Bachelor of Arts (Community Development) - 2017

Provided by

Murdoch University
About this course

Australia’s communities are ever-changing and evolving and there is always a demand for qualified professionals to deal with the challenges that arise. The Bachelor of Arts (Community Development) online degree will equip you with the skills and strong practical knowledge for a career working with a variety of community groups and institutions. With this online course you will develop skills in communication, critical thinking, social policy and social justice that you can apply to a wealth of career options including the non-profit and government sectors. Our nation’s future depends on knowledgeable professionals to help ensure the communities’ voices are heard and acknowledged.

Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualification</td>
<td>Bachelor Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of units</td>
<td>24 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider</td>
<td>Murdoch University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overview

**Please Note:** New students who wish to complete this course should go to Murdoch’s Bachelor of Arts course page.

The Murdoch University Bachelor of Arts (Community Development) will give you valuable knowledge and understanding of the issues that affect community members and community groups.

It will provide you with a strong understanding of specific social institutions such as the family, work and the law, contemporary social issues such as social, gender and racial inequality, unemployment, health and welfare, social deviance and social control and how these affect people’s lives in a community context.

If you want to be in high demand for your knowledge and understanding of community issues
then Murdoch University's Community Development course is for you.

Learning Outcomes

KNOWLEDGE

Students graduating with a Major in Community Development will be able to:

- understand and evaluate literature written about community development
- understand the scope and nature of community development as it is being carried out in a range of social, geographic, industry and cultural contexts
- understand a range of social policy 'governmentalities' and approaches that shape contemporary work with community.

SKILLS

Students graduating with a Major in Community Development will have the skills to:

- use creative and professional styles and genres to write for a range of community audiences
- develop a research plan to carry out a community survey, plan or participatory process
- prepare a policy document for professional practice
- prepare an application for funding
- use relevant technologies and techniques to encourage community participation and achieve a range of creative outcomes with community
- Prepare written document on behalf of and in conjunction with community groups.

APPLICATION

Students graduating with a Major in Community Development will have the knowledge and skills to:

- interpret, communicate and present ideas in (or in relation to) a variety of community contexts to a range of audiences
- work collaboratively and independently in the range of settings to respond to project demands and community groups
- reflect, skeptically and creatively, on the social, ethical and political context that confronts professional practice
- function with creativity, innovation, elegance and cross-cultural dexterity to the many needs, demands and opportunities confronting the communities with whom they work.

Career Outcomes

This degree aims to develop your skills and abilities in communication, critical thinking, ethics and social justice as well as developing more specific knowledge related to Community Development.

Graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Community Development will be suitable candidates for a wide range of careers in community services and welfare groups, government departments, and not-for-profit organisations.
Course units

Transition Arrangements

Changes to Bachelor of Arts courses at Murdoch University in 2015

This advice is about changes to Murdoch University’s BA courses in 2015 and how this affects you as a student intending to complete a Murdoch BA.

Murdoch's commitment to you:

- Murdoch will honour its commitments to you as a Murdoch student.
- You will not be disadvantaged by the changes to the curriculum.
- Murdoch will actively manage your progress and provide study-planning support.

The significant changes are:

- In 2015, 100 level units will remain unchanged at 3 points.
- In 2015, Part II units will progressively move from four points to three points: Some 200 level units previously offered at 4 points will become 3 point units, and in 2016 all remaining units previously offered at 4 points will become 3 point units.
- In 2015 some units will be retired and some new units will be created, but you will not be disadvantaged by any of the changes.
- If you are beginning your studies in 2015, you should follow the 2015 course structure.
- If you have completed only a small number of units in your course, you can transition into the new 2015 course structure, gaining credit for units already completed.
- If you are well advanced in your course, you can continue to follow the course structure you have followed until now and will probably do a mix of 4 and 3-point units to finish your course.
- Whether you have completed a small number of units or you are well advanced in your studies, you will not be disadvantaged in terms of fees and the points required to graduate. Your Academic Chair is there to ensure this, and to assist you in developing your study plan through to graduation.

