved your degree.

Miss Mary Guthrie BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials and interactions with the tutors and other students.

My message to future students is...

All the hard work and sacrifices will be worth it in the end.

Mr Colin Hadley BA FCIM

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools it enabled me to enjoy.

My message to future students is...

I left grammar school at the age of 16 in 1950 to start work. The OU gave me the opportunity to make up my educational shortfall and obtain a degree.

Mr William George Hadley

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening the new books at the beginning of each module, it was like prising open a chest full of treasures, which it was really.

My message to future students is...

Gathering the knowledge is a great joy in itself but nought compared to the joy that comes from using it to good effect.

Dr Salim Haidrani PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

After completing my education I became independent and financially stable.

My message to future students is...

1. Work hard to achieve your education. 2. Go and find work because it is your future.

Mrs Irene Hainsworth BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Completing my first essay and, to my great surprise, achieving a high mark.

My message to future students is...

However challenging the work, however long the path – you can do it.

Mr Ek Hak BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Arriving at the building in Camden and entering for the first time. I gained a Bachelors degree, graduating in 2016.

My message to future students is...

I would highly recommend it as it is flexible and I also found it affordable, paying in advance for modules; and I'd like to say congratulations to the OU for 50 years.

Ms Christine Hall BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I met with some lovely & inspirational people but my favourite memory has to be my degree ceremony at the Riviera Centre, Torquay where I met Betty Boothroyd.

My message to future students is...

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire”- W D Yeats. Says it all really – the key to your future.

Dr Eric Hall BA (Hons) PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My attendance at the summer schools with the coming together of minds. The venues I attended are still in my memory.

My message to future students is...

The application and discipline of gathering information is with you for life.

Mrs Elizabeth Hallam BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Starting my degree with one son and completing it four years later with two. 1972–1976.

My message to future students is...

Try, have a go – it could change your life.

Dr Christine Hallas BA (Hons) PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at the OU – it helped hugely to interact and learn from teachers and students.

My message to future students is...

Keep on going and stay with the OU and you will get there. I was in the first cohort – an ‘A’ student. The support is amazing and the topics, whichever area, just hop along.

Mr Richard Hallas BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful time I had on the Maths foundation course summer school in Durham.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and you can excel.

Mrs Gillian Hallewel BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working with like-minded adults at summer schools in a wide variety of universities.

My message to future students is...

Persevere!

Ms Jennifer Hallworth

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Just being there with like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

Just enjoy the whole experience.

Miss Margaret Halsall Williams BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting up with other members at the OU events.

My message to future students is...

Work hard – plan your programme week by week, bearing in mind your other commitments, so no last minute panics.

Mrs Brenda Hamilton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of books and course materials landing on the doormat (pre PCs and laptops!), and the challenge of achievement after struggling at school.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! So much to be gained!

Mrs Margaret Hamilton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning all the things I've ever wanted to know and more. It opened up a whole new world to me.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it when the going is tough. It is so worth it.

Mr Stephen Hamilton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I enjoyed having a friend as a ‘buddy’ which helped throughout the course.

My message to future students is...

Choose subjects which you enjoy not only for the qualification. Remember what you learn will stand you in good stead for life. Good luck with your studies!

Mrs Patricia Hammond BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The pride on my family's faces when I received my BA.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! Never give up, I completed my degree whilst caring for my terminally ill husband, thanks to the support of everyone at the OU.

Mr Peter Hammond BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Last ditch disco at Durham summer school.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it, no matter how hard it seems the sense of achievement when you get your scroll is priceless.

Mrs Norma Hampson BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The many avenues of interest it opened up for me, a stay-at-home wife and mother.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it. Well worth the effort.

Mrs Angela Hancock BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and a chance to meet the diverse group of my fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself.

Mrs Pam Hanger BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Proudly standing up from my wheelchair on the stage at the Barbican to a thunderous applause and walking with my stick towards the Vice-Chancellor to receive my degree.

My message to future students is...

Learning is the pathway to knowledge. Knowledge is the fount of understanding. Understanding is the pinnacle of wisdom.

Mrs Kathleen Hankinson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Hearing that I had been awarded a FIRST CLASS DEGREE!

My message to future students is...

NEVER give up – it will be worth it in the end.

Mr James Hannavy BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The oceanography unit and graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Keep studying – the results are great.

Mr Trevor Hardie BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The opening of the study materials at the start of a module and the feeling of excitement. The wonderful satisfaction generated by the completion of TMAs and exams.

My message to future students is...

You are entering a wonderful world of learning. Keep your goals in mind when things get tough and don't be afraid to seek help when they do.

Mr Andrew Harding BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Witnessing the pride and joy of fellow students at their graduation ceremony, many of whom had never had the opportunity of further or higher education during the post war austerity years. Very moving!

My message to future students is...

Follow your dreams of self-improvement. Enjoy the success of your hard work. Pass on your wisdom and knowledge to others who come after you.

Mr Nigel Harding BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at the tutorials, and making life-long friends.

My message to future students is...

Keep studying, it is worth the effort.

Mrs Gillian Harper BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Excellent lectures from tutors. Good quality books for reference. Very good summer school.

My message to future students is...

Take advantage of this opportunity to develop and achieve a good qualification to aid your career.

Mr Stephen Harpur

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded people and feeling that I might actually be able to obtain some academic achievement. I stuck it out and obtained a Certificate HE.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and go for it.

Mrs Angelina Harris BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to concentrate on practical work at summer school, without the concerns of work and family inserting into the activity in hand.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience of being in classroom and laboratory under expert tuition, among fellow undergrads, who like you are keen to learn. It is a rare event.

Mr Daniel Harris BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Over the years I have been able to visit many places at day schools like Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Stafford.

Ms Elaine Harris BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting interesting academics and fellow students at tutorials, day schools and four summer schools I attended. The people I met made the OU experience special for me.

My message to future students is...

Studying with The Open University was a wonderful journey of learning from start to finish. Enjoy.

Mrs Patricia Harris

My message to future students is...

It will be difficult at times but persevere, keep trying and you will succeed.

Dr Joanna Harrison BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU tutors: they must have been created in a special place in heaven.

My message to future students is...

Whatever you study, and for whatever reason, your life will be enriched forever.

Mr John Harrison BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of pride and satisfaction I got when I graduated.

My message to future students is...

You may find the going tough at times but with perseverance and determination the rewards will be well worth the effort.

Mrs Marie Harrison BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excellent written material and one to one support at my local university in Liverpool.

My message to future students is...

An OU degree will open a better future for you, and you can be proud of achieving, often against all odds.

Mrs Elizabeth Hart BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving the new textbooks at the start of a module and the feeling of clicking submit when you’ve completed another assignment!

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU is an amazing experience – you will learn so much about your chosen subject and yourself. There will be ups and downs but step by step you will get there – imagine how that will feel!

Mr John Hart BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Contact with many students with similar aims.

My message to future students is...

Hard work and time consuming. Worth it at the end!

Mrs Karen Hart

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It was wonderful to be able to join the OU’s 50th anniversary celebrations; it was a really special time to reflect on our heritage and look forward to the future.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! The University is open to all, this is your Open University. Be proud to be part of the OU family.

Mr Simon Hartley BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of finding a geological fault in North Yorkshire on an S209 field trip.

My message to future students is...

The OU can provide you with a means of unlocking experiences you never thought you would have.

Mr Stephen Hastie BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials and summer school on the Arts Foundation Course.

My message to future students is...

Persevere, you’ll get there in the end.

Mr Martin Hathaway BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How it allowed me to continue working full-time whilst achieving my ambition of getting a degree. The degree both opened my mind and allowed my career to flourish.

My message to future students is...

If you want to get a degree then the OU can make it happen, just reach out for your goal and never look back.

Mr Francis Hatt

My message to future students is...

Good luck!

Mr Christopher Hawes BSc (Hons) Comp & IT

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Many years of fulfilling study.

My message to future students is...

You’re never too old to learn.

Mr James Hawes Sc BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating!

My message to future students is...

Don’t give up!

Mrs Jacquelyn Hawkins BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools when I made friends whilst consolidating my learning. So much help available.

My message to future students is...

Welcome to the OU family. Enjoy your studies, do not be afraid to ask for help, it is a sign of maturity. The very best of luck for your future.

Mrs Mary Hawkins BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it, even when the going seems tough. To have an OU degree is a precious statement of your abilities.

Mrs Valerie Haxton BSc (Hons) BA MA (Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer schools, especially geology ones. A chance to concentrate full-time as a student with like-minded folk.

My message to future students is...

Catch the study bug – you will not regret it.

Mr Ian Haydock MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at the summer schools.

Miss Claire Hayman

My favourite memory of the OU is...

All the wonderful course books and the hope studying gave me.

My message to future students is...

Just to go for it, you won’t regret it. Wherever you have come from, the OU is for you.

Mrs Maureen Haynes

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A very good one, and I remember the enjoyable days especially when we could also help each other.

My message to future students is...

Don’t give up!

Mr Robert Hayward BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving confirmation of my BA Honours in English award.

My message to future students is...

Education is important as an end in itself. Gain as much knowledge as you can.

Mrs Veronica Hayward

My favourite memory of the OU is...

In February 2000, I took my first assignment away on holiday with me, this was before I owned a laptop or iPad.

My message to future students is...

Don’t be put off from learning as there are now a lot of resources and help for studying.

Mrs Virginia Hazell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Rising at 5am every day for one hour's study time before preparing for my working day – my husband used the time to collect snails from the garden!

My message to future students is...

Carve out a regular study time each day and maintain good contact with the wonderful tutors and fellow students.

Mr Gary Heal BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having my eyes opened to another world.

My message to future students is...

The workload can seem a bit overwhelming at first. Stick with it, the OU is a great experience!

Mr Edward Heaney BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Stirling University summer school; carrying a piano and playing my guitar to students. Ditto in Durham University summer school.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it for your future years.

Mrs Mary Heath BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to study subjects that were different to my everyday working life.

My message to future students is...

This method of study will enrich your life enormously.

Mr William Heather BA

My message to future students is...

As they say in the song, “Keep right on till the end of the road”.

Dr Deborah Heighes MA EdD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fun we had in tutorials when we met each other face-to-face!

My message to future students is...

Always stick your head above the parapet and contribute in sessions, even to say “I don't get it”! You are never alone.

Mrs Avril Hemingfield MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Successful completion!

My message to future students is...

Press on – don't get disheartened.

Mrs Helena Henning BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Passing my first assignment, and thinking “yes, I can do this”. I was awarded my Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979.

My message to future students is...

To give serious consideration to studying with the OU. The quality of the courses, the flexible timescales and the cost cannot be beaten.

Mrs Josephine Henry BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It gave me the opportunity to study for a degree and the chance to meet so many new people who were equally excited to study at this level.

My message to future students is...

At some point balancing home, work and study can be overwhelming. Keep going and you will achieve your goal.

Mrs Joan Henshaw BSc (Hons) BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day – all my hard work recognised in an afternoon.

My message to future students is...

OU is fantastic. Can obtain a degree whilst working, meaning the OU is open to nearly everybody.

Ms Katharine Henson BA (Hons) MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My favourite memory of studying with the OU is meeting some amazing fellow students from all walks of life.

My message to future students is...

To plan ahead! Set aside regular work time and try to keep well ahead of deadlines so you are prepared when the unexpected happens.

Mr Anthony Hessey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Leaving the halls of residence to explore nearby Hampstead Heath.

My message to future students is...

An educated individual is the hallmark of the future of society as it progresses beyond the millennium.

Mrs Monica Hetherington BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of opening each new book of module materials, and engaging with all the wonderful tutors and fellow students they brought me into contact with.

My message to future students is...

To remember that learning new things is a serious business, and can sometimes be a struggle, but ultimately it is a joy as it opens your mind.

Mrs Angela Hewins BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Good luck!

Mrs Penelope Hewitt BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The awards ceremony in Preston in 1977. Couldn't believe I was a holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree!

My message to future students is...

Stick with it – it is so worthwhile.

Mr Tony Hewson

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The great support when needed.

My message to future students is...

Never give up and enjoy.

Mrs Marion Heyland BA (Hons) MA MA (Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That it liberated my life and brain.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it for yourself.

Mrs Marion Heywood

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Interacting with other OU students prior to social media and computers.

My message to future students is...

The OU lets you aim for the moon and helps all the way.

Mrs Anne Hichens BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The constant knowledge that those who thought me stupid were wrong. I graduated with a BA at 50, my son graduated with an OU MA at 35.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mrs Sheila Hicks BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Our tutor group forums and joint projects.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself.

Mr Charles Hidden BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Chasing escapee fruit flies around the house – for months!

My message to future students is...

You CAN do it!

Miss Christine Higgison BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting and working with other students at summer schools.

Mrs Joan Higgs BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

You wouldn't want to print it here!

My message to future students is...

Have faith in yourself. With determination and perseverance, you will get there!

Mrs Phoebe Hilary BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sitting in a late afternoon Greek lecture and watching geese fly homeward.

My message to future students is...

I hope your life will be enriched through your studies and that you make life long friends. I gained a new understanding to my Christian belief.

Mr Dennis Hill BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When it opened! Year by year new courses came online leading to my BA Honours Degree in 1979. This led to my career as a medical physicist.

Mr Gerald Hill BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful degree ceremony in October 2017 and the inspiring speeches that were made at it.

My message to future students is...

Your OU degree will be a very worthwhile achievement requiring perseverance and hard work. Thousands have done it and so can you, keep going and don't give up!

Ms Maureen Hill BA MCLIP Adv Dip Ed

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy, excitement and sense of belonging I felt during a School of Education seminar when I saw a whole new world opening up before me.

My message to future students is...

Savour every moment – the OU can change your life.

Mrs Nicola Hill BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement when the brown package of books arrived. Attending tutorials and meeting the tutors and students. Seeing everyone again at the graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Take advantage of all the resources, online, tutors, study guides, groups etc. Don't panic at the odd dodgy grade, just focus on how to raise your game next time.

Mr Peter Hill BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enthusiasm and help from both tutors and students made all the hard work enjoyable and rewarding. It was a joy to learn with like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

The experience and education that I received allowed me to improve my job aspirations. After my degree award I changed my job and furthered my career.

Mrs Phyllis Hill BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending classes at college for my foundation courses.

My message to future students is...

You can still achieve your ambition later on, if not after leaving school.

Mrs Susan Hill BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving the first text books for the year and setting off on a new journey of discovery.

My message to future students is...

You got this!

Dr Trevor Hill PhD BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying D301 course; beforehand we met the course team and became ongoing friends. This led later to me being invited to be a tutor on their new course DA301.

My message to future students is...

I was a student from the second year when staff and tutors were still trying to develop new teaching methods, not always successfully. You will be very fortunate today.

Mr Clive Hillman

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Simply being able to do so whilst fighting a benign brain tumour!

My message to future students is...

Believe you can do it and you will!

Mrs Liz Hilton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation, 1980! It seems unbelievable.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, it will be so worthwhile.

Mrs Barbara Hilton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Good luck and stick at it.

Mr Robert Hinds BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The diversity of the many graduates present on graduation day, and their immense happiness.

My message to future students is...

You can achieve anything, provided you want it enough. Go get it!

Mrs Ann Hindson BA PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When you begin your studies you look forward to the time you are awarded your degree. Soon you realise that the most valuable and rewarding part is the journey itself.

My message to future students is...

Always believe that whatever your circumstances, you can achieve your learning goal. All you need is patience, dedication and a willingness to succeed.

Mrs Shirley Hinton BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to study at OU level. Grab the opportunity and enjoy the experience. Good luck and best wishes.

Mrs Elisabeth Hinze

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying for the Diploma in Spanish and spending time in Santiago de Compostela where I made a lifelong friend.

My message to future students is...

Study hard and enjoy your time as an OU student. It's worth it! Be proud of your achievement.

Mr David Hird BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to study in my own time, in my own way, using first-rate resources, whilst gaining much from tutorials and the input of fellow students and enjoyable summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the process and having the opportunity to combine your 'real' life with your academic study and possible career progression. Studying with the OU can be absorbing, stimulating and rewarding!

Mr Lester Hitch BSc (Hons) Nat Sci

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Spending the early hours hoping that the skies would clear in Tenerife so we could use the OU telescope. Fun, laughter and good company.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it, persevere, and find sanctuary in your studies. The experience and skills gained are invaluable.

Mrs Lynn Hoar BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The satisfaction of completing courses and finally graduating with a lot of knowledge.

My message to future students is...

Keep going!

Revd James Hobbs BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutorials, study groups, summer schools, and getting the results!

My message to future students is...

Well done to get enrolled. You've now opened the gates for yourself. Smile, push them open and walk through!

Miss Lorraine Hodges BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Just the ongoing discovery to pathways and ideas I'd not thought existed.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, whatever you do. Achieving your ultimate goal is the very best feeling.

Mrs Christine Hodgins MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Art History tutorials in Cardiff with Dr Veronica Davies.

My message to future students is...

Don't be in awe of other students who appear to know more than you!

Revd Iain Hodgins BA (Hons) Hum

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Creative writing and Art History week in London.

My message to future students is...

Oftentimes it is the tortoise rather than the hare that succeeds in the end (don't be awed by others).

Mr Brian Hodkinson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

At 66 I started studying with the OU and despite my working class background, went on to gain my BA!

My message to future students is...

In my studies I was taken from zero knowledge on a subject, to BA level. Do not hesitate because you think you don't know enough about the subject to start.

A science home experiment kit, audio-visual materials and course books for an early OU science course, 1973.



Ms Aileen Hogan MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Appreciating no matter what stage of your life you are at, there’s always time to learn and share. My favourite part of the OU was engaging in workshops, teamwork and learning from the whole experience.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, your work, life experiences are important and add value. Never be intimidated by others who may appear to know more, embrace it, and remember your view and perspective have an equal voice.

Dr Brian Hogg BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of learning more of what you are interested in.

My message to future students is...

Whether you think you can or you can’t – you will be right. Believe in the positive, in the possible. Allow yourself to change.

Mrs Mary Holbrook BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other mature students at summer school at Keele.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! The effort is really worthwhile, you will be proud of yourself.

Mr Robin Holdsworth MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having worked hard on a TMA, getting the tutor’s comments and a good mark.

My message to future students is...

It is hard at first but through persistence and help from the tutors, success will be sweet.

Mr Bruce Holland BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The high quality of course material and the excitement of receiving the next monthly texts, video, audio etc as the course progressed.

My message to future students is...

Choose a course that will stimulate and develop a deeper understanding and knowledge of a subject that you’ve had an interest in. This will be richly rewarding and life enhancing.

Mr Frank Holliday BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Different but enjoyable.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, it’s worth the work.

Miss Michaela Holliday BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of achievement!

My message to future students is...

Good luck! You’ve got this!

Mr Charles Hollingsworth BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating at 62 having left school at 15.

My message to future students is...

The journey is well worth the effort.

Ms Jacky Holloway BA PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The positive feedback from students on the first module I produced as an OU academic (I went from BA to PhD to Academic and Tutor over a 10 year period).

My message to future students is...

Never be afraid to ask for help with any aspect of being a student.

Mrs Linda Holman BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving new course material. It’s exciting!

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself – you CAN do it.

Mrs Patricia Holmberg BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Wearing the cap and gown at my graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Keep going – it is so worth it!

Ms Anne Holmes BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school at University of Bath. I cried when it ended! One of the best experiences of my life.

My message to future students is...

Don’t give up! You have a whole community to support you – even if it’s via Zoom.

Mrs Jacqueline Holmes BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer schools – 7 of them!

My message to future students is...

Keep at it!

Mr Michael Holmes BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Late night trips to the post box with last assignments.

My message to future students is...

Don’t stop dreaming!

Mrs Patricia Holmes BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Discovering the science behind the landscapes of seaside and mountains that had always fascinated me. Summer school at Durham University was my best ‘holiday’ ever!

My message to future students is...

Your OU studies are not just a means to an end. They are a meaningful journey in themselves.

Mr Michael Holt BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Art & Environment residential week at Sussex University. Stimulating structured anarchy!

My message to future students is...

Give it a go. You don’t know where it will take you.

Mrs Susan Holt BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the material studied.

My message to future students is...

Learning is a never-ending journey into the future. All you have to do is begin, and build your own future.

Mr Derek Honnor BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A study week in York. The group worked hard and played hard – a swim before breakfast, good study work, a few beers and a late night dance.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, work hard and it will all fall into place.

Mr Norman Hooks BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools!

My message to future students is...

The challenge of doing an OU degree course is worth the effort.

Mrs Marjorie Hoole BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending tutorials with other students and sharing thoughts and new ideas related to our studies.

My message to future students is...

Just keep going step by step until you reach your goal.

Mr David Hooper BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going on stage at Alexandra Palace to collect my degree. It made all the effort worthwhile!

My message to future students is...

Sometimes the stress of balancing family, work and friends with OU studies will seem overwhelming but stick with it. The rewards will eventually make it all worthwhile!

Mr R. David Hope BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Robing in the OU academic gown at the degree ceremony finally convinced me that I now had a degree when I was aged 64.

My message to future students is...

It's never too late to study. I undertook my BA (Hons) Humanities degree in my sixties. It was an enjoyable retirement activity to keep my brain active!

Ms Linda Hopkin BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Singing a specially written song to the tune of "La Vie en Rose" at summer school in Caen.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, work to prove any doubters wrong.

Mrs Katherine Hopkins BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Spending a weekend at Stirling University with a tutor called Willie, whose company and lectures we all enjoyed so much, and achieving a lifelong ambition.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! You have nothing to lose, and so very much to gain.

Mrs Lois Hopkins BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the tutorials. Interacting with fellow students and listening to the tutor made all the isolated hours of study worthwhile. I made and have retained so many friends.

My message to future students is...

The format may have changed to online tuitions, but what a way to combine work and home care and change the course of your career.

Mr John Hornby BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The memory of going through a process of becoming an independent learner in a true sense. To bring an informed and reasoned opinion to a range of subjects and genres.

My message to future students is...

The OU means more than gaining an academic qualification. It will give you new perspectives on the world, which are firstly positive, and very much life enhancing.

Mrs Ruby Horner

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Friends made at summer school.

Mrs Susan Horton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Discovering so many wonderful texts as part of my course and, finally, walking on stage to receive my degree in front of my husband and two boys.

My message to future students is...

Education will unlock your future – go for it!

Mr David Houghton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Durham summer school.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mrs Jane Houghton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation Day. The OU make it such a special, enjoyable day from start to finish, for you and your family, giving recognition of your achievements and making it so worthwhile.

My message to future students is...

It will be hard work and there will be days when you want to give up, but keep going. You will reach the end and find a new pride in yourself.

Mr Ian Howarth BSc BD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The freedom to study for a degree, whilst holding down a demanding job and raising a family.

My message to future students is...

If you are determined, go for it – it will make a huge difference to your long-term employment prospects.

Mr Alasdair Howat BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Expanding my mind!

My message to future students is...

Persevere no matter how hard it feels... it will be worth it!

Mrs Margaret Howe BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other people with similar interests, ambitions and hopes for the future, given the opportunity for the first time.

My message to future students is...

Take this wonderful opportunity to achieve your ambitions and make the most of it.

