

# Top 10 Online Continuing Education Platforms

The concept of “Continuing Education” is not a new phenomenon. In the US, vocational-style schooling first appeared in the early 19th century, when the [Chautauqua Institution](#) gave teachers the opportunity to pursue alternative education paths outside of school learning on the weekends. What began as an experiment quickly grew in popularity, and continuing education now caters to the professional development of a range of individuals and adult learners from a diversity of backgrounds:

- ❖ Graduates looking to supplement their previous formal education with further professional and career-oriented skills.
- ❖ Students who need to catch up on coursework, in order to fulfil specific credit or career requirements.
- ❖ Professionals looking to break into a new career area, such as programming or technology, coming from a background with little experience. These fields represent a job market which is constantly evolving and which therefore requires lifelong, continuous training.
- ❖ Individuals returning to the workforce after a career break.
- ❖ Individuals who may currently be out of the workforce, but who still wish to maintain their skill set.
- ❖ Individuals interested in picking up a new hobby or interest.

## The State of Continuing Education Today

The main difficulty faced by students who wish to pursue further studies has always been navigating existing commitments with a new, part-time learning program. Students often find themselves struggling to manage their course-load and attend classes while maintaining full-time jobs and other responsibilities. This often prevents students from completing courses beneficial to their professional, academic, artistic, or personal development.

With the advent and continuous development of the internet, knowledge is now more accessible than ever. The rise of online learning has had an extremely positive impact on the vocational sector, and accounts for a rapid rise in continuing education programs and resources, now offered by institutions and a variety of recently developed digital platforms.

In 2017 alone, [approximately 23 million new candidates](#) signed up for their first online learning course, bringing the overall total of online students to 81 million. Over 800 universities around the world now offer continuing education programs online.

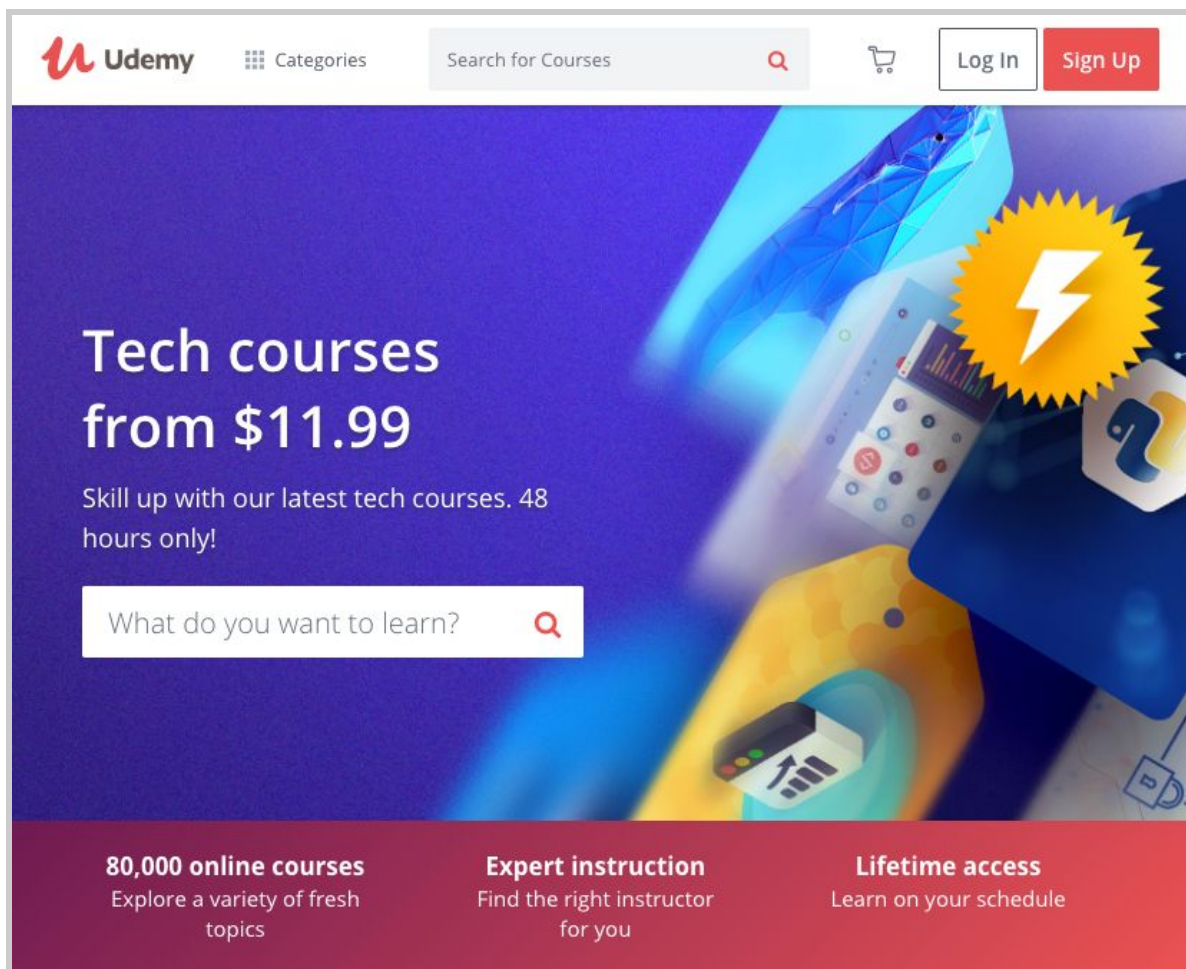
The burgeoning of continuing education online has the potential to improve accessibility and remove the barriers often imposed by formal and traditional learning paths, especially with the information provided by platforms referred to as “MOOCs.” These “Massive Open Online Courses” provide free online lessons

and modes of study to any member of the population, which can be followed at any pace, at any time, and from any location. Once barren of certification, over 500 MOOC based credentials exist today, which can help add credibility and bolster a person's resume.

We researched the most reliable, established and credited online study options, and curated the following top 10 online continuing education programs. Our findings are based on a multitude of criteria which any prospective student should take into consideration:

- Institute reputation & enrollment
- Peer feedback
- Student reviews (assessing overall quality of course material and instructors)
- Price and affordability
- Number of courses on offer
- Certification recognition.

