Welcome to the spring 2017 edition of your OU Students mag! I'd like to start this issue off welcoming all new students who have joined the OU in the February 2017 presentation and welcoming returning students back! You are all members of the Students Association and that means you are part of our big community! I'd also like to say a happy six month anniversary to the student leadership team, who are hard at work ensuring our members voices are heard across the OU!

2017 is a very special year for the OU Students Association, it marks 40 years since all OU students became automatic members of the Association and that students would be represented throughout the OU decision-making structure. What better way to celebrate this anniversary than supporting the upcoming Student Voice Week! (pg. 3)

Thanks to all the students that filled in our magazine survey - your thoughts and opinions on the look and content of the magazine will inform future editions. One big change you’ll notice in this edition is a cleaner layout with font that is easy to read on any device.

So, get a cuppa, turn off your phone, hide from the neighbours and sit down to read this seasons edition of your OU Students Mag!

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COMING UP...

13–17 March
Student Voice week
A jam-packed week celebrating the student voice. There’s many ways to get involved, get engaged and get your voice heard!

17 March
In the STUDIO
A live STUDIO event, streamed to our Facebook page! We’ll be asking OU staff members all about how they listen and respond to the student voice

4 May
OU Charter Day
The Open University’s Royal Charter was granted on 23rd April 1969, bringing the University into official existence.
3  Student Voice Week!
A jam-packed week of activity showing how students get their voices heard.

4  Raising your voice
What is ‘student voice’ and how can students have their say?

5  Representation
Caroline shares how she got involved.

6  A unique Experience
Mark describes how being involved with the Students Association helped improve the student experience.

7  Charting student success
OU Vice Chancellor and Association Acting President discuss the upcoming Charter Day celebration.

9  Looking forward
Change begins at the grassroots level...

11  The big one
OU students around the world met up on the same day - biggest meet-up ever?

12  Volunteering spotlight
It’s been a month since we started celebrating #SpotlightSunday...

13  Graduates in the job market
The OU Careers and Employability service team dispell some myths.

15  Dear survey...
The winners of our letter-writing competition revealed!

18  Getting creative
OU students are a talented bunch!

19  Join a Society
Whatever your interests there’s a society for you, we explore just a few of the different activities OU students are up to.

20  LGBT+ Group affiliated
The PLEXUS constitution was officially signed last month.

21  OU Music Society
A member recounts the society trip and the fascinating things they saw.

22  They mean business!
New OU Business Associate Society is looking for members.

23  Words, words, words
Write Club is 18 months old - we can’t believe it!

25  Seeking affiliation
It’s not as scary as you’d think... Chair of PLEXUS explains the process.

26  Ethical Science
Looking for new members to reinvigorate the society!

27  Getting to know you...
We find out a little bit about two more members of the Student Leadership Team!

28  Reporting back...
The Central Executive Committee have been a busy bunch!

30  LinkedIn
The OU Careers and Employability service team explain why it’s worth giving LinkedIn a go...

31  Student Voice in action
Acting President, Nicola Simpson, explains how OU student feedback impacts on the work of the Students Association.
13 - 17 March 2017

Monday
Disabled Students Group Chat!
Careers Chat, and
Love and Breakup Letters

Tuesday
PLEXUS Online Chat!
DSG Exhibition, and Student Voice Symposium

Wednesday
Assessment and Feedback
Grassroots Findings

Thursday
Student Voices Day!
Careers - Employers, and Online Training

Friday
OU Radio Live in the Studio!
Student Consultation

For more information and the full schedule go to oustudents.com/Voice-Week
What is Student Voice?
The student voice is the thoughts, views and opinions of students on an educational journey. Most schools, colleges and Higher Education institutions in the United Kingdom have Student Voice, where students are consulted on their learning experience or debate issues that are affecting students. At university there are commonly robust representative and student engagement structures - as well as student unions, guilds or associations working to make sure that students are being treated fairly and as equal partners in decision making processes. The student voice is an integral part of ensuring learners receive an outstanding educational experience and that students feel empowered to be active in either making curriculum or institution-wide change.

How can I have my say?
The OU Students Association provides many different opportunities for students to be involved in student voice activity - whether that’s by sharing feedback at the end of a module, by being a Student Representative on an OU Committee, or by attending a Student Consultation event.

Whenever you respond to an email, a tweet or a Facebook post about your personal student experience, you’re telling us about your learning journey and using your student voice. The Students Association plays a key part in making sure that your voice is heard and getting your feedback assures that we’re working on projects that truly matter to you. Your elected leadership team represent your voice on a national level, making sure that the collective OU student voice is heard loud and clear.

Why are we celebrating?
Student Voice Week celebrates not only the achievements that have been made on behalf of OU students, but also highlights new opportunities for you to tell us about what you want to see happen and change at the OU. There will be many activities and events that you can attend in person or online, where your thoughts and views will be taken seriously and will effect change.

You can get involved by joining us online for an evening chat, by using the #OUstudentVoiceWeek hashtag on social media, joining us at our focus groups and workshops, or come to the Milton Keynes campus and meet other students. There are many ways to get involved, get engaged, and get your voice heard!

What happens next?
Though Student Voice week ends on Friday, 17 March, your Students Association works to get your voice heard throughout the academic year. You can continue to be involved on our forums, subscribing to our mailing list, keeping an eye on volunteering opportunities or even joining our team of Representatives.

We hope that you enjoy what we have planned and look forward to hearing from you very soon!

Samantha Harding
Head of Student Voice
Welcome to Student Voice Week which - you guessed it - is all about listening to what students have to say.

As VP Representation a large part of my remit relates to exactly that. Recently a survey went out to students to hear their views on how processes for the 2018 elections could be improved. As a great believer in democracy I am particularly excited to be heading up our elections review working group and hope you will all vote in 2018. Recently we launched the Learning Experience Reporter (LERs) role which is ideal for students who would like to volunteer but don’t have much time to spare. They have gathered grassroots evidence on issues such as tuition, module material and accessibility which myself and the Faculty Association Representatives (FARs) have been able to feed back to the right channels to ensure that the OU receives this feedback and that the student voice is heard.

I became involved with the Students Association in 2016 and it has been a great experience. I have met so many lovely people and feel part of a great team that can make a difference to the way students are represented. The student community aspect is fantastic and to have people to turn to when that TMA is due and stress levels are high or to give support to others in a similar situation really enhances the learning experience.