Mrs Janet Howell BA (Hons) PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Stretching my brain with other people, wanting to expand our learning and knowledge.

My message to future students is...

It's vital to keep on learning.

Mr Gary Howells MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Satisfaction on success.

My message to future students is...

Yes you can.

Mr Brian Howlett BA (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The support of some excellent tutors.

My message to future students is...

Keep going – the end result is very rewarding.

Miss Linda Howman BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My joy and surprise when my summer school presentation on 'enzyme activity' was greeted with cheers and applause from my fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Do not be afraid of the challenge, the struggles are worth it!

Miss Elizabeth Huband BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at summer school and feeling a proper student.

My message to future students is...

It is not easy but keep at it. It will be worth it.

Mrs Beryl Hulme BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day!

My message to future students is...

Go for it! It's a wonderful opportunity and you will never regret it.

Mrs June Lesley Humphrey

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending university during the course at Reading. To take part in the final day in a concert was brilliant.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, enjoy the tutorials and fellow students. The sky is the limit for future ambitions.

Dr Stephen Humphreys MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school hosted by Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh: Whisky-tasting followed by a curry.

My message to future students is...

Study, learn, enjoy and repeat.

Miss Teresa Humphreys BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at the study weeks.

My message to future students is...

If you can, do hang on. It's worth it.

Mrs Carole Hunt BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Informative tutorials, being part of a class again, summer school and a sense of belonging to like-minded students.

My message to future students is...

The OU gave me a sense of purpose and the opportunity to learn at a time that was right for me. It gave me confidence and opened doors.

Mr Andrew Hunter BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meal times with new friends.

My message to future students is...

Carpe Diem.

Mr Martyn Hurd BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school and meeting others on my, and other, courses.

My message to future students is...

It's a hard way to get a degree but keep going, it's worth it.

Mr Naseem Husain MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Visiting Keele University.

My message to future students is...

Keep learning to realise your potential.

Mrs Fiona Hutcheon BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

The knowledge and sense of worth is something no one can take away.

Mrs Edna Hutchings BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excellent assistance given to deaf students.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy!

Mrs Anna Hutchinson

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending interesting tutorials during maternity leave. A welcome afternoon with like-minded adults to discuss politics and engage my brain.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies and try not to stress.

Mr Robert Hutchinson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As a prison governor I was impressed by prisoners studying and graduating from the OU. I applied, graduated with a BSc (Hons) and followed by an MA Criminal Justice Management. I owe it to them.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late or too early to start studying with The Open University.

Mrs Angelina Hyde BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How it opened the door for me in my 50s, with a wonderful opportunity to pursue my love of the Arts and finally gain a BA (Hons) degree.

My message to future students is...

Battle on – you will be proud of your achievement for the rest of your life.

Mr Lemuel Ibbotson BA (Hons) MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Helping to write courses at Walton Hall.

My message to future students is...

Welcome, and keep at it.

Mrs Eleanor Ingram BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning so much about myself and the world, and making huge changes in my life – including getting divorced, a real Educating Rita story!

My message to future students is...

Don't hesitate to sign up to the OU, it will change your life in ways you never thought possible – it did for me.

Mr John Inman BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and the chance to talk with other students – stimulating and inspiring.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! You will find your destiny!

Mrs Ann Innes BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working and meeting with like-minded ordinary people trying to achieve a different goal.

My message to future students is...

Keep looking forward and planning the future with a happy and open mind.

Mrs Paule-Louise-Gabrielle Inness BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning to read books, doing research, gaining knowledge, succeeding as a very mature foreign student. Thanks.

My message to future students is...

Never give up, open pages are the way to your fortune. Good luck.

Miss Ka-Ying Ip BA (Hons) Health & Soc Care

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting support from my lecturers, along with my friends. Whenever I was struggling, they've helped and supported me throughout the course, and also when assignments and exams come close.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up no matter what! I know you all have a passion on something. Whatever career you are aiming for, I know you will all get through this!

Mrs Rosemary Ireland-Mossop BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being awarded my degree!

My message to future students is...

Have a go! You will never know if you can do it until you try.

Mrs Karen Irvine BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Socialising with my class in my first year of studying with The Open University and feeling like a real university student in my 40s and 50s instead of at 18!

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every moment of your studies. The Open University is a wonderful organisation and I hope you gain as much confidence, and pleasure, from your learning as I have.

Mr Peter Irvine

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The satisfaction of passing modules knowing that I had improved my knowledge of the planet that I inhabit.

My message to future students is...

The earlier you start, the more time you have to climb life's ladder.

Miss Echo Irving BA (Hons) PGCE MPhil

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I was a course tutor on 'Literature in the Modern World', on a blisteringly hot summer school in York, such lovely students.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, but be aware it will change your life.

Mrs Jill Izzard BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting with tutors and other students.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy learning new things.

Ms Gaynor Jackson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school learning and socialising, meeting like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

Follow your dreams.

Mr Clive Jacob BA (Hons) BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Checking the items sent to me in the Home Experiment Kit for S100, my first course. I understood then the sophistication of OU teaching.

My message to future students is...

To embrace constructive criticism, as this often facilitates the most effective way to learn.

Mr Horace Jacob BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting a merit with my first assignment.

Mr Philip James BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I joined the OU in its first year and my memory was of course materials arriving through the letterbox.

My message to future students is...

Try to maintain a spirit of curiosity and questioning and know when you need to ease off.

Mrs Rosemary Jamieson

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating, with immense pride, after years of part time study.

My message to future students is...

If you feel your potential for education has not been met, don't hesitate to start studying with the OU. It changed my life and it can change yours too.



Student reading an OU course book, circa 1975.

Mrs Madeleine Jarratt

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The week-long residential course at Bath University.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU opened my horizons and increased my confidence. I met interesting people and learned so much about the world and about myself.

Mrs Julia Jarvis BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The flexibility of OU study enabled me to achieve an Honours degree in subjects I enjoyed while being a working, single parent.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU will enrich your life and be rewarding in many ways.

Mr Joseph Jaworski BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the learning experience.

Mrs Laura Jay BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school!

My message to future students is...

It's worth it, however hard the journey.

Mr Roland Jellett BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer school at Bath University in 1973 – thoroughly enjoyed it.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, keep organised and work to a plan, enjoy studying and celebrate each achievement then reap the rewards. Good luck.

Mr Alan Jenkins BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school in Brighton.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it! It is a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

Miss Tracy Jenner BSc (Hons) BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting that first package at the start of a new course and seeing what we would be learning over the coming months.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, you have nothing to lose. Don't be fooled, the courses can be hard work, but your sense of achievement will be enormous when you gain that degree.

Mrs Ruth Jeynes BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Time spent with fellow students at the summer schools, especially when carrying out experiments.

My message to future students is...

I once thought it would be a good idea, in an essay, to argue the opposite of what I believed. It was a bad idea. Don't do it.

Mr Lourenco Joanes MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excellent 'residential days' with the exchange with students from international and diverse backgrounds. The OU tutors were very amicable and always professional.

My message to future students is...

The potential for learning and developing with the OU is limitless with the professionalism and expertise by a dedicated team of tutors. The future is always bright with the OU!

Mr David Johnson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer – when you finally get to see you are not the only one on the course.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every moment.

Mrs Dorothy Johnson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The delight of completing an OU assignment before the deadline.

My message to future students is...

Have determination and complete the course.

Mr Geoffrey Johnson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree at the ceremony held in Leeds Town Hall in June 1984. My mum was with me and another family member came from London.

My message to future students is...

If you find studying tough at times just keep going. It will be worth it when you achieve your degree.

Mrs Janice Johnson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer school.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up. Focus on the prize at the end. The hard work is worth the realisation of a dream.

Mr Norman Johnson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Friendship of other students and increase of self-esteem.

My message to future students is...

Keep your head down, don't give up; even I did it!

Mr Paul Johnson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer school and meeting other students.

My message to future students is...

It may seem difficult at first but persevere and it will all come right in the end.

Mr Paul Johnson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having an opportunity to meet with like-minded people, both tutors and students, who shared similar ideas and interests.

My message to future students is...

It's a great way to study – give it a go! The support you'll receive is excellent and gaining qualifications through the OU can help you realise your ambitions.

Miss Fiona Johnston BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the annual summer school although not each course had one. Being awarded my degree at Ely in 1999 along with other students.

My message to future students is...

Persevere and keep in touch with fellow students who are on the same course as they will be a source of moral support and learning.

Miss Lynda Johnston BA (Hons) Health & Soc Care

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The online chats and support from fellow students and tutors.

My message to future students is...
Have the courage to ask questions if you need to, fellow students and staff are willing and able to help.

Mrs Janice Johnstone BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
My father being so proud. He put on his Harris Tweed suit, went to the village pub and bought a whiskey for his friends and himself, and cried, bless him!

My message to future students is...
Keep on keeping on. You can do it!

Mrs Catherine Jones BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
My long-awaited graduation day, after beginning my degree originally at the age of 18, but only graduating after turning 47!

My message to future students is...
Sometimes life throws up challenges, which are beyond your control, which can have an impact on your future. It is never too late to start studying and your efforts will be so worthwhile.

Mr David Jones BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The buzz of a returned tutor-marked assignment bearing positive comments.

My message to future students is...
Organisation is key: work regularly and concentrate on the core elements for assignments before broadening your studies. Stay focused.

Mr Gary Jones BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
A214 2005 Durham summer school. Meeting other students and the summer school itself were fantastic experiences.

My message to future students is...
Don't give up – anyone can give up, that requires no effort.

Mr Graham Jones BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The enthusiasm of the various tutors.

My message to future students is...
You are joining an excellent institution.

Mr Huw Jones BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Summer school!

My message to future students is...
Anything is possible.

Mr Iolo Jones BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The OU taught me maths!

Dr Janet Jones BA (Hons) PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The joy of learning and of meeting so many inspirational students and tutors.

My message to future students is...
Go for it. It can be challenging at times but worth it for the sense of achievement you will feel when you graduate. An OU degree can change your life.

Mrs Katharine Jones BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Togetherness. Support. It was hard work but the best time and worthwhile!

Mr Kevin Jones BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Completing 6 nine-month courses whilst working as a police officer. Having my family at St David's Hall for my ceremony.

My message to future students is...
Keep going – the effort is worth it. It's never too late to start.

Mrs Mary Jones BA (Hons) MCLIP

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The utter joy of finishing my TMA on time and the joy when it was returned with a favourable result.

My message to future students is...
Study hard.

Mrs Maynora Jones BA (Hons) RHV

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Summer school camaraderie. Supportive tutors, making lifelong friends. The large amount of course materials through the post! Midnight postings of TMAs through my tutor's post box by my husband.

My message to future students is...
You have chosen the best university in the world. The support is outstanding. The courses are exciting, manageable, academically fulfilling but sometimes time consuming. It's worth it! Good luck.

Mr Stanley Jones BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Its culture of openness and support throughout my studies.

My message to future students is...
To embrace the learning opportunities and keep up with your studies – “Dal ati” (To keep going).

Professor Thomas Jones BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Summer school.

My message to future students is...
Enjoy your studies and reap the rewards.

Mr Ian Jordan BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Summer school at Holloway College and York University.

My message to future students is...
Yes, there is a good deal of work – but even more pleasure and satisfaction in study at the OU.

Mr Leslie Jowett BA (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Being awarded my BA and MSc. Since then I have become a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and a Chartered Mathematician.

My message to future students is...
That “the journey of high honour lays not in smooth ways”.

Mr Colin Judge BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Contact with other students at face-to-face day tutorials.

My message to future students is...
The greatest feeling in the world is the one of wearing the cap and gown at your graduation, the memory will never leave you.

Mr Joseph Kariuki Komba BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being a student of the OU while working and part-time studying and being given all the support I needed by our hard working tutors until my graduation.

My message to future students is...

The OU is the best route to accessing life-changing, flexible education for people of all classes, including disabled veterans and those of disadvantaged backgrounds.

Miss Amrita Kaur BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning the different ways of thinking from my tutors and having my ideas validated. Receiving my degree was the most wonderful memory in my life, it was my greatest achievement.

My message to future students is...

To never give up, even when it seems tough. Perseverance is the key to achieving your goals, the feeling of completing your qualifications is incomparable.

Mr David Kaye BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Whilst doing the science foundation course, measuring the distance to the moon with a stick, some mud and a coin in Kew Gardens in 1979.

My message to future students is...

Take a course in a subject or topic you never intended to study – you will be grateful forever.

Mr Glenn Keelan BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finding that my drive for self-improvement was shared with students of all ages and backgrounds from retired Italian Paratrooper to Swiss Geologist, young RAF mechanic to nursery school teacher.

My message to future students is...

Believe you can. Look forward. Enjoy the journey.

Mr Francis Keenan BSc (Hons) BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Everything.

My message to future students is...

Believe in you, believe in the OU.

Mr Michael Kempton BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at Stirling, my fellow students and two graduation ceremonies with my family.

My message to future students is...

Starting OU studies at 61 and completing them at 72 (so far) taught me that you are never too old to learn.

Mr Michael Kendall BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The pride of being a graduate of a magnificent university.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mr Richard Kendhammer BA (Hons) Bus Studs MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting my tutor for the final project on MSc Development Management for the first time. Moira made me feel part of something amazing and helped me focus my studies. She is an inspiration and will be a foundation for future studies.

My message to future students is...

Engage with your tutor. They support, guide and can help you to reflect on your own values.

Mr John Kennedy MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Knowing that I was excelling at my studies and then getting a postgraduate masters degree (with distinction) to prove it.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, work hard, master your subject and you will achieve your goals.

Mr Peter Kenny BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

New friends made at tutorials and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Do it slowly, do it fast, just don't give up.

Miss Sumaya Khan BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU has been amazing. I completed a BA (Hons) in English Language & Literature. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I have had successful job interviews as it shows my determination.

My message to future students is...

If you are thinking about it; just do it through the OU. It's flexible, the courses are well explained and the tutors are extremely helpful. Go for it... I did!

Mr Roy Kibble-White BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools at various universities, for one week leaving daily life behind and joining a group of similar students immersing ourselves in course subjects and doing exciting projects.

My message to future students is...

Just keep going in spite of obstacles and you'll get there in the end, even if it takes longer than anticipated, enjoy the journey along the way.

Mrs Sandra Kibble-White BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting exam results after another successful year and finally being awarded a BA degree.

My message to future students is...

This is your time, try to ignore outside distractions. It may seem like hard going at times, but all the hard work will finally be rewarded.

Mrs Valerie Kilroy

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to tutorials and meeting fellow students.

My message to future students is...

It can get tough when you are studying. Just complete tasks in manageable chunks so you are not overwhelmed.

Ms Kilvington BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day – I felt so proud and so young. I was 60 that year.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it. Don't give up halfway through. You will regret it all your life.

Mrs Janice King BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working together to achieve what I thought would be impossible.

My message to future students is...
Stick with it! Try to enjoy every moment of learning.

Mrs Judith King BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
When studying Renaissance and Reformation and the problems encountered with influential patrons and Royal Patronage, one fellow student remarked, ‘Painting nudes is a ticklish business’.

My message to future students is...
Problems are challenges awaiting solutions, request help in your studies and delegate domestic duties... or ignore dusty areas. Pursue knowledge for enlightenment and success will follow your endeavours.

Mr Paul Kinlock BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
I loved the lectures and the interactions with other students.

My message to future students is...
I hope your opportunities are expanded as much as mine have been.

Mr George Kirsopp BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...
All of my time with the OU was wonderful.

My message to future students is...
Time quickly passes, persevere and enjoy it all.

Mr Robert Kneller BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
In my memorable time as a ‘C’ year student, it was us that wore the shirts and ties. The lecturers wore sloppy jumpers and jeans!

My message to future students is...
Do not miss this opportunity, it will change your life.

Ms Kathleen Knight BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...
30 non-musical students and a miraculous music tutor during A101. He gave us all a specially tuned instrument and a piece to play and he played piano. We were an ORCHESTRA!

My message to future students is...
Get all assignments in early and enjoy every wonderful, mind boggling, traumatic, exciting and profoundly satisfying experience that is the OU family.

Miss Sue Knight BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The opportunity to study and learn about subjects in which I’m interested, and the confidence it has given me.

My message to future students is...
Take the opportunity to grow and enjoy the process.

Mr Czeslaw Kogut BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Watching on TV, the authors of my units giving lectures on the topics (e.g. Prof Sparks and Maxim Bruckheimer).

My message to future students is...
Studying with the OU is hard work but it’s worthwhile because of the satisfaction that one gets at the end, which lasts a lifetime.

Miss Paraskevi Kontra BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The moment I realised I achieved a distinction in my degree and my graduation.

My message to future students is...
Keep going. The 6 years that it took me to complete my degree were the hardest of my life for various reasons. The OU kept me sane and gave me purpose.

Mr Gabor Kovacs BA (Hons) Bus Mgt

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Finding out the TMA results. Always exciting and motivating.

My message to future students is...
Study what you really enjoy as it makes the whole process much easier.

Mrs Jane Kruse BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Graduation day was so emotional. The realisation that I was at the end of one journey and the start of another one as a graduate of the OU.

My message to future students is...
Go for it and stick with it. It could be a long journey with highs and maybe some lows, but it’s all worth it – you’re worth it!

Mr Omer Kulle BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Studying varied subjects to achieve your goal.

My message to future students is...
Hard work earns you rewards.

Miss Lesley Kumiega MA

My message to future students is...
Trust the guidance and support you will receive from OU tutors and other OU staff.

Mrs Josephine Kurasz BSc (Hons) BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Meeting one of my best friends for thirty years at the evening meal on the first day of the science foundation summer school at Stirling.

My message to future students is...
Enjoy the learning, the reward for effort when you achieve your degree and the opportunity to talk to the amazing variety of interesting people you meet at summer school.

Mr Peter Kurasz BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Climbing up Dumyat (outside of Stirling University) with other participating summer school students. At 418 metres atop admiring the vista of the Ochil Hills and the valley below – absolutely superb.

My message to future students is...
To persevere by all means but remember the treasure of rest. Most important that.

Mrs Joan Lagoe BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
My first summer school. Sitting outside in the sunshine listening to Bach. Magical!

My message to future students is...
Never give up!

Mrs Corinne Lakin BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of getting results for all the hard work.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, your rewards will be great.

Ms Helen Lambert BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students and tutors face-to-face at tutorials, being able to discuss problems/concerns with them and to share experiences of that and other courses.

My message to future students is...

Try to meet up with fellow students. Your problems and worries are probably also theirs! Sharing really does help.

Mrs Rosalind Lamberti BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being excited about learning new things, particularly Art History.

My message to future students is...

It is the most rewarding experience.

Mr Roger Lambley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school! Exciting, exhilarating and interesting. A whirl of new experiences after long periods of intensive studying.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it, it took me six years to get my degree. Every minute is time well spent. Good luck.

Mr Stefan Lane BSc (Hons) Health Sciences

My message to future students is...

I became a teacher to unlock the potential of future generations.

Mrs Susan Langdon BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I thought the courses were excellent. The study week was good, getting to know the other students and getting to grips with some problems.

My message to future students is...

I completed courses, because I went into teaching at a secondary school with only a teaching certificate. All members of staff in the Science department had degrees and I didn't. I felt substandard, but not now!

Mrs Jacqueline Lapidge BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation Day; I was so happy and proud to have succeeded!

My message to future students is...

Good luck and I hope you find studying with the OU as enjoyable as I did.

Mrs Mary Larking BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Reading all the great material provided.

My message to future students is...

Trust in yourself.

Mrs Elaine Laskey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school. Very well presented course matter.

My message to future students is...

You are never too old to study. Please note on the strength of my OU degree my husband and I were given teaching posts at Aberdeen Uni; we were both nearing 50!

Mr Przemyslaw Lastun BSc (Hons) Crim & Psych

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Waiting impatiently for my name to be called during the graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

What we do in life echoes in eternity. Be the best version of yourself as you only have one go in this game.

Mr Raymond William Laundry

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school in London.

Ms Paula Lavender BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony! One of the proudest moments of my life crossing the stage, with my family cheering wildly!

My message to future students is...

It WILL be worth the effort!

Mr Graham Law BSc LLB (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting up with folks on residential weekends to see and listen to the breadth of skills and viewpoints on many aspects of business.

My message to future students is...

Read the OU prospectus with a goal in mind. Don't worry about 'how soon' all this can happen. Just get started. Bit by bit you will get there.

Mrs Karen Lawrence BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The community, the experience of being part of a global school, friends I made and skills learned. I found I could do what my headmistress said I couldn't - you're never too old to learn.

My message to future students is...

Dare to dream. No matter your age, no matter your beginnings, you can do this. The support from the OU is there; use it. You can succeed.

Mr Barry Lawson BSc BA MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first graduation ceremony, my sense of pride in achieving a degree.

My message to future students is...

Embrace the opportunity to achieve your goals, through the extensive support of the OU and its student community.

Mrs Elizabeth Lawson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying and learning new subjects and also meeting new and interesting people at summer schools and tutorials.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of the chance to study with the OU. It is hard work, enjoyable and very fulfilling.

Miss Sara Lawton BA (Hons) Hum MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Submitting my TMA!

My message to future students is...

You can do it, just keep going...

Dr Allan Leach BSc BA (Hons) MSc DPhil

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being presented with my MSc by Prof Alan Bassindale. He taught me organic chemistry in 1985 and was my academic referee when joining the OU as a tutor in 1986.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU will change your life, it certainly changed mine. You will need to be diligent, resilient and resourceful. Ultimately you will be empowered. Go for it!

Mrs Miriam Leadbetter BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Our meetings with course tutors on Saturdays. Meeting other members of the group to encourage each other and share views.

My message to future students is...

Decide from the start to do the required units and get your degree. Never measure your standard by anyone else. Be proud of your achievement. The OU opens doors.

Mr Reynold Leader BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Manifold and many happy ones.

Mrs Maureen Leask BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools at Durham.

My message to future students is...

You will feel such achievement when you receive the final certificate.

Mrs Lesley Leavey BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being encouraged to take a leap of faith and carry on regardless.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself – follow your dreams and all shall be well.

Revd John Ledgard BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Keele University in 1973.

My message to future students is...

You have a wonderful opportunity to progress to a future which will be enriched by having been an OU student.

Mrs Joanne Lee BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

OU graduation ceremony at the Barbican. Still feel euphoric!

My message to future students is...

Remain curious. Always question. Believe in yourself.

Mrs K Lee BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That the units on the railways has given me a passion for everything to do with steam travel.

My message to future students is...

However hard it feels at the time, doing all that studying, at the end you come away with a great sense of achievement for the rest of your life.

Miss Susanne Lee BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Too many to have a favourite – the pleasure of learning interesting subjects. The satisfaction from acquiring useful skills. Along with being and feeling part of the OU.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! It will be part of you forever. All my tutors were lovely. If life tries to derail you, there are people who help you cope.

Mrs Sylvia Lee BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting up with so many like-minded and fascinating students both online and at seminars and events organised by the OU.

My message to future students is...

Keep a positive attitude to your studying, recognise there will be peaks and troughs of interest and be proud of your achievements.

Mr William Lee BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

It will be worth all the hard work!

Mrs Mary Leedham BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

My message to future students is...

Keep determined in order to succeed.

