

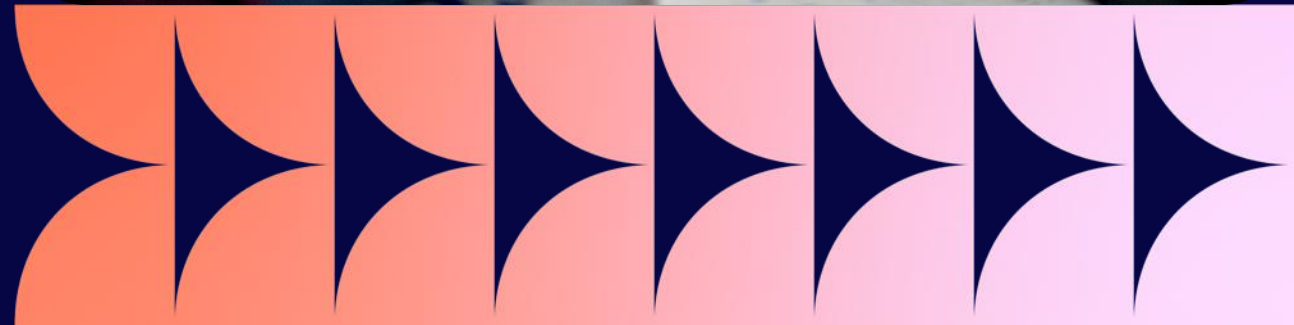
Schools and Education Engagement

The Open University in Scotland

Gemma Burnside & Carolyn Cooke

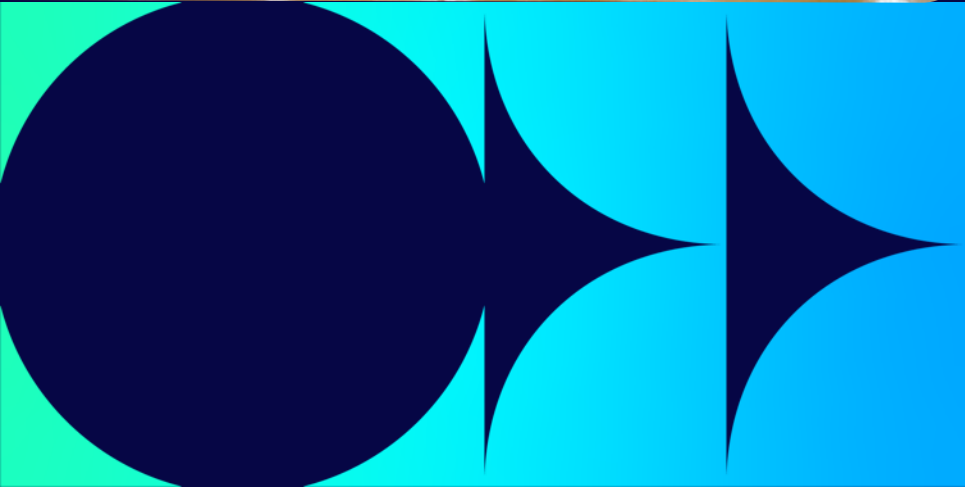
External Engagement & Partnerships
School of Education, Childhood & Youth Studies

15th February 2023



Contents

- 01 Early learning and childcare
- 02 Education support workers
- 03 Primary teachers
- 04 Secondary learners
- 05 Secondary teachers
- 06 Across the sector



Early learning and childcare practitioners

Our courses and qualifications are developed to challenge and disrupt everyday narratives and assumptions around children's capabilities and their experiences.



Early Learning and Childcare practitioners

Accredited courses

BA (Hons) degrees

[BA \(Honours\) Early Childhood](#)

[BA \(Honours\) Childhood and Youth Studies](#)

Masters in Education

[Masters Degree in Childhood and Youth](#)

[Masters Degree in Education.](#)

[Open Masters qualification](#)

All these offer certificate / diploma / degree outcome options and credit transfer.

Early learning and childcare free learning

Identifying and supporting additional support needs in early learning and childcare.

- › Free online module produced in collaboration with sector and Scottish Government.
- › Supports practitioners of all levels of experience and knowledge and in all ELC settings, **including classroom assistants and primary teachers working in P1/2.**
- › Embedded participant reflection
- › The course runs several times as year, with the next presentation in March 2023.
- › **Finalist in the Nursery World Awards 2022 in the Inclusive Practice category.**

Education support roles

We have a range of opportunities specifically aimed at those in educational support roles in all areas and settings of education.