## Udemy



**Number of Students:** 24 million

**Number of Courses:** 80,000

**Learning Medium:** Video lessons, tutorials and slides

**Pricing:** \$20 - \$200

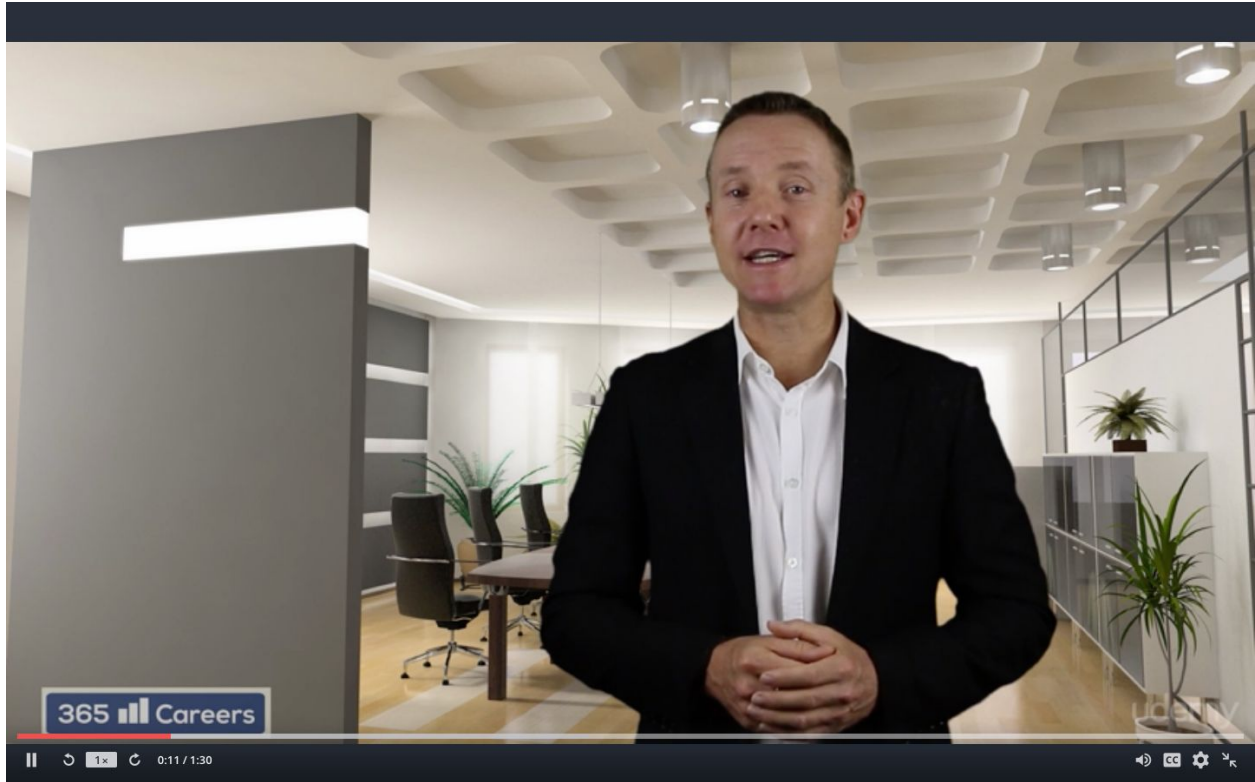
Udemy (“The Academy of You”) is an online learning and teaching marketplace which offers a plethora of courses and tutorials across a wide range of subjects. The platform covers topics in the fields of art, technology, languages, test preparation, health, fitness, lifestyle, personal development, and more. The lessons are delivered via video tutorials, pre-recorded by the course instructor who guides the lectures, which often incorporate diagrams, slides, and student assignment work. Students can choose from a list of categories on the homepage, which directs them to further lesson filtering options, allowing them to curate their course selections by relevant keywords.

Unlike the majority of MOOC programs, whose material is based on traditional coursework taught by institute teachers, Udemy takes a subject-matter expert approach while drawing from online content creators. It appeals not only to students, but to those who wish to share their knowledge and teach courses in areas of their expertise. Although the courses aren't credentialed for college credit, they are the perfect choice for those looking to improve their job-related skills and receive guidance from experienced mentors.

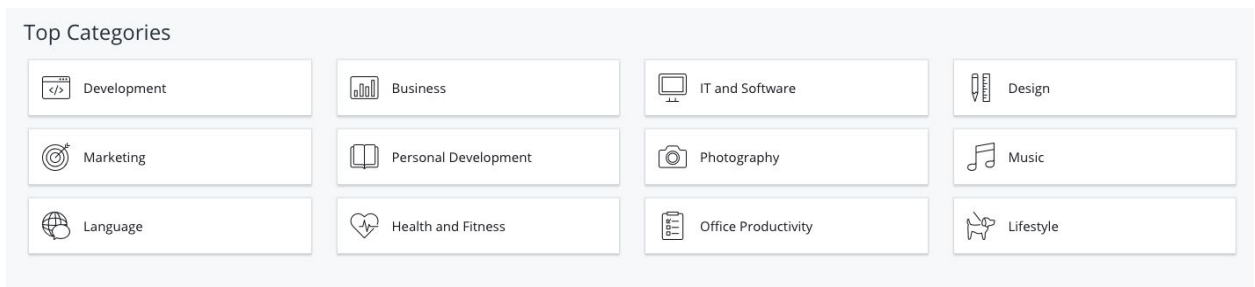
Udemy position themselves as offering “the world’s largest selection of courses,” which allows you to “learn anything.” The majority of the courses are very affordable, ranging from \$10 to \$200. They also offers special access deals for businesses, and some courses are even offered for free.

Once enrolled in a course, you can watch the tutorials at your own pace, from the location of your choice, and can log back into your account to take up any stage of the course material. This makes Udemy a very flexible option which requires minimal commitment.

Reviews from users who have already taken courses are openly available for prospective enrollees to consider, and each course is ranked, and browsers can also see how many students are currently enrolled in a particular course. The platform is globally oriented, as non-English speakers can benefit from subtitles in their native language on all videos.



*Example UdeMy lecture video.*




*Top course categories on UdeMy.*

Udemy Categories java programming

1144 results for java programming


Java 506 Android Development 49 Java EE 34 Ratings Duration

Sort by: Most Relevant



**Complete Java Masterclass - updated for Java 10**  
**BEST SELLER** 356 lectures • 76 hours • All Levels  
 Learn to master **Java 8** and **Java 10** core development step-by-step and make your first unique, advanced program in 30 days | By Tim Buchalka  
**CA\$12.99**  
~~CA\$199.99~~  
 ★★★★★ 4.6 (51,689 ratings)

HS Hasib Samit (2 courses, 2 reviews)  
 ★★★★★  
 2 lata temu  
 I had no previous Java experience, I feel quite comfortable with Java after taking this course.



**The Complete Java Programming Course Beginner to Advance**  
 47 lectures • 11 hours • All Levels  
 Java programming for complete beginners. Create **Java** applications, learn **Java** programming from beginner to advance | By Sarkhan Rasullu  
**CA\$12.99**  
~~CA\$54.99~~  
 ★★★★★ 4.7 (145 ratings)

Can't decide? Try out any course with our 30-day money-back guarantee

Example search for Java Programming courses shows the best seller ranked at the top.

# The Ultimate Guide to Game Development with Unity

Created in partnership with Unity Technologies: learn C# by developing 2D & 3D games with this comprehensive guide

**NEW** ★★★★★ 4.8 (164 ratings) 1,881 students enrolled

Created by Jonathan Weinberger, Unity Technologies Last updated 11/2017

English **CC English [Auto-generated]**

## What Will I Learn?

- ✓ Master beginner C# concepts, like variables, "if" statements, and arrays
- ✓ Detect collisions, receive user input, and create player movements

**\$1**  
8 h

Courses providing other language options are highlighted with a closed captioning symbol shown above.

Gift This Course

# The Complete Financial Analyst Course 2018

Excel, Accounting, Financial Statement Analysis, Business Analysis, Financial Math, PowerPoint: Everything is Included!

BEST SELLER


★★★★★

4.6 (7,129 ratings)

57,044 students enrolled

Created by 365 Careers Last updated 8/2018

English English [Auto-generated], Portuguese [Auto-generated], [1 more](#)



Free course preview Careers

CA\$12.99

€A\$199.99

94% off

🕒 3 days left at this price!

Add To Cart

Buy Now

30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

What Will I Learn?