Mrs Rosanna Lees BSc (Hons) Psych

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As someone who has been through a lot, graduating with a first-class Honours degree in BSc Psychology in 2020 was truly amazing!

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, plan and thoroughly read through your tutor's feedback as this can help you boost your grades.

Mr Philip Leese BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Mentally putting 'Middlemarch' up on a table so we could all 'walk round it' at a summer school.

My message to future students is...

Give it a go.

Mr Richard Lehman BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Predictably, attending York University on 23rd April 1983 to receive my degree – the culmination of 6 years hard but enjoyable work, studying, attending summer schools and meeting some great people.

My message to future students is...

Never give up – with hard work and self-discipline, you CAN do it if you apply yourself. Together with my family and career, I regard it as one of the things I'm most proud of.

Mrs Fiona Leslie LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fun and satisfaction of learning something new.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it! The reward of confidence on achieving a degree is marvellous.

Mr Howard Leslie BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Connecting with other students at summer school.

My message to future students is...

Don't stop – you CAN do it.

Mrs Terry Lester BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful summer schools in Stirling with the excitement and anticipation of the overnight train from London to Scotland.

My message to future students is...

Persevere. I ended up completing my degree over a longer period than planned, but it was worth it.

Mrs Maureen Levesley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Becoming an undergraduate.

My message to future students is...

As a child at elementary school, before nationalisation, I hadn't any idea that I would be able to gain a degree. I thought they were for the rich and brilliant! Wrong.

Mr Gareth Lewis BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer camp in Stirling with my sister Miriam on the Art Foundation course.

My message to future students is...

Take every opportunity of "lifelong learning".

Ms Jillian Lewis BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree at the ceremony in Harrogate with my family woo-hooing!

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the journey. There's nothing to compare.

Mrs Margaret Lewis BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mr Richard Lewis BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Quality and quantity of supplied resources and materials for each course. Accurate, detailed and easy to follow – superb!

My message to future students is...

Don't leave yourself with that 'if only I'd done that' feeling – you're better than you think and you may always regret not having a go, you can do it!

Mr Charles Lillystone BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enlightenment with a magical enthusiasm for learning.

My message to future students is...

Engage and participate.

Mr John Lim BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Persevere with your studies and do not give up, help and assistance is always at hand from OU staff.

Mr Kaj Lindgren BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Bachelor of Science (Honours) Open – Qualification date 31 July 2021.

My message to future students is...

Alea iacta est.

Mr David Lindley BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day when receiving my BSc at the same time as my daughter-in-law got her BA, and one of my former clients her BA.

My message to future students is...

Keep on studying – I am 85 and still doing it.

Mrs Margarita Line BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Group meetings, summer seminars and subject matter.

My message to future students is...

May the knowledge you gain empower you to change other lives for the better.

Mrs Margaret Lines BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at York University for the Biology, Brain and Behaviour course in the 1990s.

My message to future students is...

You have made a good decision to study with The Open University, enjoy your course.

The Open University's Dr. Alex Graham teaching on BBC television programming in 1971.



An OU TV presenter carrying out an experiment or demonstration. Filmed as part of course M245, 1983.



Mr Brian Lingwood BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working and socialising with other students at summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and enjoy the benefits a degree can bring – it can change your life in a positive way.

Mr Ralph Littler BSc MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The feeling of being accepted to study at this level was amazing. With a long journey ahead of me to graduation, I needed a cunning plan!

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself. Work hard and learn when not to be too hard on yourself. At milestones, reward yourself and remember to thank those around you. Good luck, enjoy it.

Mr James Liu BSc (Hons) CITS

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The all night studying sessions followed by a full day’s work the next day!

My message to future students is...

Follow your passion, empower yourself and study every detail of it, then live your dream!

Ms Mary Livesey BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The stimulus and satisfaction studying brought after leaving a senior teaching post at the birth of my son. Baby and books, a perfect cocktail in the new phase of my life.

My message to future students is...

Your lifestyle may change during your years of study but the OU is a familiar, supportive anchor. The degree’s completion opens new horizons and can fulfil your dreams.

Mr David Lloyd BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The new horizons it opened. The stimulus.

My message to future students is...

You can do it if you try.

Mrs Diana Lloyd BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Completing my degree at the age of 54 – BA (Open) and Diploma of Human Geography.

My message to future students is...

Fantastic university, very supportive and great achievement when collecting your degree. Thoroughly recommended.

Mrs Joan Lock BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Keele.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it.

Mrs Angela Logie BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Interesting people met throughout my degree, particularly at summer schools in York, Bath and London – fellow students and lecturers.

My message to future students is...

Whatever you’re studying for, it is worth it. Mine was to prove to myself that I would be worthy of a degree education.

Mrs Wendy Loncaster BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

At summer school in York. We were taking a break from the ‘19c Novel’, and sprawled on the grass, or up a tree. Suddenly it dawned that everyone was reading ‘Middlemarch’.

Mrs Joan Longley

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I went into every course with trepidation at my own limitations and came out at the other end exhilarated and surprised by my own unexpected success.

My message to future students is...

Don’t have thoughts of long hard years of study but imagine you are entering an Aladdin’s cave, full of precious jewels that will enrich the rest of your life.

Mr Martin Longshaw BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A fabulous intensive geology field trip at Kindrogan with a wonderful teaching staff, fellow students and landscapes.

My message to future students is...

Embrace the challenge and reap just not academic rewards.

Mrs Nuala Lonie BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The course “Matter in the Universe” for which my tutor was Dr Jocelyn Bell. She was encouraging and inspirational and the course was fascinating.

My message to future students is...

You will be surprised at what you can understand if you do all the assignments!

Mr Ronald Lord BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Top quality – no matter which course I did, I knew that it was ‘top dollar’, on a par with Oxbridge!

My message to future students is...

You are in good hands – OU distance learning is second to none. Stick to it and you will be well rewarded, intellectually and professionally.

Mr David Love BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation photograph and memories of hard work and fun.

My message to future students is...

You will enjoy learning.

Mrs Martina Lovely BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my books and wondering what I will discover.

My message to future students is...

Trust in your ability to be amazing – just do it, you’ll not regret it! Ever!

Mr Christopher Lovett BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Completing my OU degree was career changing and opened up new horizons for me.

Mr Allan Lowe BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my first distinction for an essay.

My message to future students is...

Take your time – you can do it.

Mr James Lowe BA (Hons) MSc

My message to future students is...

Be patient, keep going. You will get there in the end.

Miss Vanessa Lowndes

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer school.

My message to future students is...

You spend a lot of time studying on your own at home and sometimes this seems overwhelming! But don't give up, you will get there in the end.

Mrs Margaret Lowry BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

My OU studies have enhanced my enjoyment of life. I hope the OU does the same for you.

Mr John Lowther BA MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Never mind how much I felt that I would never make it to the end of the course, the OU never gave up on me.

My message to future students is...

Few, if anyone, believed that I was capable of getting a degree, never mind an MBA but I was pleased that I exceeded everyone's expectations including mine.

Mrs Mary Lucas BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A chance to achieve ambition, not available to me when I was younger. Couldn't believe I was at university at 40.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late no matter how long you wait for change. THANKS OU.

Mr Thomas Lucas

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Completing my postgraduate diploma in Psychology.

My message to future students is...

N.G.U: Never give up.

Mrs Jean Lumsden BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day at the McEwan Hall in Edinburgh. Superb!

My message to future students is...

The old cliché and chestnut... this will "open doors" for you, still to be revealed.

Mr Robin Luscombe BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to be a full-time student at summer school, both for the academic and social interaction. A pity it only applied to a few courses.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it. The journey, though sometimes seeming long, is worthwhile to one's mental health and wellbeing. It is more demanding and therefore satisfying than a full time course.

Dr Pauline Lyseight-Jones

My favourite memory of the OU is...

There are two: early morning Tai Chi at a summer school (Tadpole) and the day that I went to my Ed.D ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Start, carry on and complete – and don't worry about the time – the speed that you go is the right one for you.

Miss Margaret Lyth BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How much we got packed into summer schools, both work and fun. Open University summer school is an experience not to be forgotten.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! It is well worth it. An Open University degree is special, especially to someone like me, who was regarded as a complete failure at school.

Mrs Elizabeth MacAulay BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How much I enjoyed my studies – it gave me so much self-confidence after a traumatic time in my life.

My message to future students is...

Go for it – your degree will be a turning point in your life!

Mrs Ailsa MacDonald BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation – I cried all day (happy tears).

Mrs Alison MacDonald BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Standing in a shopping precinct with a study partner carrying out a summer school behavioural psychology experiment.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your courses. Learning should be fun.

Mrs Ann Macdonald BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The anticipation and excitement that each assignment package brought – knowing that I was going to learn something new.

My message to future students is...

By all means, look to the future – but don't forget to enjoy the journey!

Mrs Christina MacDonald BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I enjoyed the courses dealing with art especially.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of this exciting experience.

Mrs Jacqueline MacDonald BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials and summer school.

My message to future students is...

The OU is a learning institution which is modern and fun.





**Wales degree ceremony,
Millennium Centre Theatre,
Cardiff, Autumn 2016.**

Mrs Sharon Mace BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fantastic daily opportunities for group music making on the ‘Understanding Music’ residential school in Durham in 2000, all made possible by the enthusiastic and supportive tutors.

My message to future students is...

Study the subjects that excite and interest you, not the subjects that you think you ought to study.

Mr Harold MacFoy MA

My message to future students is...

Be optimistic at all times and never say never. No matter what your situation is, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Mr Chris MacHache BA (Hons) Env Studs

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting exposed to better information and the experience which other students bring to subjects.

My message to future students is...

It is better to keep trying and complete the race, every stumbling block is a step closer to the finish line.

Mr Angus MacIntosh BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Warwick University, improvising ‘Lear’, creating music, laughing and drinking to the early hours. Expanding on the ‘inductive gap’ in the logic course!

My message to future students is...

Get your photo taken in the blue gown! You feel great telling them just what makes it different from a black one! Years of hard work and dedication.

Ms Shirley MacKay BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my marked essays back highly praised (occasionally!).

My message to future students is...

The OU gives you a foundation of a love of study for the rest of your life.

Mrs Patricia MacKenzie BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Coming from a working class background environment it was challenging doing the OU at 66. Seeing oneself achieving gradually and, becoming confident. Successfully finishing the degree made me feel proud.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, ask for help if required and be confident in your ability to achieve. Don’t be hard on yourself or compare yourself with others. Be your own person. Enjoy!

Mrs Bridget MacKinnon BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening up my mind to learning again.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies – your success can change the future!

Mrs Patricia Mackness BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students and sharing the journey. One person I met is still a close friend over 40 years later.

Mrs Jane MacLennan BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at the Saturday tutorials.

My message to future students is...

Do not worry if you did not realise your full potential at school: the OU is the best second chance you will ever get.

Mr Donald MacLeod BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at the campus at Stirling University.

My message to future students is...

Keep on studying. Education is addictive.

Mrs Sally MacPherson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It’s a great institution.

Mrs Carolynne Maddock BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools!

My message to future students is...

Work hard, but make sure that you enjoy the course.

Mr Paul Madigan BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day – I was so proud of myself.

My message to future students is...

When things get hard, just focus on the module, if that is too much then chapter by chapter or even just page by page. Remember, you are awesome!

Mr Michael Magarinos BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The first year when I attended summer school, meeting some lifelong friends and tutors back in 1999.

My message to future students is...

Persevere in your studies! I started in 1999 having a break between 2007–2012 due to deaths in the family but I achieved my BA(Hons) in 2018. Life will get in the way.

Mrs Catriona Magee BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting essays back with a good mark!

My message to future students is...

Do not give up, it’s amazing what you can learn.

Mrs Mohmina Mahboob BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my module books through the post and waiting for my next module to begin.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and do not give up. Take a short break and clear your mind and get back to it!

Mrs Susan Makepeace BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting a degree aged 60.

My message to future students is...

Don’t give up and read the questions carefully. Then read them again!

Mrs Margaret Makins BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students on the same course and comparing notes. Realising that you are not doing this on your own. The special feeling of being presented for my degree.

My message to future students is...

There may be times when the OU work seems hard to fit into your life, but stick at it. The reward of a degree, even if it has been hard at times, is incredible.

Mrs Margaret Malley BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of learning.

My message to future students is...

Persevere and you will achieve.

Mrs Kathleen Mallon BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The monthly tutorials and the opportunity to meet and share ideas with other students under the guidance of the tutor.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and keep going even when it seems so difficult, you can do it and you will.

Mrs Lynne Malloy BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The experiences that I had by attending the summer schools and new people I met.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! You will not regret it.

Miss Helen Mangune

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The flexibility of my timetable meant I could work/study. A vast wealth of learning materials/resources and the highly qualified tutors helped me realise my potential. I am a lifelong learner.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to make positive steps towards your learning goals, with the OU's learning programmes to guide you. The rest is up to you.

Mr Trevor Mannion

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at the science faculty at Durham University. Fantastic lectures.

My message to future students is...

There is no try... just do! Do as much as you can in the time you have. But most of all, have fun!

Mrs Margaret Marais BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools – they were great fun and made you realise you were not alone.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it. It's not easy but well worth it. When you get that certificate, you'll feel amazing.

Mr Robin Marchal BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

The OU offers an outstanding opportunity to study and commit, at the same time if necessary, to a full-time job!

Miss Marilyn Markall BSc BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and meeting like-minded students. The tutors being so friendly and helpful.

My message to future students is...

Go for your goal. The OU will help you get there, it is a great way to study. The elation you will feel gaining your degree. Thank you for the sense of worth you gave me.

Miss Andrea Marks BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying with the OU taught me how to learn, I am now so much more confident in my own skills and ability to learn new things.

My message to future students is...

This is a lifelong, life-changing journey, you do not know where it will take you. It will be hard at times, but it will be so worth it – keep going!

Ms Penelope Marlton BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school, sitting over a glass of wine chatting with other students.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up!

Mr John Marr BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting some delightful and very determined people.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it. Don't lose heart.

Mr Douglas Marshall BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My summer school in Brighton was brilliant and finally graduating after six years!

My message to future students is...

The OU really is for everyone, I had a really busy career working lots of overtime and a young son, give the OU a try you won't regret it.

Mr Graham Marshall BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools. Graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

I have done it, therefore you can do it. Choose your course wisely and then just do the work. It is hard but worth it.

Ms Jill Marshall BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I don't have a favourite but remember with a smile the arguments at Keele summer school.

My message to future students is...

The OU will stay with you for the rest of your life – whatever you studied.

Mr Scott Marshall BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating in front of my family in Glasgow.

My message to future students is...

I am still using the skills I gained in my life now. The degree helped in my RAF career and now in the property market. If I can succeed then you can too. Good luck!

Warehouse staff packaging
OU study materials to post to
students, circa 1975.



Mrs Audrey Martin BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Bath University where I made some lifelong friends and absolutely loved the course there!

My message to future students is...

Don't give up your studies halfway through, the end is always worth the sacrifices made to study.

Mr Simon Martin BA (Hons) Hist

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Pretty much all of it – me time; learning and a real sense of achievement at the end of it.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it – it is worth it.

Mrs Susan Martin BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The help and friends I made on my courses. I never thought I would finish my degree, so my certificate means the world to me.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it. Sometimes it is hard but definitely worth it.

Miss Tamika Martin

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I was invited to join in on adding my name to the fabulous Tree of Learning sculpture. What a celebration!

My message to future students is...

Savour the moment, be the master of your craft. Maintain a 'trailblazer' mindset. Be magnificent, terrifically masterful and a timeless manifestation.

Mr Anthony Martyr BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the graduation awards event and hearing other students' stories.

My message to future students is...

You will learn how to study and unlike some of the facts you will learn, you will never lose that skill.

Mrs Caroline Maskell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That I could do this, and my not being 'the intelligent one' in my family did not matter.

My message to future students is...

Break things down, give yourself time. You can do it!

Mrs Pamela Maskery MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The outstanding tuition and supportiveness of all the tutors, backed up by great materials.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy doing your chosen course knowing you are in good hands. Go for it.

Mr Philip Masters BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The first evening of summer school mixing with other students and tutors and sharing our experiences to date, having been out of education for 15 years.

My message to future students is...

Ask your tutor, ask your course-mates, and don't worry. It is a great opportunity and despite all the struggles along the way it is so rewarding when you finish.

Mrs Margaret Matthews BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Egham with visits to the London galleries with students on the same course as myself.

My message to future students is...

Keep sticking at it! Your efforts will be worth it. Graduation will help to change your life!

Mr Robert Matthews BA (Hons) Soc Sci

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tremendous feeling of relief after submitting an assignment, and the wonderful sense of achievement when getting a good mark for it.

My message to future students is...

Persevere when the going gets tough (which it inevitably will!). Stay focused, work hard and be determined! You can do this! You can achieve your goal! Never give up.

Mrs Deborah Mawbey BSc BA (Hons) MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

S101 Science: A Foundation Course. Receiving a huge box of experimental equipment, (including a stick and disc for measuring the distance to the moon), was both exciting and slightly worrying.

My message to future students is...

Learning is an active process. Take responsibility for your own learning. Don't blame others for your failures, acknowledge the role of others in your successes.

Dr Craig Maxwell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of studying music for the first time after retiring from a totally different career.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late!

Mrs Juliet Maxwell BA (Hons) Hist

My message to future students is...

Good luck to everyone doing an OU course – it's well worth the effort.

Mr James McBeath BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I thoroughly enjoyed summer schools.

My message to future students is...

An OU degree can change your life.

Mr Brian McCann BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school, tutorials and meeting up with like-minded colleagues.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it. Don't give up and enjoy what you are doing.

Mr Terence McCann BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting 'like-minded' persons. Summer schools, particularly Bath University. The social occasion of the OU and a big thanks for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

My message to future students is...

Hang in there! It will be well worth it in the end... I struggled towards the end of the my studies.

Mrs Ann McCarter BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

All the home experiments which had to be completed.

My message to future students is...

Do not worry how long it takes to get your degree, just keep going. It is a worthwhile journey.

Mrs Geraldine McCollum BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The awards ceremony when I realised a dream had come true and my BA degree was complete.

My message to future students is...

The gift of knowledge is a wonderful thing so embrace everything the OU can offer and a world of opportunity is yours.

Mr William McCormick BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school where you can meet fellow students, exchange views and experiences, but most importantly, make new friends.

My message to future students is...

Keep an open mind and embrace new challenges. Do not be afraid to ask questions.

Mrs Kathleen McDaid BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Organising a summer school (York) tug of war involving 2 different course groups. Great fun and the camaraderie afterward meant some of us kept in touch.

My message to future students is...

Take each unit as a single goal. Once one is passed, focus on the next one. Eat the elephant one bite at a time...

Mr Ciaran McDonald MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting some great people and having some great discussions around business.

My message to future students is...

Keep plugging away at it. Don't worry about how long it will take you, the end result is a light load to bear.

Mr Clifford McDonald BA MSc LLB

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enjoyment of meeting people of all ages keen to learn.

My message to future students is...

Do not give up when times get hard, keep going. The achievement is worth it.

Mr John McDonnell MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Weekends.

My message to future students is...

Give it a go and give your best!

Mrs Monica McDowell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My lovely experience of university life at two summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Ask your tutor for extra help if you're struggling. Enjoy it!

Mrs Anne McEwen BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A sense of personal achievement and the visible delight and pride of my family on graduation day.

My message to future students is...

Have faith, believe, you can do it!

Mr Stephen McFarlane MEng BEng (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools at different universities and the other students. The positive attitude of the tutors and the encouragement from all.

My message to future students is...

Be disciplined in your studies. Study in the morning when you have a fresh mind. If you don't understand something, ask your tutor.

Mr Joseph McGinty BA Phd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting to enjoy studying.

My message to future students is...

It helped me get the kind of job I wanted.

Mrs Morag McGowan BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How helpful everyone was and what fun we had at summer school.

My message to future students is...

Trust your lecturers, they are the best.

Ms Amanda McGown BA (Hons) BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of achievement hearing my name called out at my Masters ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Never give up! There will be times when it is hard to keep motivated, when an assignment gets a lower score than anticipated, but in the end it's all worth it!

Mrs Stephanie McGrath BA (Hons) MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The art history residential.

My message to future students is...

Keep going – all knowledge is worthwhile.

Mrs Janet McGready MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The thrill of doing the MBA strategy residential in The Netherlands.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU has changed so many lives for the better, it can be tough. Stick with it.

Mrs Vivienne McGuinness BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and graduating.

My message to future students is...

Keep going.

Mrs Erika McIntosh BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying in retirement is immensely fulfilling. I would race through daily chores, seeing studying as my desirable goal. Equally memorable are summer school and study weekend at Cambridge.

My message to future students is...

Make a study schedule for each day and try to stick to it. This sounds obvious, but is important if you want to enjoy learning rather than feeling overburdened.

Mr Hugh McIntyre BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools at Stirling. Lectures galore on a thousand subjects, outside of which OU course I was on.

Mr Lewis McKay BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Visiting Jena in post-unification Germany for the summer school as part of the Diploma in German. Meeting like-minded students and dedicated enthusiastic members of staff made this an unforgettable experience.

My message to future students is...

Persevere – it really is all worth it.

Mrs Mary McKay BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting so many wonderful people who I still see today.

My message to future students is...

Have faith in yourself.

Mr Alan McKenna BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Not one favourite memory. Just the whole experience.

My message to future students is...

If the going gets tough, don't give up. It is worth it in the end.

Mr George McKeown BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The faces of my family at graduation.

My message to future students is...

Stick in. It can be hard at times but so rewarding.

Mr David McKillen BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school in Stirling.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience.

Mr Alexander McLaren BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Very enjoyable group meetings every month.

My message to future students is...

Be determined.

Mr Stewart McLaughlin BSc (Hons) Soc Sci

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The study, the learning, fellow students and the tutors.

My message to future students is...

Always be ready to learn, then take that step with the OU to do it.

Mr Cyril McLeod BA (Hons) BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

MA graduation.

Mr Joseph McMahon BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation. Training woodlice to navigate a maze!

My message to future students is...

Keep trying. Establish a routine, perhaps set a time every day or week, and stick to it.

Mrs Winifred McManus BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Get yourself an OU degree. It can change your life. It did that for me.

Mr William McMillan BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Without doubt the most rewarding experience in my life.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and I know it will make a huge difference in your life.

Mr Ian McNee BA BEd MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The self-help groups.

My message to future students is...

Learn, discover, achieve, enjoy.

Mrs Catherine McPherson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, aged 80 years – the Chancellor giving me a hug and saying “well done!”.

My message to future students is...

I did not achieve my degree until I was 80 years old, it was not easy but I was determined to keep going.

Mr John McSweeney BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Keele in 1975.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! Knowledge is not only power – it gives access as well as lasting pleasure.

Mr Kenneth McWilliam BA MA (Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The week-long experience of meeting other students for a period of extended study at a university venue.

My message to future students is...

The OU is a marvellous means of how distance learning can enhance your knowledge.

Mr Christopher Meadows BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

First summer school.

My message to future students is...

Don't doubt.

Mr Graham Meakin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The overwhelming helpfulness of tutors at summer school, and speaking to Mike Pentz, Dean of Science.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! You CAN do it!

