Our Research

We undertake independent research at the OU Students Association to explore different aspects of the student experience. Our research projects are a way for us to listen to the Student Voice – your voice – and identify how we can improve your student experience.

Research enables us to better understand the views and concerns of OU students, identify what they need from the Association, and work towards getting their voice heard.
How students are involved

Students are involved in every stage of the research process, and we invite participation from the student community through a range of channels including surveys, focus groups and social media.

Our elected student representatives help us identify relevant topics for research projects, with student representatives taking an active role in sharing research findings and taking your feedback forward.

We have also introduced a new volunteering role called Student Voice Researchers (SVR), which offers students an opportunity to work with us on themed projects. During 2018-2019, our SVRs have explored a variety of topics, each focusing on a different aspect of the student experience.

Remember, when you give us your feedback, whether by responding to a survey or taking part in a focus group, you are helping us identify ways in which we can improve the student experience!
Student Voice Researchers
Making a difference...

Engaging students in Dialogue

The recommendations from the Student Journeys Project are informing the work of the Student Community Team as they...

- Develop a Freshers microsite.
- Plan more interactive online events.
- Create a series of inspirational posters and an Association wall calendar, which will be available online.
- Invite more input from OU students on social media, the newsletter and via The Hoot magazine.
- Celebrate the work of our Societies, with ongoing plans to bring a virtual Societies Fair to students!

Exploring topics together

Planning a Freshers Societies fair at the Milton Keynes campus where students can look around society stalls, get a tour of their campus and get to know other OU students.

Using a variety of channels to create a dialogue with students and share our work.

Taking Action!
Here's how to get involved!

Take a look at our research reports - whether you prefer a long read, watching a video or browsing an infographic, you have a variety of formats to choose from!

Visit our research page.

Want to take a more active part in our research work? Keep an eye out for new Student Voice Researcher opportunities!

Take part in our twitter polls - they are a quick and easy way to get your voice heard.

Join us for a focus group: these are offered as both online and face-to-face events, so that you can choose the option that suits you best.