If you have any queries about any of these changes, you can ask a question in Murdoch’s ‘MyAnswers’, providing your student number and identifying your course (or intended course).

You may also directly contact the Academic Chair of the course in which you wish to graduate.

Academic Chair: Dr David Palmer - D.Palmer@Murdoch.edu.au / Tel: +61 8 93602288

For more transition arrangement information, please go to this Murdoch website:

http://our.murdoch.edu.au/OUA/

Recommended Study Pattern
To get the most from this course, students are recommended to follow these steps:

**LEVEL 1 (total of 24 points)**
- Complete the Transition and Breadth units - BAR100 and BAR150 (6 points)
- Complete three Part I core units (9 points)
- Complete three Level 1 General Electives from any OUA unit (9 points)

**LEVEL 2 (total of 24 points)**
- Complete the Research Skills unit - BAR200 (3 points)
- Complete one Breadth Unit from the list (3 points)
- Complete two Part II (Level 2) core units (6 points)
- Complete one Part II (Level 2) specified elective unit (3 points)
- Complete three Level 2 or 3 General Electives from any OUA unit (9 points)

**LEVEL 3 (total of 24 points)**
- Complete the Research Skills unit - BAR300 (3 points)
- Complete one Breadth Unit from the list (3 points)
- Complete three Part II (Level 3) core units (9 points)
- Complete three Level 2 or 3 General Electives from any OUA unit (9 points)

**Course structure**

**Majors**

**Level 1**

**Core Units – 6 credit points**
BAR100 Academic Learning Skills (Transition Unit)
BAR150 Ideas & Identity (Breadth Unit)

**Core Units – 9 credit points**
COD125: Introduction to Community Development
SOC134: Introduction to Sociology
SUS100 Introduction to Sustainable Development

**Level 2**

**Core Units – 6 credit points**
BAR200 Developing Research Skills
Plus one of the following Murdoch University Breadth Units:
- BRD202 Drugs in Society
- BRD251 Wellbeing
- BRD209 Creativity and Innovation
- POL226 Sex and Gender Matters
- AIS204 Indigenous Australia and the Nation
- ENV245 Global and Regional Sustainability
• ASN288 Women in Asian Societies
• PHL209 Metaphors of Mind
• REL101 World Religions

You may complete more than one Murdoch Breadth unit (as general electives)

**Core Units – 6 credit points**
COD201 Community Work Across Sites Settings & Peoples
COD214 Community and Social Policy

**Level 3**

**Core Units – 6 credit points**
BAR300 Bachelor of Arts Research Skills

Plus one of the following Murdoch University Breadth Units not yet completed:

• BRD202 Drugs in Society
• BRD251 Wellbeing
• BRD209 Creativity and Innovation
• POL226 Sex and Gender Matters
• AIS204 Indigenous Australia and the Nation
• ENV245 Global and Regional Sustainability
• ASN288 Women in Asian Societies
• PHL209 Metaphors of Mind
• REL101 World Religions

**Core Units – 9 credit points**
SUS310 Sustainable Urban Communities
COD303 Preparing for Professional Community Practice
COD302 Creative Ways to Work with Community

**Please Note:** Units which appear in a major and the breadth unit list may only be counted towards the requirements of the major.

**Electives**

**Part I (Level 1)**

**General Electives – 9 credit points**
Select from any 100 level units offered by OUA, subject to individual unit prerequisites. Students who are considering a second major are advised to consider using General Elective points (from Murdoch offerings) to meet the requirements of a second major.

**Part II (Level 2)**

**General Electives – 9 credit points**
In addition to one core 200 level Murdoch University Breadth Unit you are encouraged to complete additional Murdoch 200 level Breadth units as general electives.

Select from any 200 or 300 level units offered by OUA, subject to individual unit prerequisites.
Students who are considering a second major are advised to consider using General Elective points (from Murdoch offerings) to meet the requirements of a second major.

**Specified Electives - 3 credit points**
Select from the following:

AIS204 Indigenous Australia and the Nation
SUS207 Overseas Aid & International Development

**Part II (Level 3)**
In addition to one core 200 level Murdoch University Breadth Unit you are encouraged to complete additional Murdoch 200 level Breadth units as general electives.