Mrs Patricia Meakins BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Feeling part of an educational community for the first time in my life.

My message to future students is...

The one my very first OU tutor gave to me... join a study group that challenges you.

Ms Ida Meccariello-Heath BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools are memorable and an essential part of your studies. Meeting a variety of people from different backgrounds and ages was a unique experience. Some became lifelong friends.

My message to future students is...

If your personal circumstances change during your studies – don't give up! Continue to keep a firm study structure in your life as it will help you to move forward.

Mrs Jennifer Medhurst BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Proving I can study at degree level, even with dyslexia. I was supported all the way to reach my dream.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, enjoy the journey.

Miss Marina Medina BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Pursue your dreams and never give up!

Dr Manan Mehta PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I got to interact with different students and members of the technical staff. This interaction increased my knowledge base and made me a better researcher.

My message to future students is...

The Open University provides excellent distance learning resources, as well as research opportunity. You should make excellent use of it.

Mrs Isobel Mellon BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating!

My message to future students is...

Go for it and enjoy.

Mrs Joyce Mellors BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having my photo taken in the cap and gown – proof that I'd really done it. I got my degree.

My message to future students is...

Go for it and don't give up.

Mr Peter Merser BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Very professional teachers, nice friendly tutorials.

My message to future students is...

Good luck.

Mr Omer Messoud BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

1979, OU summer school in Warwick University.

My message to future students is...

Working full-time, married with two children and studying made me feel unique. I came from Ethiopia with no chance of going to university, the OU gave me the chance.

Mrs Beryl Middleton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Discovering it when it started and taking part with the other students and lecturers.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, and enjoy the journey of learning.

Revd Celia Midgley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The very beginning – well done Harold Wilson's Labour government!

My message to future students is...

Never stop learning – from books, from people, from the natural world around you.

Mr David Milburn BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day. To walk on that stage at the age of 52 was one of my greatest achievements. It was something I wanted to do for so long.

My message to future students is...

When they say once you start OU you will never be able to look at or read anything again without questioning. It is so true.

Mrs Nola Miles BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer schools and meeting so many other students and having wonderful tutorials. I was lucky starting my degree in 1975.

My message to future students is...

Keep on studying. It will prove worth it.

Dr Marios Miliorizos BA (Hons) BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The unravelling of mathematics problems, the discoveries in contemporary science and an enjoyment of Greek.

My message to future students is...

For your futures, learn and live with The Open University.

Mr George Millar BA

My message to future students is...

Let people see that you are adopting the correct values.

Mr James Millar BA (Hons) LLB

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being freed from the lifelong embarrassment of failing the eleven plus examination.

My message to future students is...

Education is liberty.

Mrs Jo Millar BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Turning over my exam paper and thinking ‘what am I doing here at age 66?’ but loving it!

My message to future students is...

TMA's are like labour pains – they don't seem so bad after!

Miss Rachel Millard BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Achieving my BSc (Hons) and attending my graduation ceremony with hundreds of people with the same goal, and being so proud of us all.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, you can achieve anything if you put your mind to it.

Miss Fiona Miller BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Gaining my degree, going to my degree ceremony and meeting other students. The atmosphere on that day was wonderful.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the journey of studying your chosen subject.

Mrs Jane Miller MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools at Heythrop Park.

My message to future students is...

The OU changed my life and I hope it changes others' for the better too.

Mr Richard Miller BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the courses and working successfully with others on the programmes.

My message to future students is...

Keep up with your studies and the end result in terms of gaining knowledge and working to tight deadlines. After my OU courses I became a professor.

Mr Christopher Millington BA MA MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Dedicated tutors. A second chance to obtain a degree, then an MA. Life enhancing, personally and professionally.

My message to future students is...

Do it. Well worth the effort.

Mrs Madeleine Mills BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer schools and meeting fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Study hard and persevere, and you will succeed in achieving your goal.

Mrs Angela Milward BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Partying all night at an OU summer school in York University in the late '70s.

My message to future students is...

My OU degree changed my life for the better (much better)! It opened doors, blew my mind and forty years later I remain grateful and joyful thinking about it all.

Dr Peter Minshall BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Music summer school at Durham.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the learning experience.

Mr Charles Mitchell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The very dedicated help of the tutors.

My message to future students is...

Remember “Bruce's Spider”. A message from history, often used in British schools in past years, for perseverance.

Mrs Debra Mitchell BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The boost to my self-esteem at my graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

You can do it!

Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joyful experience of learning for pleasure.

My message to future students is...

Grab the opportunity to learn and expand your knowledge.

Mr Samuel Mitchell BA (Hons) LM

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finishing my first module that really felt like it had kicked off my long 6 year journey!

My message to future students is...

Give it absolutely everything you can and don't neglect it in any way like I did!

Mr William Mitchell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I would get together with my fellow students in self-help study groups. This brought me very strongly into the experience of belonging to an OU family.

My message to future students is...

To embrace fully what the OU offers – not just because of the doors it opens but because of the possibilities to acquire a true education. A truly life-changing experience.

Mrs Anna Mitchell-Smith BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being given the opportunity to complete an honours degree in psychology which I have since followed on with further courses.

My message to future students is...

You can achieve anything as well as working.

Mrs Joyce Mitton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being at the very beginning of the OU as a 'B' student, then renewing my studies as a 'P' student.

My message to future students is...

Be assured that the OU is very helpful!

Mr Ittab Mohammed LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The very kind support of my tutors and advisory service in helping me to complete my degree.

My message to future students is...

Never give up studying, I had no secondary school education due to poverty. Thanks to the OU I was able to study a law degree – a lifelong dream.

Mrs Dawn Mohun MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising it wasn't as daunting as it first appeared. The support network offered by the OU is very helpful. I juggled work, moving house, bringing up two boys and got my MSc.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy it, ask for help when needed, use all the resources. Good Luck.

Mr Leonard Molloy BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting up to find I had recorded static interference instead!

My message to future students is...

Great for reading text to get children to sleep.

Mr Derek Monckton BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials and summer schools, the shared experience of learning.

My message to future students is...

Do not give up, it won't be easy, the reward is worth every hour you invest in learning.

Mrs Fiona Mooney BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Embarking on a new challenge, anxious but excited to learn. Meeting new people and attending our first science summer school together.

My message to future students is...

Embrace and be proud of each step you take. Cherish each achievement and make the most of this opportunity to learn. You are amazing!

Mrs Dina Moore BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of being accepted for the OU and the great opportunity it offered.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and enjoy it.

Mrs Jane Moore BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The personal satisfaction of knowing that, thanks to inspirational tutors, one had expressed new knowledge in a clear way through assignments.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, make new friends and don't forget to have fun too.

Mrs Lucy Moore BSc (Hons) Hcare Health Sci

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU has helped me change my life – I'll be the first person in my family with a degree. Thank you OU.

My message to future students is...

Always take the advice from your tutor. Enjoy the time you spend doing your course and always remember why you started!

Mr Peter Moore BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day with all my family.

My message to future students is...

It will be hard at times but you can do it.

Miss Jessica Moos BSc (Hons) Psych

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The many study sessions in every place imaginable (library, train, at work, cafes).

My message to future students is...

Don't let anything hold you back. Disability and early motherhood didn't stop me and you can power through anything too!

Mr Roger Moran BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My studying with the OU at Stirling University.

My message to future students is...

Don't get put off! If difficulties are encountered, like meeting essay deadlines, remember your goal and the reward of an OU degree. Keep at it.

Mr John Mordant BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing peer comments with other students – there is always another viewpoint other than your own!

My message to future students is...

Do not despair... as an octogenarian I left it rather late – but I managed it eventually... and with Honours too!

Mr Philip Morey BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation.

My message to future students is...

Keep going.

Mrs Catherine Morgan BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Early morning when I got up to study or complete assignments or watch recorded TV programmes.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it – you will always value the achievement.

Mrs Marion Morgan

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting interesting people.

My message to future students is...

Keep up your good work, it will eventually pay off.

Mrs Marion Moriarty BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Comradeship, making new friends and feelings of achievement – support from tutor teams. You'll achieve; I did!

My message to future students is...

Remember your support teams, never give up. You'll do it, I did!

Mrs Hilary Morley BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, and make sure you understand and use all the resources available.

Mrs Esther Morris MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The graduation ceremony for my MA in Milton Keynes, where people's children were in the audience and cheering their parents, who were the ones receiving their degrees.

My message to future students is...

Take note of the excellent feedback on your TMAs; and remember that if the going gets tough, you can take a break.

Mr Martin Morris MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students on residential weeks.

My message to future students is...

Studying at the OU does a lot more than improve your career prospects, it opens up a new world.

Mr Brian Morrish BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making new friends, friendships which still last several years after I qualified.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it. At times of difficulty remember what attracted you to study with the OU in the first place.

Mrs Angela Morrison BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The feeling of inclusiveness, camaraderie and support irrespective of your previous educational experience.

My message to future students is...

Belief and commitment will help you achieve your ambition.

Mr David Morton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting a good mark after working all night to complete an assignment.

My message to future students is...

Stick to it – it's worth it!

Ms Rita Moseley BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting with other students, all eager to learn!

My message to future students is...

See it through – it's worth it!

Mr Karl Moss BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Every summer school I attended, every new fact I encountered, knowing I had a right to be there.

My message to future students is...

I left school, after 11 years of staring out of the windows with zero qualifications. If I can do it, you can.

Ms Lynne Moss BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Immersing myself in wonderful, thought-provoking literature from all over the world and discovering how much I didn't want to stop learning.

My message to future students is...

You will never forget your OU experience and the life-affirming gift of knowledge you have gained. Follow your bliss and know you are now part of this amazing community.

Mr Alfred Mossop BA LLB

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school at York University in 1976 with my wife – we still talk about it.

My message to future students is...

Once you are in the system, keep going and persevere – it's worth it.

Dr Anita Mottram BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement when the resources arrive at the start of a course.

My message to future students is...

It may feel like hard work whilst you are studying but it is worth every second. Reap the benefits, you deserve them.

Mr Ian Mottram BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools, meeting fellow students and good fun. Also after hard work, obtaining my degree.

My message to future students is...

Do your best, work hard and enjoy what the OU will teach you and you will graduate. Good luck.

Mrs Ella Mulheran BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My OU BA (Hons) degree gave me the confidence to apply for a teaching post which was successful.

My message to future students is...

It is so worthwhile to be able to study at home for an OU degree – no travelling involved!

Miss Kathleen Mumby BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Participating in many groups, meeting new friends, juggling full-time work with study and the support network from tutors and students.

My message to future students is...

Whatever your education background there is always study to meet your needs. Work hard and pursue your dream to gain a degree or diploma.

Mrs Maureen Munro BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree in Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Congratulations for getting this far. You are special. Your OU degree will change your life and build up the life of the community.

Mrs Susan Murdoch BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting and chatting with many interesting people at summer school, including students, tutors, professors, authors and local people from all walks of life.

My message to future students is...

Learning is about desire to learn. I was 49 years old before I was diagnosed dyslexic – which explains why it took me so long to read! Therefore temet nosce and carpe diem!

Mr Francis Murphy BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That it gave me the opportunity to start a career, after I had raised three children.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! Take every opportunity and don't give up.



External view of the Robert Hooke Building on The Open University campus in Milton Keynes. Named after Robert Hooke (1635–1703) who was, amongst other things, an inventor, scientist, natural philosopher and architect. The building was completed in 2004.

Mr Philip Murphy BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Watching “Doctor Strangelove” at the end of an OU residential week (sadly, probably one of the last) at the Stirling University.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the studying for its own sake – the degree is a by-product.

Mrs Beverley Murray

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My favourite memory is the amazing support from the OU.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and you will achieve.

Mrs Saija Murray BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The graduation ceremony, after seven years of balancing work, family and the study.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself and use the resources in place to support you.

Ms Susan Murray

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The careful tuition – especially with distanced learning and the feeling of friendship.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of your opportunities and don’t underestimate what you are capable of.

Mrs Jennifer Mussen BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The interaction with other professionals who shared their expertise in tutorials.

My message to future students is...

My teaching career had ‘stalled’ but by working hard for an M.A. I never looked back. The rest is history!

Mr William Myers

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Experiencing that special feeling of being in a purely academic environment with other students and the lecturers at the refresher weekends.

My message to future students is...

Start working on your assignments as soon as they arrive. You will have a better chance of delivering them on time and completed.

His Honour Arthur Myerson QC

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school bar.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy it as I did.

Dr John Myles BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Evening seminars at Dowdales, Dalton In Furness. Summer schools (and meeting my wife!).

My message to future students is...

Don’t think about past failures – just go for it now!

Mrs Lorraine Myrie MA BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I was full of gratitude. The “leaving” my family and attending summer schools. Meeting like-minded people and acting like a university student which I always regretted missing out on.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, everyone at the OU is helpful and the sense of achievement is second to none.

Mrs Sheila Myron BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools were marvellous!

My message to future students is...

The OU boosts your self confidence and you no longer feel ‘left behind’.

Mr Patrick Nagle BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My father Jeremiah Nagle, and my brother Edward Nagle, coming to my graduation in 1983.

My message to future students is...

Always pursue your dreams.

Mr Thomas Nash BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Becoming a ‘real’ student in middle-age.

My message to future students is...

The satisfaction of achieving your degree lasts a lifetime.

Mrs Marie Nasso BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The lecturers and friends made at summer school in Cardiff.

My message to future students is...

A simple one, ‘never give up’.

Mrs Pamela Nathaniel Plumb BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutorials were always very enjoyable. It was good to meet other students who were studying, we could share experiences of handling family and work alongside our studies.

My message to future students is...

Education is valuable, for its own sake and as a way of opening up opportunities.

Miss Sikhonzile Ndebele BA (Hons) Health & Soc Care

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I started studying with OU, I did not think I would manage to complete my degree because it was not easy. But with the help of the tutors, here I am qualified.

My message to future students is...

Even if it is hard or difficult, never give up. If I managed to qualify being a village girl from Africa with lower education, you can do it.

Mr James Nditu BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day.

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to learn new things.

Mrs Linda Neate BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The inspiration provided by the enthusiasm of the tutors, and the quality of the learning materials.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies, persevere, and connect with fellow students.

Mr Robert Neil BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school in Stirling; tutorials and lectures were interesting and stimulating, and I enjoyed socialising in the pub at the end of the day. The atmosphere was spectacular.

Mr Walter Neil BA

My message to future students is...

If you are struggling and you do not speak to your tutor, your tutor will not be able to help you. Do not be afraid to ask for help.

Dr Raymond Neve BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the course materials.

Miss Julia Nevinson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Paving the way to a career as a clinical scientist which fulfilled my hopes.

My message to future students is...

Hang in there! You will get there in the end.

Mrs Sylvia New BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enthusiasm of both staff and pupils.

Mr Barry Newby MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being presented with my MBA.

My message to future students is...

Effort will bring the rewards.

Mr Ronald Newman BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I had four children and a living to earn! But how liberating the opportunity was...

My message to future students is...

If you have the urge to study, the OU would be a choice you would never regret!

Mrs Susan Newman BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Driving from Dulwich to UCL and parking on the road in 1977! In 1980, I was allowed to sit at the front for an exam as I was 8 1/2 months pregnant.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Ms Lindy Newns

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Reading the syllabus booklets and being awestruck by possibilities.

My message to future students is...

Well done to have chosen to carry on learning and good luck!

Mrs Christine Nicholas BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A visit to the British Museum as part of my Classical Studies course. A lecture on the Parthenon and a personal guided tour by an expert on Greek Pottery and the Parthenon frieze.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy what the OU has to offer and never hesitate to ask for help. I had trouble with vision throughout my course and help in the form of large print materials was always available.

Dr Laurence Nicholas

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendly nature of its students.

My message to future students is...

Your hard work will be rewarded but above that, will be rewarding.

Mrs Kathleen Nicholls BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony at the Barbican Centre in 2016.

My message to future students is...

Strive to reach your potential, or further.

Ms Marlene Nicholls BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the journey, it is well worth all the study. Good luck!

Mrs Mary Nicholls BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting with like-minded people keen to learn. Some for a future career, others for the sheer joy of self-improvement.

My message to future students is...

Despite the many challenges – keep studying. It will help to open up a much brighter future for you, plus it will be a big boost for your self-confidence.

Mrs Pauline Nicholls BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

In my first year, whilst on holiday, sitting in our car in various lay-bys with my husband & three young children, listening to radio broadcasts for my two courses.

My message to future students is...

I did it and so can you!

Mr Trevor Nicholls BA (Hons) LLB

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The satisfaction of completing and posting assignments and getting them back with good marks.

My message to future students is...

“Every man who rises above the common level has received two educations; the first from his teachers, the second more personal and important, from himself.” – Edward Gibbon, ‘Memoirs’.

Mrs Sharon Nichols BA PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of relief and satisfaction when my essays and exams were of a good standard.

My message to future students is...

The Open University gives you flexibility and opportunity to learn, it can help change your future, by leading to employment opportunities you didn't previously have.

Mrs Margaret Nicholson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A new world opening up to me, new ideas, new learning, new friends and new experiences.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! The world is your oyster!

Mrs Averil Nicol BA

My message to future students is...

I have severe mental health issues, and took 10 years to get my degree. If I did it, so can you!

Ms Laura Nightingale BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being with others who share my interests and hopes for a better world.

My message to future students is...

Be different. Make a difference. The OU will make such a difference to your life.

Mrs Corinne Niman BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The people from many different backgrounds who I met at the two summer schools I attended.

My message to future students is...

Pick a subject you are really interested in and don't let anyone tell you that you aren't capable of it.

Mr Paul Noble BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enjoyment of learning (in my case, languages).

My message to future students is...

Persevere! Enjoy along the way.

Mrs Sheelagh Nolan BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school – I met some amazing people and the tutors were great!

My message to future students is...

Keep at it – it is worth it in the end.

Mrs Patricia Noon BA MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials!

My message to future students is...

However many difficulties you face, force yourself to keep on going. The joy of success in the end is worth everything.

Mr Herman Norford BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

BBC TV and radio broadcasts along with summer school.

My message to future students is...

Don't ever think it is too late to take a degree and enjoy the experience.

Dr Brian Norman PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Taking students to Geneva 1990–2004 for the Enlightenment courses (Arts).

Mr Paul Norman BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Bath University.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! You won't regret it.

Mr John Norris

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students at weekend business school events. The energy and enthusiasm was fantastic.

My message to future students is...

The OU gives you an opportunity of a lifetime!

Mr Robert Norris BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Time spent at wonderful summer schools at Westfield College – London University.

My message to future students is...

It was very tough doing OU courses while working full time and also through family traumas, but I succeeded, which led to further and higher studies which were very beneficial for work.

Mr David North BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excellent summer schools. Particularly for me the geology-based one.

My message to future students is...

It was hard work keeping going with the essential readings and assignments but well worth the knowledge I gained.

Mr Anthony Norton BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting the result of my first TMA and going to tutorials.

My message to future students is...

Perhaps the best thing that I have done in my life. Thank you.

Mr George Notley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school in Stirling.

Mr John Nurse BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of discovering things and the enjoyment of getting absorbed in study.

My message to future students is...

Time will pass so do it while you can.

Mr Michael O'Connor BA (Hons) BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I shall always remember the summer schools, especially the first. Mixing with people, fellow students and tutors, who shared my academic interests and enthusiasm was like finding a new world.

My message to future students is...

My OU degree and the growing self-confidence which accompanied my studies enabled me to change my career and lead a more fulfilling life. I wish the same for you.

Mr Laurence O'Doherty BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sitting in King's Cross waiting to go to summer school at Dundee.

My message to future students is...

Aim high – regardless of your final grading in your subject, you will be rewarded for perseverance.

Mr Michael O'Driscoll MBE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

To be able to study after a hard day's work knowing it was building a brighter future for myself and family. Assisting people in all kinds of benefits entitlement advice specialising with homeless people.

My message to future students is...

Go for your goal.

Mrs Barbara Office BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your learning.

Mr Alasdair Offin BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to choose courses that I fancied and that learning can be very enjoyable.

My message to future students is...

Never stop learning. The process is as, if not more, important than the prize.

Mr Donald O’Flynn BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful graduation at Ely Cathedral; the roof was undergoing repairs so it was cold, I felt so sorry for my wife Jean in a summer dress. Nevertheless, we all loved it!

My message to future students is...

Don’t give up. I was not able to go to university when young, I started the OU when nearing retirement. The satisfaction on graduating is wonderful. I am now 94 and still enjoying life.

Mrs Caroline Ohlson

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The support I received from fellow students and tutors, sadly no longer with us. The experience and confidence I gained led me to a new career and postgrad studies.

My message to future students is...

Have faith in yourselves and try, it’s amazing what we can achieve!

Miss Yinka Oketoki

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting to know computing, printing, writing essays by submitting the work online to the tutors. Therefore, OU is the key that gave me the success in my life and added amazing achievements, qualifications to me. It is a wonder of joy.

My message to future students is...

You must be focused, believe in yourself! No matter what challenges you face, be strong and don’t look back, express your true colours, work hard and motivate yourselves so that you can achieve your goals.

Miss Shirley O’Leary BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools, the debate and discussions, sitting on the grass like regular students.

My message to future students is...

It’s worth hanging on even when you feel it’s too much and want to quit. Sometimes it can be tough. Just remember the good times and continue.

Revd David Oliver BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting others willing to study at tutorials.

My message to future students is...

Take the opportunity to a better life!

Mr Richard Oluwawo BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation after years of hard work – writing TMAs and exams; being a mature student and father of 4, combined with a full time job & being a volunteer church worker.

My message to future students is...

The OU is an excellent institution of learning, accessible from any location with well-equipped facilities, faculties, high standards and help is readily available till you graduate; utilise every opportunity to make your dreams come true.

Mr Alwyn Onley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school.

Mr Kingsley Opoku–Sarkodie BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first day at Milton Keynes as a registered student, seeing different faces on that day. It was encouraging.

My message to future students is...

Don’t worry about your age. The Open University accepts all ages of those who want to make differences in their academic life.

Mr Denis O’Regan BSc BA (Hons) Env Studs

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day. It was ‘a dream come true’, serviced by the best institution and most wonderful people, tutors and fellow students who lit my pathway.

My message to future students is...

Do not stop. I could give a tale of woes but in all cases, the OU staff will pull you through. It really is worth the effort.

Mrs Kathleen Ough BA

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU is a life-changing experience. It is wonderful to be part of something that is truly ‘open to all’.

Mr Geoffrey Oughtibridge BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Looking online after my final course and finding that I had managed to achieve first class honours.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies. Study for the pleasure of learning and you will be rewarded with the knowledge that you have achieved great things.

Mr Christopher Owen BA BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My thirst for knowledge, opening course units for the first time (brilliant) and amazing summer schools all contributed to a great experience with the OU. Enjoy yours. A great university.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, enjoy the courses (brilliantly written). Don’t be afraid to ask for help and join a self-help group. You’ll be amazed what you can learn from others.

Mrs Jerina Owen BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The graduation ceremony at the Barbican and, importantly, sharing the joy and celebrations with my family, who encouraged me and supported me through my OU degree journey. So wonderfully unforgettable.

My message to future students is...