If you are thinking of becoming involved, please do! Being a volunteer with the Student Association is so rewarding and there are roles to suit everyone, some exclusively online if you don’t have much time to spare or are unable to travel. You can head to the Student Association website to find out more about roles currently available and of course the 2018 elections if you have more time to spare and are thinking about being part of the Central Executive Committee...

All the best and don’t forget to look out for some of our Student Voice activities!

Caroline Poppenga
Vice President Representation and Research

Top TMA tips from fellow OU students...

‘Do a little bit at a time, and nice food!’
Leanne

‘Communicate with your fellow students - ask for help. If you knew it all you wouldn’t be paying to learn!’
Ian

‘Read the question, Read the question, Read the question!’
Jackie

‘Make sure you read the question properly - several times! It’s easy to go off topic.’
Sam

‘Reference anything of relevance in your study notes, as it cuts down tremendously on time looking for it when you are working on your TMA’
Chris

‘Try not to get yourself into a panic, and if you find you are then walk away and do something else. Even if it’s doing the dushes, walking the dog or hangin up the washing - if your brain is stressed you won’t get anything done. An hour of housework then an hour of writing will be more productive than two hours of panicking and achieving nothing.’
Stephanie
A unique experience!

Central Representative, Mark, describes how being involved with the Students Association has helped him improve the OU student experience...

I’ve been involved with the OU Students Association since August 2011, when I first heard of them after having studied with the Open University for just over a year. I got an email asking for student representatives on Open University in Scotland committees, so I applied, was invited to a training day and then appointed just after that! What inspired me to get involved was my previous experience as a class representative on my course at college. I really enjoyed the role back then, being able to influence our faculty at college on the issues that mattered to us, whether that be course specific issues, student support issues or others. And now, through the Students Association, I have been able to expand on that past experience and knowledge, albeit in a different setting.

I currently sit on a number of University governance committees as a student member (we call these members Central Reps), having previously held a role as the then Student Association Representative for Scotland on the Association’s Central Executive Committee. Aside from my Scotland specific duties in that role, I got involved in other projects that the University needed student representation on and through those projects, have been able to influence what the University does in terms of making the student experience better for us all as OU students. Sitting on committees as a Central Rep gives you fantastic experience of how the University operates, what goes in to the modules and qualifications you take and what the University is doing to make your student experience that much better! It most importantly of all, as a student representative, allows you to influence university policy and the decisions that they make – this is the best reason of all why you should get involved!

Aside from the personal skills, confidence and knowledge that being an active volunteer has given me, being able to represent the student voice and influence policy for the good of your fellow students is the greatest thing you can do as an active volunteer with the Students Association. Without your voice, the University can’t possibly know, or understand what OU students are thinking, what our student experience is and how to improve it for the better. Being involved doesn’t have to take up all your time and every little bit really does help. It has given me a wealth of knowledge and experience, inspired me to look into a future career working in education and I’ve met lots of fantastic students along the way. This is one big and bright student community that we have. You make friends for life and I’ve never felt like such a part of anything like I have with the Students Association and that is a real positive to take from my involvement!

Mark Cameron
Central Representative
On Thursday 4 May, The Open University will be celebrating its birthday, by showcasing the achievements and successes of its students. The University received its Royal Charter in April 1969 and in recent years has marked the occasion by celebrating all that is good about the OU.

Invariably, students and alumni have been an important part of these birthday celebrations. But this year, the University is taking things a step further by making it our students’ day and ramping up the celebration of their success.

Nicola Simpson, OU Students Association Deputy President said: “The Students Association have been helping the University to develop plans for Charter Day. The OU’s birthday gives us a great opportunity to think about the impact of OU study on our lives, celebrate OU student successes and the contribution we make to our communities.

As OU students we juggle the demands of study with work, caring responsibilities, volunteering and lots of other everyday activities. We know it isn’t always easy, so we are eager to celebrate your personal triumphs, whether that’s landing your dream job, exam success, or getting a TMA in on time against all the odds!

We want to involve as many OU Students as possible, both online and on campus in Milton Keynes. Charter Day will include opportunities for students to meet with each other and to talk to OU staff, the people who help us to achieve our goals. As plans are firmed up we’ll be able to share more information about how you can get involved, but in the meantime, please save the date in your diaries.”

Peter Horrocks, Vice-Chancellor, is taking a keen interest in how Charter Day is shaping up: “Our students are the heart of this year’s Charter Day celebrations. Hearing how you are achieving your goals, realising your dreams and opening up opportunities for yourselves through your studies, will be an inspiration to everyone who joins in the day.

“I’m pleased we’ve been working closely with the OU Students Association on the design of the day. More and more we’re seeing examples of how the University is benefitting from student input and bringing the student voice into our strategic thinking, decision-making and day-to-day operations. This is a way of working that is driving our Students First strategy. Our collaboration on Charter Day is another demonstration of how we’re working effectively together.

Happy Birthday to OU...
Happy Birthday to OU...
“Charter Day is also an opportunity to look forward to the OU’s 50th anniversary in 2019. Back in 1969 the OU represented nothing short of a revolution in higher education – a university which welcomed students with no qualifications whatsoever. I’m proud that almost 50 years on, we continue to serve people for whom university may seem like an impossible dream. We continue to believe in creating opportunities and offering people another chance. And we continue to help thousands of students succeed every year”.

What is the University’s Charter? The Open University’s Charter, granted on 23 April 1969, sets out the purpose and powers of the University. Combined with the University’s Statutes, it provides the constitutional framework within which the OU operates. The Charter and Statutes were approved by Her Majesty the Queen, with the advice of Her Privy Council.

The Charter defines the objects, powers and officers of the OU. It sets out fundamental principles such as the OU’s power to teach, examine and award degrees.

The Statutes set out details of the members of the University. These include a broad range of people, from the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, to members of staff and the students of the University.

The Charter and Statutes are published on the OU website.
Looking forward

Working to improve the OU student community from the grassroots up!

Here at the Students Association we work continuously to improve the overall experience for our students studying with the OU. Over the years this has taken a number of different approaches and we try our best at all times to adapt to changes that the OU impose or changes spurred by economic or social factors etc...

My name is Verity Robinson and I’ve been working with the OU Students Association for just over a month. I’ve been asked to lead the Grassroots project and gather information to help make suggestions towards a better and brighter student community for OU students. How hard can that be? Turns out there are a few more students than I knew!