Education support roles

Undergraduate level accredited courses

[BA \(Honours\) Education Studies \(Primary\) degree](#) programme, which has a high level of support staff enrolled, often working alongside their studies. Pathway for those without quals to access degree ready for teacher education applications.

[BA \(Honours\) Early Childhood degree](#) (working with children 0-7yrs)

Free learning

Free learning resources most relevant for school and early years support staff are collated in this [OpenLearn hub](#)



Childhood in the digital age

This free course, Childhood in the digital age, delves into the lives of children and discuss the potential benefits and...

[Learn more >](#)



Play, learning and the brain

This free course, Play, learning and the brain, examines the area of brain-based learning, with a particular focus on the...

[Learn more >](#)



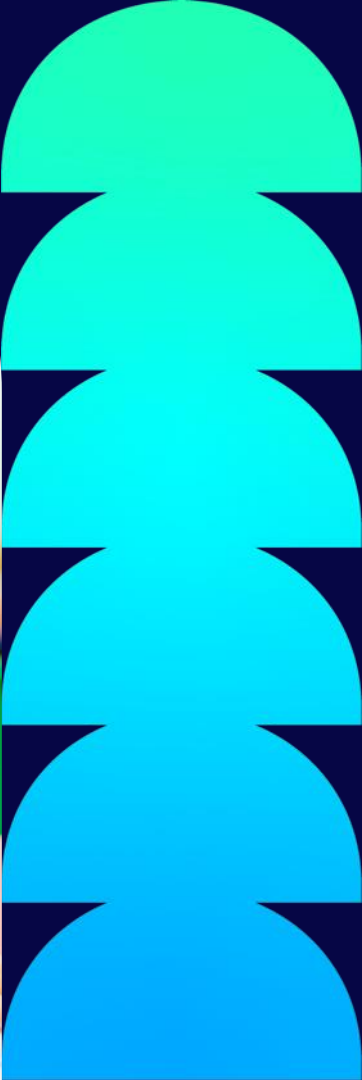
Understanding autism

Learn about autism, one of the most challenging long-term conditions of the century. This free course, Understanding...

[Learn more >](#)

Primary Teachers

We have a range of opportunities for all teachers working within primary schools.



Primary teachers and leadership roles

Masters Level Accredited courses

[Masters Degree in Childhood and Youth](#)

[Masters Degree in Education](#)

[Open Masters qualification](#)

All these offer certificate / diploma / degree outcome options and credit transfer.

Free learning

Free learning resources most relevant for primary teachers are collated in this [Openlearn hub](#).



Teaching mathematics

This free course, Teaching mathematics, has been designed for non-specialist mathematics teachers of 8 to 14 year olds...

[Learn more >](#)



How can you take your teaching online?

A number of schools and universities have closed to most pupils due to COVID-19, but how can you quickly move your...

[Read now >](#)



Childhood in the digital age

This free course, Childhood in the digital age, delves into the lives of children and discuss the potential benefits and...

[Learn more >](#)

Subject knowledge development and update

[Our website](#) has a range of accredited and free learning to support subject knowledge across the Curriculum for Excellence.



Expressive arts

Discover our Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences undergraduate and masters level qualifications, and our OpenLearn materials including music, dance and art.



Health and wellbeing

From our Embedding Mental Health in the Curriculum microcredential, to OpenLearn materials spanning nutrition and understanding autism, find out more.



Languages

Explore our School of Language and Applied Linguistics' modules, courses and qualifications, our TEachers Learning to Teach (TELT) languages programme, plus OpenLearn resources.



Mathematics

Learn more about our undergraduate and masters degrees, plus standalone modules, and our collection of mathematics and statistics materials on OpenLearn.



Religious and moral education

Our offering includes a Why Religion Matters microcredential, a Religion, Philosophy and Ethics degree which can be studied as standalone courses, and OpenLearn content.

Opportunities for primary teachers

Reading for Pleasure

Eight [OU and UK Literacy Association Teachers' Reading Groups](#) are running for primary and secondary teachers in Scotland, from the Highlands to South Lanarkshire. Research-informed, these free continued professional development groups are led by OU-trained volunteers and aim to nurture young people's reading for pleasure.

Accredited as a Professional Recognition Programme by the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

"The sessions provided me with an excellent insight and understanding into the importance of embedding and sustaining a reading for pleasure culture in school. Networking with teachers from other establishments was extremely worthwhile and a key component of the sessions."

