Choosing your course

Choosing the course that’s right for you is very important. You need to find out as much as you can about the courses you are interested in before you register.

Find details about the course you are interested in by using the online prospectus at http://www3.open.ac.uk/study/

You can check what sort of accessible materials are available for the courses you are interested in at http://www.open.ac.uk/disability/accessible-course-materials.php

There is no reason why most OU courses cannot be studied by D/deaf students. However, some courses – like those in the Arts and Social Sciences – involve a lot of reading and writing. If English is not your preferred language it is a good idea to get advice from a disability adviser at your regional or national centre.

Go to the OU directory for contact details of your regional or national centre http://www3.open.ac.uk/contact/all.aspx

Here are some things to think about.

- Does the course you want to study have subtitled programmes or transcripts of audio material?
- Some Science subjects might involve experiments and assignments that involve sound.
- If you are interested in studying social work or nursing you need to find out how your hearing loss may affect you in these vocational areas. Some courses have compulsory placements; think about the communication support you might need.
- Language courses require you to listen and speak the language you are learning, so check what adjustments are available to the assessments for your course.
- Some music courses are not easily accessible because of the amount of theory and practice you need to understand by listening.

Top tip

Get as much advice as you can from the disability team at your regional or national centre before you make a decision about which course to study.