Various people

When I grew up I wanted to be an archaeologist a mini, Indiana Jones, astronaut, vet, professional musician, RAF pilot, teacher, superhero comic book artist, air hostess, cartoonist or an illustrator, ballerina,

I was always into science,

I wanted to be a librarian, I used to be tickets in all my books and lend them to all my friends.

Ellen

We all have an idea of what we want to be when we grow up, for some of us those plans come to fruition, for others we have different ideas and move direction, and for the rest of us, we perhaps fall into our career.

Open University students are no different, a significant proportion of Open University students are studying to either start a new career or change their career or to develop in their current career and the Careers Advisory Service can support you and help you identify you careers goals and make them come to fruition.

Various people

My job now is that I’m Director for Access, Careers and teaching support, I’m head of Careers and Employability Service

At the moment, I work as a producer at the Open University I’m a researcher

I work in the Library, and I’m a Librarian

I’m the Head of the Law School at The Open University I work for the Open University Library services, in the Digital and Information literacy team Electrical and mechanical engineer

I work with computers

I’m a senior manager in the Library
I organise large scale events and academic seminars

**Lynne**

When you signed up for your Open University qualification you might have thought about the subjects that interested you and what you wanted to do with your qualification, we at the Career service can help you explore your interests, your skills and also where your qualification can take you.

If you are one of the many Open University students who are studying for career reasons, you might be thinking what can do with this qualification or you might have a particular career sector in mind and thinking how with this qualification help me progress in that career.

We can support you to explore the career sector that you’re interested in or also to help you find out about job opportunities you might not have thought even possible. We work closely with employers and other external bodies to find out about opportunities that are open to Open University students.

**Various people**

What makes me really good at my role is questioning and listening

Listening talking to people, negotiating

As a researcher, knowing where, even if you don’t have the answer, knowing where to go even using the library resources or the internet.

I think it most important to think outside the box

I’m really interested in how people learn

I’m interested in the information and helping people

It’s about solving problems

The discipline of lots of prior planning and analysis

And I think probably the most crucial skills to being able to get on with lots of different people.

Engagement working with people understanding lots of complex ideas and bringing them together

I’m a very good listener, a good communicator and I’m very organised

**Ros**

We know that OU students come to us from a variety of backgrounds, and they bring with them skills from their work, and their home life and the activities they do outside of that but also of course from study. And the key is, the challenge is to identify those skills. We have a range of activities on our website and in our publications and on your course sites which will help you with this process.

Your next question might well be how do I present those skills to employers and you need to learn to do this and it is a skill you can learn in writing a cv in completing job application forms and the in going through the interview process itself and we have a range of methods that we can use to help you with that and help you communicate those transferable skills to employers.
Various people

Of course use all the wonderful resources of the careers service here at the Open University, both in terms of the careers advisers and all of the online resources and so on.

Find out about the skills that you need and the experience and then go about getting those things.

If you’ve got any issues or you want some advice definitely the careers service is the right place to start.

Don’t get too stuck onto one track, certain things have certain skills that definitely transpose into other skills.

Keep an eye out for opportunities that might surprise you along the course of your career.

It’s never too late to change if you’re unhappy in what you do.

Plan think about what you enjoy doing take advice of the careers service and follow that dream all the time.

Ellen

There are a number of different ways that Open University students can connect with the Careers Advisory Service.

Our website includes a vast array of guidance and information, talk to us in our forums, webinars and social media platforms.

If you have a specific question, email us, or arrange to speak to us by phone or in person.

So there’s a range of different ways that you can connect to the Careers Advisory Service to help move your career plans forward.