✓ Work comfortably with Microsoft Excel

✓ Be much faster carrying out regular tasks

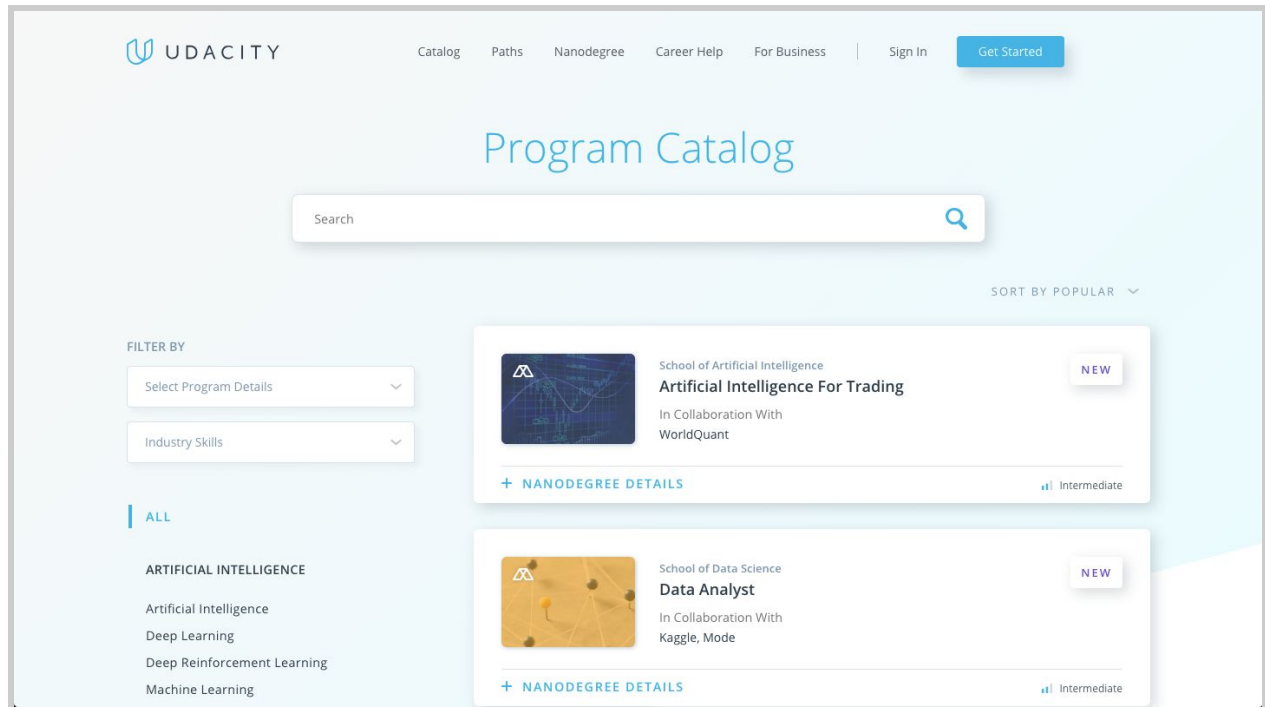
✓ Format spreadsheets in a professional way

✓ Create professional charts in Microsoft Excel

*Example heavy discounting applied by Udemy.*



## Udacity



**Number of Students:** 13,000

**Number of Courses:** 170

**Learning Medium:**

**Pricing:** \$600 - \$2,400

Udacity is an education organization with courses focusing primarily on technology and business. You can filter programs according to your skill set, learning level, and desired certification. Their catalog offers a breakdown of courses which fall under the headings of Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Programming and Developing, Systems, and Business - there's certainly a higher technical leaning to its course-load compared to some of the other options on the list.

The platform offers both free online classes and fee-based programs. Udacity pioneered the term "nanodegree," referring to a solidly self-contained online certification which can be gained between 6 and 12 months of study. The nano degree involves coursework and is designed to teach practical skills designed to increase your employability. The certification is recognised and approved by Udacity's corporate partners such as Google and AT&T, as well as by many employers who hire into the target industry.



Students pay for the course on a monthly basis, and access to Udacity's nanodegree content starts at \$200 per month. In many ways the monthly payment is a motivational element - hard to slack off when you know that next payment is coming up to keep you in check!

Udacity has several free courses which act as introductory precursors to the more advanced nanodegrees. It's a great way to test your interests around a particular subject before further commitment.

The nanodegrees are taught by industry experts with extensive experience in each field, and students have the opportunity to participate in discussions with other participants, engage in real world projects, interact with a personal coach, and receive consistent feedback. Upon graduation, the goal is that you'll be equipped for an entry-level professional job within your chosen category.



*Example Nanodegree course elements on Artificial Intelligence Trading.*

Another big element of Udacity is career guidance, advising you on the most appropriate courses according to your path choices. They arrange Open House Q&As with high-level instructors for prospective students, and deals for businesses interested in signing up for their employees.

All the courses are graded with stars by previous peers, and include hundreds of first hand student reviews - all scoring high marks in our criteria.

## SYLLABUS

# Front End Developer

The Front End Developer Nanodegree program is composed of five projects. With each project, you'll create something that demonstrates your mastery of in-demand skills. Projects range in complexity, and each builds upon the previous. In the end, you will have a resume-worthy portfolio that you can showcase to prospective employers.

— [SEE FEWER DETAILS](#)

4 months to complete



### PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE

You must be comfortable using basic HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (or another programming language). [See detailed requirements.](#)

#### • Web Foundations

Learn the building blocks of the web - HTML and CSS! Learning how to effectively create the structure of a website using semantic HTML. Then style a website with CSS and responsive design.



### NEED TO PREPARE?

You must be comfortable using basic HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (or another programming language).

*Most courses will highlight any prerequisite knowledge required.*

## [International Open Academy](#)



**Number of Students:** 85,000

**Number of Courses:** 120

**Pricing:** \$60 -\$120

The International Open Academy is an education hub which aims to cater to all levels of learners. It offers both casual learning paths as well as more formally recognized qualifications across a range of expertise. The Academy is a fabulous resource for personal and professional supplementing, and is really well suited for students who wish to pivot to a more vocational route in their career.


IOA courses provide students with the necessary certifications or licenses required by positions in teaching, computing, therapy, hospitality, linguistics, and business.

Probably the first thing you notice when popping open the website is just how colourful and welcome it is. Don't be fooled though - the Academy is accredited by the International Council for Online Educational Standards and CPD Certification Service, which means that all their course certification are recognised and approved by future employers within your chosen industry, as well as organizations such as the OCOES and CPD/CE.


This is particularly helpful for roles in teaching, as many candidates prefer to take courses like TEFL remotely, without the need to attend classes outside of the regular schedule.

All courses have no prerequisites and anyone can enroll. They follow a structure of designated course videos, with quizzes at the end of each module. Once you successfully pass these tests and the final exam, you'll receive your certificate issued by the IOA. The Academy also allows one free re-sit for any failed modules.


## ● FIND YOUR COURSE ●




HOW TO CREATE INCOME GENERATING ONLINE COURSES



MONEY MAGIC



WINE APPRECIATION



DNA & GENEALOGY

- Animal Science & Care
- Beauty & Fashion
- Business & Careers
- Computing & IT
- Criminology
- Event Management

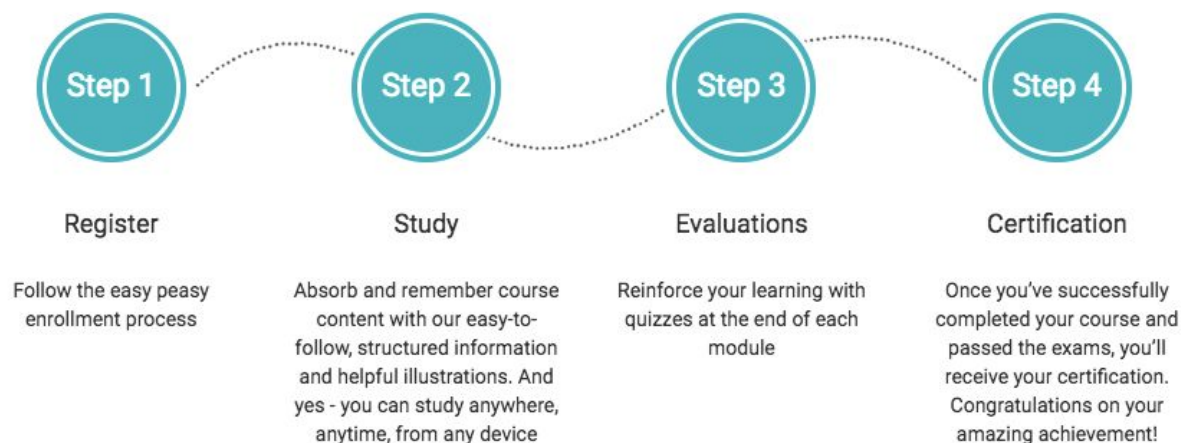
- Health
- Hobbies
- Hospitality
- Interior Design
- Languages
- Life Skills

