



CSL and the Open University

The Open University, a state-run university based in the UK, has pioneered and popularised open distance learning throughout the world and is renowned for the excellence of its courses and support systems. Over the last thirty years, 2 million people have studied with the Open University.

Outside the UK, courses are offered directly or through international partners in 44 countries, with more than 200,000 students studying OU courses in the EU each year. Courses have been offered in Luxembourg for the last 25 years. All courses are studied and taught in English.

The Open University is ranked as one of the top five universities in the UK for teaching quality according to the assessments of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. Furthermore it was ranked first for overall student satisfaction amongst 160 other Higher Education institutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the 2005 National Student Survey.

The Open University's qualifications are highly regarded by employers and many top companies sponsor their staff on Open University courses. Employers believe that studying part-time while managing work and personal commitments shows determination, adaptability, motivation and a high level of organisational and problem-solving skills - qualities that they value highly in their workforce.

Lifelong learning

Lifelong learning develops people's employability and adaptability and is becoming increasingly important in a context of rapid economic and technological change. Whether you would like to build or boost your career and keep up with technological developments, or whether you would simply like to study for personal enjoyment, the Open University's unique method of supported distance learning is ideal for those who are looking to study while continuing their work.

OU students in Luxembourg

There are currently 240 students studying with the Open University in Luxembourg. 50% are native English speakers, 25% are Luxembourgish and the remaining 25% are other non-native English speakers. The main area of interest in Luxembourg is in the business and management development courses; the majority of these students are studying with the Business School, pre-

dominantly following the MBA programme. The second most popular subject is IT and Computing whilst social sciences, and in particular, psychology are generally popular. The remaining students study a cross-section of subjects from mathematics, engineering and science to arts, languages and international studies.

What is open distance learning?

Open distance learning is a term that can be easily misunderstood. Unlike correspondence or e-learning courses, the Open University offers you personal support through a combination of telephone, email and computer conferencing which may include face-to-face tutorials.

Students use a combination of specially produced texts, multimedia materials, computer software and home experiment kits along with a Study Guide to guide them through the materials. Every student is assigned to a tutor who remains in contact via phone and email and tutorials may be offered. Residential schools, run over several days, are a feature of some courses.

The assessment of each course is in two parts: students have to complete written assignments and projects throughout the course. For the majority of courses there is a three hour examination at the end, held in Luxembourg.

Qualifications

Following the Bologna agreement of 1999, the European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education is divided into three cycles. Students can take either a first, second or third cycle university qualification through the Open University.

First cycle (BAC +3)	Second cycle (BAC +5)
BA - Bachelor of Arts	MA- Master of Arts
or	or
BSc- Bachelor of Science	MSc- Master of Science
	or
	MBA- Master of Business Administration

As in other universities, research plays a fundamental role in the university's work and all disciplines within the university are actively engaged in research leading to a third cycle qualification:

Third cycle (Bac + 8)
PhD - Doctor of Philosophy

The Open University also offers intermediate qualifications including Certificates and Diplomas which can count towards a first or second cycle qualification. Credit for previous university studies can also be awarded and equally counts towards a first or second cycle qualification.

It is possible to obtain a first cycle qualification (BA/BSc) in three years, studying as if a full-time student, but the majority of students spread their studies over six years, with a study rate of 16 hours/week. If necessary, or if the student prefers, it is possible to take breaks between courses.

A second cycle qualification (MA/MSc/MBA) will normally take three years and the option to take breaks between courses also applies.

Costs vary from course to course, depending on the subject and the level of study. Fees include materials, tuition, assessment and residential schools (where applicable). Course start dates also depend on the type of course and the subject area. Further information can be found on the website: www.open.ac.uk.

Entrance qualifications

To study for a first cycle qualification (BA/BSc) there are NO ENTRANCE requirements.

To study for a second cycle qualification (MA/MSc/MBA) candidates should normally have completed a first cycle qualification (BA/BSc) from a recognized institution. However, there are exceptions. For the MBA programme, it is possible for students to join the programme without a first cycle qualification (BA/BSc), as long as they have extensive management experience. Also, computer professionals can join an MSc programme in computing and software development without previous qualifications.

NO PROOF OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IS REQUIRED
for any courses/programmes offered by the Open University.

Open University Business School

The OU Business School is one of the largest business schools in Europe and since its foundation in 1983, the School has been dedicated exclusively to the development of distance learning in the field of management and professional education.

That success and the quality of the School's courses have earned it a valuable place among the world's business schools. It has accreditation from the three premier management education associations. It was thus awarded the prestigious European Quality Kitemark (EQUIS) by the European Foundation for Management Development. The School's MBA programme is accredited in the UK by the Association of MBAs (AMBA) and in the USA by the prestigious AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

Almost 16,000 managers and professionals worldwide have obtained an MBA from OUBS. In addition, 67,000 other awards including the Professional Certificate in Management and the Professional Diploma in Management were given.

CSL - LLLC

As lifelong learning gains in importance in Luxembourg, the Open University is working with other providers to ensure it can reach as many students as possible. In January 2004, the Open University signed a partnership agreement with the Chambre des salariés (CSL) to offer a wide range of courses in English by distance learning allowing students the flexibility to choose their own study times and not to have to attend classes.