Your OU journey of learning may be filled with a mixture of emotions, from excitement to determination and everything in between; but stick with it – your dreams can come true.

Mrs Mary Owen BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sound of the units coming through the letterbox.

My message to future students is...

It can be done. It opens up your world.

Mr Stephen Owens BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I used to watch the TV programmes and was inspired to do an OU degree when I grew up. I achieved that. Thanks OU.

My message to future students is...

By studying the past and the present you can change your future with an OU degree. Good luck to you all.

Mr Terence Packham BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at tutorials.

My message to future students is...

Keep on going. It is definitely worth it in the end.

Mrs Lynne Padfield BA (Hons) MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my degree and my mother being at the ceremony with my husband.

My message to future students is...

It is hard work but keep at it, you'll reap the benefits for the rest of your life.

Ms Jyoti Padhiar

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying and getting an honours degree at a later age gave me a boost in my life's purpose.

My message to future students is...

Take the opportunity that the OU are giving us.

Mr Ronald Page BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the degree ceremony at Brighton.

My message to future students is...

Only do a course that you are really interested in.

Mr Alan Painter BA (Hons) BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Music-making together at A214 Understanding Music residential summer school at Durham University with Donald Burrows.

My message to future students is...

Dare to understand.

Mrs Shirley Palfreeman BA

My message to future students is...

Don't give up!



Former Minister for the Arts, Baroness Jennie Lee, walking alongside Lord Mountbatten at the event to mark the official opening of the first Open University buildings on 18 May 1970.



Former Prime Minister Harold Wilson visiting The Open University.

Mr Roy Palmer BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The mathematics summer school at Reading University in the 70s.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up!

Mrs Sandra Palmer BSc (Hons) PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Widening my knowledge and skills with the support of others.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, believe in yourself. You can do it.

Mrs Sarah Palmer BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sitting in the auditorium of The Brighton Polytechnic waiting to receive my BA awarded, by my fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your achievement and don't flap.

Miss Wendy Palmer BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools, in York and Norfolk. The project work on 'Elites'.

My message to future students is...

Grab the opportunities presented, enjoy the quality teaching in written books and tutorials.

Mrs Rose Papai BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of starting a new module and opening the new course books, thereby opening new doors in my mind too. Wonderful!

My message to future students is...

When the going gets tough, just keep reading, it will get easier and all make sense – one module at a time!

Ms Ann Parchot BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A week at Bath University, joining students in day-to-day university life, the experience reinforced OU courses and I felt I could really do it.

My message to future students is...

Keep working hard, learning and maturing in academic ability. It will change your life and will open up new horizons, no matter your age or background or circumstances.

Mr David Parker BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day.

My message to future students is...

Maintain a happy balance between your OU studies, and the needs of your family. Early on, I realised the importance of continuing to play with my two very young children.

Mrs Janet Parker BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The open source material received through the post, like 'Open Sesame' through to Open Door to Open Futures!

My message to future students is...

Seize the opportunity to learn, it's never too late.

Mr John Parker BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer schools, it was not a worry but great fun.

My message to future students is...

Receiving the work modules and going to tutorials which were very stimulating.

Mr Michael Parker BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Exchanging experiences and learning with many diverse students outside the sole backyard of your own.

My message to future students is...

Participate not just in coursework, become involved, the whole adventure will naturally give you the spur for more.

Ms Tamara Parker

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Revision school for Forensic Engineering. The tutor made the course make sense and had a good sense of humour.

My message to future students is...

Your hard work will pay off and get you to a better place and a better future. Good luck and best wishes.

Mr Timothy Parker MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I enjoyed every moment, but in particular I loved the tutorials in Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum and the spectacular degree ceremony in Birmingham – it makes you feel special! Tutors were all splendid too!

My message to future students is...

Keep hanging on in there – it is worth every penny and minute spent engaged with OU learning. See it also as a privilege and one of those opportunities in life not to be missed.

Mrs Carole Parkin BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That I learned things I did not know before which enhanced my life. It taught me perseverance. I gained friends.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, do your best, take the most you can from your studies.

Mrs Cynthia Parkinson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU helped to re-balance my life after a period of deep despondency.

My message to future students is...

The OU offers you so many benefits: personal development, the widening horizons, improved career prospects. Go for it!

Mr Robert Parkinson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being presented by Betty Boothroyd for my honours degree in Newcastle City Hall.

My message to future students is...

No matter how difficult studying becomes – just keep going.

Ms Eileen Parnwell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It opened the world of humanities to me. So grateful.

My message to future students is...

Keep going!

Mr John Parry BA (Hons) MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As a student from the second year of The Open University, my favourite memory was learning with completely dedicated professors and lecturers.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the time you spend learning at The Open University.

Mr Gyan Nauserwa Parsad BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

At summer schools, I was amazed by the amount of people involved. The University came to life! Everything happened so smoothly and the week went before you knew it.

My message to future students is...

The University began with a big bang (circa 1969–70). The superhighway of knowledge and association. It has contributed to the transformation of society so why not be a part of it?

Mr Roger Parsley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How I felt when I held my degree on graduation.

My message to future students is...

The satisfaction on completing your degree is the best reward.

Mr David Parsons BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning whilst working.

My message to future students is...

Keep going and practice, practice, practice.

Mr Brian Parton BA (Hons) Internat Studs

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The doors that were opened by the OU to wider learning and insight to international studies.

My message to future students is...

The OU's structured approach to learning and the learning materials are just great – try it!

Mr Hitesh Patel BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The flexibility of studying in my own time in locations of my own choosing; which afforded some comfort and reduced pressure.

My message to future students is...

You will look back and feel proud that you could complete a qualification in conjunction with everything else in your life.

Mrs Janice Paterson BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing the degree ceremony and atmosphere with the other graduates – but especially with my mum and Aunt Joan, then enjoying a leisurely stroll around Harrogate – magic moments.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU teaches much more than the subjects studied. I used some learning in work, but it was just as important I grew in confidence. Go for it and enjoy!

Mrs Sandra Paterson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation at Ely Cathedral with family as the sun shone in the windows.

My message to future students is...

It can be hard but keep going, every little bit helps to reach the goal.

Mrs Jan Patrick BA (Hons) Hum

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The face-to-face tutorials where I met students of all ages and all walks of life but with the same determination and enthusiasm.

My message to future students is...

It is never, ever too late to learn and learning brings joy, self-esteem and pride.

Mr Neil Patterson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Companionship and friendship.

My message to future students is...

Keep pushing forward, don't look back.

Mrs Susan Pattison BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying at my desk while the children were at school. Learning to use the huge computer terminal at Ayr College. Summer school at Stirling University.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it and see your life open out! Your degree gives you public recognition of your ability.

Mr Geoffrey Paul BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Stick to it. It is very worthwhile.

Mr Iain Pavely BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people who, like me, were taking their second chance. I also appreciated meeting women whose husbands had their degrees and they were wanting to do the same, especially when they thought they were just as bright as them.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it!

Mr John E. Paver BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Walking onto the stage in Harrogate to receive my Bachelors and Masters degrees.

My message to future students is...

Never give up!

Mr Keith Paxton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The early morning broadcasts and the variety of summer schools.

Mrs Gill Payne BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school discos!

My message to future students is...

Stay safe, keep moving, stay curious.

Mr Michael Payne BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and meets at study centres.

My message to future students is...

Yes, it's tough – but keep going.

Mr Michael Payne BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning something new and some wonderful summer schools. Long time ago now.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy.

Mrs Dorothy Paynter BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The social aspects of summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy meeting people from a variety of places and different view points.

Mr Robert Peabody BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools – great memories. Meeting like-minded people, enjoying their company and the lectures.

My message to future students is...

Keep the faith. Resilience is key. Enjoy the moments.

Mrs Joyce Peachey BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friends I made and the laughter I remember from the summer schools.

My message to future students is...

My degree opened doors I hadn't considered. I hope your degree does the same for you.

Ms Janet Peacock BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools were fun!

My message to future students is...

Remember why you are doing it and keep going. Don't give up!

Mrs Lesley Pearce BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The thrill of learning and then receiving my degree. A lifelong ambition.

My message to future students is...

I made some lasting friendships. Friends who positively colour my life ever since I met them.

Mr Ian Pearson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Remembering the community spirit and the strength we gave each other to achieve, is my most treasured memory.

My message to future students is...

Study with The Open University and you'll discover purpose, meaning, courage and strength you never knew you had. It's coming home to the place you always knew you should be.

Mrs Jennifer Pearson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The explosive excitement of a new world bursting out at Keele with the summer school there.

Mrs Rosalind Pearson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Stirling University.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it.

Mrs Jennifer Pease BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The arrival of each new unit.

My message to future students is...

It is exciting and worth it.

Mrs Kathleen Peden BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Giving a presentation at a summer school – I dreaded it, but with hindsight it gave me the idea that I might enjoy teaching. Eventually I became an OU tutor.

My message to future students is...

If you don't understand something ask your tutor or other students as their explanation may solve the problem. Remember you are more intelligent than you think you are.

Miss Maria Pedro BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That I completed my Open degree, which took 6 years part-time, and making it to my graduation ceremony in October 2015.

My message to future students is...

Do not be afraid, you can do it. (Steve Jobs)

Mr John Peel BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Residential weekends.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every minute.

Mr Clive Pelerin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the learning material and ability to study at my own pace.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it because it is a wonderful and enjoyable experience.

Mrs Janet Pells MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation at Portsmouth Guildhall, with my family.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies and what the future will bring, opening new doors and challenges.

Mr Jerry Perera

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I joined the OU as a tutor. Although the pay wasn't much, I tutored for 10 years. During this period I enrolled as a student and followed short courses related to my tutoring and other subjects of interest.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies and take full advantage of your tutor and tutorials.

Miss Brenda Perkins BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The 10th anniversary celebration at Walton Hall and meeting the Queen and other celebrities.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, you will never regret it.

Mrs Carol Perks BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Late nights, early mornings!

My message to future students is...

Never give up.

Mr Michael Perrin BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to many universities.

My message to future students is...

Good luck.

Miss Estelle Perry BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My beautiful graduation at Birmingham Symphony Hall in 2016. I started in 2008 and studied part-time whilst doing a full-time job. My hard work was worth it.

My message to future students is...

If you were unable to attend regular university like I was, The Open University provides a fantastic opportunity. This is an institution that supports and celebrates individual minds and learning.

Mr Angelo Perugi BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The week at the University of Santiago De Compostela. Beautiful place, great teachers and wonderful group of fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Never give up, believe that you can succeed. The OU will help you achieve your goal. I was 72 when I got my BA.

Mr Simon Peters BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I believe in ‘inclusive’ education available to everyone. I enjoyed studying my degree, with a massive variety of students, from all walks of life. The summer schools were really special.

My message to future students is...

Make it work, it can be a challenge. Enjoy your studies – it may change your life as it did mine.

Ms Sara Petronijevich BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendships I made.

My message to future students is...

The most worthwhile thing to do. It is amazing.

Mr John Pettit MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

H802 – truly leading-edge in its day.

My message to future students is...

Never give up!

Mrs Prerana Phadnis MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying away in Dublin.

My message to future students is...

No substitute for hard work.

Mr Christopher Philbin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and getting to grips with subjects I had not studied before.

My message to future students is...

Stick with your studies no matter what obstacles you come up against.

Mr Geoffrey Phillips BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school at Bath. The first lecture there “What is this thing called technology”, and the lovely people I met.

My message to future students is...

Participate in every aspect of the course.

Mr Gordon Phillips MBE BA MA ADV DIP ED

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first open day visit! So fascinating to see the incredible facilities and to be inspired by the outstanding exhibitions.

My message to future students is...

Dream it, believe it, achieve it. I did! Previously I failed my college degree twice! The OU saved my career, and my life!

Mrs Helene Phillips BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning to believe in myself and the support I received from the OU with regards to mental health issues.

My message to future students is...

There may be days when you think that it is too much – don’t give up. Persevere and look forward to graduation.

Mr John Phillips BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation in Harrogate 2013 with my wife who supported me through the nine years it took to complete my degree – a very special day.

My message to future students is...

There may be tough times when life gets in the way of studies. You will get there. When you look back, you will be proud of what you have achieved.

Mr Martyn Phillips BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working through the course material, which was great fun. Also, receiving the first mailing and seeing what the course entailed.

My message to future students is...

Never give up when things seem hard. There is a great support system in place to help you, not only your course tutors but also your fellow students.

Mr Roger Phillips MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools!

My message to future students is...

It is hard work, but worth the effort.

Mrs Wendy Phillips BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning to understand the world in a better way. It helped me to get through a serious illness. Hope for the future.

My message to future students is...

Take each day as it comes.

Mr Tony Pickard BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Persevere and you will be supported.

Mrs Georgina Pickering BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A box of new OU books sits beside me yelling ‘Read me now’! However, I have 50 other things to do first.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your study, make it count.

Mr John Pierce BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Taking my parents to my graduation in Preston, they were so proud – a BA degree was quite something in those days! Now my two children have a PhD each! I was proud too!

My message to future students is...

Stick at it, it can be hard at times but well worth it in the end.

Mr Nigel Pieters BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

You won’t regret it.

Mr Giovanni Pietrangelo BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It was a life-enhancing experience that has stayed with me and is still enriching my life.

My message to future students is...

A warning: studying is addictive.

Ms Katharine Pindar BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Playing football with some of the postgraduate students, and some staff, at lunchtimes on the OU campus in MK. Thanks to all!

My message to future students is...

I changed careers after leaving the OU where I worked for 25 years and took a degree. It opens up job opportunities. My blessed alma mater!

Mr Lukasz Pisarek MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Flexibility in learning.

My message to future students is...

Dive into module content from the first day, don't delay.

Rev~Canon~Dr Jessica Pitt

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Lightbulb moments of understanding about children and my practice that generated more questions. It was so exciting reading the excellent materials, watching films that opened up a whole new world.

My message to future students is...

Work back from the assignment deadlines planning your study schedule, write study times in your calendar as a commitment to yourself, you will be a role model to many others.

Mr Andrew Pollock BA (Hons) MTh

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The two honour courses.

My message to future students is...

Work hard and study hard.

Mr Michael Ponsonby BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The support I got from my tutors.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, as you will get there in the end.

Miss Joan Popovic BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the graduation ceremony to receive my Honours Degree; this achievement opened up greater opportunities within my chosen career and for that I will always be grateful to the OU.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of this unique opportunity to learn. You won't regret it and who knows what it may lead to or where it may take you.... Good luck.

Dr Matthew Portal MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being taught to do things which I had previously thought were beyond me.

My message to future students is...

If in doubt about starting an OU course, sign up for it!

Mrs Marion Porter BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Excellent tutors, stimulating courses and peer support.

My message to future students is...

Give it a go, explore, enjoy.

Mrs Alice Potter BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful feeling of freedom when sharing summer schools with like-minded students.

My message to future students is...

Whatever happens, stick with it! I took 7 years, but I made it in the end, and it opened up the opportunity to gain a PGCE and eventually my MA.

Mr Ian Potts BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

My message to future students is...

Keep on – it's worth it in the end!

Mrs Jeannette Poulter BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my 'passed' certificate at the end of the first year science foundation course and realising I have a brain – wow – then after nine years my degree. Double wow!

My message to future students is...

You can do it – nothing is impossible – reach for the stars. This is your life! Enjoy your studying, the OU is there for you.

Miss Elizabeth Pounds MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day with my family and seven month old son.

My message to future students is...

Everyone can succeed with the OU, the courses are so interesting! Have a go!

Mr Gavin Powell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enormous excitement each time the parcel with my next OU course materials arrived, I could not wait for the website to go live and get started.

My message to future students is...

For some, the OU is the "university of the second chance", but for me, it was the fourth. The OU gave me several more chances before I finally triumphed.

Mrs Hilary Powell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The dedication of the tutors.

My message to future students is...

Good luck – work hard.

Mrs Pauline Pratt BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of meeting so many people from different backgrounds, careers, age groups; all of us sharing the same intense commitment to learning and positive attitude to facilitating each other.

My message to future students is...

Have faith in your ability. Know that perseverance when the going gets tough will bring rewards and that the University community wants to support you to succeed. Good luck. Enjoy!

Mrs Carol Price

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendly and supportive camaraderie of like-minds!

My message to future students is...

Take every opportunity the OU offers to ensure a better life for the future.

Mr Christopher Price BA (Hons) Internat Studs

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Great graduation day at the Barbican.

My message to future students is...

It requires time and effort to do well. Never give up and enjoy the learning experience.

Miss Gillian Price BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That lovely building at 24 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, and the tutorials there.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, the OU is great to study with.

Mr Neil Prideaux BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tackling the assignments and realising the progress I had made.

My message to future students is...

The destination may be a mystery to begin with, but each journey starts with a single step, and the journey can be just as important as the destination.

Mrs Margaret Prince BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Though there are too many memories to mention, the greatest is the joy of learning with other like-minded people who become lifelong friends.

My message to future students is...

Work with motivation and enthusiasm and you'll enjoy every moment.

Mr Shaun Pringle BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Genuine excitement when new assignments arrived in the post.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy!

Flt~lt Codrington Proctor BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at summer school.

My message to future students is...

Hard work never goes unrewarded. Stick to it.

Mrs Ann Prosser BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

My message to future students is...

You can do it!

Mr Tom Proverbs-Garbett BSc (Hons) PGDPSE MA MBA MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Help during coronavirus. We all pulled together.

My message to future students is...

Keep going and always hand something in!

Mr David Prudden BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools I enjoyed.

My message to future students is...

Believe in a better future.

Mr Terence Pugh BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My tutor's response to a TMA tape recording task – she found it hilarious!

Mrs Marion Purdey BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As a carer of a profoundly disabled baby, studying with the OU brought me intellectual solace.

My message to future students is...

It is hard work but stick with it and take pride in your achievements.

Mrs Pamela Purdy BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendships I made, learning new themes and the final sense of achievement.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it, even when the going gets hard – the end is worth all those late nights and early mornings.

Mrs Diana Purnell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It changed my life and gave me confidence.

My message to future students is...

Best thing I ever did – stick at it!

Dr Roy Purnell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Friendship.

My message to future students is...

Keep going.

Mr Clifford Purrington BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day with my family.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy meeting fellow students at summer school.

Mrs Yvonne Purser FD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting up with other students on tutorial days. Finding out where they came from and why they were doing the course.

My message to future students is...

Keep going – even when it seems tough and a deadline is looming, stress levels are high and the end is a long way off. It is all worth it in the end. Graduation day is amazing!

Mrs Karen Purton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My favourite memory is taking an “English” stance when studying Scottish History. The teachers were great but Scottish so we didn't always see things in quite the same way!

My message to future students is...

Knowledge is great, studying is hard but work, family and studying needs perseverance. The OU gives you the flexibility to work at your pace. Go for it and enjoy.

Mr John Purves BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Putting on a performance of Stockhausen's "Contacte" quadrophonic composition at an OU summer school in the early 1970s.

My message to future students is...

Open your minds to what is offered and develop your own judgement as to its ultimate value.

Mrs Rosalind Pyatt BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enthusiasm for learning shown by my fellow students and the interested anticipation each time new material arrived in the post.

My message to future students is...

It's hard on occasion, but well worthwhile.

Miss Beatrice Pyle Howard BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students and making friends.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies and realise the benefits that a degree can make.

Mrs Kathleen Quaggin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer school.

My message to future students is...

Expanding your mind expands your horizons.

Mr Malcolm Quick BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoying summer school at Heriot-Watt undertaking an MBA, I learnt so much about and from others, and about myself. The diversity is what struck a chord.

My message to future students is...

The OU offers hope, positivity and support to all. To myself it promotes the "never give up" attitude for the disabled.

Mr David Quinnell Dip RS BA (Hons) PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending my graduation ceremonies, especially my degree ceremony, when my mum, wife and son were with me to share the tremendous feeling of pride.

My message to future students is...

Education is like a 'journey'; no matter where you start, with determination you can achieve your goals and ambition in the end.

Mr Philip Radwell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other students at summer school and finding out that we all struggled at some point. It relieved the pressure and spurred me on.

My message to future students is...

Please remember that there is a wealth of help available to assist you on your learning journey.

Mr Michael Rainey BA BSc (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

An atmosphere of enthusiasm.

My message to future students is...

Per ardua ad astra.

Mr James Randle BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

With their studies my admiration of the women on my course who successfully combined motherhood, a full-time job, with study.

My message to future students is...

I have employed many OU graduates whose skills and education transferred to the work place. Go for it.

Mr Alister Rankin BSc (Hons) BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The good times I had at summer schools, Stirling and Crewe.

My message to future students is...

I am a simple welder. If I can do it, you can!

Miss Janet Rausch BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having my father and 3 close friends at the degree ceremony with Betty Boothroyd. They have supported me for many years.

My message to future students is...

Believe you can achieve what you set yourself to do. Do not hold on to negative views of your ability. The OU will set you free.



The first Vice-Chancellor, Walter Perry, and Prime Minister Harold Wilson look through OU materials in 1972, three years after the OU was established. During his time as Prime Minister, Harold Wilson outlined his vision of a university that would be truly open to all.

Mr Mark Peter Rawden

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My MBA graduation ceremony, during which a woman who'd been unable to study when younger received her degree surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

My message to future students is...

You will look back on this journey as one of the best things you've ever done, and one in which you will be able to take enormous pride and satisfaction.

Mrs Michol Rawet BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning about new subjects and making new friends.

Ms Melanie Rawlinson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my degree at the awards ceremony in Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Studying with The Open University is a fulfilling experience.

Mr Colin Ray BA (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first foundation module and summer school. In particular the summer school field trip that had me wading through streams collecting various water samples for analysis back in the laboratory.

My message to future students is...

Start your studies with two foundation modules. My foundations not only prepared me well for my OU studies, but 30 years on, much of their contents are still very relevant.

Mrs Margaret Raymond BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of buying new text books and receiving new course materials. The pleasure of pursuing new course materials and the anticipation of meeting other students.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, you'll never look back. It wasn't easy but studying with The Open University is life-changing. It is a confidence booster. Being part of the OU is amazing.

Mrs Ann Read BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A very happy and rewarding experience.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your time with The Open University and good luck.

Mr Douglas Read BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting up with our tutor and tutorial group before every assignment.

My message to future students is...

To enjoy your growing knowledge and increasing confidence.

Mrs Jane Reddish BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sending in my assignment, on time, together with a card announcing the birth of my third child in 1972.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every minute; you will develop a passion for learning; discover your own unexpected hidden depths and be thrilled with the opportunities that open up.

Mrs Jean Massey BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excursions part of summer school for T100 at York.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, it's worth the hard work.

Ms Celia Reed BA (Hons) MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I achieved my final goal, the MEd.

My message to future students is...

It is hard work but worth it!

Mr Hedley Rees BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making new friends (then losing them).

Mr David Reich LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When study moved from analogue to digital learning!

My message to future students is...

Take full advantage of the fantastic opportunity that the OU provides to broaden your life chances.

Mrs Vanda Renton BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting tutors at summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of this valuable opportunity.

Ms Margaret Reynolds BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The meeting together and exchange of opinions, happy times! No one was an outsider - I was almost 83 when I graduated but always felt part of the group.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! It may feel a slog at times but it is well worth the effort and determination that it takes.