“200,000?!?” I couldn’t believe the number when I was told! “There are 200,000 students enrolled? At once?!” “There or thereabouts” was the answer. Well, even if it’s rounded up that’s still staggering, and Heaven help me if it’s rounded down. I’m going to need some help!

I have the pleasure of working with a great group of people, not just a handful of staff members at OU Students HQ, but also some of the students and members of the Central Executive Committee who have as much (if not more) of an incentive to get this right as I do. They’re the ones who are out there in the community, interacting at that grassroots level as Student Representatives. Some have studied on and off for a number of years and so have seen the OU make the changes aforementioned and have seen how this can impact the student community both for good and bad.

There are a number of challenges to the project, but there are two that tend to keep me up at night. How do I get the opinions of as many students as possible? And, how do we come up with a model that will encourage involvement for as many students as possible?

Along with a student survey we want to encourage as many conversations as possible around community and what it means to our students. We want to know what you want to see, what you like, what you don’t like, what your ideas are for the future and what shape you picture your student community in? We need your feedback to tell us the good points and the bad. The only way we’re going to be able to have a model that works for the majority is if we gather as many ideas and opinions as possible. It’s all about YOU!

If you didn’t have a chance to complete our survey but want to get in touch and give us your thoughts and feedback please email us. Your views will directly impact future conversations within the OU Students Association and will influence change for the future. Please feel free to start these conversations wherever it us you speak to other students, be it on Facebook, the VLE or at a coffee morning. Encourage discussions and conversations, feedback to us and tell us what YOU want.

Verity Robinson
Grassroots Project Lead
What a brilliant and exciting day! After the build-up over the last few weeks the ‘Big Feb Meet-up’ took place on Saturday, 25 February 2017.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all who attended or hosted face-to-face meet-ups, as well as those who participated or helped with the online event activity and OU live meet-up.

OU Students finally hosted their face-to-face meet-ups in 20 locations around the UK. These gatherings were attended by other students and could be linked up through a ‘Big Feb Meet-up’ Facebook event page; which was being looked after by OU Student Association representatives and an Association staff member. Attendees were encouraged to take photographs using photo props and to post them on social media. There was also a chance to enter a competition to win an OU hoodie for the silliest photographs.

There were three OU Live ‘virtual’ meet-ups spaced out through the day. It was good to meet students who attended and listen to the chat that was going on. I also got involved in the textbox conversations too.

I hosted a ‘Canterbury, Kent’ meet-up and was pleased that other students turned up and participated so well. It was a long day, but I feel it was well worthwhile!!!

It was encouraging to hear some positive feedback from students already, including asking ‘when is the next one?’

So watch this space!!!

Stephanie Stubbins
VP Community
Putting volunteering in the spotlight!

It’s been a month since we started #SpotlightSunday - celebrating our hardworking volunteers...

Know of an OU Students Association volunteer who goes that extra mile? Fill out our nomination form here!

Fancy trying volunteering? Browse our many volunteering roles on our website.
Graduates in the job market - dispelling the myths

In Careers & Employability Services at the OU we hear a lot of talk about the job market, unfortunately some of the things we hear time and again simply aren’t true, so we thought it was high time that we set the record straight!

I’m too old...

“In terms of the graduate programme it’s open to all age groups. As an employer what we’re looking for is to hire individuals who are enthusiastic and have the right skills to succeed” - Allianz

Legally of course employers cannot discriminate on the grounds of age, but even if that weren’t the case hardly any of them would. The reality is that the vast majority of organisations are actively trying to increase diversity in their graduate hires, age is just one part of this but smart employers recognise that a workforce composed of different demographics creates an environment where everyone brings different skills, talents and perspectives to the table.

“Every applicant is treated exactly the same and are expected to meet the same criteria. What I would say is for a mature student to absolutely highlight their life skills and work experiences” – Pendragon Plc

If you are a mature student it’s likely that you actually have a number of advantages when applying for jobs. One of the most common complaints from employers is that many graduates lack experience and real world skills, if you’ve spent time in the workplace, even in a completely unrelated field, then this almost certainly isn’t the case with you. You will have acquired a wide range of transferable skills and experience that you should absolutely draw on when applying for jobs.

Graduates only work for big business...

Absolutely not true, the most recent figures show that around 35% of graduates went to work for SMEs (Small – Medium sized Enterprises). The big corporate training schemes aren’t for everyone, though they will almost certainly have the best pay. On the other hand working for an SME will likely mean you have more influence and responsibility, learn a wider range of skills and have a more varied job.

Jobs with SMEs can often be tricky to find, but it’s really all about networking. Talk to your friends, family and definitely...
make use of LinkedIn. You can also look at events your local Chamber of Commerce or Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are running. You may want to check out the Federation of Small Businesses and any business or science parks in your area too.

**Employers don’t value OU degrees...**

“There is no difference to us which university you studied at” – IBM

99% of graduate recruiters really don’t mind where you went to university, they’re just looking for the best person for the job, that’s it. All they’re really interested in is the person you are, the skills you have, and how well they believe you’ll develop in the role.

Many of the UK’s top employers work with us to recruit OU students and graduates, including six of the top ten from the Times top 100 graduate employers. Further proof if you need it, are people like Tom, who went from trainee footballer to OU History graduate to Chartered Accountant at PwC.

**All the graduate jobs are in London**

There is an element of truth to this one; there are a lot of graduate jobs in the capital, but there are a lot of graduates there too and it isn’t too far out of proportion. To put a number on it around 15% of the UK population lives in London, and roughly 1 in 5 graduates begin their career there. That’s all well and good if you live in London, but what if you don’t?

Well of course four in five graduates begin their careers elsewhere, and there are definite advantages to doing so. Whilst only around 20% of graduates do begin their careers in London many, many more would like to, it’s a hugely popular destination for graduates which makes competition for jobs fierce. Conversely even the most prestigious employers often struggle to recruit in other parts of the country, increasing your chances straight away.

**Everyone has a degree nowadays, you’re better off not going to university...**

The majority of people in the UK do not have a degree, at the end of 2015 36.9% of the UK’s adult population had one, or 42.4% of the UK workforce. In terms of being better off, naturally qualifications are no guarantee of success, likewise there are lots of successful people who never went to university. Financially at least though the numbers are on the side of the graduates, with an average salary of £31,500 compared to £22,000 for non-graduates.

