

Annual Membership Survey

At the OU Students Association, we are committed to providing you the best support we can during your OU journey. You are invited to share your thoughts on key areas of our work via the Annual Membership Survey, and to enter our prize draw where prizes include a laptop, tablets and shopping vouchers!

The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete and all responses will be completely anonymised with personal data only analysed as broad percentages. The information you share with us will be kept secure and will not be released to any third party.

Please note that the survey will remain open until 23:59 on Sunday 12 December. We hope you will take this opportunity to share your thoughts with us.

* Required

Click next to get started...

1. Responses to the survey will be dealt with confidentially and will be anonymised in any published reports. We only use your information, including survey results, for the purpose of our own research, to inform decision-making about the services and support we provide to you, our members. We will not pass on your individual results or your personal information to any third party.

To enrich our understanding of our membership, at the end of this survey, you will have a choice as to whether you wish to provide personal information about yourself, including sensitive personal data e.g. your ethnicity. Your decision will not affect your eligibility to take part in this survey or to enter our prize draw.

For entry to the prize draw, all we require is a valid email address in order for us to contact the winners. Winners will be asked to provide their Personal Identifier to confirm their student status. Email addresses will be deleted from our records once the prize draw has been completed and the winners verified.

This project is administered under the Open University Students Association's data protection policy. For more information about how we collect, use and protect your data, please visit <https://www.oustudents.com/data-protection> (<https://www.oustudents.com/data-protection>).

For more information about how we collect, use and protect your data, please see our Privacy Policy <https://www.oustudents.com/privacy-policy> (<https://www.oustudents.com/privacy-policy>). If you would like us to delete your response and your personal information at any time, or have any questions, please email oustudents-insights@open.ac.uk (<mailto:oustudents-insights@open.ac.uk>).

If you wish to be entered into the prize draw, you will be requested to enter a valid e-mail address at the end of the survey. Full terms and conditions of the prize draw can be found at <https://www.oustudents.com/annual-membership-terms-conditions> (<https://www.oustudents.com/annual-membership-terms-conditions>). *

- Please tick to confirm that you have read the terms and conditions set out above and you agree to proceed with this survey.

Firstly, tell us about your studies at the OU...

2. How long have you studied with The Open University? *

- Less than a year
- 1-3 years
- 4-6 years
- 7-9 years
- 10 years or more

3. What are you studying towards? *

Tick all that apply

- A Bachelors (BA or BSc Undergraduate)
- A Masters (MA or MSc Postgraduate Taught)
- Postgraduate research
- Access, Diploma or Certificate
- One-off module
- Apprenticeship
- None of the above

4. Which faculty are you currently studying with? *

Tick all that apply.

- Faculty of Business and Law (FBL)
- Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS)
- Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FASS)
- Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- I am studying an Open Qualification (QD or R28)
- Access modules
- Not sure

5. What motivated you to study with The Open University? *

Tick all that apply

- I want to change or develop my career
- I am studying for fun/personal interest
- I want to develop my skills
- I want to build on previous learning
- I am studying as part of an employer sponsored scheme
- Online distance learning was a preferable option due to the pandemic
- None of the above

6. Outside of your studies, what other demands do you have on your time? *

Tick all that apply

- I work full time
- I work part time
- I volunteer (with the Association or other organisations)
- I spend time socialising with family and friends
- I spend time enjoying my hobbies
- I have caring responsibilities (including childcare)
- I am focusing solely on higher education
- I do additional studies outside of The Open University
- None of the above

7. How did you hear about this survey? *

Tick all that apply

- A fellow student told me about it
- I heard about it from the Association newsletter
- I received the survey invitation e-mail
- I followed the links on social media
- I followed the links from the Association website
- I heard about it during an online event
- I read about it on The Hoot
- I heard about it during Student Voice Week
- My tutor told me about it
- I saw a post on the Student Home Bulletin Board
- I'm not sure

Tell us how aware you are of the Association...

