

Connect members – develop your professional skills at a discount



Ten per cent discount for Connect members

Drawing on years of experience providing high quality learning, The Open University (OU) has developed flexible online courses in Business and Management to support professionals like yourself with your skills development and to contribute towards your CPD needs.

They are available to Connect members at a 10% discount.

All our flexible online courses:

- provide structured and evidenced professional development which can form part of your personal skills development
- can be started, studied and completed when and where it suits you
- are conveniently divided into 1-2 hour chunks of learning around your chosen subject
- can be taken over several months to give up to 30 hours of skills development per course
- are affordably priced under £450 – which represents a competitive rate of £15 per hour
- enable you to apply your learning directly to your work and professional practice
- offer support and personal feedback from expert learning advisors
- award an Open University Certificate on successful completion to use in your c.v. and to underpin your CPD portfolio.

Suggested courses for Connect members



Effective leadership skills

There are many different views about leadership. This course takes a critical, but constructive approach to these ideas and then identifies what is of most value to you in the different ideas about leadership. It will enable you to take a well-founded approach to developing your own practices and skills in leadership.

Effective decision making skills

Many decisions are routine, but time consuming. Others are complex, involving strategic actions – launching a new product into a new market, investing funds, opening a new business unit. This sort of decision can carry risks – especially in a climate experiencing turbulent changes and unpredictability. In this course, you explore how you can reduce time spent on routine decision making and focus on considering more challenging strategic decisions.

How to use coaching at work

Coaching at work is a powerful staff development tool which is work-based, practical and involves learning at work rather than off-site. It is carried on informally in almost every workplace. This course enables you to develop more effective coaching skills in your own work setting. Focussed on the role of the manager and/or specialist in coaching staff at all levels, it suits those wanting to develop their own coaching skills or wanting to encourage coaching skills in the wider workforce.

Managing complexity: a toolkit approach

This course is based on a toolkit, derived from over three years research into helping managers manage rather than use over-proceduralised project approaches or just 'muddle along'. It is presented in a non-jargon format, taking you step-by-step

from early project outline through to final project proposal and then to monitoring and evaluation. The approach includes user friendly risk analysis, stakeholder analysis, problem description and project measurement at impact level.

Managing conflict

Conflicts are inevitable and can be costly if badly handled or unmanaged. This course helps you recognise the causes and sources of conflict and gives you skills to deal with the situation. Whether you are in the front line with customers, coping with suppliers, human resources or colleagues, this course develops a knowledge and skills base that helps you resolve conflict more effectively

Other courses

There are many more professional skills courses in our flexible online portfolio at www.open.ac.uk/cpd

How to sign up for a course

Go to www.open.co.uk/cpd/?q=connect

Then click on the 'Special offers' link. This will allow you to claim the discount for Connect Members.

Four good reasons to choose the OU

1. Ranked in the top two UK universities for student satisfaction in all four National Student Surveys, 2005 to 2008
2. World leaders in learning while you work - and putting it into practice
3. Famous for the quality and ease of use of its learning materials
4. Ranked in Top 5 for teaching quality, Sunday Times University Guide

Call: 0845 366 6041

Click: www.open.ac.uk/cpd/?q=connect