**Graduate jobs all require UCAS points ...**

Some graduate employers require UCAS points, there’s no getting around that fact and it can be a particular obstacle for Open University students since A-levels (or equivalent) aren’t a pre-requisite for studying at the OU. In these situations it’s always worth talking to the employer, some will take different circumstances in to account, others though simply cannot or will not change their criteria and unfortunately there really isn’t much else you can do.

Now the good news; the employers mentioned above are very much in the minority. In a 2016 survey of large graduate employers, just 26% of them said that they still required UCAS points for graduate entry jobs. This number is falling too, as a number of the more prestigious employers like Ernst Young & PwC have removed their requirement and others are following suit.

If you’re more interested in a career with an SME, you’re likely to find that most of them aren’t worried about your A-level results either.

Regardless of what kind of career you’re looking for, don’t forget to sign up for [Jobzone](#), the vacancy service just for OU students and graduates. Or if you’re looking for the latest careers news, articles, events or just want to talk careers, you can find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

* All statistics from the Association of Graduate Recruiters and Higher
Dear survey...

Surveys... Love them or hate them, there’s something universally satisfying about getting your voice heard. Take the National Student Survey for example – it’s a way for eligible students to share their honest feedback on their courses.

We asked students to tell us how they feel about surveys, love letter (or break-up letter!) style. The following winning letters were chosen by the members of the brilliant Association affiliated society, Write Club.

My dear survey,

There comes a time in every life when it is time to move on. It is not that I still don’t have feelings for you, you will always be dear to my heart, but we have grown apart in the last few months. I look on now as you make your way in the world, so proud, so confident and so respected. Where once I was your parent, now I am just another onlooker as others guide you forwards.

But I remember you from the start. That tiny little thing, just an idea but with so much promise. You were a popular child, everyone looking forward to see how you would grow. There were the usual traumas, the sleepless nights as I wondered whether I was doing the right thing, the times you just wouldn’t come right but always that glimmer of hope on the horizon. Oh you had such promise.

And then I had to part with you. Not for good, but in every life a parent has to let go, to let the child develop and so you did. Others now had a role, your schooling as it were. The rough edges were smoothed, the ambiguities you were always so worried about removed, the mock exams that showed just how good you were and then the great day when you left the confines of home and went out to the world. And how they loved you. Yes, I got the plaudits for seeing through your childhood but I knew that I had only played a small part and that you were the product of many carers but that didn’t matter. You were my baby and seeing you all grown up made me realise how much you had meant to me.

Then came the hardest time. The time to let you go. We went our separate ways. But I still looked out for you. Still felt that warm glow as you were mentioned. We may not be as close as we once were but you will always be mine and, I hope, you will always remember me.

Your dearest parent

Peter Cowan
Dear Surveys,

It's not me it's you... well, that's a lie. It's you. Definitely and undeniably you. I tried to make it work, but your endless stream of constant and unrelenting questions became too much to bear!

And not just that! Your inability to accept any answer, or answer any question come to think of with a simple yes no answer has driven me to the brink of insanity. Only last week when trying to make plans for the evening, and I asked if you wanted to go to the cinema? And you answered 5! What is that? What kind of answer is 5? According to the "handy note" you insisted I carry around with me that means "neither agree nor disagree" ... what is that? Why not use maybe? But noooo ... its always 5. Or 8. Or 2. It's maddening.

This added on to the fact that every time I lean in for a kiss you ask me to verify that I'm not a robot by shouting out a garbled mess of words, letters and numbers and insisting I repeat them has become too much of an embarrassment.

So I bid you adieu Surveys. I hope you find someone able to tolerate your strange ways, but that is not me and you'll never hear from me again. Yes I'm sure. Yes I'm sure.... how many more times do I need to confirm I want to leave before you understand I don't care about losing my progress in the relationship Survey?

Goodbye.

Ps; your emails are marked as spam now, I'm sure you'll have someone else hooked on to your madness with the promise of a free £5 gift card before you've even finished reading this email, but nevertheless - you won't be hearing from me again.
Samuel Blayen

Dear survey,

Please leave me alone. We both know this is not going to work.

You keep reminding me time and time again to spend time with you, but when I do I always end up disappointed and feeling I lost valuable time in my life.

Your questions are generic and I never seem to satisfy with your multiple choice options from 1-10 or completely agree to completely disagree. Let’s face it we just are not meant to be together. Our worlds are too different.

So please stop sending me reminders, if you continue I will have to block your mailing address, if you change it I will block you again. Enough is enough.

Don’t tell me my responses are important to you and you appreciate my time, I know it is all hollow predefined statements and they have no meaning to me anymore.

Let’s move on in our own directions.

Samuel

Brigitta Burai

My dearest Love,

When we first met I felt this has to be true love. For the first impression you were all so exciting and curious, but relaxed at once. I wanted to hear all your questions, and answer them all... honestly, straight from my heart.

When you first stopped asking and said goodbye, I was waiting for the next time you appear to continue with new, interesting queries. You were soaking up my words, just like the warm, freshly baked bread absorbs the melting vegan butter. It is always delightful to see you and give you all of me.

Now I’m missing you loads. I haven’t seen you for so long. I was wondering if you ran out of thoughts, or thinking to step forward... or maybe you don’t want to know my top secret ideas anymore?! But listen, I still want you! I promise I tell you all about me and more. I know I’ve been a bit shy and hesitated to say... but I want you to know, I LOVE YOU, too. I love you to your last question mark. I was afraid to tell you, not to scare you away. You always ask the right question, and you patiently let me to tell what I truly think. You are a great listener.

I’m looking forward to read your mysterious words again, seeing you brightens my days. Meet you tomorrow at the entrance of the garden. I’ll be sitting on our bench with my laptop waiting for your email to complete your next survey!

Lots of love,

B
xoxo

Fancy winning a prize?

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more chances to get creative and bag yourself some lovely goodies from our student shop!
Getting creative

OU students really are a talented bunch!

Life of an OU student

I am sitting quietly working at my desk,
looking at the TMA thinking what I will write
next.

Then a little thought comes into my head,
I think it’ll be fine if I take time to play
Liberators instead.

I play that for an hour or two and then get back
to the course,
shamefully the next distraction is a picture of a
horse.

It's teeth are showing he seems to be laughing,
oh wait I’m feeling glum,
I really need to concentrate if I’m to get this
TMA done.

