What is a MOOC?

MOOC stands for ‘massive open online course’. The term originated in the US in 2008 to describe free, easily accessible, completely online courses. MOOCs give you the chance to study with top universities around the world.



MOOCs don’t always lead to formal qualifications, but they do mean you can gain knowledge in all sorts of areas. You might use a MOOC to develop career skills, prepare for other education, or explore a new interest.

There are usually no entry requirements for MOOCs. You can take part regardless of where you live or your financial circumstances. Because they take place online, MOOCs can grow very big. You might find yourself learning with thousands of other people – they don’t call them massive for nothing.

How does a MOOC work?

MOOCs usually have a specific start and finish date, they run a couple of times a year, and last for weeks rather than the months or years that traditional university courses do.

During a MOOC, you’ll use a wide range of online media and interactive tools to interact with university educators and other learners. This might include video lectures, articles, discussions, assignments and social networking.

Due to the large number of people taking MOOCs, you’ll usually get support from the community of other learners, as well as educators. And your progress on a course might be assessed through peer-reviewed written assignments or computer-marked tests, rather than by tutors.

In short, MOOCs are free courses for lots of learners that take place completely online.

Career Related MOOCs

Medicine

- **Study Medicine: Applying for Medical School and Becoming a Medical Student (University of Glasgow)**
  Thinking about becoming a doctor? Get tips for writing your medicine application and learn what it's like to be a medical student
- See more **Heathcare & Medicine Courses**

Pharmacy

- **Essentials of Good Pharmacy Practice: The Basics (Taipei Medical University)**
  Discover the essentials of the Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) guidelines and learn how they support better pharmaceutical services.
- See more **Pharmacy Courses**

Dentistry

- **Discover Dentistry (University of Sheffield)**
  Discover the fascinating world of dentistry and explore the impact dentistry has on our lives.
- See more **Dentistry Courses**

Veterinary Science

- **Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession (University of Nottingham)**
  Learn what it takes to become a vet and explore the challenges of the vet profession to decide if it's the right career for you.
- See more **Veterinary Science Courses**

Nursing

- **Introduction to Nursing: The Role of Nurses Around the World (King's College London)**
  Understand the role of nurses: from personal care, to supporting families and communities, to public health and infection control.#
- See more **Nursing Courses**

Law

- **How to Become a Lawyer (University of Law)**
  Discover how to begin a career in the legal sector and the skills you need to be a top lawyer in England.

- See more **Law Courses**

Business & Management

- **Introduction to Studying Business (University of Law)**
  Prepare for an undergraduate business degree, with support in academic English skills such as critical reading and note taking.
- See more **Business & Management Courses**

Teaching & Education

- **The Right to Education: Breaking Down the Barriers (University of Glasgow)**
  How can we support those who are marginalised and excluded from education? Does education for all, mean all?
- See more **Teaching Courses**

Economics, Accountancy & Finance

- **The Politics of Economics and the Economics of Politicians (University of Nottingham)**
  Investigate links between economics and politicians with Sir Vince Cable and leading economists at the University of Nottingham.
- See more **Economics** and **Finance & Accountancy** courses

Engineering

- **Principles of Engineering (King's College London)**
  Gain a fascinating introduction to engineering principles and learn about key engineering skills, processes, and technologies.
- See more **Engineering Courses**

Architechture

- **Modern Building Design (University of Bath)**
  Learn how climate change, technology and regulation are changing modern building design and professional practice in construction.
- See more **Architecture Courses**

Creative Arts & Media

- **Lights, Camera, Computer - Action! How Digital Technology is Transforming Film, TV, and Gaming (University of York)**
- See more **Creative Arts & Media Courses**

Subject Related MOOCs

Science, Engineering, Maths, IT and Computer Science

Biology

- **The Biology of Bugs, Brains, and Beasts (University of York)**
  Improve your understanding of some of the key concepts in A level biology and discover what's involved in higher level study.
- See more **Biology Courses**

Chemistry

- **Chemical Engineering: Shaping a Sustainable Future (University of Leeds)**
- Learn how chemical engineering can help to solve global challenges and explore its role in delivering sustainable development.
- See more **Chemistry Courses**

Physics

- **Introduction to Thermodynamics (University of Hull)**
  Discover the laws of thermodynamics as you learn how to calculate chemical properties and predict chemical reactions.
- See more **Physics Courses**

Maths

- **Maths Puzzles: Cryptarithms, Symbologies and Secret Codes (The Weizmann Institute of Science)**
  Explore and solve encrypted maths puzzles, in which numbers are replaced by letters or symbols, with this free online course.
- See more **Maths Courses**

IT & Computer Science

- **How to Get Into AI (University of Leeds)**
  Kickstart your AI career by mastering essential technical skills. Learn how AI can grow your professional opportunities.
- See more **IT & Computer Science Courses**

Product Design

- **Fundamental Skills in Engineering Design (University of Leeds)**
  Discover the essential skills that will help you succeed as a developer with this interactive online software development course.
- See more **Product Design Courses**

Languages and Literature

English Language & Literature

- **An Introduction to Sociolinguistics: Accents, Attitudes and Identity (University of York)**
  Learn how sociolinguists explore the relationship between language and the expression of personal, social and cultural identity.
- See more **Linguistics** and **Literature Courses**

Modern Foreign Languages

- **Working with Translation: Theory and Practice (Cardiff University)**
  Explore what it means to communicate in multiple languages in a variety of contexts, and discover your inner translator.
- See more **Language Courses**

Humanities and Social Sciences

History

- **The Tudors (University of Roehampton)**
  Go back in time to learn about the dramatic rule of the Tudor monarchs and religious change of the sixteenth century reformation.
- See more **History Courses**

Geography

- **Come Rain or Shine: Understanding the Weather (University of Reading)**
  Understand and explore the physical processes behind the weather.
- See more **Nature and Environment Courses**

Politics

- **How Politics Works: From the Individual to an International Scale (University of Kent)**
  Prepare yourself for a degree in politics.
- See more **Politics Courses**

Psychology

- **Introduction to Cognitive Psychology: An Experimental Science (University of York)**
  Learn how to use cognitive psychology experiments to explore how the mind works with this online psychology course.
- See more **Psychology Courses**

Sociology

- **What Is Sociology? An Introduction (The University of Newcastle Australia)**
  Examine perspectives on society, and the cultural issues facing society. Apply sociological theory to researching social groups.
- See more **Sociology Courses**

Religious Studies

- **Why Religion Matters: Religious Literacy, Culture and Diversity (The Open University)**
  Discover why religion is important for understanding and engaging with global challenges.
- See more **Religion Courses**

Visual and Creative Arts

Film Studies, Art & Photography

- **Understanding Media: Introduction to Critical Media Literacy (The University of Newcastle Australia)**
  How does the media affect us? Find out and improve your media literacy by learning how to analyse media, film and culture.
- See more **Photography & Visual Arts Courses**

Music & Drama

- **Music Moves: Why Does Music Make You Move? (University of Oslo)**
  Learn about the psychology of music and movement and how researchers study music-related body motion.
- See more **Creative Arts & Media Courses**

Physical Education

Sports Science

- **Introduction to Sport, Health, and Rehabilitation Sciences at University (University of Hull)**
  Take your first steps towards a career in sport, health, and rehabilitation sciences with the University of Hull.
- See more **Sports Science Courses**

Nutrition

- **Food Science and Nutrition: From the Farm to You (University of Leeds)**
  Follow food's fascinating journey from the farm to your body and explore new food technologies and nutrition around the world.
- See more **Food Tech Courses**