

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND

Funded training opportunities - upskill or reskill with the Open University

Diane Cooper, Partnerships Manager



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Overview

- About the OU
- Supporting Employability - Skills for Work Portal
- Funded Upskilling Opportunities - Funded microcredentials
- Funded Training - FWDF

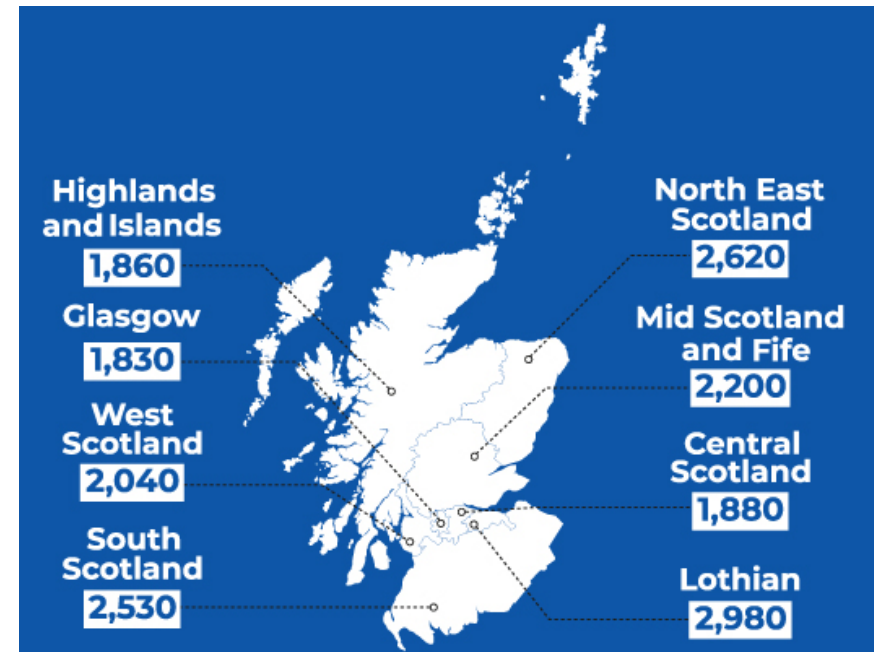


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The Open University in Scotland

- We are the most popular university in Scotland for flexible online learning
- We have over 18,000 students across the whole of Scotland
- Open to everyone, regardless of age, qualification and location
- We have a huge range of study options available, from free short courses to full degrees and qualifications



76%

**of our students are
in full-time or
part-time work**

24%

**of OU students in
Scotland declare
a disability**

72%

**of new undergraduates
earn less than £25,000**

For people who are resident in Scotland and have a personal income of **£25,000** a year or less, they could get their fees covered by a Part Time Fee Grant (PTFG).

PARTNERSHIP WORKING



The Open University is committed to providing accessible upskilling opportunities for individuals and businesses across the length and breadth of Scotland. Increased skills, employability, and productivity are vital to support people and the economic recovery.

Partnership working is an essential element to the skills work we do.

Throughout COVID-19, we have significantly increased our partnership working.

We work collaboratively across all sectors at local, regional and national levels.

Supporting Employability - Skills for Work Portal



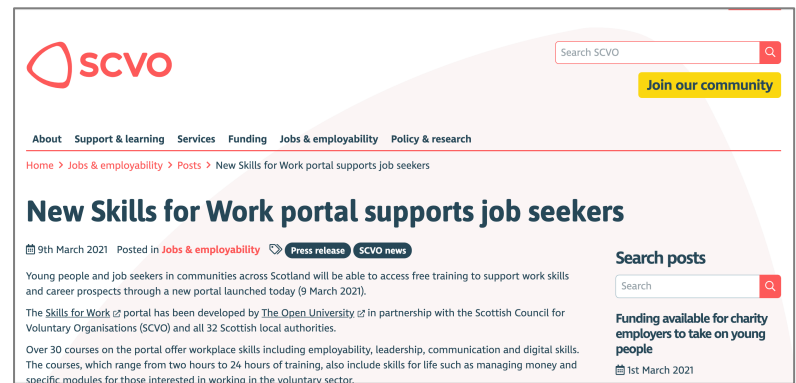
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SKILLS FOR WORK PORTAL

The [Skills for Work](#) portal has been developed by The Open University in partnership with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and all 32 of Scottish local authorities to provide free training which supports work skills.