Jill Queen

Netherburn Primary School – Teachers' Reading Group Leader

Professional Learning for primary school teachers

TEachers Learning to Teach languages (TELT)

- › Aims to increase and improve language provision in primary schools, help to harmonise the standards of language and pedagogical skills across Scotland and beyond, and establish a community of practice of primary teachers teaching languages across Scotland and beyond.
- › Teachers and their pupils have the chance to collaborate with peers in a different part of the UK through e-twinning.
- › Delivered in partnership by The Open University and Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT)
- › Accredited as a Professional Recognition Programme by the General Teaching Council for Scotland.
- › Open to all primary teachers and secondary teachers on secondment in primary.
- › Study can be self-funded or employer-sponsored.
- › Four languages available; French, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

Primary opportunities

Languages Explorer Programme

A collaborative project with the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire Council, SCILT and Aberdeenshire primary and secondary schools.

6 week languages mentoring programme – Aberdeen University languages students acting as mentors for selected S2 pupils.

Outcome of pupils continuing their language study into senior phase and beyond school.

In the longer term, there will be a volunteering opportunity for OU students to take part too.

Aim – to enhance awareness of languages and cultures, showing the role of languages in the world of work, and the skills learners develop alongside linguistic knowledge.

Secondary Learners

We have various opportunities for young people to engage with The Open University to enhance their learning.



Opportunities for Young People

Young Applicants in Schools Scheme (YASS)

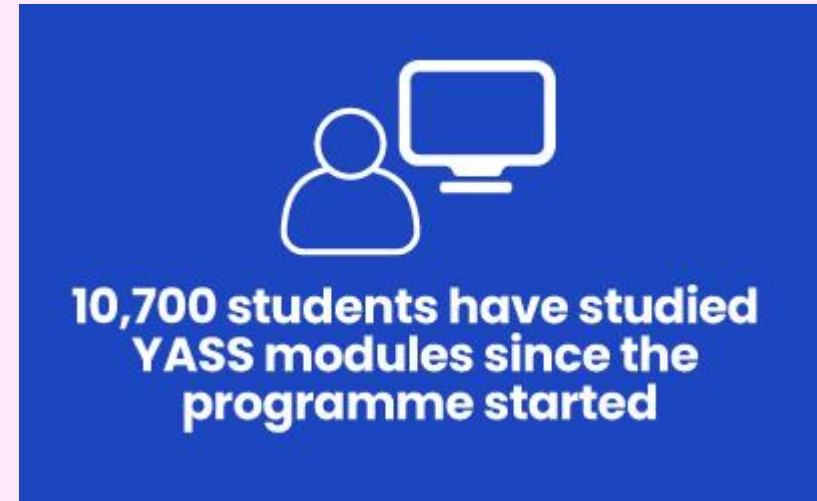
Designed to bridge the gap between school and university, college or employment.

Encourages independent learning and builds confidence in key study skills like time management and using a virtual learning environment.

YASS students study one level 1 (SCQF level 7) OU module. Subjects include Law, Maths, Social Sciences, Languages and Engineering plus more.

Registration for YASS is organised through the school, with students treated as usual OU students when it comes to work for their course and assessment.

Students earn credits for the module studied but these can't be used as part of a UCAS tariff. However, YASS results are tracked as part of Insight.



“It’s not something everybody can do and it’s a real achievement when you pass. It also means that I have experience of university level learning and experience of working by myself without help on-hand like in school.”

YASS student

Engagement with secondary schools

Mock COP27

Event held in November 2022 in Inverness with 11 secondary schools from across the Highlands and Moray.

Working in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce Inverness and Central Highlands and Highland One World, the OU in Scotland held the day-long set of mock negotiations with around 70 young people representing 11 countries, special interest groups or businesses in negotiations on climate change issues such as agriculture, funding for adaptation, the use of coal and zero emission vehicles.

Event was joined by a youth ambassador from COP27 itself in Egypt via video call and an OU academic in Environmental Studies gave his impressions of the importance of the issues raised at the Mock COP.



The Greenpeace team working on their negotiation strategy.

Secondary Teachers

We offer extensive professional learning opportunities for secondary school teachers.



Secondary teachers and leadership roles

Masters Level Accredited courses:

[Masters Degree in Education](#)

[Open Masters qualification](#)

All these offer certificate / diploma / degree outcome options and credit transfer.

Free learning:

[A range of accredited and free learning](#) to support subject knowledge across the Curriculum for Excellence.



Expressive arts

Discover our Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences undergraduate and masters level qualifications, and our OpenLearn materials including music, dance and art.