- Photography
- Special Needs
- Sport
- Teaching
- Writing & Media Skills

[Browse All](#)

*IOA's key categories of courses cater to a wide range of interests.*

## RECEIVE YOUR CERTIFICATE IN 4 SIMPLE STEPS



*Example course structure.*

The courses themselves are really clear and comprehensive, and begin with an overview of how the course material will be communicated, and how it can meet your expectations and learning requirements. Visual features, prompts, written slides and videos are also often included to further engage the student, and you have the option to revise and return to the course material at any time. The programs follow a more traditional learning style, in that it focuses on delivering content and course materials instead of working on practical projects, or including discussion with other students taking the same course.

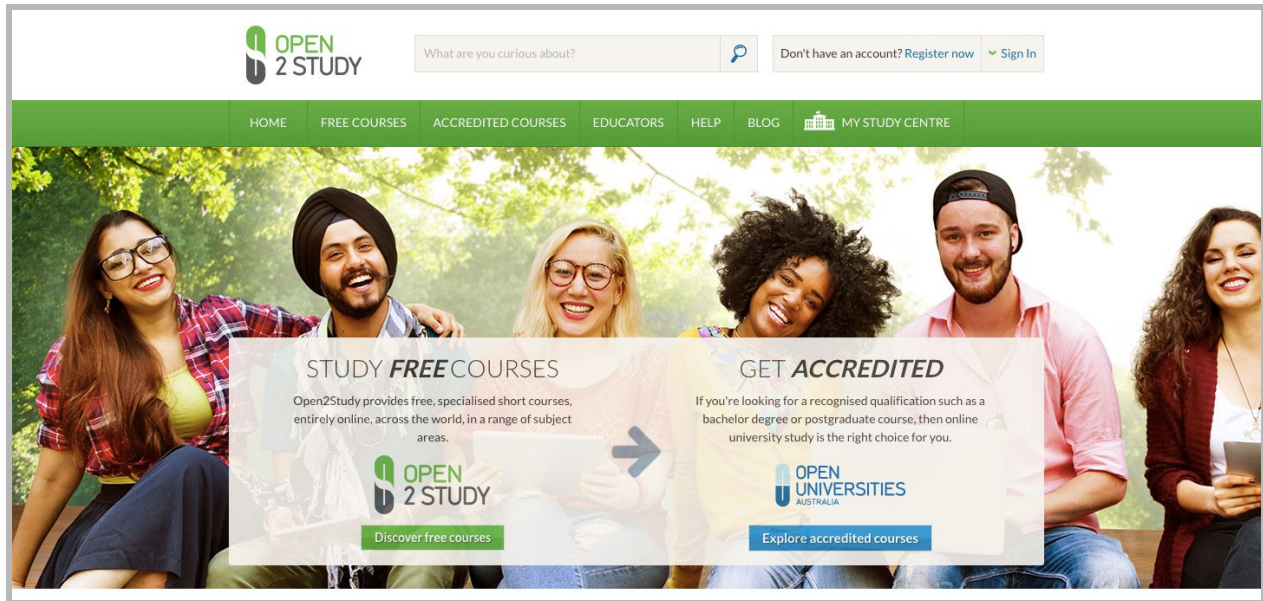
Other courses on offer at IOA are life skills, animal science, beauty, business, computing, criminology, event management, health, hobbies, photography, and special needs. Learning levels range from beginners to advanced, and the time dedication required falls anywhere between 30 to 160 hours. You have 60 consecutive days to complete the courses, and all of them provide 24/7 support.

Similar to Udacity, IOA has a lot of course guidance and it's pretty clear they invest a lot of time in ensuring that your learning is in line with your goals.

In terms of pricing, courses fall between \$59 to \$119. The Academy offers regular discounts, as well as a welcome credit of \$19 towards your first course purchase once you've registered an account. A free trial of 10 days is also available, and you can choose to sign up to a subscription plan which starts at \$15 per month.



## Open 2 Study



**Number of Students:** Several thousand

**Number of Courses:** 50

**Pricing:** Free


An initiative of Open Universities Australia (more on that later), Open2Study provides free, specialized, short courses, with both certified and uncertified pathways. This makes it the perfect platform for students, individuals, or working professionals seeking to benefit from a wide range of resources without investing payment, and places Open2Study in the MOOC category.

The aim of the initiative is to test an individual's suitability to online learning with its four-week introductory courses, which are designed to prepare you for Open Universities' accredited courses. Some of Open2Study's most popular courses include those in food and nutrition, psychology, project management, photography, and writing.

The platform easily allows you to supplement and enhance both your current studies or professional career, while providing the option of pursuing further accreditation through Open Universities. This is particularly useful for individuals who may need to fulfil certain credits or outstanding requirements in order to achieve qualification. Open Universities acts like a remote university itself, and provides the same accreditation and course materials as onsite university continuing education programs.

## Free Courses

Filter by:

View as:  

### Agriculture and the World We Live In



### Astronomy: Discovering the Universe



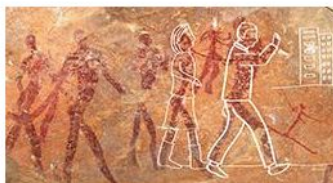
### Basic Physics



### Becoming a Confident Trainer



### Becoming Human: Anthropology



FEATURED

### Big Data for Better Performance



*Example course selection offered by Open2Study.*

The instructors of courses on Open2Study include leading professors from universities, TAFEs and business, who encourage students to follow their curiosity and learn new information through the free programs. The format is a mix of video lectures and text-based information, and the courses are structured by weekly modules. Each module has a mandatory assessment prior to completion, and a student must achieve a minimum 60% pass mark on each module assessment to qualify for certification.

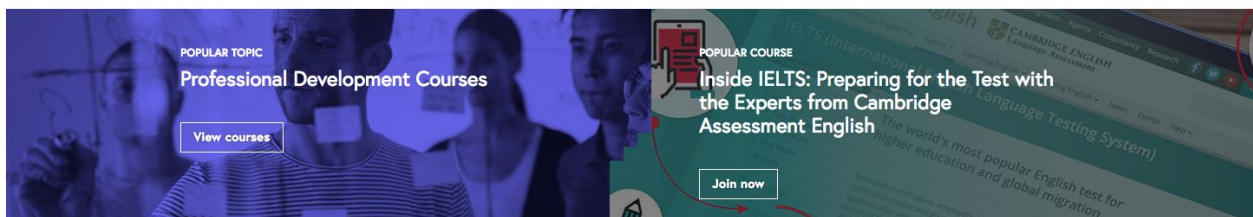
Courses take place according to fixed enrollment dates which students must adhere to, so the learning pace is slightly less flexible than other options and involves a more structured, continuous assessment approach. It's certainly more of a fringe option on the list in terms of "continuing education" (really, it's the closest thing to an online University on the list), but it's perfect for those looking for something rigorous.