- Young people and job seekers in communities across Scotland will be able to access free training to support work skills and career prospects through the Skills for Work portal.
- Over 30 courses on the portal offer vital workplace skills including employability, leadership, communication and digital skills.
- The courses, which range from 2 hours to 24 hours of training, are delivered flexibly and are designed to do at any time or pace.



<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/skills-work-0>

SKILLS FOR WORK PORTAL

Skills for work and employability



Digital Skills



Skills for life



The voluntary sector



Leadership and management



BADGED OPEN COURSES (BOCs)

1. Digital skills: succeeding in a digital world
2. Entrepreneurship: from ideas to reality
3. Introducing the voluntary sector
4. Succeed in the workplace



What do Badged Open Courses involve?



24 hours of learning

Weekly Quiz/test

All aspects of course must be completed

Earn a Digital Badge / Certificate

Download Digital Badge and Certificate



www.open.edu/openlearn



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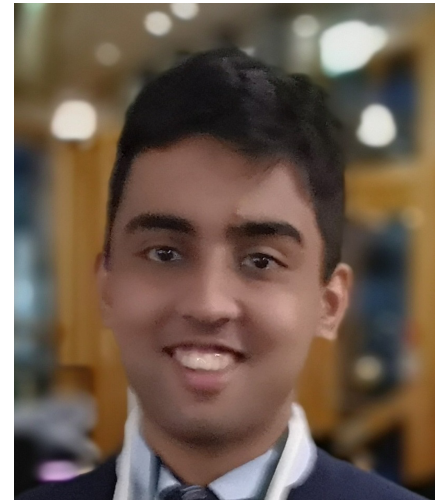
SKILLS FOR WORK PORTAL



SKILLS FOR WORK PORTAL

“
I gained a statement
of participation and
an online badge
to show to future
employers.”

Alison Farrell
Community Engagement Officer
Auchinleck Community Development Initiative



SKILLS FOR WORK PORTAL

“
It's very useful for a
young person who's
just starting in the
workplace.”

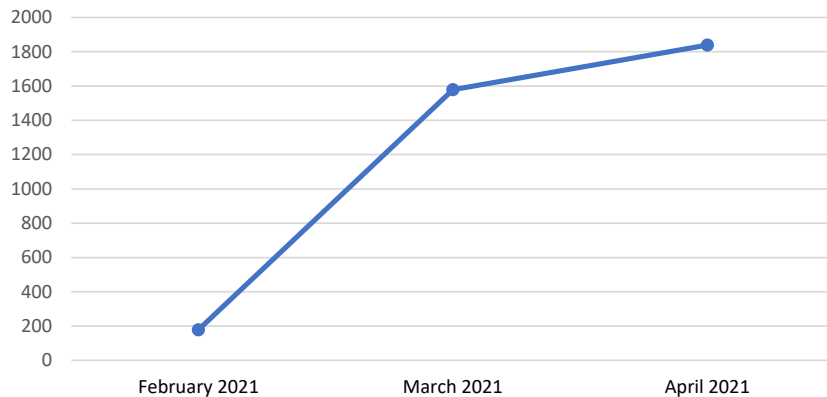
Yousef Ahmed
Centre Assistant
Young Enterprise Scotland

“This portal will enable job seekers and young people to build their workplace skills, all from the safety of their own homes. The voluntary sector offers great career opportunities to those from all backgrounds, and by working with The Open University we can continue to highlight the many varied career paths that exist within Scotland's vibrant voluntary sector.”