I manage 20 minutes, half an hour at the most,
and guess what comes into my mind, I want a
piece of toast.

My toast was so delicious, but how could this be,
I’ve hardly got any work done and now it's half
past three.

The kids come in and scream and shout with
issue from work to boys,
one of them is running round destroying all his
toys.

“CAN’T YOU SEE I’M TRYING TO WORK, WHY
CAN’T YOU THINK OF ME?”
“We’re very sorry father, now what will we have
for tea?”

So tea is made and all do eat with their orange
in a cup.
“Now would you all come to help and do the
washing up?”

What a joke I should have known, they all ran
out to play.
Yet again the washing up will be done by me
today.

Night time comes and all is dark, the kids are off
in bed.
I should do some work now, but I watch TV
instead.

I wake up a few hours later with a snort and a
cough.
I guess I better go to bed, I switch the TV off.
Maybe tomorrow I will get to spend my day,
without procrastination so I can finish that TMA.

James Collier

Moondream

Stare across the wasteland
With shadows in your eyes
Waiting for the dawn to come
And light the distant skies
Who will hear her now
Hear her when she calls
Who’ll be waiting there
To catch her if she falls

And the moondream waits
Dancing shadowlight
Try to catch the flame
Dancing through the night

In a touch the image breaks
Shards of silver light
Ghost of distant memories
And dreams in furied flight
Follow me to where
the ocean meets the sky
Give me wings and I
Will show you how to fly

And the moondream waits
Dancing shadowlight
Try to catch the flame
Dancing through the night

Cheryl Wood
JOINING OR STARTING A SOCIETY IS A GREAT WAY TO MEET OTHER OU STUDENTS, HAVE FUN AND ENRICH YOUR OU STUDY. WE HAVE SO MANY DIVERSE SOCIETIES THAT YOU’LL WANT TO JOIN A FEW! AND, IF YOU CAN’T FIND ONE THAT INTERESTS YOU, MAYBE YOU COULD SET UP A NEW ONE?

SOME SOCIETIES ARE LINKED TO SPECIFIC OU COURSES AND SOME ARE BASED ON A SPECIFIC INTEREST OR HOBBY. ALL WERE STARTED BY SMALL GROUPS OF ENTHUSIASTS WANTING TO SHARE THEIR PASSION WITH OTHERS. THE MAJORITY OF SOCIETIES OFFER MEMBERSHIP NOT JUST TO STUDENTS BUT ALSO TO FRIENDS AND FAMILIES ENSURING A REAL CROSS SECTION OF MEMBERS.

SOME OF THE LARGER, MORE ESTABLISHED SOCIETIES ORGANISE REGULAR MEETINGS, REVISION WEEKENDS, CONFERENCES, OUTINGS AND EVENTS; OTHERS MIGHT HAVE MODEST NUMBERS RELYING ON NEWSLETTERS IN ORDER TO THRIVE. ALL SOCIETIES NEED SUPPORT FROM THEIR FELLOW OU STUDENTS.

WE ASKED THE SOCIETIES THEMSELVES TO LET US KNOW WHAT THEY GET UP TO AND WHAT THEY HAVE PLANNED FOR FUTURE EVENTS, THERE’S A LOT GOING ON!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OR FORM A SOCIETY OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE GET IN TOUCH BY EMAILING ousa-societies@open.ac.uk

OUR WONDERFUL GROUPS, THE DISABLED STUDENTS GROUP AND PLEXUS, PROVIDE HELP, SUPPORT AND A SAFE COMMUNITY FOR STUDENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS DISABLED OR LGBT+ RESPECTIVELY.

Find your tribe, have fun and enrich your study...

www.open.ac.uk/ousa/societies

Affiliated and Emerging Societies
- Ballet & Opera Society
- Central Regions Arts Club
- Change Ringers Society
- Dr Turing Society
- Engineering For Humanity
- Entrepreneurs Society
- Fusion (Physics) Society
- History Society
- Law Society
- M500
- Mountaineering Society
- Music Society
- OU Alchemy
- OU Poets
- OUDES (Development & Environment)
- Psychological Society
- Robotics Club
- Shakespeare Society
- Society of the OU Philosophers
- Students for Ethical Science
- Tadpoles Society
- Write Club

Groups
- Disabled Students Group
- PLEXUS
The group, which is an open and supportive network of OU students, alumni and staff exists to:

- Provide a safe space for student to student support
- Raise awareness through educational campaigns
- Represent the LGBT+ voice
- On issues affecting OU students
- Not to mention, having some fun along the way!

The group were spurred into action after meeting together at the Association’s Conference in Milton Keynes in June, and the team’s hard work led by Graham Rimmer (Chair of PLEXUS) and supported by Peter Cowan (your Vice President Administration) has paid off. The PLEXUS constitution was officially signed by Peter and Graham this weekend at the Central Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, 28 January 2017. Graham said: “We are thrilled to be affiliated to the Students Association and very grateful for the support we have received to get here. Now we are looking forward to the next steps in the PLEXUS journey, and we would love to hear from you if you want to get involved!” Peter was equally happy, adding: “This is a really positive moment for the Association, and it’s fantastic to have been involved in making it happen. I wish PLEXUS the very best of luck.”

Want to get involved?
Visit the PLEXUS website, and join as a member; gaining access to exclusive material such as their newsletter SOLAR. Join the discussion on Facebook in the Group or visit the page (both open to non-members) or Twitter. There’s also the forum – you’ll get the link once you become a member – A safe space for PLEXUS members to chat or ask questions. You’ll also receive our Book Club reading list.

www.ouplexus.co.uk

Change Ringers
We held our annual AGM during a cold damp day in November in the area of Coventry. Committee and last year’s minutes successfully accepted and re-elected. Towers visited included 10, 8, 6 and 5 bells with some very light to the very heavy. The day closed with excellent and very enjoyable ringing at Coventry Cathedral on all 12 bells. Ringing throughout the day ranged from call changes to Erin; what a joy and pleasure to be able to ring such magnificent bells in many towers and to culminate this at the cathedral. The society really displayed its true ability to include ringers from all areas and with all abilities.

We have a busy year ahead, June we meet in London, towers to be announced but will include a tour of the bells in St Pauls Cathedral.

Why join us?
As you can see, we meet in many areas, we are friendly, sociable and care about our ringers. We have abilities of all levels, ring in a variety of bell towers and always meet for lunch too. We have a joining fee of £10.00 for the year, we encourage the tradition and art of change ringing and promote the OU. Anyone can join that has a link with the OU and can ring bells to the standard of call changes.