The OU Students Association is run by students for students and enables you to influence how your University is run. An association is a lot like a student union - we aim to help you make the most of your time studying. Depending on what you're interested in, we can help you get in touch with other students, get involved, find information and news, get help, attend events and access services to support your learning.

8. Did you know that you automatically became a member of the OU Students Association when you registered to study with the OU? *

- Yes and I know what is available to me as a member
- Yes but I don't know what it available to me as a member
- No but I have heard of the OU Student Association
- I had not heard of the OU Students Association until today

9. If you were aware of the Association before today, please let us know how you found out about us? *

Tick all that apply

- I bought merchandise or exam papers from the OU Shop/signed up for a TOTUM card
- I visited the Association website
- I met a fellow student / Association Rep / Association Volunteer
- My tutor recommended the Association to me
- I attended an Association event (Freshers, Conference, local/virtual event or meet-up, Student Voice Week)
- I found you on social media
- I opened a link from an Open University email
- I joined an Association Club or Society
- I joined an Association Group
- I visited the Association Forums
- I have used the student charity OUSET
- I received an Association leaflet with my course material
- I applied for the University Challenge Team
- I used the Individual Representation service
- I did not know about the Association until today
- I'm not sure

10. What sort of services and activities do you think we offer to students?

Tell us about your initial perceptions, and what you think our organisation offers students.

Tell us how you communicate with the Association...

11. How frequently do you use the following spaces to connect with your student community? *

Please select your answer for each row.

	Once a week or more	Once a month	Rarely	Never	Not aware
Association forums	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Association online magazine / The Hoot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Our website - OUStudents.com (http://oustudents.com).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Societies or Clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Association e- mails/newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Association Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online events and meet-ups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Which of these platforms would you be likely to use to connect with fellow OU students? *

Please select your answer for each row.

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not at all likely	NA / Don't use this
Instagram	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facebook	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twitter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snapchat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reddit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tik Tok	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Association forums	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LinkedIn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Hub Live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
WhatsApp groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discord	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Association mobile app	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Please tell us more about why you chose the options above

We'd like to know why you prefer one source of communication over another. You can also use this text box to let us know any comments or suggestions you have about communicating with other students and the Association.

Tell us about your experience of our services and activities...

14. Here is a list of activities that the Association currently supports, what do you think about them? *

Please select your answer for each row.

	I've done this and would recommend it	I've done this but wouldn't recommend it	I'm aware of this and may take part in the future	I wasn't aware of this but may take part in the future	It's not for me
Online events, meet-ups and conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Face-to-face events, meet-ups and conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Freshers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Association Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Societies and Clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Voice Week	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Here is a list of services that the Association supports, what do you think about them? *

Please select your answer for each row.

	I've used this and would recommend it	I have used this but wouldn't recommend it	I'm aware of this and may use in the future	I was not aware of this but may use it in the future	It's not for me
Student support videos	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OUSET (Association's student support charity)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students Group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OU Pride	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disabled Students Group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Togetherall (mental health and wellbeing network)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer Support (OU students supporting students)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OU Students Shop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SHOUT (mental health texting service)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Did you know the Association launched an Individual representation service this year to support OU Students? *

The Individual representation service provides independent, free and confidential advice. The service is independent from the University and can provide 1-2-1 case support to students who have an existing and current complaint. The Student Advice and Representation Hub provides further information on the service and useful resources on complaints and appeals.

- I am aware and would use it in the future
- I am aware but unlikely to use it
- I was not aware but may use in the future
- It's not for me

17. What is the best time of day for you to engage with Association activities? *

Time slots are based on GMT

	Engage in online events	Meet with fellow students	This time doesn't work for me
Early bird - 5am-8am	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Morning coffee - 8am-11am	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lunchtime chat - 11am-2pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Afternoon tea - 2pm-5pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dinner time - 5pm-7pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Twilight chat - 7pm-10pm	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Night owl - 10pm-5am	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. What sort of student events do you want to attend? *

Please tick all that apply

- Events specific to study area
- Events specific to personal interest (e.g, creative writing, gardening, sports etc)
- Events for specific personal circumstances (e.g parents, carers, veterans etc)
- Consultations or focus groups on student issues
- Library events
- Careers advice and employability workshops
- Special events such as Pride Month, Black History Month, University Mental Health Day etc

Other

Tell us your thoughts on Association governance and democracy...