**General Electives – 9 credit points**
Select from any 200 or 300 level units offered by OUA, subject to individual unit prerequisites. Students who are considering a second major are advised to consider using General Elective points (from Murdoch offerings) to meet the requirements of a second major.

**Part I (Level 1) Core - Transition and Breadth units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of units to complete: 2 units</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Optional</th>
<th>Provided by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ BAR100 Academic Learning Skills</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Murdoch</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ BAR150 Ideas and Identity</td>
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<td>Murdoch</td>
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</table>

**Part I (Level 1) Core units - Major**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of units to complete: 6 units</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Optional</th>
<th>Provided by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ COD125 Introduction to Community Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
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<tr>
<td>★ SUS100 Introduction to Sustainable Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ SOC134 Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Electives (3 units) - Select from any 100 level units offered by OUA, subject to individual unit prerequisites. Students who are considering a second major are advised to consider using General Elective points (from Murdoch offerings) to meet the requirements of a second major.

**Part II (Level 2) Core unit - Research Skills and Breadth Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of units to complete: 2 units</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Optional</th>
<th>Provided by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ BAR200 Developing Research Skills and Methods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COURSE</td>
<td>TITLE</td>
<td>PROVIDER</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRD202</td>
<td>Drugs in Society</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRD251</td>
<td>Wellbeing</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRD209</td>
<td>Creativity and Innovation</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV245</td>
<td>Global and Regional Sustainability</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIS204</td>
<td>Indigenous Australia and the Nation</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL226</td>
<td>Sex and Gender Matters</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASN288</td>
<td>Women in Asian Societies</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHL209</td>
<td>Metaphors of Mind</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL101</td>
<td>World Religions</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 You MUST complete one of these Breadth units as Core. You may choose to complete more than one as elective units.

Please Note: Units which appear in a major and the breadth unit list may only be counted towards the requirements of the major. If a student completes REL101 as breadth unit for Level 2 or Level 3, the credit points will be counted in Part I points total. Note that no more than 30 credit points at Part I may be credited towards course completion requirements.

**PART II (Level 2) Core units - Major**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PROVIDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COD201</td>
<td>Community Work Across Sites, Settings and Peoples</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COD214</td>
<td>Community and Social Policy</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Electives (3 units) - Select from any 200 or 300 level units offered by OUA, subject to individual unit prerequisites. Students who are considering a second major are advised to consider using General Elective points (from Murdoch offerings) to meet the requirements of a second major.

**Part II (Level 2) Specified Elective units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PROVIDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIS204</td>
<td>Indigenous Australia and the Nation</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUS207</td>
<td>Overseas Aid and International Development</td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 AIS204 replaced the retired unit AIS234 Our Mob: Indigenous Community Engagement. Students who have completed AIS234 will have it counted towards their degree.

### Part II (Level 3) Core unit - Research Skills and Breadth Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of units to complete: 2 units</th>
<th>★ Required ☆ Elective ☉ Optional</th>
<th>Provided by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ BAR300 Advanced Research in the Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☆ BRD2021 Drugs in Society</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☆ BRD2511 Wellbeing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☆ BRD2091 Creativity and Innovation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☆ ENV2451 Global and Regional Sustainability</td>
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<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☆ AIS2041 Indigenous Australia and the Nation</td>
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<td>Murdoch</td>
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<tr>
<td>☆ POL2261 Sex and Gender Matters</td>
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<td>Murdoch</td>
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<tr>
<td>☆ ASN2881 Women in Asian Societies</td>
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<tr>
<td>☆ PHL2091 Metaphors of Mind</td>
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<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☆ REL1011 World Religions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 You MUST complete one of these Breadth units not yet completed for Level 3. You may choose to complete more than one as elective units.

Please Note: Units which appear in a major and the breadth unit list may only be counted towards the requirements of the major. If a student completes REL101 as breadth unit for Level 2 or Level 3, the credit points will be counted in Part I points total. Note that no more than 30 credit points at Part I may be credited towards course completion requirements.

