



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING



# **Open Universities in the Commonwealth: AT A GLANCE**



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in the Commonwealth:  
AT A GLANCE**



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The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to promote the development and sharing of open learning and distance education knowledge, resources and technologies.



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ISBN: 978-1-894975-89-6

#### Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to the heads of all the open universities in the Commonwealth for providing data for preparation of the report. Thanks to Ms. Annegret Wittfoth (Intern) at COL for data coding and preliminary analysis.

Cite as: COL. (2017). *Open universities in the Commonwealth: At a glance*. Burnaby: COL.

#### Published by:

COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING

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# Abbreviations



AIOU	Allama Iqbal Open University
AU	Athabasca University
BAOU	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University
BOU	Bangladesh Open University
BRAOU	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University
ICT	Information and communication technology
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
KKSHOU	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
KSOU	Karnataka State Open University
LMS	Learning management system
MOOC	Massive open online course
MPBOU	Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University
NOU	Nalanda Open University
NOUN	National Open University of Nigeria
NSOU	Netaji Subhas Open University
ODL	Open and distance learning
OER	Open educational resources
OSOU	Odisha State Open University
OU	Open university
OUC	Open University of Cyprus
OUM	Open University Malaysia
OUMa	Open University of Mauritius
OUSL	Open University of Sri Lanka
OUT	Open University of Tanzania
PSSOU	Pandit Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University
SLM	Self-learning material
TNOU	Tamil Nadu Open University
UKOU	The Open University
UNISA	University of South Africa
UOU	Uttarakhand Open University
UPRTOU	Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University
VMOU	Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University
WOU	Wawasan Open University
YCMOU	Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University

# Foreword



When the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was established in 1987, there were 11 open universities in the Commonwealth: six in Asia, three in Canada, and one each in South Africa and the United Kingdom. Today, the number of dedicated single-mode open

universities in the Commonwealth has tripled. Several years ago, the International Centre for Distance Learning (ICDL), at The Open University (UK), collected data about the number of courses and programmes offered by distance teaching institutions in the world. Today, such a source is not available, and it is a challenge to obtain data on the number of students, courses and programmes offered at a distance. Due to the emergence of online providers and campus institutions offering online programmes, open and distance learning (ODL) is no longer the preserve of open universities. The field is much wider than it was 30 years ago, and technology is increasingly contributing to the death of “distance.” It has become an arduous task to track data about distance education. COL has focused on the open universities in the Commonwealth rather than on all providers of ODL.

In the absence of comparative data about open universities, the current impact of ODL institutions is not clear. To develop a database of open universities in the Commonwealth, COL initiated a survey. This report presents 27 open universities that responded to our questionnaire.

This data source on open universities in the Commonwealth will be a valuable resource for both policy makers and practitioners. All the information provided in this report is based on the responses received. Our effort has been to present the data to help readers compare and contrast similar institutions and draw their own conclusions for appropriate action.

The report presents some interesting information — there are over 4.4 million learners enrolled in the 27 open universities in the Commonwealth, who have a choice of over 2,497 programmes and 18,342 courses in almost all disciplines, ranging from humanities to engineering. India has 41 per cent of all the learners in Commonwealth open universities. In ten open universities, the number of female learners exceeds that of males. Learner success at

COL would like to thank all the participating universities for their time and effort in completing the survey. I must also commend my colleague Dr. Sanjaya Mishra for leading this important project with patience and vision. We now have a rich resource that will help us to analyse trends, identify gaps and address key issues. I hope you will enjoy exploring the data presented as much as we enjoyed compiling it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Asha Kanwar'.

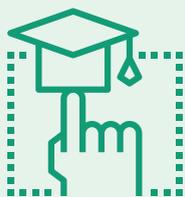
Professor Asha Kanwar  
*President and CEO*  
*Commonwealth of Learning, Canada*

# At a Glance

## Open Universities in the Commonwealth



**27**  
Universities



**2,497**  
Programmes



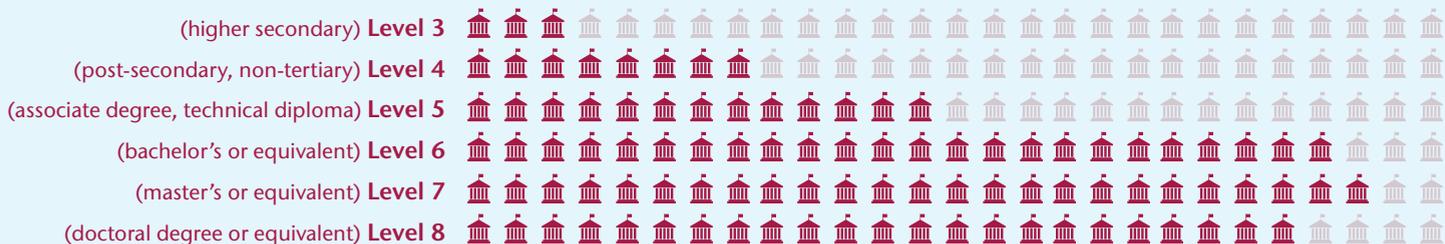
**18,342**  
Courses



**4,464,751**  
Students

## Levels Levels of education offered\*

OUs often offer programmes ranging from higher secondary to technical diploma to doctoral degrees.