Odette Dawkins
www.opuscr.org.uk

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘Draw up a study timetable. And be kind to yourself’
The OU Music Society

The OU Music Society (OUMS) combines its annual AGM with a visit to somewhere with a music collection or association.

Recent years have seen visits to Winchester, Salisbury, Oxford (looking at instruments in the Pitt Rivers and Ashmolean Museums) and most recently at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. We were lucky to be there at the same time as a special exhibition on Theatre and Performance which housed a number of fascinating artefacts. We saw the original Minnie the Magic Piano (which made everyone who heard it dance) from the 1954 musical Salad Days...

There was also a dressing-up corner in which some of us indulged. The lighting model for the 1998 stage set of Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street (Stephen Sondheim 1979) was fascinating. It was interactive and allowed visitors to press pre-set buttons to light up different parts of the stage, leaving the remainder in shadow so that with one lighting combination it was a street scene and with another it might be an interior set.

There is an interesting collection of musical instruments in the V&A, including keyboard and stringed western instruments as well as some from other parts of the world: one case held Indian instruments for example, but these are not housed together in a music gallery. They have been split into various period or country/cultural galleries so they become quite exciting “finds,” and it is pleasant to be able to look at these with like-minded fellow-enthusiasts.

Enquiries about membership (which includes three journals per year and a members’ list so that you can make contact with other local members if you wish) should be made to Linda Brown. You do not have to have studied music with the OU to join.

Anne Passmore
OUMS Journal Editor

Wanted: OU Students!

I am a student with the Open University, studying this term with T219. I am looking to organise a trip to a waste recycling plant in Birmingham (if there are enough students interested).

I will need a group of at least ten in order to make this possible.

Please email me for further information:
Trevor
trevcu@gmail.com

University staff have signed up to support #Oudivest – the campaign asking the OU to stop investing in dirty fossil fuels. The staff have signed a faculty and support staff declaration, to show their support for the campaign. The signatories want the university to divest from fossil fuels within 5 years and to commit to an ethical divestment policy.

To find out more or sign the student petition search ‘#Oudivest’
They mean business!

New OU Business Associate Society is looking for members...

Are you a business management student?
Are you an OU student interested in working in business? Are you an OU student already working in business?

This will be a place to discuss all things Business related; if you are an OU student interested in meeting other students through this new society please come and join us... You can come and chat to us through our OUBAS Facebook Group or come and find us in our new OU Business Associate Society Forum.

All ideas, tips and support welcomed!!
Email us for more information.

Calling all gamers!

From fans of old games to the new, the Open University Video Games Society is looking for new players...

The Open University Video Games Society is a new society open to anyone in the OU community who wants to meet others who share their love of the wonderful world of computer and video games.

We believe that video games can and should be a social pursuit, and are creating an inclusive and friendly society where anyone associated with the OU can meet new friends to play with online or in person. We support all platforms and types of electronic gaming from the old to the new, from computers of all shapes and sizes to consoles of all vintages.

As an emerging society seeking affiliation

with the OU Students Association, we need members! Currently membership is completely free of charge and we encourage anyone with an interest in gaming to sign up. No matter what your skill level or what you like playing, everyone is welcome.

Please email to get involved!

James Brerley

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘If you want me, I shall be hidden away in my study...reason? TMA!’
It’s hard to believe that Write Club is only 18 months old! The Write Club committee look to the future…
Write Club the OU Creative Writing Society for all past and present OU students and staff is turning two.

This February we hit our second birthday and to celebrate we are asking all members to tell us what they would like to do to celebrate this massive achievement. We want to know what you would like to see more of, what you want less of, and what we could do to engage you more.

What Write Club are looking to do this year is get together a great bunch of stories, poems and the like from our members and are looking at the possibility of publishing the best of these in an anthology. There are a lot of hoops to jump through to get this working, but the committee do believe that with the right support and guidance this can be something that we manage to get off the ground successfully.

Another thing we were looking at was the idea that we run monthly deadlines for stories and poems, kind of like a ‘Short Story a Month’ where we give you a prompt and a deadline, this will come along with normal submissions guidance such as word/line counts, formatting instructions, etc. From these pieces we could potentially find the best pieces for the anthology that we are looking to get started on.

We are also working some collaborations with the OU Students Association, we will be judging their ‘Love Letters’ competition for them, using the same criteria that we apply to our own Halloween competition, and we will be helping them to find a new columnist for the OU Students Association magazine, we will promote more about that when we have the full details.

We want to look into the possibility of arranging some face-to-face meet-ups across the country, so will be looking for volunteers to help us take that idea forward.

And finally we are looking at the possibility of expanding the current committee team, so if any of you want to get more involved in the running of Write Club, please let us know, either in our group or forums or by email to WriteClub@gmx.co.uk.

But most of all, I want to wish each and every one of our members my undying thanks for being a part of what makes us so great, Write Club is all about the members, and without their engagement we would never have gotten off the ground, let alone be here celebrating turning two!!

Thank you all for being part of this.

The Write Club Committee

OU student life can be tough and if it all gets a bit too much, don’t forget Nightline is there for all OU students wherever they are. Student volunteers are on the hotlines from 6pm each evening waiting to take calls. No topic is off bounds and they’ll listen as long as you need.

It could really help to talk your problems through, whatever they’re about and however difficult they feel right now.

Hundreds of OU students have already made that call so you’ll be in good company.

Call: 020 7631 0101
Instant message (Skype): chat.nightline
Skype Phone: londonnightline
Text: 07717 989 900
You can email the team at any time on: listening@nightline.org.uk

Need to talk?
Hello, for those who do not know me, my name is Graham Rimmer and I am the current Chair of PLEXUS the OU Students Association’s new group for LGBT+ students and allies of the LGBT+ Community. PLEXUS was formally affiliated to the Association on Saturday, 28 January by Peter Cowan, our VP Administration, signing our constitution.

So what is affiliation and what does it mean? Affiliation is the formal process of a society or group becoming recognised by the Association. Yes there is a financial benefit – especially if you are developing society but affiliation allows you to become members of the Societies Committee, sharing ideas with other societies as well as having a closed forum within the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Affiliation also demonstrates that your society, via a constitution, has good governance and structure supporting the membership and beyond.