### PART II (Level 3) Core units - Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of units to complete: 6 units</th>
<th>★ Required ☆ Elective ☉ Optional</th>
<th>Provided by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ SUS310 Sustainable Urban Communities</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ COD302 Creative Ways to Work with Community</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ COD303 Preparing for Professional Community Practice</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdoch</td>
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</table>
General Electives (3 units) - Select from any 200 or 300 level units offered by OUJA, subject to individual unit prerequisites. Students who are considering a second major are advised to consider using General Elective points (from Murdoch offerings) to meet the requirements of a second major.
Course Admission Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Commonwealth supported place in this degree, you must be:

- An Australian citizen residing in Australia for all or part of your studies; OR
- A New Zealand citizen who will be residing in Australia for the duration of your study; OR
- The holder of a permanent visa who will be residing in Australia for the duration of your study.

You must also meet the following requirements:

- 4 OUA Undergraduate units at pass level OR equivalent

OR

ONE of the following:

1. School Leavers (ATAR/OP)

School leavers gain an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) from four course subjects completed during Year 12, or OP (Overall Positions) in Queensland.

To apply to Murdoch University after Year 12, you must achieve English competency and have achieved your WA Certificate of Education (WACE) or its interstate equivalent along with the ATAR (or OP) relevant for your chosen course.

An ATAR of 70.00 or higher (or a Queensland Overall Position of 14 or less) is required for admission to a Commonwealth Support Place in this course.

To demonstrate English language competency you will need a scaled mark of at least 50 in one of:

- WACE English 2A/2B or higher, or
- WACE English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) 2A/2B or higher, or
- WACE Literature 2A/2B or higher.

If you have been educated outside of WA, you will need to demonstrate an equivalent level of English language competency (as assessed in your home state), or meet any of the English language Requirements as stated on the Murdoch website. Other than English competency Murdoch has no prerequisite subjects for any of its degrees.

OR

2. Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT)

STAT is a national test for mature age people designed to assess aptitude for learning in a tertiary environment. It is not a test of your knowledge on specific academic subjects. It is recognised in all Australian states. You must achieve a minimum of 140 in the Written English and 135 in the Qualitative or Multiple Choice sections of the STAT to gain entry to Murdoch.
3. Transferring from another course or university

If you have successfully completed university studies equivalent to at least one semester at Murdoch University (12 Murdoch credit points) you can apply to transfer to Murdoch University using your previous studies. To be eligible for the course, you need to have passed units to a high standard and may be required to provide a personal statement upon application.

OR

4. Vocational Education and Training (VET)

If you have successfully completed a Certificate IV or higher you can apply for admission into a Commonwealth Support Place.

To learn more about Commonwealth supported places, including eligibility please see Commonwealth supported places.

Please note: You can still enrol and pay for your units via FEE-HELP or an upfront payment if you are not eligible for CSP.
Qualifications

Award Requirements

To qualify for the Bachelor of Arts (Community Development) at Murdoch University, students must complete 72 credit points (24 units).

The Murdoch Degree Framework

(72 Points of Credit: 24 points at Part I, 48 points at Part II)

A Murdoch University degree is structured around four key elements:

• transition to university,
• research skills,
• breadth of knowledge, and
• depth of knowledge (the chosen Major).

Degree Structures

Murdoch’s degree structures combine all the required elements to make a student knowledgeable, experienced, confident and successful within a chosen career:

Each level of an undergraduate degree requires 24 credit points, the equivalent of a year of full-time study. Taking a combined degree introduces additional credit point requirements to your qualification.

Transition to University

Each degree includes a transition unit, helping students develop the key academic skills to succeed in a chosen field. Students entering Murdoch with advanced standing will still be required to complete this unit or demonstrate achievement of the unit’s learning outcomes.

Research Skills

Second and third year units focus on the research skills relevant to the chosen degree. Research, communication and problem solving abilities are highly valued by employers, so we aim to ‘future proof’ your education with skills for undertaking life-long learning.