Miss Joyce Richards BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day in Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Never give up.

Mrs Margaret Richards BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising that I could form my own opinion and that it was as worthy of being noted.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it.

Mr William Richards BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer school and meeting other students to exchange views and ideas with them, also a few beers at the bar.

My message to future students is...

Do not lose faith in yourself, you can do it. Then when you have passed, put your new knowledge to good use and enjoy it.

Mr Alvin Richardson BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I received my degree in London.

My message to future students is...

Persevere – you will get your goal.

Mrs Eugennie Richardson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The love that was shown during my studies. It was not an easy time, emotionally, so I was really grateful for how much I was appreciated during these difficult times.

My message to future students is...

The OU will have your best interests at heart, you will always be carefully taught and loved beyond your imagination.

Miss Jane Richardson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

How proud I felt standing on stage in my graduates gown being clapped not only by my family and friends but by the hundreds of other people there.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself. It is hard work, especially chasing deadlines at 2am, but it's worth every minute. Chase your dream, catch it and live it.

Miss Sarah Richardson-Probert

My message to future students is...

The very best of luck!

Mr Philippe Rigal BEng (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying two courses on campus at Bath University, TXR120, TXR220. We combined engineering theory with practice, the tutors were excellent, the workload was intensive but rewarding.

My message to future students is...

Take a deep breath, studying and working is difficult. Nurture your resilience, be organised, build on the failures, enjoy good results after hard work, love studying that expands the mind.

Mr Peter Riley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Superb course material and tutors on my PPE degree.

My message to future students is...

It's a great investment, sometimes tough going, but really worthwhile.

Mr David Rimington BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working with OU staff and students, particularly at summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Study what is of interest to you, but also what will be useful.

Mr Robert Rinaldi BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The unfailing support that my personal tutor gave me. All my other tutors were also very supportive.

My message to future students is...

If, like me, you have experienced academic failure previously, do not lose faith or confidence in yourself or the OU. The OU is there for you.

Mr Roger Ring BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The challenge of working as a teacher on the way up in the profession. Late nights to meet deadlines for degree. From there to two masters degrees.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! Find the time, make that sacrifice, rise to the challenge. Friends and family will still be there and you'll accomplish something of which you'll be forever proud.

Revd Dr Edward Roberts BA MA PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials and summer school with opportunities to engage with others of like mind. To experience shared views and ideas and meet fresh challenges.

My message to future students is...

Believe in your abilities. Nurture your talent and remain motivated. Your journey will reward you with a sense of achievement and be a stepping stone to future awards.

Mr Ian Roberts BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

My message to future students is...

Be tenacious – keep going!

Mr John Roberts BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony in Birmingham in 1981. I really had achieved my ambition, I had my degree.

My message to future students is...

Keep going in all the low moments and self-doubt. Dig deep, the rewards are well worth it.

Mr Michael Roberts BSc

My message to future students is...

You are the immediate future so make sure it is still here!

Mrs Nerva Roberts BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Stepping out on stage to collect my BSc (Hons) Open in 2014.

My message to future students is...

Perseverance is the key.

Mrs Susan Roberts BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting support beyond measure from a wonderful OU tutor who re-opened the door to learning again.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every minute; never give up. Learning is priceless.

Miss Anne Robertson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Reaching my goal.

My message to future students is...

Although finding study time may be difficult, stick with it. All the sacrifices will be worth it when you reach your goal.

Ms Carol Robertson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising that lots of the other students were finding it a challenge to juggle home life and learning new things. Summer schools are fundamental to building your confidence!

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, even when you think you're rubbish at studying and everyone else is coping well. "When you're going through hell, keep going!"

Mrs Irene Robertson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and the new experiences there.

Mrs Susan Robertson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The supportive tutors on the other end of the phone line, trying to answer my multitude of questions.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, you won't regret all the hard work, the OU is so much more than just a university and will make you so proud of your achievements.

Mr Bert Robinson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The alertness and enthusiasm of the lecturers.

My message to future students is...

Education may be a means to an end, but it is also great fun.

Mr Daniel Robinson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools at different locations.

My message to future students is...

It is hard work but hang in there, it will be worth it.

Mrs Edwina Robinson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enthusiasm and friendship of everyone I met during my studies.

Mrs Hazel Robinson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement I felt upon receiving the course books and associated paperwork at the beginning of each academic year.

My message to future students is...

Never give up on your dream – the OU is there to help make it a reality.

Mr Michael Robinson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Keele University. Opportunities to meet tutors both formally and informally.

Mrs Pearl Robinson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day.

My message to future students is...

Just go for it.

Mr Ray Robinson MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Passing my MSc.

My message to future students is...

May The Open University add to your journey in knowledge.

Mrs Elizabeth Robotham BA

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mrs Lilian Robson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The companionship of other students and the elation I felt when I succeeded after 6 years.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it – it's worth every second of headaches and late nights. Good luck everyone.

Mr Nicholas Rodely BA (Hons) PPE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The overwhelming feeling of accomplishment upon receiving my 2:1 BA Honours degree, the culmination of years of study and effort.

My message to future students is...

You are capable of greatness and will achieve all that you desire during your time at the OU. Never give up, even in challenging times. You've got this.

Miss Zoe Rodkoff BA (Hons) Econ & Math Sci

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My favourite memory is my graduation day. Being with so many other graduates; sharing the joy, and relief, of finally achieving our goals. It made all the hard work worthwhile.

My message to future students is...

When you get something right, rejoice. When studying is hard-going, take a break and put the kettle on. When you complete your studies, celebrate. You will deserve it.

Mr Colin Rodrigues BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Days over the Yorkshire Moors for the Earth Science course at Durham University.

My message to future students is...

An OU course is not just to gain knowledge, but is a life-changing experience.

Mrs Effie Rogers BA BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being treated as an adult who has knowledge, an opinion and understanding based on life experiences and/or mistakes encountered by living and enjoying life.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy studying for a degree/qualification. It is mental and physical hard work but the experience is so worthwhile for ones own self-worth.

Mr Juan Romera-Wade MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU experience made me feel accepted and valuable in what felt a perfect educational setting for me. Will always be grateful for my experience at the OU!

My message to future students is...

Even when you think you can't do it, once you put your mind to it and enjoy the pleasure that learning can be, you will conquer your fears and grow as a person.

Mr Paul Rosier

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sheer joy in realising my ambition of achieving my degree aided by dedicated and inspiring tutors.

My message to future students is...

An enquiring mind, a willingness to learn, perseverance and dedication will help realise your dream. Just do it!

Mrs Liesel Rosindale BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The diverse group of students in tutorial (one of them in an iron lung).

My message to future students is...

It is not easy but ever so worthwhile (I was still required to complete two foundation years plus four part-time years).

Mrs Sandra Ross BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It gave me confidence in my day-to-day life and opened my eyes to the wonders of the world.

My message to future students is...

Go for it, it's a wonderful experience and will change your life.

Dr Raymond Roth BA (Hons) MSc PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendship, camaraderie and the mind opening possibilities of learning that were hitherto closed to me prior to the OU. I could, because I started to believe I could.

My message to future students is...

You should make the decision to complete your OU application, complete it... and then click 'send'.

Canon Barbara Rowe

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working on assignments in our caravan parked on our drive, as husband and small son occupied the house.

My message to future students is...

Lifetime of learning is to be recommended.

Mr Peter Rowe BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoyment.

My message to future students is...

It's always worth it.

Mr Peter Rowe MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to engage on a professional level with tutors who were always supportive and willing to discuss any difficulties that may have emerged over the length of my Masters journey.

My message to future students is...

If you fancy a challenge – go for it! You will not regret the opportunity that you are going to embark on!

Mr Terence Rowe BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people from many walks of life, and many different ages.

My message to future students is...

In spite of the pandemic, I wish you well in your studies.

Mrs Lynne Russell BA (Hons) MA PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful people I have met over the years, several of whom have become dear friends.

My message to future students is...

Have fun and work hard. The time you spend with the OU is golden and enriching. Good luck.

Mrs Jennifer Sabine BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Discussions long into the night with fellow students at summer school. A taste of traditional university life!

My message to future students is...

Go for it – it will change your life!

Mr Alexander Sadler BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Stirling University

My message to future students is...

Work hard and enjoy it.

Mr Bryan Sadler BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

History. How exciting the lectures were.

My message to future students is...

All the study and hard work is worth it.

Mrs Linda Sadler BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of learning after such a long break – wonderful.

My message to future students is...

Carpe diem.

Mrs Margaret Salt BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The enjoyment of engaging with new and unfamiliar material through the wonderful study material.

My message to future students is...

Keep studying – it's life-changing and life-enhancing.

Ms Pamela Salter BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finishing an essay!

My message to future students is...

With best wishes for your success, both in your studies and future career.

Mrs Andrea Sandford BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded people, attending summer schools and just the achievement of completing the courses and degree.

My message to future students is...

Keep going even when you look outside when it is sunny and you still have an assignment to finish. It will be worth it.

Mr Eric Sargeant BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending AL Committee meetings at R01 in Camden Town.

My message to future students is...

Stick to it.

Mrs Ann Sarll BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie, respect and fun of tutors and students alike. I am so glad I did my degree.

My message to future students is...

Keep going even when it seems tough. The rewards are enormous.

Mr Barry Saunders BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Bath, York, Sussex and Reading.

My message to future students is...

Working while studying gives you the experience with the qualifications, making you a marketable asset to both yourself and prospective employers.

A graduate with Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Blackman at the Barbican degree ceremony, 2015.



Mrs Margaret Saunders BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The music module of the foundation year and the summer school at UEA.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up when it is hard to study and hold down a full-time job – the struggle is worth it in the end.

Mrs Joan Savona BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The whole experience is a happy memory. Great tutorials, fascinating subjects, opened my mind to a complex world I never knew existed. I feel fulfilled and grateful to the OU.

My message to future students is...

Lucky you, given an opportunity to study with the OU, grasp it with joy. Persevere through thick and thin because, believe me, on graduation day you will gain an immense sense of achievement.

Mrs Deirdre Sawyer BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day in Harrogate. I felt so proud. The financial support the OU gave me when I had a financial problem.

My message to future students is...

An OU degree is highly valued and as valid as any other degree from full-time universities. Be determined, you will achieve, be proud.

Ms Clare Scanlan LLM

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school for the Diploma in French. It was lovely staying at the University in Caen and meeting the lovely students and staff and visiting historic places.

My message to future students is...

Nobody can take your education from you and the experience of studying with the OU will last you a lifetime!

Ms Valerie Schicker-Hill BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Definitely the time spent at summer school.

My message to future students is...

Stay with it! It took me ten years to complete my BA with long breaks in between but I got there in the end.

Mr John Scotland BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Learning because I was interested and I liked it, not for a job.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy as much as you can.

Mr Bryan Scott BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finishing the course!

Mrs Katharine Scott BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Achieving my 2:1 BA (Hons). I didn't know I could do it.

My message to future students is...

Go for it. You won't regret being an OU student. Enjoy.

Mr Robert Scott BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Very hard to pinpoint, as I enjoyed the whole seven years of my studying with the OU. I am looking back 45 years to the start of my course.

My message to future students is...

I hope that you will find as I did, that you are with many like-minded students all keen to help each other.

Mrs Gaynor Sedgman BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting my fellow students at summer school and so enjoying the company of others with the same thirst for learning.

My message to future students is...

Go for it! Ignore any self-doubts, those 'it's not for the likes of me' thoughts. Education is a wonderful gift, take it. You deserve the opportunity. Never, ever, stop learning.

Mr David Segar BSc (Hons) BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

Mr David Sellers BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Back in 1972, going to meet my OU tutor 20 miles away in all weathers, in the dark. Then talking with the other participants.

My message to future students is...

Work consistently hard, take a break regularly and never give up. The value lies in that sense of achievement having undergone the mental rigour of learning.

Mr Christopher Semple BSc (Hons) Comp & IT

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I learnt so much from different day schools and tutorials. I interacted with lots of different people and saw new places. Graduation was the best final experience with my family.

My message to future students is...

Keep working all the way through to your final module and graduation. It's well worth it. Stand proud with your family and shout out the words "I did it!"

Mr Lahai Senesie BSc (Hons) Comp & IT

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My final year of study for my degree and I came across a very nice tutor who taught the TM352 module. He was so nice to talk to.

My message to future students is...

Don't relent. This university is one of the best, trust in the exams.

Miss Elizabeth Shalliker BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first summer school. I arrived terrified and left inspired. Others saw me as who I was and not who I thought I was.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself. Achieving brings confidence in oneself. More important than the knowledge and skills you acquire.

Mrs Beverley Shamash BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The week at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena.

My message to future students is...

Have faith in yourself: you can achieve whatever you strive for.

Mrs Mary Shand BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going on holiday with my books. While the others lazed on the beach, I studied inside every morning. I loved it, and it made the afternoon beers in the sun even better!

My message to future students is...

Go ahead and surprise yourselves with what you can do.

Mr Clive Shannon BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Posterum sine metu.

Mr David Sharp BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As a non-applicant from school, getting my degree later in life.

My message to future students is...

Remote learning started pre-covid! Very much 'pre'!

Ms Jane Shaw BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The thought that I could achieve a degree at the age of 58!

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mrs Maureen Shaw LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finishing my degree.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it. It is tough at times but the end is worth it.

Father Norman Shaw BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The encouragement I received to complete my degree when I did not have any experience of studying.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of your time of study with The Open University and enjoy!

Mrs Hauwalasu Shehu BSc (Hons) Health & Soc Care

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Face-to-face tutorials. Also being part of online studies.

My message to future students is...

Work hard to make sure you achieve your goal, sometimes it might be tough but perseverance pays.

Ms Kirsty Shepherd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people I may not have met otherwise.

My message to future students is...

Everyone should have the opportunity to learn and work towards the future they see for themselves.

Dr Margaret Shepherd BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It was the beginning of my 'second life' leading to a BA with 1st class honours in the University of Cambridge, followed by a PhD.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mr David Shepperson BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The motivational togetherness at tutorials and summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it; help is always readily available.

Mrs Jayne Sheridan BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The amazing amount that I learned, and the wonderful people I met.

My message to future students is...

Stick to your studies even when they are difficult. There is nothing as wonderful as picking up your degree.

Mr Paul Sherville BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools - where we were able to meet the 2am screen Gods and Goddesses in the flesh!

My message to future students is...

If something is worth having, then it doesn't come easily. Keep smilin'.

Mrs Lynette Sherwood BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of learning at summer school.

My message to future students is...

It is very hard work if you are working full-time with a family and home to run, but the delight and satisfaction on graduation remains forever.

Mrs Susan Shields BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wonderful friends I made and that amazing feeling when you graduate. The proudest day of my life.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up, just take each day as it comes and then you will find yourself a graduate – a wonderful feeling.

Revd Christine Shillaker BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Lots of work but so stimulating – those fresh insights have enriched my life ever since. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

My message to future students is...

Go for it. You'll never regret it – you will find the OU administration and tutors very helpful.

Mrs Celia Shires BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Realising I had obtained a degree.

My message to future students is...

Onwards and upwards – good luck!

Mrs Maggie Short BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Keep going – you'll be glad you did.

Mr David Sibley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

It really enabled me to reconnect with real education and enabled me to achieve a PhD.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it!

Mr John Sillence BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Looking forward to the next module of study, knowing that I was working for a degree.

My message to future students is...

Although the demands of the course materials will have on your life are great, the rewards are well worth it.

Mrs Christine Silver MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending my MA graduation at The Open University campus with my parents, who had never visited a university site before.

My message to future students is...

Take the opportunity to study, for your personal development and future. Good luck!

Mr Peter Simmons BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting new people.

My message to future students is...

Never despair – never give up – yes you can!

Mrs Anita Simons BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My monthly tutorials where I met my fellow students and my tutor for that year.

My message to future students is...

Even if it is sometimes tough to keep up with course work etc, keep going. It is so worth it!

Mr Robert Simrick BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Try to keep on studying, even when things get tough. The sense of achievement on completion of your studies more than compensates for all your hard work!

Mrs Lynda Sims BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools. It was good to meet others.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it.

Mrs Glenys Singleton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school on my foundation course. It was so informative and it was lovely to mix with like-minded people from many parts of the country.

My message to future students is...

It gets very tough at times, discipline is essential – do not give up. Keep going, it is really worth it no matter how old you are.

Mrs Jan Sitwell BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Scales fell off my eyes! OU approach to learning was utterly new to me. I will be forever grateful!

My message to future students is...

It's so hard at times – but just keep going, somehow. You will never regret it.

Mrs Brenda Skates MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

That feeling of satisfaction at the recognition of both achieving more of my own potential and of my value for the future development of others.

My message to future students is...

In a busy life, investing in yourself is the biggest investment you can ever make, opening up the future for yourself and others. Take that step and go for it!

Mr Victor Skelton BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the tutors and the great people I met.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the hard work and fellowship.

Mr Christopher Slater BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Christmas Eve, 1970, receiving boxes of scientific equipment for the Foundation Course in 1971.

Miss Jennifer Slee BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting someone in 1973 who became a lifelong friend at our first tutorial taking some courses separately, some together, then graduating together, with families and friends, four years later.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it! Enjoy it! Opportunities unending.

Miss Jacqueline Smart BA (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The flexibility and support offered enabling me to understand undergraduate studies whilst continuing to work full-time.

My message to future students is...

To enjoy the opportunities offered by The Open University which can be life-changing in so many ways.

Mr Andrew Smith BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The support and encouragement given by the staff and tutors, particularly my last year of study as I was struggling at the last hurdle.

My message to future students is...

This is a wonderful opportunity. The journey can be challenging, but also rewarding. Just believe in yourself. The Open University supported me all the way.

Mr Brian Smith BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation day, Portsmouth, 1996.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it.

Miss Carol Smith

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people like me – so good!

My message to future students is...

Keep going. Learning is a lifetime gift.

Mr Charles Smith BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The day I was accepted into University. Peter said “You are just what the OU was set up for”.

My message to future students is...

To future students: it can be done, it’s a bit of a different lifestyle that’s all. And it opens so many doors.

Mrs Janet Smith BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A Shakespeare summer school; I met some great people and made a lifelong friend. Saw a play at the Globe, Lenny Henry was a student!

My message to future students is...

Go for it. It’s hard work but there is nothing more rewarding.

Mr Jim Smith BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The OU changed my life. I graduated in 1991 aged 53. Left my job and joined OUBS. I also tutored for 9 years to ‘put something back’. Doors opened I would never have dreamed possible.

Ms Joan Smith BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoying a glorious week of Bath University and meeting so many interesting people from all walks of life.

My message to future students is...

To take the chance of studying with the OU with both hands. You will receive a first class education and will broaden your view of the world around you and beyond.

Mr John Smith BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Stepping onto campus for my first summer school. I’d always wanted to go to university, but had to leave school at 15.

My message to future students is...

I once submitted a CMA that differed completely from my fellow students. I got an “A”, they all failed. Believe in yourself.

Ms Katharine Smith

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My residential week at Bath University – it was great to have the chance to meet other students and learn from each other.

My message to future students is...

I hope you enjoy studying with the OU as much as I did.

Mrs Maureen Smith BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools. A week of intense study, sharing with fellow students and getting a feel of traditional university campus life was enjoyable and stimulating.

My message to future students is...

To encompass the whole experience, sharing opportunities with other students and reading widely around your subject to get the most enjoyment from your study.

Mr Paul Smith BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the degree ceremony at Harrogate and finally receiving my certificate after all that hard work. Totally worth it.

My message to future students is...

To keep at it and don’t give up. You are bound to get setbacks – this is normal. Take it one step at a time and you will achieve your goal.

Mr Paul Smith BSc

My message to future students is...

Get your TMAs in on time!

Mr Peter Smith BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My abiding memory is rushing to the post to get my assignments posted on time.

My message to future students is...

Anything which gets you to open your mind to new ideas and new horizons is worth all the effort.

Mrs Rachel Smith

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people from all walks of life at summer school at le Université de Caen.

My message to future students is...

If, when studying, you get ‘stuck’, contact your tutor immediately. Struggling on one’s own is just a waste of precious time.

Mr Walter Smithers BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools.

My message to future students is...

You have a wonderful opportunity before you.

Mrs Zofia Smolowik BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
My graduation ceremony.

Mr Bernard Smyth BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Making new friends.

My message to future students is...
Good luck. I was helped to continue studying by my employer, otherwise I'd have had to give up. So I'm making a small donation to help someone else finish their studies.

Ms Elizabeth Smyth BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Feeding my endless curiosity and hunger to learn with the help of brilliant tutors, like-minded and diverse student body. The OU opens doors leading to freedom to learn and find me.

My message to future students is...
Dare to dream and achieve. Well done for taking this first step which may not have been easy. Feed and nurture your curiosity. Trust your abilities, enjoy, share, accept and help.

Mr Enda Smyth BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The fun of it!

My message to future students is...
Enjoy the journey.

Mr David Snell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
It was a nice 4 year degree course which I found brilliant.

My message to future students is...
The Open University is a marvellous place to gain a degree.

Mr Nigel Snow BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Being unconditionally accepted.

My message to future students is...
Go for it, a pass is a pass!

Mrs Anne Soar BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Increasing my knowledge on the subject and gaining a sense of confidence.

My message to future students is...
Enjoy the journey.

Dr Henrik Sorensen PhD

My message to future students is...
Take pride in your achievements and pursue your dreams.

Mrs Glenys Southworth BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The summer schools and being with so many like-minded people. It's one of the best things I ever did.

My message to future students is...
Enjoy your time. It is a special time of your life.

Mr Gerassimos Spathis BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Great fun, and other students were stupendous.

My message to future students is...
Congratulations and enjoy yourself while preparing for the future. The OU along with the NHS is one of the great philanthropic institutions of the country.

Mr Lewis Spedding BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Edinburgh, April 1987 – My graduation!

My message to future students is...
Evolve; adapt as best you can manage at the time.

Mrs Pauline Speed

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The summer school at York University campus around 1982, for a Diploma in Reading Development.

My message to future students is...
Be confident in your own abilities.

Mrs Elizabeth Spencer BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Meeting lots of people, many of whom have become life-long friends.

My message to future students is...
Enjoy it!

Ms Margaret Stableford MA BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Dancing to 'Free Nelson Mandela' with students at summer school and being presented with my MA in Brighton with my husband, mother and father in 2000. My father died one month later.

My message to future students is...
Believe you can do it and stick at it. Your time will come.

Mrs Linda Stackhouse BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Studying at summer school in Durham whilst pregnant with my first daughter, Zoe.
My message to future students is...
Have no regrets, just go for it! Think about that final photo at the end!

Mr Robert Staines BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Receiving my ordinary degree from Professor Hilde Himmelweit, a wonderful woman.

My message to future students is...
If you love to learn, you will achieve your aim.

Mr Christopher Stanghan MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Arriving at my first summer school and realising that here was a group of talented people who shared my interests and would help me grow as a person and a manager.

My message to future students is...
Remember that learning is as much about experiences as knowledge, and about people as much as facts.

Mr Richard Startup BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The way in which it offers a very high quality and wide ranging learning experience.

My message to future students is...
You can be confident that the learning materials are of the highest quality.