Does all of this sound a little scary and off putting? To be honest, when the founding members and I first thought about the process we wanted to run and hide. We’re so glad that we didn’t. The friendly staff in the Students Association office in Milton Keynes were on hand to provide support and guidance. We found this support invaluable as the knowledge the team hold regarding the dos and don’ts in preparing a constitution is second to none! I do recommend you looking at the support document which provides you with information on setting up your society and there is even a model constitution – PLEASE USE IT!

How are you supported through the affiliation process? Well as I have already mentioned the Student Community staff team in Milton Keynes are really friendly and they want to ensure you are affiliated just as much as you! Take a look at the model constitution and change it – should you wish to do so – to fit the needs of your society. The team will then review the constitution and send this to the Vice President Administration for feedback. You may find your constitution going through a couple of drafts until it is right and then you’ll become formally affiliated. For PLEXUS, the whole process lasted six months, due to some additional specific requirements to suit our needs. We had to seek approval from the Central Executive Committee (our elected representatives) to gain clarity with the bye-laws.

When our constitution was ratified I was lucky enough to be there at the signing and we recorded a short video – which you can view on the PLEXUS Facebook Page - it was a rewarding moment demonstrating the culmination of the hard work that had gone into seeking affiliation with the Association.

Following this we were able to formally welcome our first Honorary Life Member – Jess Smith in recognition of their commitment to PLEXUS.

If you are thinking about creating a society or group please do get in touch with the staff team.

Graham Rimmer
Chair of PLEXUS
We'd like to ask if people are interested in helping to get the OU Students for Ethical Science Society (SES) going again.

SES was formed in 1992 by students who were opposed to the OU harming animals in experiments. We campaigned peacefully for the experiments to be stopped, and shared information on how to study and work in science without harming animals.

At the moment, as a society we are barely managing apart from maintaining our website except maintaining our website with various information. The small group of people who've been running SES have all been struggling with health and other problems, so currently we can only manage to do the minimum necessary to keep the society officially open. If people are interested in taking part, we'd like to get it going again.

There are many ways you could take part such as editing the newsletter or just writing an article for it. If you're interested in doing something, or if you just want to share your views by joining as a member (the more members, the stronger our voice), then please get in touch.

You may have concerns about the suffering of animals resulting from their use in education and research. If you are be interested in studying Life Sciences, but worried about causing harm to animals through your studies, please do not be put off. You can study for Life Sciences qualifications at the Open University without causing harm to animals. However, the OU still uses many animals in its research projects every year.

As a society affiliated to the Students Association, we aim to persuade the OU peacefully to replace its harmful use of animals in Life Sciences with academically equivalent or superior non-harmful alternatives. We have been instrumental in bringing about Association policy to support this aim, promote transparency in the University's animal use and enable students to opt-out of harmful animal experiments without compromising their academic progress.

Members can contact each other via our online forum, accessible from our website. We exchange information with organisations campaigning for humane science, such as the Dr Hadwen Trust, BUAV, InterNICHE and political parties.

We also provide information and support to students who wish to study Life Sciences without harming animals or who are interested in learning more about animal ethics issues. Please see the course choice information and advice on our website at www.ouses.org.uk.

Sadly, the Open University phasing out its residential school science modules is reducing the opportunity for hands-on practical work for undergraduate science students. But the good news is that students studying towards the new qualifications are able to study Life Sciences without their participation directly harming animals.

To find out more and how to join us please visit the Ethical Science forum on the Virtual Learning Environment, our website or email us.
You asked, we answered. Our brand new pink varsity hoodie will be available soon!

www.oustudentsshop.com
Reporting back...

The Central Executive Committee have been a busy bunch!

At the end of January, the Officer Team alone had attended over 136 meetings, representing the views of students across the University.

Download full versions of the Officer reports here.

In this edition of the mag, we’re going to take a look into the world of our Area Association Representatives (AARs) and Faculty Association Representatives (FARs). Here is a selection of summaries from their reports.

Area Association Representatives...

In England...
In only 6 months Anca Seaton, Sarah Couling and Victoria Crawford have helped oversee 42 social events across England! Anca, Sarah and Victoria have played a key role in supporting student volunteers looking to organise social meet-ups as part of ‘The Big Meet Up’ that took place on 25th February. See page 11 for all the details.

They’ve also been involved in the Grassroots Working Group, looking at the future of the regional structures of the Association, and initiatives ranging from the Association’s Social Media Guidelines to Freshers.

In Wales...
Claire Smith has been busy connecting with the student community on Facebook and Twitter. The Wales Facebook group continues to grow and there are now over 900 students on both spaces! Claire’s also met with Simon Horrocks, Assistant Director (Development, Learning and Teaching) at the OU in Wales as part of a project to engage with enquirers and newly registered students on social media.

In November, Claire attended the Higher Education Funding Council Wales (HEFCW) Student Opportunity and Achievement Committee. This committee advises the Council on all matters relating to student opportunity and achievement in higher education, including Welsh Medium, Initial Teacher Training, widening access, equality and diversity, and skills and employability, with the aim of ensuring that Welsh higher education meets the needs and expectations of learners.

Claire has been hosting monthly meet-ups in Central Cardiff. This year they’ve been meeting in a new venue – Weatherspoons – just a short distance from the OU in Wales, so those attending tutorials are invited to pop in afterwards!

In Scotland...
Patricia Gray and the Scottish Assembly held face-to-face and online meetings to discuss a ‘Festival of OU Community life’ event, which is being planned for the 30th September in Edinburgh. For further details please contact: patricia.gray@open.ac.uk

As part of her planning, Patricia has been on several visits to venues, as well as exploring possible promotional activities with the office. Patricia has also coordinated the Edinburgh Degree Ceremony, working with 5 good helpers. Patricia says “at the end of a very busy day, everyone was tired but had enjoyed the experience.”

In Northern Ireland...
Cinnomen McGuigan has been in active contact with the other two members of the Northern
Ireland Assembly, discussing potential meeting dates and also the prospect of co-opting a few people to the Exec in order to bolster the team. Two social events have already taken place in Belfast and more are in the pipeline!

Cinnomen is just about to exceed 200 followers on her Twitter profile, where she engages with staff and students on a daily basis. The Association’s Northern Ireland Facebook page also continues to grow with more than 360 members!