# Future Learn

[Categories](#)[Courses](#)[Programs](#)[Degrees](#)[Sign in](#)

## Learn new skills, pursue your interests, advance your career

[or browse online courses](#)

**Number of Students:** 3 million

**Number of Courses:** 242

**Pricing:** \$75 - \$30,000

Future Learn allows you to curate a list of specific courses required to meet your desired career path - and then do them! It's extremely career-oriented, and fits the mould of "continuing" or "supplementary" education really well.

The platform was launched by 12 partner universities across the UK, with the aim of providing greater access to students wishing to obtain university accreditations online. Future Learn offers courses in business, languages, environment, technology, communications, politics and more. They are particularly well known for their psychology and health courses. The format of tuition is provided via articles, videos, peer reviews and quizzes.

Designed to allow students to easily incorporate education around existing life commitments, Future Learn offers three learning paths. Short, individual modules focused on specific topics (such as "Understanding Anxiety, Depression and CBT") typically take place over five weeks, and recommend 3 hours of study per week. The Program options require approximately 12 weeks to complete, and are university accredited. They provide students with a deeper understanding of their chosen subject, and help develop practical jobs skills.

A student can apply to receive a certificate upon completion of the final program exam for an extra fee. Prices for the certifications vary, starting at \$75 for individual courses.

## How do programs work?



### Fit learning around your life

Complete all courses in a program, following a schedule to suit your lifestyle. Learn for free, pay to upgrade.



### Become a recognised expert

Demonstrate your new skills by earning certificates for multiple courses and passing a final online assessment.



### Get professionally qualified

Work towards a FutureLearn Award, which can include a recognised professional or academic credential.



### Unlock new career opportunities

Use your new credential to progress in your career, pursue further study or switch careers entirely.

*Example structure of a Program on Future Learn.*

The third learning path provides the option to complete and obtain a degree qualification, equivalent to the education received from a traditional onsite university program. Degree-level qualifications are available across a variety of domains from Information Technology to Humanitarian Action. Tuition for these degrees vary depending on the affiliate university, and range from \$13,000 to \$30,000.

You can request further information about each course from the Future Learn team, learn more about the partner university providing the degree, and even take a “Free taster” of the course. Future Learn programs are linked with reputable institutions like Deakin, Coventry and Murdoch University, and the courses are delivered by expert academics. Students can choose the level of their degree, whether Graduate Certificate, Diploma, or Masters Degree.

## How a degree on FutureLearn works



### FIND A DEGREE

Choose from a range of subjects and levels – from graduate certificates to full masters degrees.



### LEARN FLEXIBLY ONLINE

You can pay for each program in the degree as you go, making it possible to gain a qualification in a flexible and affordable way.



### PASS THE ASSESSMENTS

Complete online assignments or take in-person exams to get feedback and demonstrate your understanding.



### EARN A DEGREE

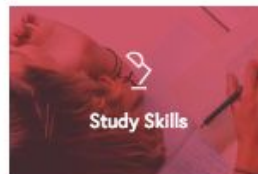
Complete all programs and pass all assessments, to gain an internationally recognised qualification.

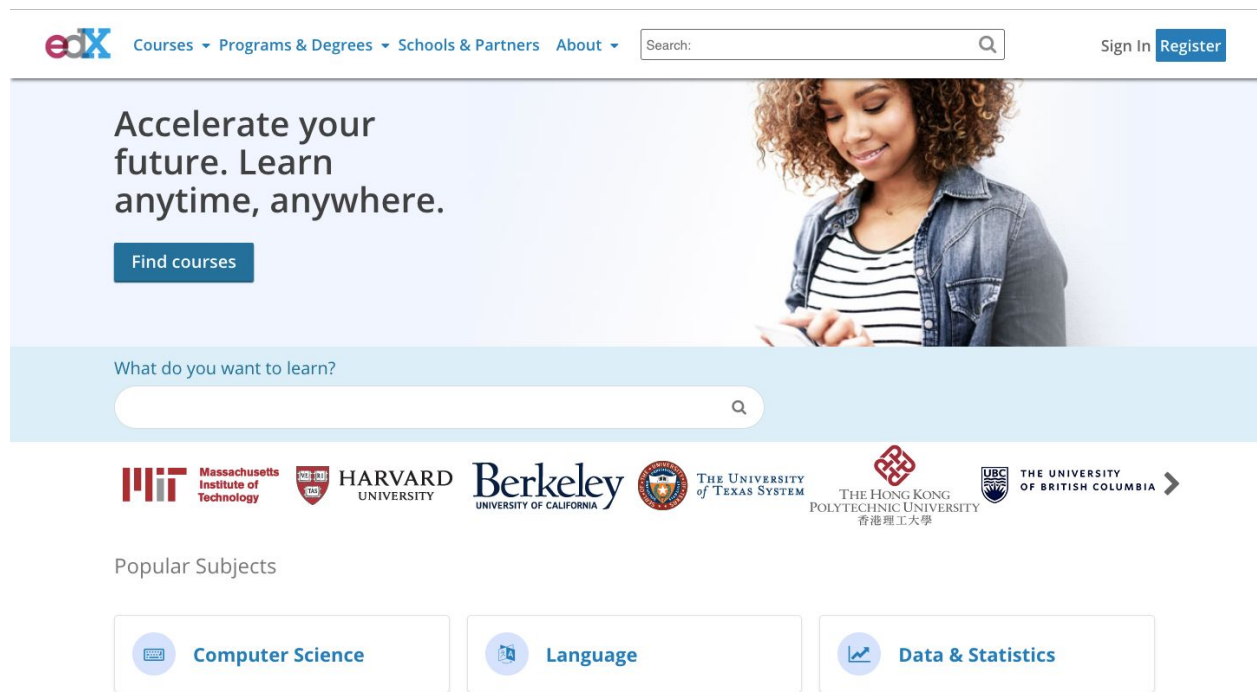
*Example structure of a Degree on Future Learn.*

Future Learn is a flexible option which can be tailored to your own schedule, interests, and goals. Formal prerequisites aren't necessary for the majority of courses, and any degree-specific requirements are outlined in the university guidelines.

# Online course categories

Find your interests by browsing our online course categories. Start learning with top universities and specialist organisations.



A screenshot of the EdX website. At the top, the EdX logo is on the left, followed by navigation links: Courses, Programs & Degrees, Schools & Partners, and About. A search bar is on the right with a magnifying glass icon. Below the navigation bar is a large banner with the text "Accelerate your future. Learn anytime, anywhere." and a "Find courses" button. To the right of the text is a photo of a young woman with curly hair, wearing a denim jacket over a striped shirt, looking down at a device. Below the banner is a light blue section with the text "What do you want to learn?" and a search bar. At the bottom of this section is a row of university logos: MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Berkeley University of California, The University of Texas System, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and The University of British Columbia. Below the logos is the text "Popular Subjects" followed by three buttons: "Computer Science", "Language", and "Data & Statistics".

**Number of Students:** 1.4 million

**Number of Courses:** 1,800

**Pricing:** \$50 - \$300

EdX is a MOOC provider founded by MIT and Harvard University, offering online courses from the world's top universities and organizations, such as Berkeley, Harvard, The University of Queensland, The University of Adelaide, MIT, and Microsoft.

The majority of the courses on offer focus on Computer Science and Technology, such as Harvard's popular "Introduction to Computer Science" and The Linux Foundation's "Introduction to Linux." Miscellaneous and interesting options are also available, like Berkeley's "The Science of Happiness." Tuition is provided by professors and experts from each university faculty. The courses are all self-paced, though many have specific start dates. If you enroll after the start date, you can still catch up on the missed material, or wait for a re-run of the course.