These skills involve:

• Identifying research
• Using appropriate methodology to find, record and organise research data;
• Critically evaluating and interpreting available information;
• Managing the research process and organising information;
• Communicating research findings with the appropriate language and context.

Breadth of Knowledge

Often, the best solutions appear when people apply knowledge in new ways or work with a team to bring different skills together. Breadth studies introduces students to knowledge outside a chosen discipline, teaching students to understand how others think and solve problems.

For detailed information go to this website: http://our.murdoch.edu.au/OUA/

Recognition of Prior Learning / Credit

Students may be eligible for credit for previous studies.

When applying for credit, students will need to provide documentation, including original transcripts of academic records or certified copies, unit outlines and an explanation of the grading system.

This must be sent to the Open Universities Support Office at Murdoch University. Please note that credit cannot be gained for subjects completed more than 10 years ago.

To obtain an Application for Advanced Standing Form, please download it from this website:

http://our.murdoch.edu.au/OUA/Forms/

Registering in this Course

Students are recommended to Register with Murdoch University before starting their Part 2 units to receive enrolment advice.
A fee of $250 is payable on registration.

To obtain an Application for Registration Form, please download the form from this website:

http://our.murdoch.edu.au/OUA/Forms/
You’ve done your research, you know what you want to study and you’re ready to roll and enrol. Before you take a look at our step-by-step guide to enrolling, there’s something we need to remind you about. Whether you have a course in mind or you’re still deciding, when you study through OUA you’ll always be enrolling in one or more individual units at a time.

What about CSP units?

The enrolment process for CSP units is a little bit different. If you’d like to find out more about applying for a CSP course or enrolling in CSP units, visit our Commonwealth supported place page.

How to Enrol

1. Add the unit to your Study Cart
   It all starts on the unit page. Once you’ve read the information you need to about the unit you’re keen on studying, press the ADD TO STUDY CART button on the unit page. If you want to add other units, do that before you move on to Step 2.

2. Go to your Study Cart and register or log in
   Once you’re done with Step 1, you’ll have one or more units in your Study Cart. You’ll notice that the number next to the little trolley at the very top of the page has changed. Click on that trolley. If you’ve never studied with OUA before, this is the time to register. If you already have an account, just sign in.

3. Tell us when you want to study
   On the Study Cart page you’ll see a list of units you’ve selected. Next to each one you’ll see some options of when you can study the unit. The next available Study Period, Session or Semester will be selected by default. If you want to study it in a different Study Period, Session or Semester (and your unit lets you do that) now’s the time to choose that option. We’ll also ask you to confirm your citizenship status and to check any alerts (things like prerequisite requirements for the unit you’ve selected).

4. Press the ENROL NOW button
   Once you’re done with Step 3 and all the alerts have disappeared, press the ENROL NOW button at the bottom of the Study Cart page.

5. Fill out the Enrol page information
   You’re almost done. Next we’ll get you to fill in your personal details, enter the information the government needs from all higher education students and choose the payment option that suits you best. If you’re eligible and would like to apply for FEE-HELP, you can do that at this point.
Where we've come from

From the very start, long before we were called Open Universities Australia (OUA), and even before the internet became a part of everyday life, our organisation has been all about making education easier to access.

A pioneer from the beginning

In 1990, the Australian Government established the Open Learning Initiative, a project aimed at extending access to and increasing participation in higher education, examining the potential of communication technologies for education and increasing public awareness of higher education.

The initiative launched in 1991 with the Television Open Learning Pilot, investigating the possibility of creating an educational television channel, hosted by Monash University, and supported by a consortium of Australian universities, as well as Australia’s public broadcaster, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (the ABC).

Although study via television may sound outdated now, it was at the time a pioneering venture (the first time Australian universities had delivered educational content nationally via television) and established a philosophy of innovation that still exists today.

Open Learning Australia

The launch of the pilot program was followed by the formation of Open Learning Australia in 1993, a publicly funded company with Monash University as its single shareholder. Also under the auspices of the Open Learning Initiative, the Open Learning Electronic Support Service (OLESS) was established in 1994, and Open Net in 1995. The goal of Open Net was to provide access to online learning services to all students, regardless of their location.

