

## The Open University Student Employability Policy Statement

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- a) The University acknowledges the diversity of the OU student population and the need to recognise that the individual aspirations and motivations of students are distinct and varied in relation to career and personal development. The University undertakes to provide student centered support for employability skills development which:
- responds to student motivations for study and changes in their goals over time
  - supports the aspirations of those in work and those seeking to begin or change their careers and
  - informs students about the local and global environment which forms the context for their study and working lives.
- b) The purpose of the student employability policy is to ensure that The Open University explicitly addresses and supports student employability through curriculum design, teaching and learning, corporate and student support services.
- c) The University understands student employability as: ‘A set of capabilities and achievements that support students in developing their careers, raising their aspirations and enhancing their contribution to society.’
- d) All students are entitled to supported personal development planning through a variety of tools which offer both structured activities and signpost other services and resources, either as an intrinsic part of their programme of study or through signposted optional activities.
- e) The University will clearly indicate how student employability can be enhanced through study across the range of curriculum: vocational, professional, work-based learning, knowledge-based modules. It will also explain how particular study pathways can contribute to enhancing employability.
- f) The University will continue to integrate higher-level skills development within curriculum design, offering students a range of opportunities to reflect upon and articulate the skills that they have gained from their studies.
- g) To ensure curriculum relevance to employment, the University will develop appropriate links with employers and professional bodies, and will continue to develop opportunities for students to gain credit for learning achieved outside of the institution.
- h) The University recognises and values the capacity of OU students for autonomous and self-directed learning, important employability skills in themselves. We will provide students with opportunities to assess their own needs for development activities that support their employability.

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