Other popular courses covered by the universities include statistics, project management, data visualization, programming, and test preparation.

Depending on the chosen learning path, many of the programs offer flexible learning schedules along with interactive discussion boards with other students. Although Edx is an autonomous and flexible learning option which doesn't require mandatory coursework or check-ins, the course content material is often quite demanding and complex due to the fast-paced and academic nature of the lectures and

universities. You can revise any points covered, and have the ability to pause the course content to further research anything you might not immediately understand. Edx is definitely a platform for the ambitious and goal-oriented student - it's not really meant for casual study.

Edx offers five different levels of qualification: the MicroMasters Program, Professional Certificate, Online Master's Degree, the Global Freshman Academy, and XSeries. Details of each program may be found on their website. The Academy offers online learners the opportunity to participate in on-campus lectures offered online by Arizona State University. Through this program, you can earn transferable credits from ASU, and only pay for courses if you pass. XSeries are in-depth courses specializing in various fields, lasting typically 16 weeks and requiring 2 - 4 hours per week of effort.

These innovative approaches to learning and education are unique to Edx.

## How a MicroMasters Program Works



### Choose Your Program

MicroMasters programs from prestigious universities are designed for top careers. Choose the one that's best for you.



### Learn Great Things at Your Own Pace

Complete each course, whenever and wherever you choose - this is mastery made flexible!



### Earn a Valuable Credential

Prove you've gained the critical knowledge and in-demand skills to stand out in your field.



### Advance Your Career

MicroMasters programs are validated by top tier companies to ensure a competitive advantage for career success.



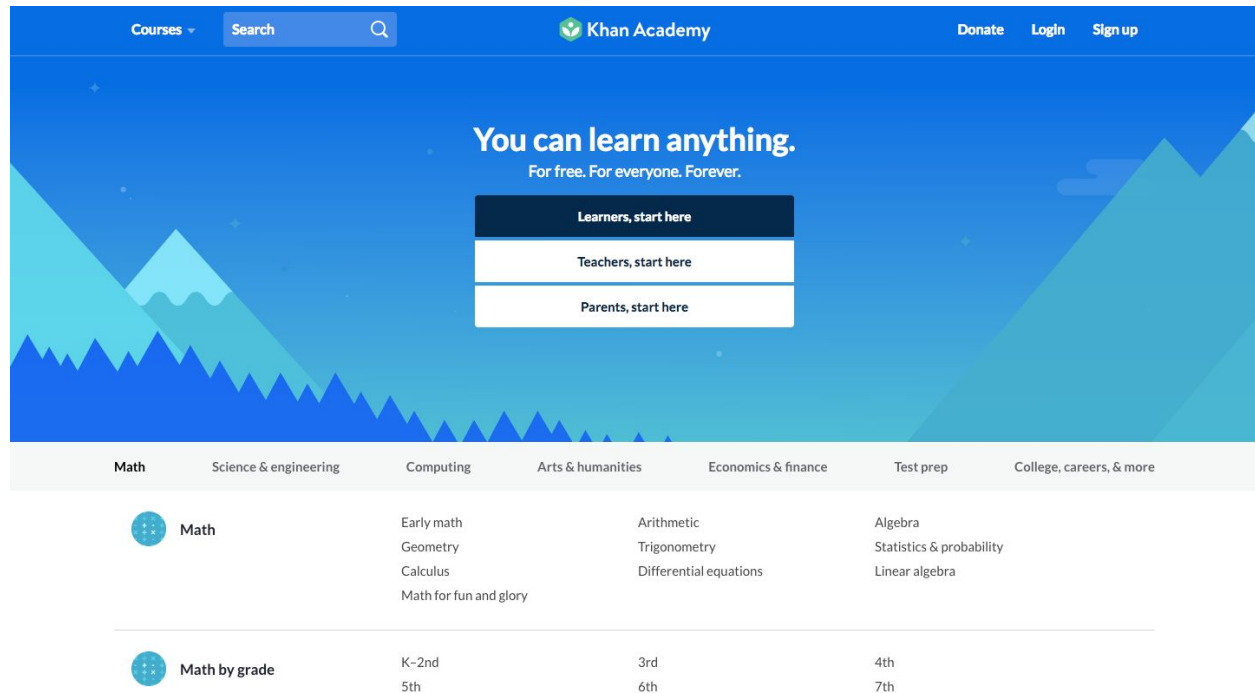
### Or Pursue a Full Master's Degree

Apply to the university that accepts your MicroMasters certificate for credit and, if accepted, the certificate will accelerate your degree.

*Example process for the MicroMasters program.*

Non-Verified EdX courses are free, although you will be asked to donate via advertisements throughout the course. Verified certificates begin at \$50 and come with a two-week refund policy. Tuition increases with the Master's degrees, and programs such as MicroMasters cost roughly \$1,000.

# Khan Academy



**Number of Students:** 48 million

**Number of Courses:** 30 courses, over 20,000 educational videos

**Pricing:** Free

Khan Academy began as a passion project to help high school students learn calculus. It has since grown into a leading nonprofit organization, offering free world-class education for all audiences. Its mission is to educate students using online tools, interactive practice, and effective teaching techniques.

Video with voice-over narration is the primary medium of tuition, as recorded by the course lecturers, and the platform also has a prominent Youtube presence. Texts and diagrams illustrate the lessons, similar to what a student would experience on a whiteboard in a classroom. The Academy offers courses in math, science, engineering, computing, arts and humanities, economics, finance, and career development.

While the courses are primarily aimed towards younger learners, there is also content available for anyone wishing to expand their professional and soft skills - in areas of economics and finance, for example. Courses in algebra, world history, and physics are all designed to reinforce fundamental concepts behind these subjects, and help students succeed in their schooling and beyond. The platform categorizes its courses according to school grades (from K-2nd to 8th), and also offers preparation courses for important tests such as the LSAT, MCAT, and SAT.





### FREE practice that is...

- Personalized to you**  
 We'll create a tailored practice plan for you based on a diagnostic or your SAT or PSAT/NMSQT® scores
- Official**  
 8 full-length, real practice tests and content created in partnership with College Board
- Interactive**  
 Thousands of practice questions, videos, lessons, and hints plus study and test-taking tips and strategies
- Instant**  
 Get constant feedback and progress so you know where you stand

*Example course offered by Khan Academy that helps students prep for their SATs*

Khan Academy operates from from donations and volunteers, and is completely free to students. This is also a fantastic resource for parents seeking to supplement their child’s education, improve their competency in certain subjects, and provide them with a fresh approach to learning.

## MIT Open Courseware





**Number of Students:** Several thousand

**Number of Courses:** 2,400

**Pricing:** Free

MIT OpenCourseWare is a hugely popular and invaluable repository of knowledge, taken from undergraduate and graduate-level programs at MIT. A web-based publication of all MIT course content, focusing on applied science and engineering, OCW is free and open to the public. You can browse information by topic, department, lectures, videos, audio recordings, and most recently updated courses. MIT ranks as the top university and technical college in the world.

The material is repurposed from over 2,400 courses, and emphasizes written coursework as well as community learning and student discussion. Students can choose to engage with anything from the fundamentals of differential calculus to advanced econometrics and quantum engineering. The platform also offers courses in languages such as Chinese, Spanish, Turkish, and Korean, always providing in-depth and world-class learning materials and instruction.

Positioned as an online version of MIT's onsite programs, courses are available in various formats such as video lectures, audio lectures or online textbooks. Students can also download lecture notes, assessments solutions, and instructor insights.