In 1997 the separate strands of the Open Learning Initiative were combined under the umbrella of Open Learning Australia (OLA).

Expansion

In 1997 seven new shareholder universities gave their backing to OLA: Australian National University, Curtin University of Technology, Griffith University, Macquarie University, RMIT University, the University of Queensland, and the University of South Australia.

OLA’s entry into the higher education landscape resulted in fewer bureaucratic procedures, more flexible study schedules for students and expansion into new study areas that hadn’t previously been available via distance education such as science and art.

By 2000, with web presentation and data compression techniques advancing rapidly, OLA had begun to turn many of their courses from paper-based to online.
Our goal has always been to make education easier to access. One of the ways we do this is by making many of our undergraduate courses and units available without academic requirements - things like ATARs (Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks, the scores students receive after completing secondary school in Australia) and grade point averages. We refer to these courses and units as open access or open entry (which, by the way, is where our name comes from).

Open Learning Australia became Open Universities Australia in 2004, reflecting the changing demands and expectations of its online students. Although our name changed, our role as pioneers in the online learning movement remained the same.

OUA began to incorporate new technologies and interactive multimedia, streaming media, and social media into its higher education offerings. These technologies allowed OUA to further minimise the isolation of online students, as well as harness the learning potential presented by changing technology.

Today

OUA and its university providers continue to enjoy the benefits that come from the pioneering open learning legacy established more than two decades ago.

Since our foundation, OUA has helped nearly half a million students with their education and career goals.

Find out more about working with us at our LinkedIn Careers page.

Open Access

Our goal has always been to make education easier to access. One of the ways we do this is by making many of our undergraduate courses and units available without academic requirements - things like ATARs (Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks, the scores students receive after completing secondary school in Australia) and grade point averages. We refer to these courses and units as open access or open entry (which, by the way, is where our name comes from).

How does open entry work?

Say you’ve got your eye on the Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) with Curtin University. If you want to study it as an on-campus student there is at least one academic entry requirement standing in your way, even if you’re applying as a mature-age student.

If you study towards the same degree online through OUA there are no academic entry requirements to hurdle during enrolment. You don’t need to worry about your previous study and whether your study schedule will suit your work or family obligations – you can shape your timetable to fit your life.

After initially missing out on the ATAR score to get her into the university course she had her eye on, Avalon Keft “found a new way”. That new way was Open Universities Australia, which let her pursue her passion for ancient history and work towards a degree with Macquarie University online.
Student support services

OUA offers all our students access to online support, advice and guidance. Whether you need to speak with someone about swapping units, trouble with assignments, clarification on a result or need to talk over some personal issues, our support services team is here to help.

Getting advice

Just because you’re studying online, doesn’t mean you’re alone. If you have any questions about your study or you’re unsure about how it all works, an answer is very often only be a phonecall or email away.

Student card

To help you identify yourself as an OUA student and take advantage of select student discounts, we’ll supply you with an OUA student card.

Disability support

We’re committed to providing open and accessible education for all. Our academic providers offer access to a range of options for disability support.

Complaints management

We take the satisfaction of our students seriously and investigate all formally raised issues through our complaints management.

Changing your personal details

Most of your details, such as your contact information, can be changed by signing into My Study centre and updating your profile. There are some details that are used for admission, enrolment and government reporting purposes that cannot be changed online.

Special Circumstances

We understand that students sometimes have to withdraw from a unit due to circumstances beyond their control. If this occurs, you may be able to reduce or avoid financial and academic penalties if you can demonstrate Special Circumstances.

Student coaching and counselling service

Being an online student can mean juggling family, work, friendships and of course study.

♦ Student coaching
♦ Student counselling

“I have definitely felt supported during my studies. Most of the tutors have been really engaging and easy to contact whenever you need advice or to ask a question. I fit in study when I can and work around my schedule. I would definitely recommend OUA to other people.

Georgina Scrambler – Bachelor of Communication, Griffith University.