Cinnomen has been speaking to numerous people about the All Party Group for Students that was set up in Northern Ireland in October, which resulted in Cinnomen being approached by NUS:USI to get involved in their ‘Owning Our Future’ campaign. As an elected rep, Cinnomen has been asked to give her input on the topics such as Legislation to protect students unions; Higher and Further Education funding; and Student Mental Health and Wellbeing.

In Continental Europe...
Amelia Gackowska has been busy organising monthly OU Live chats as a social activity for students in Europe, as well as being active on Twitter and Facebook.

Amelia has also participated in the grassroots project working, and as a member of the University Students Consultative Forum, she has also represented the overseas perspective on topics such as referencing, accessibility, and uniqueness.

Faculty Association Representatives...

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)...
Cath Brown attended the Associate Lecturer (AL) Assembly, which was an excellent opportunity to build the working relationship and get a good perspective on issues affecting both students and ALs.

As a representative on the OU group doing the Academic Review of Group Tuition Policy, Cath has attended one face-to-face meeting so far, commented on the papers and will be attending the next three meetings. Cath has also had meetings with four members of OU staff later this month to discuss what can be done to help students prepare for modules in advance.

Cath has also been busy working with the newly recruited Learning Experience Reporters via the Learning Experience Networking Zone (LENZ) and elsewhere to provide feedback to module teams and to support students having specific issues.

Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS)...
Jan Thomson attended the first WELS Faculty Assembly in November, as well as four further meetings in January and February covering the different Boards of Study.

Jan has also played an active role in promoting the Learning Experience Networking Zone (LENZ) forums to WELS students. To encourage more students to sign up a new advert has been put together and this will be distributed at Student Consultative meetings, during Student Voice Week and put in to Local Community packs.

Want to read more?

Full copies of their reports can be downloaded here:
Reports of the Area Association Representatives
Reports of the Faculty Association Representatives
LinkedIn

The OU Careers team suggest giving the platform a go!

44% of students are not using LinkedIn. Wondering why you should join? Here’s why...

An online professional network at your fingertips
You can learn career paths, explore and build connections, join groups, search for opportunities and promote yourself!

LinkedIn is a professional networking site which allows you to research and invite professionals **OU alumni** to connect with you. You can join groups to follow conversations and discussions, follow companies for recent updates and search for live vacancies.

**Learn about interesting career roles and paths**
• Find out and learn about career paths in sectors of interest
• Explore an individual’s current job role and learn about their previous job roles too
• Find out examples of job titles
• Who is this professional connected to?
• What is their skill set?

**LinkedIn has over 3 million job listings (worldwide), ensure to incorporate LinkedIn in your job seeking strategy**
• Search for live job vacancies and volunteering opportunities
• Some jobs allow you to apply using your LinkedIn profile and others will direct you to company websites

**Build connections, build relationships**
Building a group of connections that’s related to your future career aims and establishing meaningful interactions may take time. It’s all about nurturing relationships. This network can be really valuable to your career as it can expose you to your connection’s network, learn about an individual’s career trajectory, ask connections for careers advice and learn which organisations could be your future employers.

**Who to connect with?**
LinkedIn connections could be your fellow OU students, OU alumni, previous managers and colleagues, and individuals that you meet at professional events and job fairs.

**When should you create a LinkedIn account?**
Create an account early on in your OU studies, this can help you to research career paths of alumni, to learn about companies and engage in group discussions to enhance your career prospects.

56% of students are using LinkedIn. Are you wondering what you can do to maximise LinkedIn for career purposes?
Have you created a LinkedIn account but its gathering electronic dust? Then here are some additional activities you can engage in:
Did you know we have a number of **Careers webinars** that can help you to hone and tailor your LinkedIn activity?
A recent three-part lunchtime LinkedIn webinar series on **Your Profile, Your Connections and Groups and Companies**
Want some advice and support from LinkedIn Account Director Mike Foster-Turner? Watch the recorded webinar on ‘**How to use LinkedIn to impact your career**’ for specific advice on building a strong profile and utilising LinkedIn for networking and knowledge-building perspective.

**OU Careers LinkedIn group**
The Open University Careers Network (TouCan). We have a LinkedIn group dedicated to OU students and alumni.
Join us so that you can:
• hear careers advice and latest news, and engage in topical issues and content related to OU study and careers
• pose your career-related questions in a safe environment
• help answer questions
• share your thoughts and ideas

Looking for more advice and support?
Click here for our **Careers website**, or for individual help ask for a **careers consultation**
You may have noticed a lot of discussion recently about the National Student Survey (NSS). Eligible students (those nearing the completion of their undergraduate qualification) are invited to take part in the annual survey and share your thoughts on the student experience at the Open University. This is just one example of student voice in action, students sharing their thoughts on the issues that matter to them most.

Later this month the OU Students Association will be launching our first ever Student Voice Week, this is the first week of its kind in the Open University and an opportunity to show how much we value what students have to say about what we do and the issues that matter to students the most.

Your feedback informs what we do in the Students Association.

Because student feedback matters all year round, not just at the end of your studies, student representatives share feedback and concerns with decision makers at the University, enabling the University to make more informed decisions about the issues that affect students.

We know (because you have told us) that the Students Association has a vital role in helping students to connect with each other. Our Student Community team recently held the Big Feb Meet Up, across the UK from Ballymena to Brighton students met with each other in pubs, coffee shops and local libraries. Hopefully you caught some of the buzz online or managed to attend a face to face meet up but if not don’t worry as students are holding meet ups all year round and these are advertised on our website.

Earlier this year we launched the Grassroots community survey so that students could tell us more about what they think the OU Student Community should be like. Look out for the results of the survey during Student Voice Week, when we can continue the conversation about what matters to you most.

Student Voice Week will culminate in a live STUDIO broadcast on Friday, March 17 so why not add the date to your diary to take part in a conversation with representatives and university staff on all things student voice!

Nicola Simpson
Acting President of the OU Students Association

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Association of Open University Graduates launches Associate Membership...

Membership will now be available to all students who have signed for a degree course or those who’ve already attained degree level but have not yet claimed their degree.

Find out more here.

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Want to write for OUstudents Magazine?

If you would like to share your story, we’d love to hear from you!

Get in touch by emailing: oustudents-magazine@open.ac.uk

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Sign-up to our mailing list

To receive information about the Students Association, be the first to hear about up and coming events, chances to come to campus and to get your opinions heard, just click here:

oustudents.com/Hear-More