**Project Evaluation**

1.011 Project Evaluation covers methodologies for evaluating civil engineering projects, which typically are large-scale and long-lived and involve many economic, financial, social and environmental factors. The course places an emphasis on dealing with uncertainty. Students learn basic techniques of engineering economics, including net present value analysis, life-cycle costing, benefit-cost analysis, and other approaches to project evaluation. Examples are drawn from both contemporary and hist...

[View Course](#)

<b>Instructor(s)</b>	Prof. Joseph Sussman, Carl D. Martland
<b>As Taught In</b>	Spring 2011
<b>Course Number</b>	1.011
<b>Level</b>	Undergraduate
<b>Features</b>	Selected lecture notes, Projects and examples, Assignments: problem sets (no solutions), Assignments: written (no examples), Exams (no solutions)

Strategic Management in the Design and Construction Value Chain (Fall 2009)

The Impact of Globalization on the Built Environment (Fall 2009)

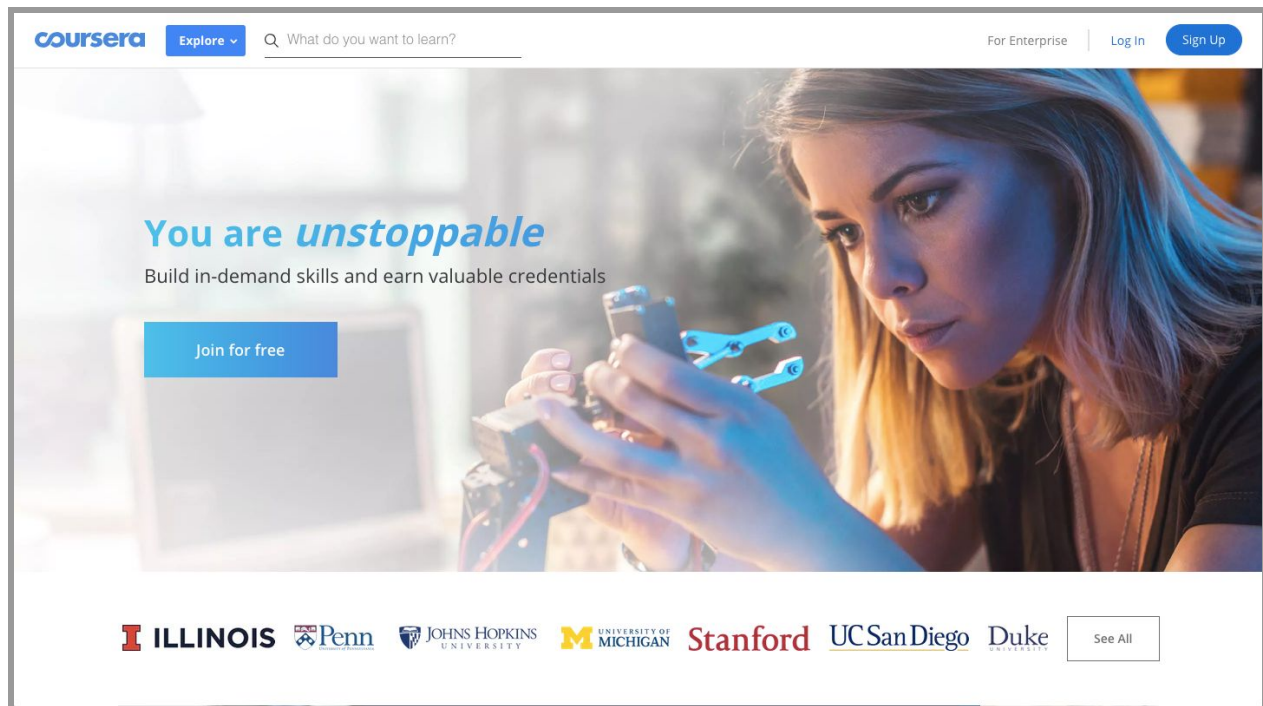
*Example course offered by MIT Open Courseware.*

Courses are typically categorized by discipline (Business, Energy, Fine Arts) and grouped according to course level, undergraduate or graduate. Students can search the various courses offered at MIT using course codes, and follow certain programs offered at the university online. While these pathways don't provide college credit, they are invaluable in their scope, quality, and industry relevance.

Any technically-oriented college student can probably thank OCW for passing at least a few of their exams. It's particularly useful if you're in a technical discipline, looking to brush on the fundamentals, or deep-dive into a specialty.

It's also just a really great way to learn Calculus again (if you're into that kinda thing).

## [Coursera](#)



**Number of Students:** 33 million

**Number of Courses:** 2,400

**Pricing:** \$49 - \$30,00

Coursera is an ideal choice for those interested in breaking into a career in the tech industry, and also provides a variety of courses, certifications and degrees in subjects such as engineering, humanities, medicine, business, and computer science.

Primarily focused on building in-demand, technical and practical skills, Coursera offers the perfect environment in which to build your competency in the burgeoning fields of programming, design, and

data science. Its most popular course is Machine Learning, provided by Stanford University. The learning paths are self-paced and flexible, without any fixed start or end date.

The materials are communicated via video lectures, downloadable notes, practice quizzes, and formal assessments at the end of each course. Upon successful completion of each course, a student earns a Coursera certificate, and the option to receive an accredited version from the university is also possible at a small fee. The Coursera certificates are beneficial and useful in themselves, and can be displayed on a student's resume and LinkedIn profile.

Shareable on **LinkedIn**



You can share your Course Certificates in the Certifications section of your LinkedIn profile, on printed resumes, CVs, or other documents.

*Example Coursera certificate issued after completion of a free course.*

Coursera is also popular for its interactive course forums, where students can engage in discussion. Teaching Assistants and virtual tutoring sessions are also available. The courses themselves range between 4-12 weeks.

As well as shorter courses, Coursera offers university degrees and specializations. Enrollment and acceptance to the degrees courses involves a formal admissions process, and the programs generally involve one to three years of study. At a cost of between USD\$15,000 to USD\$25,000, students have the option to apply for financial aid to fund their online studies if necessary.

Specializations allow students to master a specific skill. These courses involve working directly on projects based on real-world challenges. The specialization programs take four to six months to complete, and cost between \$39 to \$79 per month.

[Degrees](#) > Master of Business Administration (iMBA)

A premier MBA program that is affordable, heavily interactive, and completely online from one of the world's 30 most powerful university brands.

The fully accredited iMBA is heavily interactive, with live global classrooms, team projects, and personal contact with top professors. The 800+ students in our iMBA family represent more than 40 countries and 40 states across the USA.

The iMBA organizes content into self-contained packages we call Specializations, which cover Core courses in leadership, strategy, economics, accounting, and finance. These Specializations will help you hone your foundational executive management abilities. Special tracks are designed to develop your future-forward vision in areas like digital marketing, innovation, and globalization. As you complete a Specialization, you're ready for immediate impact in that area. Together, the Specializations create a complete MBA, a complete leadership package.

At under \$22k, the program is an incredible value and has been called a 'breakthrough' by Poets & Quants, a leading authority on management education.

### Who is this degree for:

With the innovative iMBA program, we have reimagined MBA education and created an MBA program that makes the online experience a new kind of educational experience. The program welcomes people from varied backgrounds, be it arts, science, music, engineering, finance, accounting, consulting, marketing, medicine, military, and many more. The iMBA is for anyone who wants to enhance their business acumen and leadership capabilities either to change careers or just get better in their profession and understand the business side of things.

