

# The Open University

- **Established in 1969 by Royal Charter to provide part-time university level study to adults by supported open learning**
- **How big? 200,000 students and customers worldwide**
- **Where? European Union, Switzerland and worldwide partners**
- **What? BA / BSc, LLB, MA / MSc, Cert / Dip Mgt, MBA, short courses**
- **How? take individual courses for credit points which build up to a qualification**
- **Why? for personal interest, to further your career, to obtain a university qualification, to update or acquire your skills or knowledge**
- **Ranked in the top 5 UK Universities for quality of teaching (Sunday Times 2003 and 2004)**



# The Open University is the same because ...

- **Qualifications awarded are at exactly the same level as any other UK university**
- **Degrees are recognised as equivalent to any other UK university**
- **Funded in exactly the same way as other UK universities**
- **Externally assessed by the UK Quality Assurance Agency in the same way as other UK universities**

# The Open University is different because ...

- **No need for previous qualifications for undergraduate courses**
- **Study at home or at work with specially designed materials**
- **Arrange your lifestyle around your study or your study around your lifestyle**
- **Home but not alone – personal support**

# The Open University is better because...

- **You learn step by step – you can start with just one course**
- **You can pay in instalments**
- **You can take a break between courses**
- **The OU is a pioneer of supported open learning (with more than 35 years experience)**
- **Over 150,000 students and staff are now online**



# Organisation

- **The headquarters of the OU is at Milton Keynes (UK), about 80 km north of London**
- **There are 13 UK Regional Centres**
- **The Regional Centre for the North of England is responsible for its local students and also the students in Continental Europe**
- **There are 12 European Coordinators**
- **There are 7,000 students in Continental Europe of whom 1,300 are in Germany**

# Choosing a course ...

- **Start at level 1 if you have never studied at university before, or choose a short course**
- **a 60 point course = 16 hours of study per week  
a 30 point course = 10 hours of study per week**
- **Maximum 120 points in one year**
- **Do you want to obtain a qualification? If so, check the recommended route**
- **Do you want to apply for credit transfer?**

# Course components

- **Specially written study texts and other printed materials**
- **Audio and video materials produced by the OU / BBC**
- **CD-Roms, DVDs, computer software, online conferencing and course websites**
- **Support of a personal tutor**
- **Assessment – assignments and exam**
- **Residential schools**
- **First Class – the OU's email and conferencing system**
- **Advisory support**

## Becoming a student ...

- **Follow the information in the prospectus on ‘Becoming a Student’, or**
- **Register via the course description on the website**
- **Take note of application deadlines**

### **Payment:**

- **Payment in full when you register**
- **Open an OUSBA account to pay in monthly instalments once your course has begun**
- **If you withdraw before your course starts, your fee liability is cancelled and any fees paid refunded**