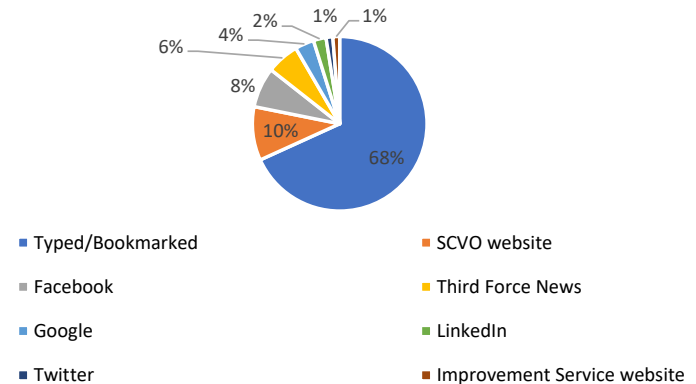
Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive of SCVO

Skills for Work Portal Site Statistics (April 2021)

Total unique visitors



Number of visitors from source



Top 10 visitor locations

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Aberdeen | 11. Falkirk |
| 2. Edinburgh | 12. Rutherglen |
| 3. Glasgow | 13. Irvine |
| 4. Paisley | 14. Johnstone |
| 5. Oldmeldrum | 15. Giffnock |
| 6. Dundee | 16. Renfrew |
| 7. Alloa | 17. Tranent |
| 8. Stirling | 18. Bishopbriggs |
| 9. Perth | 19. Inverness |
| 10. Inverkeithing | 20. Dumfries |

Most Popular Courses

- Digital Skills: Succeeding in a Digital World
- Leadership and Followership
- Developing Career Resilience
- Effective Communication in the Workplace
- Managing Virtual Project Teams
- Introducing the Voluntary Sector
- Exploring Career Mentoring and Coaching
- Preparing for Your Digital Life in the 21st Century
- Simple Coding
- Learning to Code for Data Analysis

SKILLS FOR WORK PORTAL TOOLKIT

TOOLKIT INFORMATION



Skills for Work Portal

The [Skills for Work](#) portal has been developed by The Open University in partnership with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and all 32 of Scottish local authorities to provide free training which supports work skills.

Key messages:

- Young people and job seekers in communities across Scotland will be able to access free training to support work skills and career prospects through the Skills for Work portal.
- Over 30 courses on the portal offer vital workplace skills including employability, leadership, communication and digital skills.
- The courses, which range from two hours to 24 hours of training, are delivered flexibly and are designed to do at any time or pace and include an Open University Statement of Participation and a Digital Badge which can be used in job applications.

This communications toolkit provides free-to-use assets to support communications about the portal as follows:

- Media release
- Social media visuals from a number of partners and users
- A Gif file combining social visuals which can be used on social channels, websites or intranet
- Logos for partners

Assets can be used from 0900hrs on Tuesday 2 March 2021.

If you have any questions about the communications materials, please contact:

Jane Ferguson, The Open University in Scotland, jane.ferguson@open.ac.uk

Gareth Jones, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, gareth.jones@scvo.scot



Funded Upskilling Opportunities – funded microcredentials



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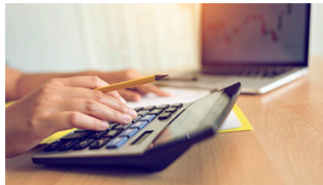
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FUNDED MICROCREDENTIALS

Supported by the Scottish Funding Council Upskilling Fund, we're offering the opportunity to study a fully-funded microcredential course in a variety of subject areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for developing key skills in the workforce. The OU are committed to supporting the upskilling and reskilling of individuals and organisations by offering a limited number of free places.

What you can study



[Business Management: Fundamentals of Management Accounting \(BZFM305\)](#)

Learn the skills to interpret information, calculate costs, prepare a budget for planning and control purposes, and evaluate costing methods to make financial decisions. Designed for non-financial experts, you will gain confidence in understanding and using management accounting terminology. You'll study critical business problems from a wide range of sectors and contexts to help you prepare for challenges you may face.

Level: Undergraduate
Start date: 12 July 2021
Study duration: 10 weeks (approximately 10 hours of study a week)
On completion: Gain 10 credits at SCQF level 10



[Business Management: Marketing Principles and Practice \(BZFM301\)](#)

Study an introduction to the core principles of marketing – including digital and non-digital perspectives. Enhance your marketing knowledge and discover best practice approaches that help to inform your professional decision making. This 10-week course will also help improve your effectiveness and ability to adapt your approach to solving business challenges.