### Try your first course today:

- [Digital Marketing MasterTrack™](#)
- [Strategic Leadership & Management Specialization](#)
- [Managerial Economics & Business Analysis Specialization](#)
- [Value Chain Management Specialization](#)
- [Financial Management Specialization](#)
- [Global Challenges in Business Specialization](#)
- [Innovation: From Creativity to Entrepreneurship Specialization](#)

#### AT A GLANCE



24-36 months



18 courses plus three capstone projects



~\$22,000



Completely online

### Start your application

The next cohort starts on January 14th, 2019.

#### Early Admission Deadline:

Round 1: August 31st, 2018

Round 2: September 28th, 2018

Round 3: October 26th, 2018

#### Benefits of applying earlier:

- Time to get all application materials submitted on time
- Gain feedback earlier

#### Final Deadline:

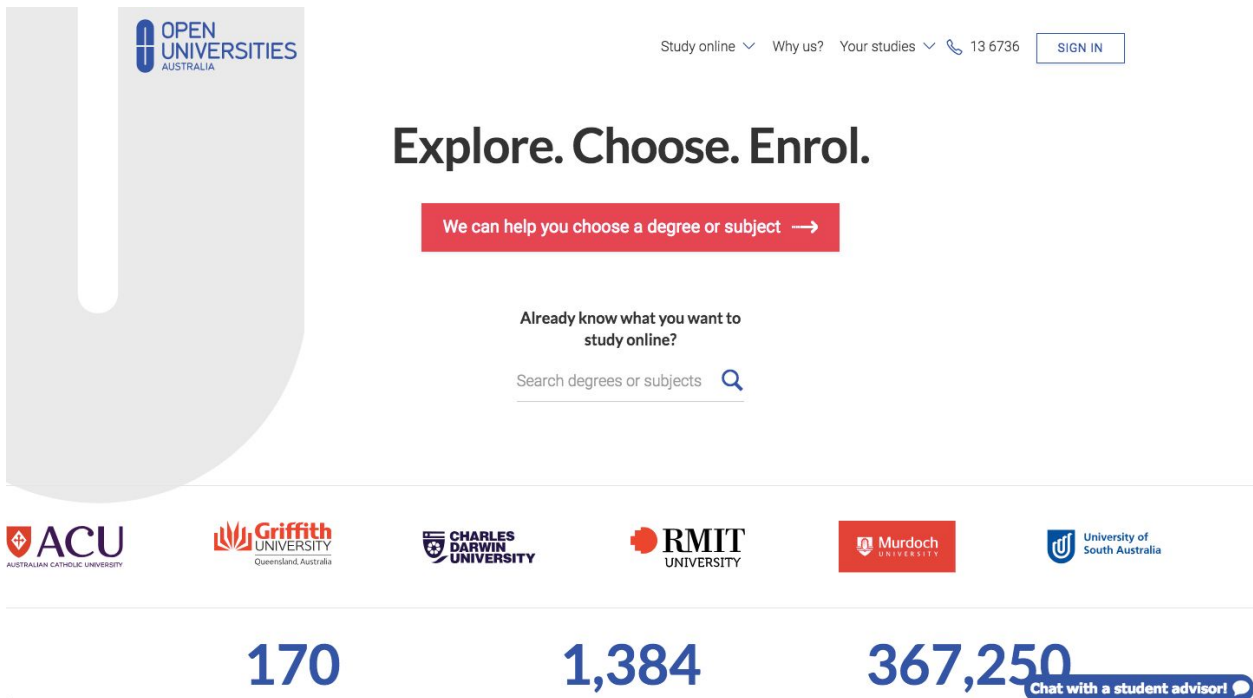
November 30th, 2018

[Apply Now](#)

[See Admissions Requirements](#)

*Example MBA degree offered on Coursera by the University of Illinois.*

# Open Universities Australia



The header of the Open Universities Australia website features a large, light grey 'U' on the left. To its right is the 'OPEN UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA' logo. Further right is a navigation bar with links: 'Study online', 'Why us?', 'Your studies', a phone icon, the number '13 6736', and a 'SIGN IN' button. Below the navigation bar is the main heading 'Explore. Choose. Enrol.' followed by a red button that says 'We can help you choose a degree or subject' with a right-pointing arrow. Below this is a search section with the text 'Already know what you want to study online?' and a search bar containing the text 'Search degrees or subjects' and a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom of the header is a row of logos for partner universities: ACU (Australian Catholic University), Griffith University (Queensland, Australia), Charles Darwin University, RMIT University, Murdoch University, and the University of South Australia. Below the logos are three large numbers: '170', '1,384', and '367,250'. To the right of the '367,250' is a blue button that says 'Chat with a student advisor!' with a speech bubble icon.

Study online ▾ Why us? Your studies ▾ 13 6736 SIGN IN

## Explore. Choose. Enrol.

We can help you choose a degree or subject →

Already know what you want to study online?

Search degrees or subjects 🔍

ACU AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Griffith UNIVERSITY Queensland, Australia

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

RMIT UNIVERSITY

Murdoch UNIVERSITY

University of South Australia

170

1,384

367,250 Chat with a student advisor!

**Number of Students:** 400,000

**Number of Courses:** 170 qualifications

**Pricing:** \$300 - \$28,000

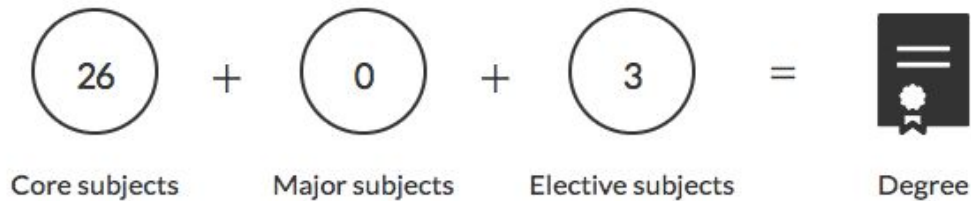
Open Universities Australia is a public, online, distance learning and research university. Undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and courses are provided by Australia's top universities, including ACU, Griffith University, Charles Darwin University, RMIT, Murdoch, the University of South Australia, Curtin University, and others.

OUA was created with the goal of meeting the changing demands and expectations of students in the current workforce and education climate. Students enrolled in these online courses also have access to a FEE-HELP scheme, which provides deferred payment options for eligible students completing undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

Degrees are available in the fields of art, business, education and health, and the 170 programs cover over 1,380 subjects. As well as offering online learning, students also have the option of completing their degree-related courses on-campus and in-person if they choose. Like any university level admittance, most degrees at OUA require that candidates meet standard entry protocols, such as completion of a high school diploma or proof of previous study. For individual subject courses, however, anyone can enroll.

# Degree structure

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*Example degree program structure.*

Online coursework is provided by recorded lectures, seminars, text pieces, slides, and interactive forums. Each degree or subject involves mandatory assessments, either during or upon conclusion of the course. Once enrolled, you will be able to contact and communicate with OUA staff and faculty directly and regularly, making the platform an accessible and supportive option for remote study. Similar to a traditional onsite university program, OUA courses follow a fixed schedule in line with the participating universities' system.

Subject courses start at \$300 (AUD), while degree certifications range from \$28,000.

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While traditional onsite university continuing education programs remain a valid education option for many, the rise of online continuing education now caters not only to a new audience, but to new lifestyles and a new job market.

When choosing the right route, take the time to reflect on your current skill set, and identify your professional and personal goals going forward. Not only will this help you decide whether online education is the right choice for you, but it'll direct you towards the course most suited to your needs, interests, and chosen career industry. When you're ready, these online platforms and institutions might just offer the perfect opportunity to kick start or continue your educational journey.

Or, at the very least, you might learn a fun new party trick or two.