\*Based on the International System for Classification of Education (ISCED)

Four universities offer programmes at all six ISCED levels

## Modes Modes of teaching



**27** Open and distance learning



**5** Face to face



**14** Online learning

All of the OUs offer teaching through open and distance learning

# Gender Gender equity distribution

## STUDENTS



Enrolled	2,359,141	2,105,162
Qualifications awarded	687,457	681,519

## TEACHERS



Full-time	3,569	3,807
Part-time	99,638	87,225



**TECHNICAL STAFF**  
1,452      408



**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**  
7,891      5,664

The OUs studied depend largely on part-time teachers

# Priorities

Key priorities of the OUs for the next three years (by frequency cited)



Learner support



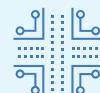
eLearning infrastructure



Quality assurance



Skills development programmes



Infrastructure development



Open educational resources



Curriculum and content revision



Research



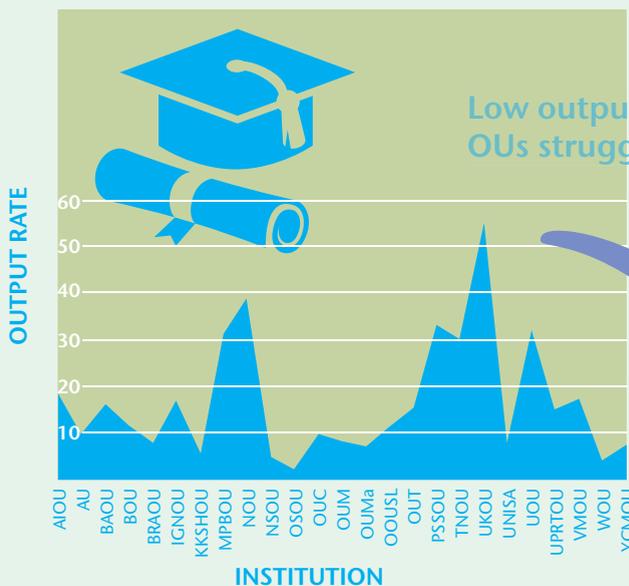
International outreach and collaborations



Capacity building

# Output

Low output rates\* suggest many OUs struggle with attrition



Amongst the OUs surveyed, the UK Open University has the highest output rate.

\*Output rate indicates the percentage of learners leaving with a qualification.



# Overview

This report covers responses from 27 open universities (OUs) of the Commonwealth distributed over four continents. There are 20 OUs in Commonwealth Asia, followed by four in Africa, two in Europe and one in the Americas. The University of South Africa<sup>1</sup> was the first distance teaching university in the world. A steady increase in the number of OUs began with the establishment of The Open University, in the United Kingdom, in 1969. There were 17 OUs by the end of the millennium. Since 2000, ten more institutions have been added to the list of Commonwealth OUs (Figure 1).

The most recent addition, in 2015, is Odisha State Open University. Most of the universities (25) have been established by governments. Two are private universities, both in Malaysia; whilst one of these was established by a non-profit trust, the other was established by the country's 11 public universities as a consortium. India<sup>2</sup> alone has 15 OUs, with one national and 14 state OUs. Two Commonwealth OUs are based in Europe (the UK and Cyprus), one in the Americas (Canada), four in Africa (South Africa, Tanzania, Mauritius and Nigeria), and 20 in Asia (India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan).

1 Established in 1873 as the University of the Cape of Good Hope, UNISA became, in 1946, the first public university in the world to teach exclusively by means of distance education.