Mr Christopher Stead BA MA(Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being amongst the very first cohort to graduate. Exciting summer schools in lovely settings with inspiring tutors and students.

My message to future students is...

The OU will open many doors for you in ways you can't possibly imagine when you start out.

Mr Alan Steedman BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being a member of the original OU rugby team M.K.R.U.F.C in the early 1970s. Don't know if this team still exists.

Mrs Geraldine Steele BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to just concentrate on learning at summer schools and meeting inspiring tutors.

My message to future students is...

Though you may have difficulties at times, perseverance pays and your reward is a wonderful sense of achievement.

Mr Brian Stein CBE LLB (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing stories with other students on the occasions we meet up.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up. It is worth it.

Mrs Anne Steiner BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my OU books each year became an annual routine for me. The excitement of looking forward to another year of being with the OU never left me.

My message to future students is...

You can do it. It is for people like you and me. I took a break for one year and everyone said I wouldn't go back to studying – but I did!

Mr Andy Stelman MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of public and private sectors realising they had common problems.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the amazing materials published by the OU.

Mrs Celia Stephens BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting other OU students at our summer school in Warwick University.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU may be challenging at times but this, itself, brings its own rewards. Your confidence as a person will grow, as will future opportunities in work and otherwise.

Dr Paul Stepney BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As both a student and a tutor; stimulating courses, engaging staff, committed students. The high point was team teaching at D102 summer school, with the late and great Professor Stuart Hall.

My message to future students is...

You have taken a big step forward joining the OU. Keep making a difference thinking outside the box, develop a sense of critical exploration and let theory enrich your life.

Ms Susan Stevens BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the summer schools and meeting many interesting people from different backgrounds. It opened up a new world to me and the stimulus of discussing and learning from others.

My message to future students is...

Keep an open and enquiring mind; learn something new every day and share it with others.

Mr Paul Stevenson BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting fellow students at summer school and finding that they struggled with the same things as I did!

My message to future students is...

Thirty years on I still count my OU degree as one of my greatest achievements.

Mr Aidan Stewart BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I attended the residential school and collaboratively worked with other students and lecturers. I thoroughly enjoyed the cognitive psychology and social psychology modules.

My message to future students is...

Please stick with it. It can be very easy to feel overwhelmed but the end result (and self-satisfaction) is more than worth it.

Mrs Jean Stewart BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools, being with like-minded people, being able to study without interruptions.

My message to future students is...

Keep working, it is all worth it when you get your qualifications.

Mrs Linda Stewart BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and getting to know other students. I kept in touch with one lady and met her years later in Australia!

My message to future students is...

Keep going!

Mrs Rosemary Stewart BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Tutorials – exchange of ideas with like-minded people. Summer schools – a chance to be 'just me' again. Having a young John Rutter as a tutor in Cardiff!

My message to future students is...

Go for it – it may be scary to start but the OU will help you every step of the way.

Mrs Claudia Stewart Cutts BA BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I made many friends.

My message to future students is...

Good luck. Read the books at least twice for the exams.

Mrs Valerie Stewart Howard BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working on my degree with the OU whilst training to be a podiatrist.

My message to future students is...

Your life is worth the investment of a short period of time.

**Dr Robert Stickland BA (Hons)
MSc PhD**

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The dawning and liberating realisation that my disruptive behaviour and academic mediocrity at school was not a barrier to higher education achievement.

My message to future students is...

Who benefits from the power of learning surely has a moral duty to convey that revelation to others.

Mrs Jane Stilewell

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoyment from learning and making friends.

My message to future students is...

You can do it!

Mr Anthony Stokes BSc FRAeS

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Of my many visits to the Milton Keynes Open University campus for ‘Open Days’ during my 1990 undergraduate years, and in subsequent years, for postgraduate reunions.

My message to future students is...

Persevere with courses and complete your chosen studies.

Mrs Mary Stone BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendliness of fellow students and the feeling of working together.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, you CAN get a degree.

Mr Bryan Stringer BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Geology summer schools at Durham University: a dedicated teaching staff, committed students and fine weather for the field trips. A memorable learning experience!

My message to future students is...

Hard work and perseverance will be rewarded.

**Mr Terry Stringer BSc (Hons)
Soc Sci**

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My fellow students and tutors all there to learn and promote education.

My message to future students is...

You get out of it what you put in!

Mrs Rita Stringfellow BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A tutor who believed in me!

My message to future students is...

You can do it! I graduated aged 70.

Mr David Stuart BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Although I have A-levels it was my first year with The Open University that proved I could study successfully at degree level.

My message to future students is...

Nothing worth doing is easy – but if you think you can do it, you can.

Mrs Janet Sturmer BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The high quality of course material and tutors who inspired me to continue, find myself and go forward with confidence. Thank you OU.

My message to future students is...

Stay with it and never give up as you’re not alone!

**Mr Krzysztof Styczynski MBA
BSc (Hons) CITS**

My message to future students is...

Education is the key to a better future and more fulfilling life. Keep collecting the keys so you can open all doors.

Miss Claire Sullivan BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The freedom it gave me to gain a qualification that I never thought I would be able to achieve whilst working full time.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! My degree has allowed me to double my salary which has changed the lives of my daughter and I. Anything and everything is possible.

**Mrs Syeda Sultana Cert BSc
(Hons)**

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I visited the beautiful campus of the OU a number of times but the best two days were when I met Shabana Mahmud, the then shadow minister, and the other students at a TEDx talk organised by the OU.

My message to future students is...

Always be proud and make proper use of the wide varieties of resources (e.g. the library, etc.) available at the OU. Keep focused and proceed.

Mr David Sumner

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of materials supplied with great support if you need it.

My message to future students is...

No matter how old you are, you can succeed by working hard, you are not alone, there is help and support from the OU.

Mr Nicholas Sumner BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating at Preston Guild Hall in May 1998.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the experience of a quality education with the OU.

Mr Michael Sutcliffe BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Time spent at summer schools – especially at York University, such an inspiring place.

My message to future students is...

Have faith in yourself. If you think you can do it, you can.

Mr John Sutherland MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The brilliant tutorial weekends, useful to help settle those examination nerves. But most importantly, revealing that everyone had periods of uncertainty, self-doubt and sheer terror.

My message to future students is...

To establish a study regime, adhere to it as much as possible and get those TMAs done. Above all, enjoy the experience and keep plugging away. You will make it!

Mr Winston Swaby BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The standout thing in my memory was the summer schools. I found them to be enjoyable and rewarding.

Mr Ian Swain

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Helping when other options were limited.

My message to future students is...

Keep positive. You are never too old to achieve.

Mr William Swann BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fun and 'craic' with other students at summer school.

My message to future students is...

The 'climb' will be difficult at times but the 'view from the top' is well worth it, enjoy!

Mr Robert Sweetnam

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The exam room.

Mrs Melanie Swift BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Every time I passed a TMA I felt a sense of achievement and pride. Adding to my qualifications and graduating with a BSc (Hons) 2:1 was the highlight for me!

My message to future students is...

Follow your dreams and keep going. The support is there if you need it. You can do it!

Mr David Tait BSc (Hons) Des Inn

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Every time my new module package arrived.

My message to future students is...

The future belongs to us all, together!

Mrs Joanne Talbot BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being able to study flexibly to meet my needs, my family, my part-time work with the aid of excellent modules and tutors.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! It is well worth the time, the effort, the investment and the dedication. You won't regret it, it will change you and your life.

Mr Anton Taliana BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A week in Durham with fellow students during summer school.

My message to future students is...

Give it your best, it is rewarding. Enjoy the journey.

Mr Barry Talman BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

As one of the first, it was all a bit unknown. I need not have worried; it was all a great experience and uplifting.

My message to future students is...

Commit and you'll find all will be well. Have a good time. Best wishes.



OU study materials packaged and ready for posting to students, circa 1975.

Ms Chi Tang BSc (Hons)

My message to future students is...
Wishing you all the best for the years ahead.

Mrs Beryl Tanner BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The freshwater invertebrate 24-hour periodicity study in the ecology summer school at Preston Montford Field Centre.

My message to future students is...
Follow your dreams and persevere. The mental satisfaction of success is a reward in itself.

Mr Richard Tanner BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Completing my first TMA on my first module and thinking, 'I can actually do this'!

My message to future students is...
You can do it too.

Dr Alexis Taylor BA PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Acting in a play at the residential school.

My message to future students is...
Sometimes it is hard to focus on the demands of your course, but take a long-term view. You will be rewarded more than you can know with your degree.

Mrs Betty Taylor BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The Arts Foundation summer school at UMIST. Made great friends, great tutors and fabulous atmosphere.

My message to future students is...
Go for it. You won't regret it. Worth all the late night studying.

Mr Edward Taylor BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Being with other OU students at the summer school in the 1970s.

My message to future students is...
Get involved with the OU, to learn and create opportunities for your future.

Mrs Elaine Taylor BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The outstanding Art History summer school in London – the best fun!

My message to future students is...
Believe in yourself and all things are possible.

Mrs Jennifer Taylor BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Meeting with others at summer school and being able to socialise as well as discuss learning topics. I met my husband there!

My message to future students is...
Persevere, keep at it. There will be times when you feel like giving up but it is worth it in the end. Take it a year at a time.

Mr John Taylor

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Working with other people to improve my education and opportunities in the future.

My message to future students is...
Keep moving forward and don't look back, enjoy the experience.

Ms Kathryn Taylor BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Realising just how capable I am through success in my studies.

My message to future students is...
Work hard and make the most of this opportunity to learn with the OU. A very high performing university.

DI Norman Taylor MBE DL BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
The sheer enjoyment of OU summer schools. Realising that all the other students from diverse backgrounds were all part of an amazing learning experience.

My message to future students is...
When the going gets tough, stick at it, as it will all be worth it in the end.

Mr Robert Taylor BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
My first face-to-face tutorial, meeting my fellow students as we embarked on our great adventure.

My message to future students is...
The journey is a long one, but probably the most important. Things may get difficult, and you may be tempted to give up – but DON'T. Grit your teeth, you will get there in the end!

Mrs Dolores Taylor-Keane BA (Hons) BSc (Hons) MSET QTLS

My favourite memory of the OU is...
My graduation ceremony, representing all the time and effort (and some fun!) along the way and a thank you to my family and friends – and to the fantastic OU!

My message to future students is...
Be kind to yourself, enjoy this wonderful opportunity, carefully read all guidance and don't be afraid to ask questions. Have fun and remember the OU is always there for you!

Mr Stephen Taylorson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Receiving that first package of units.

My message to future students is...
It is all worthwhile.

Miss Jane Tchan MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...
Mixing and bonding with other students from all walks of life and professional backgrounds, especially during the summer events.

My message to future students is...
Be inspired to open your mind to new thinking. It's time consuming but worth it in the end.

Mrs Mary Telford BA (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working between tutorials in a support group. We were from different areas and so had lots to learn from new friends as well as deepening our understanding of the course.

My message to future students is...

At times it's tough but keep going, it's worth it. Take whatever advice your tutor gives you. The essays don't get easier, you expect more of yourself as you improve.

Mrs Doreen Tennis BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendships made and watching the programmes in the small hours.

My message to future students is...

Keep on going – well worth it.

Mr James Terras BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer schools and meeting so many students with the same goal in life.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the courses as they are some of the best designed educational courses anywhere.

Mrs Hazel Thackray BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school for my Arts Foundation course at Stirling University where there was so much to learn and enjoy, and where I made a lasting friendship with another lady.

My message to future students is...

Don't think about studying as just a hard slog, there is a lot of enjoyment and fulfilment to be had along the way.

Mrs Doreen Thakoordin BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting a Masters degree at 75 years old.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! Try to write something every day.

Mrs Anita Theobalds BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutors who helped me when I thought I could not carry on. Meeting all the different people at summer schools.

Mrs Barbara Thomas BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutorials I attended.

My message to future students is...

Keep going. Don't give up, even when it's hard to carry on.

Mr David Thomas BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

All the summer schools across the country.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, you will get there eventually.

Mr David Thomas BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The encouragement from tutors and companionship from fellow students all add to the lasting happy memory of both the journey through the course work and towards achieving the end goal.

My message to future students is...

Keep an open mind and go for it. It worked for me. At 35, injured, out of the mining industry, I found education and fulfilled a long held dream.

Mr Huw Thomas BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Practical sessions were particularly memorable.

Miss Karen Thomas BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Royal Holloway with my OU friend Maggie. What a fantastic way to learn!

My message to future students is...

Combining work and study with the OU helped me to make the career change I'd dreamed of. It can do the same for you.

Mr Andrew Thompson MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation with the family.

My message to future students is...

Long hours and challenges with moments when you might want to give up, all forgotten on graduation! It's because it's tough that you will feel proud.

Mrs Carol Thompson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Excellent teaching material. The flexibility afforded a balance in life so that studying didn't dominate, including psychologically. The OU was the education I had sought all my life.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy the journey and let the destination take care of itself.

Mrs Elizabeth Thompson BA (Hons) BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I really enjoyed learning at home. It helped me over a difficult time.

Mrs Jean Thornton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The helpfulness of the tutors and the friendships of my fellow students.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it – you will always be able to say “I did that!”

Mr Michael Tiernan BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools – socialising with people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

My message to future students is...

Put the effort in – all the help you need is in the OU.

Mr Paul Tiernan BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating.

My message to future students is...

If you want to earn, you've got to learn.

Mr Alan Tingle BSc (Hons) BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying with the OU in the summer schools in science disciplines which gave such rewarding access to some wonderful laboratory equipment and facilities.

My message to future students is...

It is certainly worth the effort, keep going even when it gets tough, you will be so proud of yourself at the end.

Mrs Jennifer Tipler BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Choosing my courses and getting my results.

My message to future students is...

You don't know what you can do until you try.

Mrs Veronica Tippetts

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The wisdom it shares.

My message to future students is...

The more you know, the more you realise you don't know. The OU honestly helps.

Miss Michelle Tomlinson BSc (Hons) Psych

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The first day of term in my course tutorial. I was filled with hope for the future.

My message to future students is...

Never feel as though Higher Education is out of your reach.

Mr Peter Tomlinson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

You can do it. You always had the ability, now you have the opportunity. It does not matter how long it takes.

Mrs Pamela Tompkins BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The people I studied with.

My message to future students is...

Keep up the good work.

Mr Geoffrey Tovell BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Geology summer school based at Leeds University. Superb site visits and inspired teaching. Also good social scene.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up! If in difficulties, get in touch with tutors/counsellors and if possible fellow students. A problem shared can often be solved.

Mrs Angela Town BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting the lovely like-minded students of all ages and the summer school at Nottingham University.

My message to future students is...

Persevere – it is all worth the effort.

Mrs Elisabeth Traverse

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending a fabulous music summer school at Durham University.

My message to future students is...

I did the OU Diploma in Music, then transferred to my local university to complete my degree. Tuition in both was good, but OU tuition and materials were outstanding.

Mr Derek Tromans BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I have fond memories of attending the various summer schools, but my abiding memory is attending the degree ceremony and having my family to accompany me on the day.

My message to future students is...

Don't feel isolated. Talk to other students, they'll be having the same problem that you have!

Mr Andrew Tucker MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting one evening in a pub with others in my study group as we regularly did, laptops open and the landlord coming to ask if we were a 'secret cell'!

My message to future students is...

The OU is an incredible national treasure. Grab the chance to benefit from it if at all possible. It will stand by you all the way.

Mr Leslie Tucker BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The addition of a new dimension to your life.

My message to future students is...

Always keep in mind what you hope to gain from you degree.

Mrs Petula Tucker BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The growth in my personal development through my studies and the fantastic people I met from all walks of life.

My message to future students is...

Don't hesitate, take the course. Even if you don't use it for career purposes, the feeling of accomplishment is immeasurable. My graduation was one of the happiest days of my life.

Col Kevin Tuhey QVRM TD BA BSc MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tingle I had when choosing which degree to graduate with, a BA or BSc.

My message to future students is...

Never, EVER give up.

Mr Saimone Tuibau BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending tutorials and meeting up with other students.

My message to future students is...

That you are studying with the university that is an expert in distance learning.

Miss Joan Tunncliffe BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting my first home experiment kit delivered.

My message to future students is...

You can do it!

Mrs Phyllis Turkington BSc (Hons) BA PGCE

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Having left school at 16, then later after having three children, I enrolled with the OU. I completed a BSc Hons, BA and PGCE, a great sense of achievement.

My message to future students is...

Even if you have to leave school early to help your family, never give up. Later, when you have time, start studying with The Open University and enjoy it.

Dr Arthur Turner BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Starting to think more clearly, being less sure and more curious...

My message to future students is...

Good luck and always strive to learn.

Mrs Jill Turner BA

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your time with the OU. It is a great experience and a great opportunity.

Mrs Linda Turner BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded and committed people – friendship!

My message to future students is...

If a 50 year old can complete a degree and fulfil a lifelong ambition, anyone can!

Mrs Margaret Turner BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Whilst on holiday as a child I met Jennie Lee. I chose science but longed to study Arts. 50 years later – Bachelors degree in Humanities at sixty! Thanks OU.

My message to future students is...

My eyes have been opened to so much and my understanding has deepened. Confidence vastly improved – go for it and you will be so rewarded. The OU is the place to be.

Mr Michael Turner BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school. Meeting interesting people. The challenge.

My message to future students is...

Embrace the experience.

Mrs Sheila Tutt BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting members from all walks of life.

My message to future students is...

To discuss any problems with a group of like-minded people.

Mr Graham Tyers

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Interaction with other students and weekend study meetings.

My message to future students is...

Your studies will definitely open doors and present you with opportunities in your career – stick with it!

Mr Gerald Umphray BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Gaining my BA (Hons).

My message to future students is...

Keep going no matter the difficulty – you will succeed.

Mrs Kathlyn Upex BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

After all the hard work the graduation ceremony at Ely Cathedral.

My message to future students is...

Keep right on to the end of the road – it's worth completing the challenge for your future.

Miss Margaret Neil Urquhart BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Enjoying a mentally stimulating week at Stirling University summer school, in glorious sunshine.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies and never give up. You will achieve your goal!

Mrs Felicity Van Loock BA (Hons) Hist

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation, which felt like a celebration of the League of Nations... just inspiring.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it... everyone can do it... don't give up!

Mr Gareth Vaughan BSc (Hons) Maths

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending an OU Mathematics residential school at Nottingham University.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your subject, work hard, stick at it and be surprised what you achieve!

Mr Andrew Velasco MA (Ed)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my MEd at Southbank with my now departed Dad in the audience.

My message to future students is...

Stick at it!

Mrs Joy Verrier BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The comradeship it involved, meeting new and different people.

Mr William Viges BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded people locally and at summer schools.

My message to future students is...

Improve your chances in life, stimulate your brain and meet like-minded interesting people.

Mr Michael Vince MBE BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer school.

My message to future students is...

An excellent opportunity to advance yourselves.

Mrs Patricia Waddington BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Friendship and sharing.

Mrs Elizabeth Waeland BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The beautifully illustrated course text books for the AA315 Renaissance Art Reconsidered degree course.

My message to future students is...

You are about to join a new family of people who are interested in things that you are, and who will share your passion for study.

Mrs Vivian Waight BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Spending the first summer schools (1971) in traction so the summer school arrived at my home in giant cans of film – stuff you now only see in museums. Brilliant.

My message to future students is...

Juggling work, home and family with study was not an easy ride but oh so worth it, even if just to prove to myself that I could do it.

Mr Terence Waites BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Inspirational teaching. Great summer schools. Excellent curriculum.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up.



Mr Christopher Wakeman BSc MA EdD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer and Easter schools on the MA in Education, fun, laughter and hard work.

My message to future students is...

Live the dream, the only thing that will prevent you from fulfilling your ambitions is you.

Mr Colin Walker

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The flexibility of my studies.

My message to future students is...

Never give up, many famous people have failed again and again before success.

Ms Diane Walker BA (Hons) MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The feeling of self-worth it gave me and the wonderful friends I met and still cherish today 35 years on.

My message to future students is...

Work hard but enjoy, absorb and embrace all the wonderful things about studying with the OU. The opportunities, people you meet, things you learn and being part of a non-judgemental, encouraging and supportive community.

Mr Justin Walker BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Studying with the OU allowed me to choose study centres accessible to my home in North London. This meant I could stay near my family in London.

My message to future students is...

My OU degree paved the way for postgraduate training. I enjoyed a long career as a history tutor. Make sure you complete your degree studies.

Mrs Patricia Walker LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My ability to obtain an LLB at the age of 50, walking on stage to my family's cheers.

My message to future students is...

The feeling of succeeding makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Mrs Joan Walker-Powell BSc (Hons) Psych

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer school at the University of Bath. I met hundreds of students from the OU and experienced student life on campus. I cherished the feeling of those seven days.

My message to future students is...

You can do it! Believe in yourself and The Open University will help you with the rest. It will be a life-changing experience.

Mrs Eileen Walkin BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Implicit faith. I listened intensely. Prime Minister Harold Wilson's vision. Maiden discussion. The University of the Air, renamed The Open University. Pioneer. With pride continuously advocating, supporting. Equality University.

My message to future students is...

Your goal is worth more than you can imagine. Let no one discourage you. Whatever background. Education, pursue it. See success. Doors will open. Congratulations. Blessings.

Mrs Ruth Wallace BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school project.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it – even when it is tough. It's worth it in the end. Good luck.

Mr Neil Waller BSc (Hons) STEM

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending my degree ceremony. Sat in the front stalls with the other students. The Chancellor asked for a round of applause. That recognition of my achievement was breathtaking.

My message to future students is...

If the plan calls for 2 hours work and you catch yourself asking 'Do I need to do this?', do the 2 hours. You'll thank yourself when the TMA is due.

Mrs Christine Walters JP BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sense of achievement, plenty of support from staff and fellow students. The OUSA petition that "saved" the OU.

My message to future students is...

There will be ups and downs, but keep going. It's worth it!

Mr Stephen Waltho BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My two sons accompanying me to my degree ceremony in Cardiff. At the age of 55, a working class guy's life was given a sense of purpose by the OU.

My message to future students is...

The OU gives opportunity to all, regardless of means. If I can gain a degree at 55 as a relative non-academic, so can you.

Mrs Carol Walton BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school! I loved them; I was so nervous going to the first one, but they were so well run and brilliant!

Mr Kevin Walton

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The fellowship of other students on the course programme at the fortnightly tutorial groups and the mutual support offered.

My message to future students is...

Even though the study is remote and takes a lot of dedication around work hours, the level of support and quality of the study materials will get you through to unlock your real potential.

Dr Christine Ward BA (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving my first pack of materials – so exciting and life changing!

My message to future students is...

You will find no better education than with the OU. I hope you will love it as much as I did.

Mrs Lynne Ward BA (Hons)

My message to future students is...

Good luck!

Mrs Susan Waring BSc (Hons) BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A wonderful, profound sense of achievement, from my first course results right through to the graduation ceremonies. And the amazing summer schools, of course!

My message to future students is...

Aim high – you can do this. Ask for help if you need it, and enjoy yourself.

Mrs Christine Warner BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy and celebration at the graduation ceremony in Versailles.

My message to future students is...