19. The Students Association is led by an elected student team (the Central Executive Committee) and a Board of Trustees (BoT). Please tell us your awareness level *

	I know who they are and what they do	I know of some members of the group, but not sure of their roles	I know they exist but not what they do	I don't know about this
Central Executive Committee (CEC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Board of Trustees (BoT)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. How likely are you to.... *

Please select your answer for each row.

	I will definitely do this	I am likely to do this	I'm not sure	I will not do this
Vote in the next Association student elections?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stand for a position in the next Association student elections?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Please tell us more about why you chose the options above

Use this text box to tell us what would motivate you to vote and/or stand for a position in the Association elections.

22. What would you like your elected student leaders to be doing to effectively represent your voice to the University?

For example, what areas of the student experience do you believe they should be focussing on improving for you?

23. Taking your student voice to the OU is part of what we do at the Students Association as we support you through your student journey. Please indicate your awareness of the following: *

Yes, I am aware

No, I am not aware

A key activity at the OU Students Association is to represent students' academic interests to the the University

The Association's Central Committee Representative (or CCR) role has been designed to give a voice to students' academic interests at university committees

All CCR volunteers are your fellow students

Any current OU student can apply to become a CCR

24. What does the term 'academic representation' mean to you?

Tell us your thoughts on Association volunteering...

25. What do you think about these volunteering opportunities? *

Please select your answer for each row.

	I do this/I have done this	This sounds interesting	I don't have time to volunteer for this	This doesn't appeal to me/is not feasible for me
Online volunteering (Association online meet-up host, micro-volunteering, forum moderator, club leads)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Digital Communications Volunteer (including broadcast related opportunities – podcast hosts and editors, vloggers and bloggers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
OU Student Shop Volunteer (including Graduation merchandise volunteers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic representation (including Central Committee Rep, Senate Reference Group member)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take part in campaigns to influence policy and political discussions in Westminster, the devolved governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and international governments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student support (including Library Support Volunteer and Peer Support Volunteer)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. What has or might motivate you to volunteer with the Association? *

Tick all that apply.

- To help the student community
- To 'give something back' to the Students Association
- To meet and socialise with fellow students
- To support fellow students with study
- To represent my fellow students
- To gain new skills
- To use my existing skills
- To add new experiences to my CV
- I'm not interested or able to volunteer at this time/I do not have time to spare

27. Please tell us more about why you chose the options above.

Please let us know about any activities or support that we can offer that would encourage you to volunteer.

We'd like to know what you think about the culture of the Association...

28. Let us know how you feel about the Association... *

Please select your answer for each row.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
I feel the Association contributes in a positive way to my student experience.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel well informed about the activities and opportunities provided by the Association and I know how to get involved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I find the Association events and spaces are friendly, caring and collaborative.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is easy to get in touch with the Association.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand how the Association works with the University.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. The next section seeks to understand the degree to which the Association is living each of its values. *

Here is how we describe the key terms:

INTEGRITY - We will stay true to our vision, we will uphold the founding mission of the Open University (Be open to people, places, methods and ideas) and we will maintain an independent and fair representation of the student voice

EQUALITY & INCLUSIVITY - We are committed to equality of opportunity for all in an inclusive and diverse student community that values, respects and celebrates difference

OPENNESS - We believe in open, transparent and accessible democratic structures that are led by students and welcome new people and new ideas

COLLABORATION - We seek to build inspirational relationships and partnerships based on mutual trust, respect and shared goals

KINDNESS & COMPASSION - We nurture a culture of compassion, support and inclusion. Practising positive intent and seeking to identify the best in each other.