2 India has two private state open universities, which did not respond to our survey and are excluded from this report.

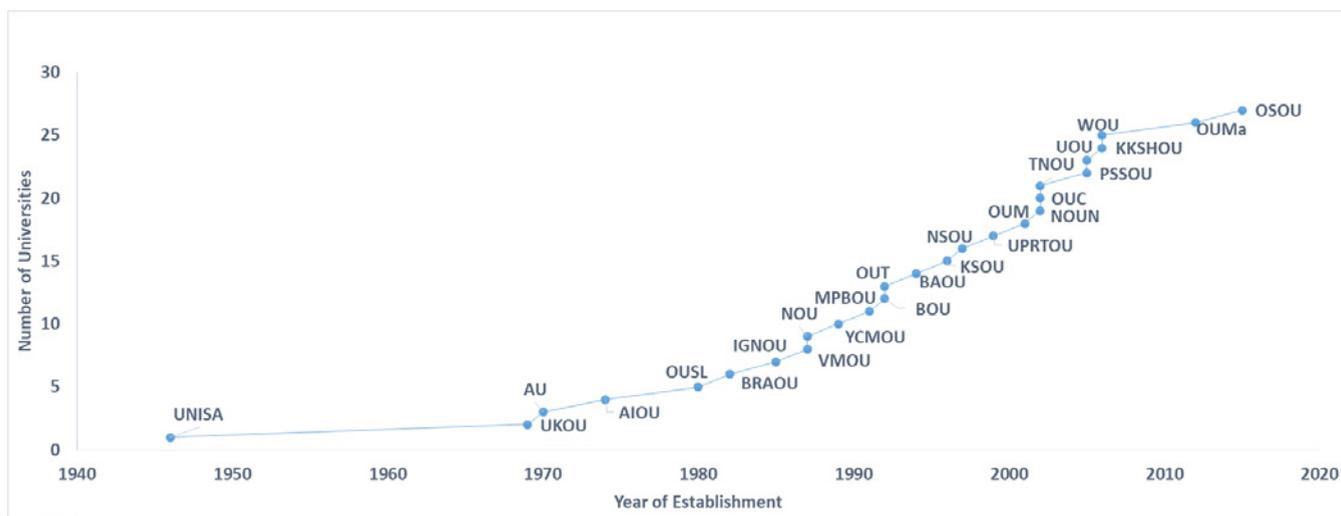
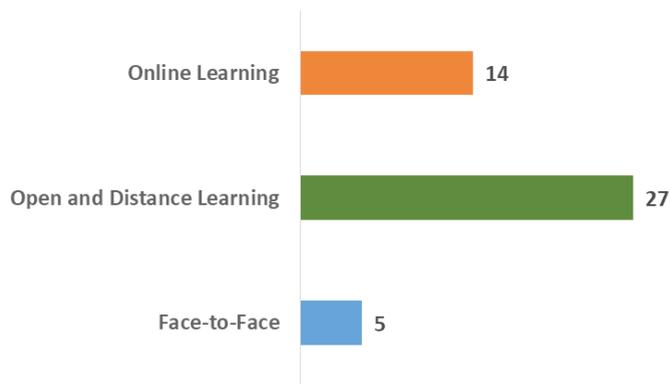


FIGURE 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF OUS IN THE COMMONWEALTH

# Teaching and Learning Systems

All the OUs indicated open and distance learning (ODL) as their primary mode of teaching and learning. However, 14 universities indicated the use of online learning as a mode in addition to traditional ODL. Five universities indicated that some of their programmes are also offered on campus using the face-to-face mode (Figure 2).

The main components of instructional systems in OUs are self-learning materials (SLMs) that are available in print and, with increasing frequency, online. Digital SLMs generally contain audio-video lectures, electronic assignments, self-practice quizzes and self-assessment exercises. Print materials and online courses are often available in local languages in addition to English. The learning materials are mostly prepared by the faculty in collaboration with subject experts and ODL experts, following guidelines on quality material production. The dominant mode of programme delivery amongst OUs is ODL, which also includes a minor component of face-to-face teaching or tutorial support that happens occasionally or at regular intervals. Learner assessments generally entail self-assessment practices in various forms that are incorporated into the SLMs, graded assignments, and end-of-term or end-of-module examinations. Learning technologies used by OUs range from satellite, web-, video- and tele-conferencing to eLearning, including the use of learning management systems (LMSs), open educational resources (OER) and massive open online course (MOOC) platforms as well as virtual smart classrooms. Most universities make use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and OER, and some have already started using MOOCs or



**FIGURE 2:** MODES OF TEACHING IN OPEN UNIVERSITIES

plan to incorporate using MOOCs in their teaching and learning strategy. For example, the FutureLearn<sup>3</sup> platform in the UK is owned by The Open University (UKOU). Some of the universities are collaborating with regional and/or national radio and television broadcasters, through which their educational materials are being delivered to the public. For most OUs, online academic guidance, support and counselling are integral parts of their student support services, often with face-to-face components as complementary options. Additionally, several universities offer library training and support, study and writing skills sessions, group tutorials, 24/7 student support cells, accessibility centres for students with disabilities, practical training workshops and induction sessions for new learners.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.futurelearn.com/>