Health and wellbeing

From our Embedding Mental Health in the Curriculum microcredential, to OpenLearn materials spanning nutrition and understanding autism, find out more.



Languages

Explore our School of Language and Applied Linguistics' modules, courses and qualifications, our TEachers Learning to Teach (TELT) languages programme, plus OpenLearn resources.



Mathematics

Learn more about our undergraduate and masters degrees, plus standalone modules, and our collection of mathematics and statistics materials on OpenLearn.



Religious and moral education

Our offering includes a Why Religion Matters microcredential, a Religion, Philosophy and Ethics degree which can be studied as standalone courses, and OpenLearn content.

Subject specific pedagogy

Additional subject registration – Physics and Chemistry

- ▶ For anyone interested in adding an additional subject to their registration or looking to train as a teacher, our certificates in Physics and Chemistry could be a good option to help gain the academic requirements needed in these subjects.
- ▶ The Professional Certificate in Chemistry enhances knowledge of the main branches of chemistry and builds investigative and practical skills.
- ▶ The Certificate in Physics provides a wide-ranging introduction to physics and its applications, as well as introducing experimental physics. The certificate is endorsed by the Institute of Physics.
- ▶ Both certificates involve studying 90 credits at SCQF level 8 in the form of a 60 credit module and a 30 credit module.
- ▶ We would advise checking with GTCS guidance to make sure that either certificate will meet the requirements needed for intended career routes.

Opportunities for secondary schools

Cisco Networking Academy – supporting delivery of Computing in schools

- › Pilot programme offering schools chance to join the Cisco Networking Academy programme (NetAcad).
- › Teachers can train as Cisco instructors and access learning materials that support the curriculum for the National Progression Awards (NPAs) in Computer Networking and Cyber Security.
- › Learning materials on NetAcad have been directly mapped alongside NPAs to ensure maximal suitability. OU staff are on hand to support teachers as they learn through NetAcad and support their pupils to use materials.
- › The Open University Cisco Academy Support Centre (ASC) and Instructor Training Centre (ITC) is currently one of the biggest ASCs and ITCs in the UK.
- › Open collaboration with others to support community of 300+ educational organisations, offering resources, support and professional development.

Across the sector

Innovative courses plus support and partnerships opportunities for the education sector in Scotland, across learning, teaching and professional development.



Opportunities across the sector

Fully-funded Microcredentials

Microcredentials allow people to gain specialist knowledge and skills to help advance their career.

Courses last 10–12 weeks, in which time participants develop:

- cutting-edge knowledge in a specialised subject, informed by our world-class academics
- practical skills that can immediately apply to your work, or boost your CV
- undergraduate or postgraduate credit you could in the future use towards further study.
- Entirely online

Available Microcredentials include:

- › Developing Educational Leadership in Practice
- › Mental Health: Working with Children and Young People
- › Mentoring and Coaching in Professional Learning
- › Climate Change: Transforming your Organisation for Sustainability

Eligibility for applying for funding:

- Domiciled in Scotland
- UK citizen or legal right to live and work in the UK
- 18+ years of age
- Not in further or higher education when your funded course starts.

Opportunities across the sector – OpenLearn

OpenLearn Collections

OpenLearn is The Open University's free learning site, with hundreds of free resources, courses and materials available for anyone to use at any time.

We have specific collections of materials on OpenLearn created for:

[Primary Teachers](#)

[Support Staff](#)

Our [Subject Knowledge](#) page also breaks down resources available by subject area.

Our [Professional Learning page](#) has links to OpenLearn resources for **supporting practitioner enquiry** and **leadership of and for learning**.



Open Learning Champions

Bringing free online educational resources to communities across Scotland.

The Open Learning Champions project equips a wide network of people – from third sector organisations to colleges and libraries – with the knowledge and skills to use the OU's free learning resources to help learners in their communities.

Champions use resources such as OpenLearn and Open Pathways to Higher Education with learners and for their own professional development.



Supporting practitioner enquiry

- Experienced in supporting educationalists across the sector, in [practitioner enquiry](#).
- Embedded throughout all our accredited programmes, and many of our free learning offers too.
- Regularly offer practitioner workshops with EIS Union around reflective and enquiry approaches to different topics (inc. wellbeing of staff and managing change).
- NEW! An Appreciative Approach to Educational Inquiry – free course designed to start from what is working well as a source of enquiry for building positive sustainable change.

Topic or issue-based enquiry

Mental health, inclusion, and child development are among our [materials available on OpenLearn](#), supporting different and current topics of interest to all those involved in education.