Please select your answer for each row.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
The Association is living its value of INTEGRITY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Association is living its value of EQUALITY & INCLUSIVITY	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Association is living its value of OPENNESS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Association is living its value of COLLABORATION	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Association is living its value of KINDNESS & COMPASSION	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Please tell us more about why you selected the options above.

31. The Students Association is committed to progressing our work around Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) - we want to ensure that we offer all students the opportunity to engage with us and feel part of the student community. Please indicate if you would like to learn more about and/or engage with the Association around EDI-related activities. *

	Yes, I would be interested in this	Not sure, I would need more information	No, this is not for me
Learning more about the Association's campaigns on EDI issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Receiving regular updates through the Association website/Hoot magazine/newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participating in EDI-focused activities and events (such as attending talks/conferences, contributing to EDI research)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contributing content (such as writing an article for the Association website or magazine)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joining the Association's 'calls to action' as a volunteer (such as becoming an Association EDI champion, or joining EDI-related task and finish groups)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Are there any other ways in which you would like to be involved in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) work?

You can get in touch with our EDI and Student Welfare team at oustudents-support@open.ac.uk (<mailto:oustudents-support@open.ac.uk>).

Tell us about yourself...

33. Would you be happy to tell us a bit more about yourself? All personal data will only be analysed as broad percentages, and the information you share with us will not be released to any third party. *

Yes

No

34. Please select your age *

17 and under

18-21

22-25

26-35

36-45

46-55

56-65

66 and over

Prefer not to say

35. Please select your gender identity. *

Male

Female

Trans

Non-Binary

Prefer not to say

36. What is your location? *

- Prefer not to say
- England
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- European Union
- Rest of the world

37. As an overseas student, how would you like to get involved with the Association?

38. What is your ethnicity? *

- Prefer not to say
- White - British
- White - English
- White - Irish
- White - Scottish
- White - Welsh
- Irish Traveller
- Gypsy or Traveller
- Other White Background
- Black or Black British - Caribbean
- Black or Black British - African
- Other Black Background
- Asian or Asian British - Indian
- Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian or British Asian - Chinese
- Other Asian Background
- Arab
- Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed - White and Black African
- Mixed - White and Asian
- Other Mixed Background
- Other Ethnic Background

39. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? *

The Equality Act 2010, section 6, defines a person as having a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This effect must have lasted or is likely to last for at least 12 months, or for the rest of the life of the person.

- Yes (physical impairment)
- Yes (mental impairment)
- Yes, I am neuro-diverse
- No, I do not have a disability
- Prefer not to say

40. Do you identify as LGBT+? *

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

41. Do you consider yourself to be Care-Experienced? *

For example, do you have experience of being in foster care as a child

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

42. Are you an employee (including Associate Lecturer) of the Open University, the Students Association or any of their subsidiaries? *

Yes

No

Prize draw!

43. Please confirm if you would like to enter our amazing prize draw? *

A valid e-mail address is required and will be used only for contacting prize winners.

Yes

No

44. Please enter your e-mail address here to be entered into our amazing prize draw! *

Please double check that your address has been entered correctly.

Thank you for completing our survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete our Annual Membership Survey. If you would like to know more about the Association, please visit oustudents.com (<http://oustudents.com>). You can also subscribe to our monthly newsletter which is a great way to keep up to date with the latest goings on at the Association - oustudents.com/newsletter-1 (<http://oustudents.com/newsletter-1>).

Do keep an eye out for exciting events hosted by the Association and the wealth of support we have on offer for students. You can also get involved and browse our volunteering opportunities on our website.

If you are interested in learning more about the support available to you and getting involved in our EDI work, please visit www.oustudents.com/support (<http://www.oustudents.com/support>), or email oustudents-support@open.ac.uk (<mailto:oustudents-support@open.ac.uk>).

Thanks again for taking part!

Strategy & Insights Team

OU Students Association

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