Level: Undergraduate
Start date: 12 July 2021
Study duration: 10 weeks (approximately 10 hours of study a week)
On completion: Gain 10 credits at SCQF level 10



[Management of Change: Organisation Development and Design \(BZFM802\)](#)

With increasing digitalisation, it is essential that you and your organisation are equipped with the right tools, skills and understanding to effectively manage and lead organisational development. You'll learn how to design a people centred strategy for change as well as implementing professional strategies to address the challenges of developing organisations and teams in changing environments.

Level: Postgraduate
Start date: 28 June 2021
Study duration: 12 weeks (approximately 13 hours of study a week)
On completion: Gain 15 credits at SCQF level 11

What are microcredentials?

- New short upskilling courses that we deliver in partnership with Future Learn
- They are on average 10-12 weeks long (study 13 hrs pw) and normally cost around £450 - £750 each
- Each microcredential includes a formal online assessment which meets the quality standards set by the Common microcredential Framework (CMF).
- Some microcredentials are sector endorsed ie Cisco
- Microcredentials are accredited – helpful towards further study
- Microcredentials allow individuals to gain specialist knowledge and help build professional skills

FUNDED MICROCREDENTIALS

We are able to offer a number of free places on a selection of the following microcredentials starting in June/July:

- **Business Management:** Fundamentals of Management Accounting
- **Business Management:** Marketing Principles and Practice
- **Management of Change:** Organisation Development and Design
- **Management of Uncertainty:** Leadership, Decisions and Action
- **Agile Leadership and Management**
- **Cyber Security** Operations (Cisco)
- **Online Teaching:** Accessibility and Inclusive Learning
- **Online Teaching:** Creating Courses for Adult Learners
- **Online Teaching:** Evaluating and Improving Courses
- **Teacher Development:** Embedding Mental Health in the Curriculum

FUNDED MICROCREDENTIALS

How to apply:

1. Click on the link: <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/choose/scotland-micro>
2. Choose which course you want to study
3. Complete an [expression of interest form](#) and submit

Eligibility:

- A resident in Scotland
- A UK citizen or have the legal right to live and work in the UK
- 18+ years of age

Closing date: 5pm on 30th May 2021

NB: Applicants must apply via OU landing page link and not directly on FutureLearn

Funding for training SMEs – Flexible Workforce Development Fund



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Access training up to the value of £5,000

- The OU in Scotland has been awarded **£1m** to support SMEs across Scotland as part of Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF)
- This new fund is for small to medium-sized businesses across Scotland sectors including the third sector to access training up to the value of **£5,000** delivered by the OU to support upskilling or reskilling of employees
- The objectives of the FWDF:
 - increase productivity and economic growth
 - strengthen employer/employee relationship
 - retain jobs and support employers as they adapt to a new and working environment



<http://www.open.ac.uk/business/flexible-workforce-development-fund>



Example of successful third sector FWDF application

Paul wants to upskill his team to meet the demands for organisational growth.

Circle staff training includes short courses:

- Managing for Sustainability
- Commercial Awareness
- Developing your Leadership Style
- New Managers' Toolkit



“We at The Circle value good quality training and staff development opportunities. We think the third sector overall should be taking advantage of the FWDF and giving their staff the chance to grow their skills to take on workplace challenges in a post Covid world. The application process was quick and painless, which, given how stretched organisations are right now, was a huge benefit!”

Paul Hastie, General Manager, Circle Scotland CIC

How to apply

1. Arrange a telephone appointment by completing an enquiry form <https://info1.open.ac.uk/l/82412/2020-11-12/5pdy12>
2. We will talk you through the process and work with you to build a tailored suite of training for your employees
3. We have various types of training from microcredentials, short courses and under graduate and post graduate modules at SCQF level 10+
4. We have training courses in business, management, IT, digital, health and social care, the green economy.

Timeframe

- Training agreed by 31 July 2021
- Training commence by 31 August 2021
- Training completed by 31 March 2022

<http://www.open.ac.uk/business/flexible-workforce-development-fund>

Thank You

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