We have an OpenLearn [collection for primary teachers](#) and [collection for support staff](#).

- ▶ Exploring equality and equity in education
- ▶ Looking globally: the future of education
- ▶ Take your teaching online
- ▶ Understanding autism
- ▶ Understanding dyslexia

Enquiry skills and approaches

- ▶ Becoming an ethical researcher
- ▶ Evaluating school classroom discussion
- ▶ Learning to teach: an introduction to classroom research
- ▶ Learning to teach: becoming a reflective practitioner
- ▶ Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in STEM
- ▶ Teachers sharing resources online
- ▶ What children and young people say

Leadership of and for learning

- ▶ Collective leadership
- ▶ Early years team work and leadership
- ▶ Exploring educational leadership
- ▶ Leadership and context
- ▶ Learning to teach: mentoring and tutoring student teachers
- ▶ The 'why' and 'what' of educational leadership and management
- ▶ Workplace learning with coaching and mentoring

Opportunities across the sector

Research

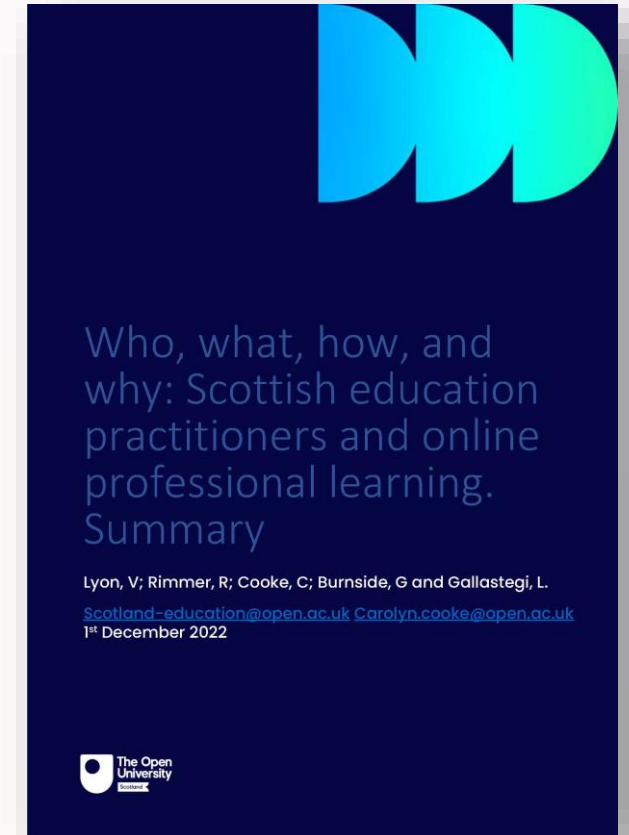
We have a vibrant academic community who are actively engaged in a broad range of collaborations, plus scholarship and research projects, furthering our understanding of the latest issues and challenges affecting education. We can enable flexible and cost-effective staff development within education.

Report: Professional online learning in Scottish education

This Open University project is exploring experiences and perceptions of online professional learning among education practitioners across Scotland to support their development and career goals.

More than 180 practitioners from across early learning and childcare to the colleges sector were surveyed online.

A subsequent report – [Who, what, how, and why: Scottish education practitioners and online professional learning \(.pdf\)](#) – is contributing to discussions with the education sector in Scotland and within the Open University about the ongoing role of online professional learning.



Thank you

Stay in touch

General enquiries:

Scotland-education@open.ac.uk

Gemma – Partnerships Manager

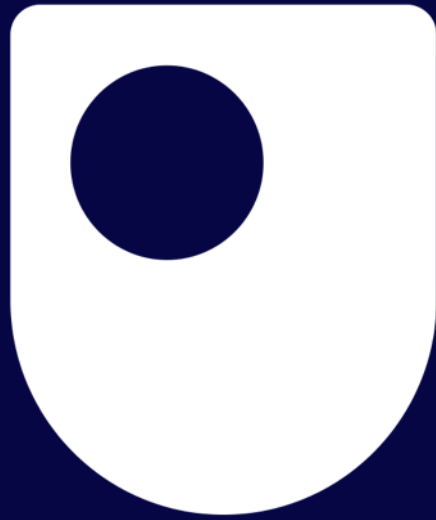
gemma.burnside@open.ac.uk

Carolyn – Lecturer

Carolyn.cooke@open.ac.uk

Keep up to date with the OU in
Scotland's education work

[Join our email list](#)



**The Open
University**

Scotland