Keep going until you are attending your own graduation ceremony. The feeling is tremendous.

Mr Richard Warrington MBA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

New course material arriving in the post; although I knew it meant work, it was still exciting to receive and browse through before the course started.

My message to future students is...

Time is what you make of it; as you will realise at the end of your studies that you'll have no extra unused hours in the day.

Mrs Mary Waterhouse BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

So much fun and stimulation.

My message to future students is...

Do the work to please first yourself, then to plan or consolidate your career.

Mrs Susan Watkins BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The accessibility of it – I was in year 2 in Derry in Northern Ireland during the troubles. I also worked in a prison where internees were studying with the OU, I was able to help smooth the way.

My message to future students is...

Go for it!

Mr David Watson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending residential summer schools at Reading University for Humanities at UMIST. Manchester for French. Camaraderie abounded!

My message to future students is...

Take it one step at a time and the road will seem very manageable.

Mr David Watson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie of us all enjoying learning with like-minded people.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, you will succeed!

Ms Jean Watson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Lots of good memories.

My message to future students is...

Keep going, and enjoy it all as much as you can!

Mr Steven Watson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Distinction in the maths foundation course.

My message to future students is...

Study subjects you find interesting.

Mr Thomas Watson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Reading. Education made enjoyable.

My message to future students is...

Education is lifelong learning and teaching.

Mr William Watson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The feeling of accomplishment at the graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

Don't get discouraged, you'll get there in the end.

Mrs Veronica Watters BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making new friends at summer school.

My message to future students is...

It's tough but worth it, so stick with it.

Mrs Charlotte Weall BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

On a geology field trip to Siccar Point and seeing James Hutton's 'unconformity' where he first realised the earth was much older than previously thought.

My message to future students is...

You will enjoy and appreciate learning so much more as an adult than you ever did at school.

Mr Derek Wears BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The week spent at Durham University.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it.

Mr Howard Weaver

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Passing!

My message to future students is...

The country needs STEM graduates to solve the climate catastrophe. Get a higher degree, you will get a better job.

Mrs Anne Webster BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finding so many others, from all walks of life, who had the sheer guts to follow the courses through and change their lives.

My message to future students is...

Widely consider all viewpoints and make up your own mind, no matter what the pressures are to adhere to 'group-think'. Curiosity is your best friend.

Mrs Eileen Webster

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The support given to me as a disabled student to reach my goal.

My message to future students is...

You can achieve your goal with the support of the OU. Anything is possible.

Mrs Gail Wedge BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making friends, online in tutorials and summer camp, really widened my horizons.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up at the first hurdle. Push through the difficult times – it will be more than worth it in the end.

Mr Stephen Weeks BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools and the graduation ceremony.

My message to future students is...

One of the best decisions of my life.

Revd Paul Weir BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sitting out on a hot day in the garden trying to design a software programme to answer an assignment!

My message to future students is...

Keep on 'keeping on', you'll get there in the end.

Mr Haydn Welch BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The confidence and encouragement that the first 'A' grade received gives!

My message to future students is...

It's hugely demanding in terms of finance, time and effort – it needs high priority, but ultimately very well worth the investment.

Miss Sharon Welch BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending summer schools and meeting fellow students really helped me to persevere with solitary studying. We were a part of something quite amazing.

My message to future students is...

No matter how many doors were closed to you in the past, a degree from the OU gives you a handle to open many many more.

Mrs Margaret Weller BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sheer joy of learning more about our culture and the history of art, music and literature in a way that has enriched my whole life and benefited my career.

My message to future students is...

Having an OU degree can change your life, make you feel whole, proud and confident. The degree will open doors of understanding and benefit all around you too.

Mr Kevin Welsh BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending my first summer school, as well as the study classes and lectures, I participated as an actor in the production of 'The Red Barn'. It was a scream.

My message to future students is...

Never give up, keep on till the end. The only time you can say "I failed" is on the last day of your life.

Mr Christopher West BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie of summer school.

My message to future students is...

Stick with it through all the ups and downs. The eventual sense of achievement is definitely worth it!

Dr Graham West PhD

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sense of purpose and achievement.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU is one of the best things you will do.

Mr Ronald West QPM BA FCMI

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing experiences at a summer school before finishing my degree.

My message to future students is...

Wishing you success in your academic journey with the OU!

Mrs Stefanie West

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing my graduation with my family.

My message to future students is...

Value every hour, day or night, that you grapple with your academic interests and passions, increasing your knowledge and skills. They will make you who you want to become!

Mr Clive Weston BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Help and support given.

My message to future students is...

Do not give up.

Mr Trevor Whatmore BSc (Hons) IEng

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony with my mother in attendance.

My message to future students is...

The OU route to a degree can be long and arduous but results in a brighter future and a boost to self-esteem.

Mr Brian Wheatley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The week I spent at Bath University. The lectures, the people, the talking and the atmosphere I found. It was stunning, I wish I could go again.

Mrs Julia Whitby BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The joy of learning and great sense of purpose and progress.

My message to future students is...

Every good wish for your success.

Mr John White BA (Hons) ACIB

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school and meeting some impressive lecturers on my course to help revise my thoughts and ideas.

My message to future students is...

Keep going and you will achieve your dreams and complete your ambitions.

Mr Matthew White BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Oh without a doubt, collecting my degree in Exeter Cathedral!

My message to future students is...

If I can do it with five 'O' levels, no 'A' levels, at the age of 73, so can you – just keep at it!

Miss Sharron White BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Sharing my graduation day ceremony with family in 2015. Seeing my mum Bronwyn's face and her joy together with my daughter Claire, my father Barry and my partner Cliff's admiration.

My message to future students is...

Give it a go, you never know how well you can do until you sign up and start to learn. You're never too old to follow your dreams.

Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Knowing I was one of the people the OU had been established for – in the first year and with no previous qualifications.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of this opportunity. You never know what it will lead to! Good luck!

Mr John Whitehead BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The rigour and logic of pure maths.

My message to future students is...

Although successfully studying with the OU did not directly affect my employment, the resulting improvement in my self-confidence did.

Mrs Linda Whitehead BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school for third level systems course at the University of East Anglia in about 1997. Brilliant course, lovely tutor and fabulous weather.

My message to future students is...

You are in good hands with The Open University. Their teaching and learning materials are excellent. Trust them, keep going. You can do this!

Mrs Helen Whiteley BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The live tutorials, meeting fellow students to discuss the forthcoming topic and TMA, bringing theory to life.

My message to future students is...

Despite battling joint surgery, with support from tutors and online materials I have gained integrity, perserverence and lifeskills to face any future challenges with confidence. You are not alone!

Mrs Sandra Whiteley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The friendships that I made at summer schools and with fellow students at lectures.

My message to future students is...

Please persevere and achieve your degree. It is well worth it and will open up doors.

Mr Paul Whiting BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The many personal friendships.

My message to future students is...

You have the best opportunity – just do your best.

Mrs Florence Whittaker BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The amazing students I met and the quality of the course teaching.

Mr Roger Whittington BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

During the Shakespeare module's summer school, we visited Shakespeare's Globe. After a series of very interesting lectures, we had seats for a brilliant evening performance of Measure for Measure.

My message to future students is...

Always keep sight of your goals. Make use of the excellent support given by the OU team. Enjoy yourself. Appreciate the changes of your world perception that education brings.

Mrs Margaret Whitworth BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The day when I, aged 63, received my family and friends at Festival Hall for my graduation. We were all so happy and proud – me in particular.

My message to future students is...

Persevere – there will be times when you want to give up, but the end result is so worth the effort. Good luck.

Mrs Amanda Wicker BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting like-minded people on summer schools; helping other students as a volunteer for the Student's Association, especially at the degree ceremonies; having that "light bulb" moment when something clicks.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself – you CAN do this. There may (will!) be tears but the sense of achievement when you reach your goal is absolutely amazing.

Mr Graham Wickett BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The satisfaction of reading my Tutor Marked Assignment feedback, which was always positive even if marks were sometimes low. Plus reading some great literature.

My message to future students is...

Keep going! At times it can be tough but when you get a good mark, the effort is really worthwhile and it improves your knowledge and self-esteem.

Mr John Wigg BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Everything; the very interesting courses, excellent face to face tutorials. I attended two summer schools at Cardiff and Sussex and found them very motivating and met some interesting students.

My message to future students is...

Unless you are studying mathematics, please read "Learn how to study" by Derek Rowntree. It gave me a good insight into essay writing. You should be enthusiastic and tenacious.

Mrs Alison Willan BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Working with other students from all over the country.

My message to future students is...

Believe you can succeed.

Miss Katherine Willcock BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Making lifelong friendships.

My message to future students is...

Persevere no matter how difficult things may seem to be.

Mrs Charmaine Willey

My message to future students is...

Life is not easy. OU study is not easy... but the satisfaction of gaining your qualification is worth the world. Good luck.

Mr Christopher Williams BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The great course materials provided, enthusiastic tutors, and attending tutorials and speaking to fellow students.

My message to future students is...

So rewarding, hard work – yes, but the feeling of attending your degree ceremony will make you feel proud of yourself. You can do it!

Dr David Williams BA MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Great times at summer schools whilst completing two degrees which, without The Open University, I may not have otherwise managed.

Ms Heather Williams BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Walking on stage to receive my first class honours degree aged 61.

My message to future students is...

You are never too old to learn.

Mr John Williams BSc (Hons) Maths

My favourite memory of the OU is...

When I first realised my exam and assignment grades were good enough to give me a first class honours degree in mathematics.

My message to future students is...

It is hard work but you feel part of a community and to finally achieve a degree is a wonderful feeling.

Ms June Williams BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The delight of rediscovering study after the age of 50 and the fabulous discovery of the History of Art.

My message to future students is...

Keep going – it will be worth it! Keep in close touch with fellow students – support works both ways.

Miss Madeleine Williams BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finishing an assignment about Ancient Rome on a balcony with views of the Roman Forum.

My message to future students is...

Never give up.

Mr Raymond Williams BSc (Hons) Nat Sci

My message to future students is...

With the OU you can make your dreams come true. With your degree you can help make other people's dreams come true.

Mr Roy Williams

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Discovering there were many more people like me and that our tutors treated us all fairly, respectfully and equally.

My message to future students is...

Enrol with the OU and let your mind be opened by learning.

Mr Stephen Williams BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I loved the working with systems course I studied... full of valuable practical techniques but also surprisingly philosophical, helped me to look differently at situations.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies and I truly hope that they help open doors for you... in your life and perhaps in your career! Good luck and best wishes!

Mrs Paula Williams Bowen BSc (Hons) MSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The support of the teaching staff and how organised the OU was with my courses (BSc & Masters). I was inspired to achieve and learn.

My message to future students is...

To never give up on your hopes and dreams of achieving your goals. Where there's life, there is hope.

Mr Charles Williamson LLB (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A law lecturer's love of all things by Lord Denning! Also, weirdly, the hard work! You appreciate most what you have worked hardest for!

My message to future students is...

Each TMA slowly builds until you have more completed than you have to do – and that is a nice feeling, and yes, you can do it. Go for it!

OU science students being taught in a laboratory at an OU Summer School, 1974.



Open University students listening to a radio programme at an OU study centre, circa 1975.



Miss Claire Willis BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sheer exhilaration and physicality of my brain working.

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself. You can and will achieve your dream. Stay focused and persist.

Mr James Willis BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduation ceremony at the Barbican and the gracious tribute paid by Frank Gardner, receiving a well-deserved Honorary degree, to those of us graduating after doing the real thing.

My message to future students is...

I hope this experience illuminates your life and your future as it did mine.

Mrs Jean Wilshaw BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Walking onto the stage at my graduation and being presented by the Vice-Chancellor. With my family looking on, and knowing what I’d achieved, I was so proud.

My message to future students is...

Enrol today and join the incredible OU community. Whatever your goal, you’ll find support along your journey. Yes it will be challenging at times, but the reward is outstanding.

Mr Arthur Wilson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My summer school at York University in the 80s.

My message to future students is...

Hard work and effort pays dividends.

Mr Colin Wilson BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Friendship, support and helping me believe in myself.

My message to future students is...

Believe in the OU; they won’t fail you, they will help you succeed.

Mr George Wilson

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Taking part in fieldwork.

My message to future students is...

Whether for work or pleasure, The Open University is a great way to expand your horizons.

Mrs Gina Wilson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation in Versailles!

My message to future students is...

It’s all worth it.

Mrs Gwyneth Wilson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Do you want to write poetry? I did – so I replied to this flyer, and have been writing poetry ever since!

My message to future students is...

Whatever problems you have – carry on. Study stimulates and disciplines the mind.

Mrs Heather Wilson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going back into studies when I was ready for it. Great sense of achievement on completion.

Mr James Wilson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Attending the presentation of graduates ceremony in Edinburgh, it made it all worthwhile.

My message to future students is...

Persevere with your studies.

Mr James Wilson BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Standing with my family at graduation. In reality it had been a team effort, they all helped me on the journey.

My message to future students is...

Knowledge of any flavour is the best vehicle to help you through life. It is not a competition with yourself, so enjoy it all and never stop.

Mr Norman Wilson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

B year student. The OU gave me the opportunity to prove to myself, if no one else, that I was capable of higher education.

My message to future students is...

At 87 I do not feel qualified to give advice, being rather out of touch with the world. But if nothing else, study for the sheer joy of expanding your mind.

Mrs Ruth Wilson BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Informal gatherings at a pub after tutorials providing an opportunity to meet a diverse group of people.

My message to future students is...

You can do it – go for it!

Mr Peter Wilson-Neasom BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting the other students from all situations.

My message to future students is...

The OU will help you become more confident as well as improving your education.

Mr David Wiltshire BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

After graduating with a BA (Hons) I was asked to become an Associate Lecturer, tutoring System Courses (T247, T301, T401).

My message to future students is...

Just keep persevering and you will win. Getting a degree opened lots of doors for me career wise.

Mr Robert Winspeare BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools. Meeting like-minded people and making memories to last a lifetime.

My message to future students is...

Embrace the culture and take full advantage of all aspects of the OU experience.

Mr Kevin Winter BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation ceremony at Ely Cathedral in May 2009.

My message to future students is...

Keep believing. Even when you’re struggling to submit an assignment on time, the end goal is always worth it.

Mrs Jane Wistowsky BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

I enjoyed attending tutorials which gave me the opportunity to learn from my peers and speak directly to my tutors, and made me feel like a ‘real’ student.

My message to future students is...

Choosing courses that interest you will make studying enjoyable and achievable. Have a ‘can do’ mindset, use the discussion forums and schedule in time off. You can definitely do it!

Mrs Sally Witts

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Everybody deserves the right to access higher education.

Mr Nicholas Wolf BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Success in achieving my BA.

My message to future students is...

Keep going.

Mr Gilbert Wood BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation in the City Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1987, and being able, at long last, to put BA after my name!

My message to future students is...

Never give up: keep plodding on, course after course, exam after exam, till you reach your final goal.

Mrs Gillian Wood

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My memories are the joy of meeting people with the same interests, open minds and to discover my own abilities and limitations. A very humbling experience.

My message to future students is...

You can never learn enough in an ever evolving world – strive to better the lives of others, be tolerant of others views – we all think that we are right!

Mrs Heather Wood

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The quality of the content and materials.

My message to future students is...

Work hard – You’re worth it!

Mrs Jane Wood BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Going to summer school at York University and the following year attending my graduation ceremony there.

My message to future students is...

I hope you all enjoy your time studying with The Open University. May you grow in confidence as you discover so much.

Mrs Janet Wood BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The camaraderie and support given by tutors and fellow students. This was especially noticeable at summer schools where students of all ages and backgrounds worked (and played) together.

My message to future students is...

Always ask your tutor if anything is unclear, don’t struggle on alone and waste your time worrying about it. Employers appreciate OU students so always include courses on your application.

Miss Jill Wood BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The diversity of courses available and the support of tutors.

My message to future students is...

OU provides an opportunity to develop your skills in a very flexible way of fitting in with your lifestyle.

Mr Keith Wood BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The receiving of my first home experiment kit for the science foundation course was an amazing eye opener. It changed my initial trepidation into full on enthusiasm for what lay ahead.

My message to future students is...

Sometimes you will feel overwhelmed, or confused, until you meet others, either in person or online and realise you are not alone. Just keep at it, help is always there. You can do it!

Mr Nicholas Wood BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The excitement of starting my first course.

My message to future students is...

Education is always a good investment.

Mr Peter Wood BSc (Hons) MA

My message to future students is...

If you want it enough, you will be able to do it!

Mrs Sylvia Wood BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at York University. I made good friends who I’ve kept in touch with for many years. Hard work, great fun, and our team won the quiz!

My message to future students is...

You will find you are far more capable than you ever thought you could be. It opened a whole new world for me when I gained my degree.

Ms Margaret Woodcock BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The pleasure of study and the friendships I made.

My message to future students is...

Make the most of every moment.

Mr John Woodley BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being successful in the Maths Foundation course exam.

My message to future students is...

OU gave me a chance of further education that I missed as a youngster.

Mr Patrick Woods BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer schools at Stirling University (1974) and York University (1977).

My message to future students is...

Treat your OU courses as part of an enjoyable experience. Stick at it, the OU is one of Britain’s great successes.

BOOK 2 / Economics
in context



The Open
University



Mrs Jean Woodward BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Being surrounded by my family and fellow students at my graduation, it was a joyous occasion!

My message to future students is...

Take that first step and you will be embraced by the OU family and enter a life-changing world of learning.

Mrs Jane Woolley BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Bath.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy every moment.

Mrs Melody Wren BSc (Hons) BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Receiving and opening my science kit for the foundation course, putting on the goggles, which made my nine year old son laugh.

My message to future students is...

An Open University science degree gave me confidence and such enjoyment that I went on to study for an arts degree later, just for pleasure.

Mr Philip Wrenn BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Finally understanding chemical bonding, and, by application and hard work, I can hold my own – and understand this level of education. Thank you OU!

My message to future students is...

No matter how tough it gets, re-group if you have to but don't give up. Education opens the world to you and the confidence to hold your head high.

Mr Brian Wright BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school.

My message to future students is...

The Open University gave me a new dimension to my life. I hope you will feel the same.

Mrs Cathleen Wright BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Dedication of the tutors and the requirement for self-discipline.

My message to future students is...

Keep at it, the reward of a degree is worth all the work.

Miss Christine Wright BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A sunny day at summer school and hearing the sublime music of Thomas Tallis for the first time.

My message to future students is...

Be open to all opportunities and experiences, learning is never wasted.

Mr Colin Wright BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Getting a “1” in T401.

My message to future students is...

Enjoy your studies, it will be well worth it.

Mr Dennis Wright BA (Hons) MA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Camaraderie.

My message to future students is...

Be part of it!

Mrs Diana Wright BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The summer school at the University of East Anglia in 1973. Tuition groups were fun, challenging and friendly; and I met my husband-to-be in the dinner queue one day!

My message to future students is...

It is never too late to experience the joy of studying, learning new things in a supportive environment.

Mr Peter Wright BA MEd

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Successfully completing my degree in what were difficult circumstances initially.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, find a study buddy, but most of all, enjoy the whole experience.

Mrs Thelma Wright BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The A102 Arts events we created in the Walter Moberly Hall at Keele University. There was music, poetry and laughter.

My message to future students is...

Don't give up. I know it's not easy balancing work (especially full-time), family life and study. Keep going. Completion will give you a wonderful sense of achievement and worth.

Mrs Wendy Wright BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Meeting people studying all different types of courses & still being friends with some from 1990!

My message to future students is...

Be warned, OU studying is a masochistic pleasure!

Mr Alan Wykes BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Discovering a love of Victorian history and art... and Mozart!

My message to future students is...

Believe in yourself, you CAN do this.

Mr Melvyn Wyman BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

A summer school trip to the superb architecture of the De La Warr pavilion at Bexhill, from the University of Sussex, Brighton.

My message to future students is...

The Open University was not an easy option. You need a lifestyle or job with little overtime, especially if you are running a family. You must complete your study work.

Dr Ian Wynne-Jones BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The tutors comments or marks through the letter box.

My message to future students is...

Look forwards.

Ms Naoko Yamagata

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school in German, in Jena.

My message to future students is...

Choose the subject you love. That's the best way to success.

Mrs Hilary Yard BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The sheer pleasure I got when I submitted my completed assignments and the excitement and trepidation when I received them back marked.

My message to future students is...

Studying with the OU gave me a lot of pleasure and changed my life completely. I hope it does the same for you too.

Mrs Gwendoline Yates BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Open University summer school TAD. Art and the Environment – a new way of looking. Changed my life!

My message to future students is...

The OU opens your mind to all possibilities.

Mr Malcolm York

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first tutor, she supported me all the way.

My message to future students is...

Work hard, the future is yours.

Mr Alan Young BA

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Excellent tutors, summer schools and fellow students. Receiving my Degree. The OU, a great British success story.

My message to future students is...

Don't dither, sign on, get stuck in and succeed – a life-changer and wonderful achievement. If you are like me and left school at 15, it's even better!

Mrs Audrey Young BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

The pride on my dad's face when I walked on stage to collect my degree! The Open University made that possible, as I could study at home.

My message to future students is...

When you are having a bad day put the books down, take a break. Your schedule is more relaxed with the OU. Tomorrow will be better.

Mr Barry Young BSc

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Comradeship.

My message to future students is...

Stay focused, plan, but be flexible.

Mr Colin Young BA BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Graduating in Edinburgh University's McEwen Hall with a good Honours degree, and at a ceremony officiated by the then Chancellor, Baroness Betty Boothroyd. I was so proud.

My message to future students is...

Studying at the OU is extremely satisfying, especially when as a result of your hard work (and it does require hard work and dedication), you finally graduate with your degree.

Miss Janet Young BA (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My first visit to Florence to see all the amazing art work I had studied in the Renaissance Art History courses. A thrill many years later and a life-long interest still.

My message to future students is...

The OU gives you an opportunity to get that qualification which you always aspired to. I am so proud of my degree.

Ms Jenni Young

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Summer school at Stirling University.

My message to future students is...

Only too glad to help someone achieve their aim in education.

Mrs Karen Young BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

My graduation day. At 52 to complete a BSc (Hons) was a massive achievement. The OU enabled me to feel included and valued every step of the way.

My message to future students is...

Never give up on your dreams and aspirations. It will get tough but the rewards will be worth it. Your self-confidence will soar.

Dr Michael Young

My message to future students is...

The OU presents a great opportunity, so grasp it with both hands.

Mr Gordon Yuile BA

My message to future students is...

The OU and its support system offers the best platform from which to launch or improve a career or begin a new one.

Mr Kamil Zuzewicz BSc (Hons)

My favourite memory of the OU is...

Opening new course books for the first time, armed with a highlighter and a cup of coffee. Feeling a sense of both curiosity and keen anticipation of what lay ahead.

My message to future students is...

The enormous sense of achievement attained from higher education is one of life's most rewarding experiences. Completing my degree at the OU has literally transformed my life. Go for it, it'll transform yours too!

Anonymous

My message to future students is...

Persevere, don't let setbacks caused by your health or workload deter you from achieving your goal. Time is on your side.

Thank you to The Open University Digital Archive for their support in producing this book



Open University graduates waiting to walk across the stage at a degree ceremony.