# Educational Programmes Offered

Whilst the word university is often associated with higher education, the OUs also offer programmes at the secondary and vocational education levels as part of their mission. Figure 3 shows that out of the 27 universities, three offer programmes on ISCED<sup>4</sup> Level 3 (higher secondary, end of 12/13 year of schooling), eight on ISCED Level 4 (post-secondary, non-tertiary) and 13 on ISCED Level 5 (community college, associate degree, technical diploma). Most of the universities offer programmes at the bachelor's and master's degree level, with 24 offering ISCED Level 6 programmes (bachelor's or equivalent), 25 ISCED Level 7 programmes (master's or equivalent) and 23 ISCED Level 8 programmes (doctoral degree or equivalent). Four universities (OUSL, KKSHOU, BRAOU and AIOU) offer programmes on all six ISCED levels. Ten universities exclusively offer programmes from ISCED Level 6 upwards (bachelor to doctoral degrees).

Together, all 27 Commonwealth OUs offer 2,497 programmes and over 18,342 courses<sup>5</sup> in various

disciplines and at various degree levels (Table 1). The highest numbers of courses (2,601) and programmes (398) are offered in Social Sciences (Figures 4 and 5). The OUs offer programmes in all disciplines of knowledge, including Engineering, Technology and Health Sciences. The least numbers of courses (375) and programmes (46) are available in the field of Legal Studies (Figure 4). UNISA offers the most programmes (624), with 2,974 courses. It offers courses in nine disciplines (Humanities, Education, Engineering and Technology, Social Sciences, Management, Computer Science and Informatics, Commerce, Basic Sciences and Legal Studies). IGNOU offers the largest number of programmes in Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, and in Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. UNISA also offers the most courses in the Humanities (445), Education (267), Social Sciences (428), Commerce (337), Basic Sciences (438) and Legal Studies. YCMOU offers the highest number of courses in Engineering (1,020), Computer Science and Informatics (180), and Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences (247).

4 International System for Classification of Education (ISCED); see <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/international-standard-classification-of-education-isced-2011-en.pdf>.

5 Some universities did not supply information on number of courses.

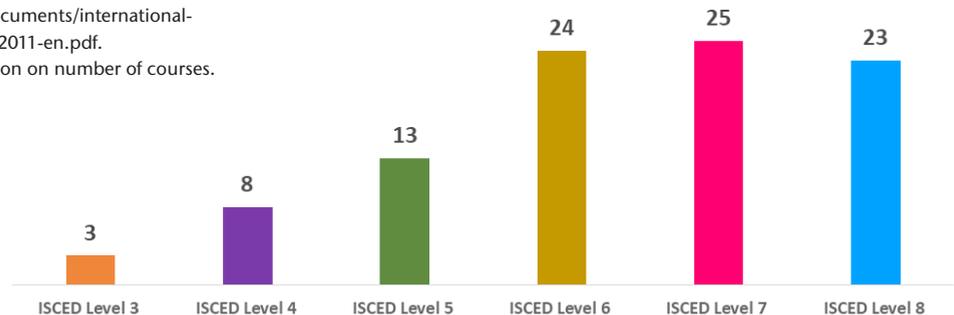
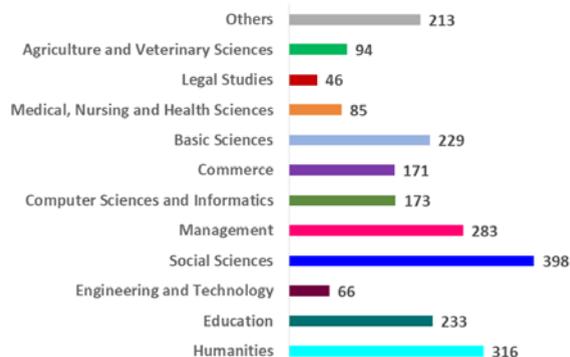
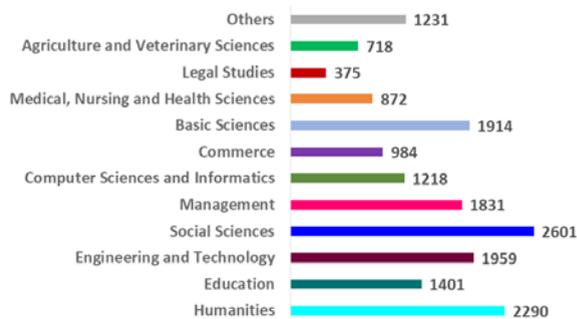


FIGURE 3: LEVELS OF EDUCATION OFFERED IN OPEN UNIVERSITIES

**TABLE 1: NUMBERS OF PROGRAMMES AND COURSES**

Country	University	Programmes	Courses
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Open University	43	955
Canada	Athabasca University	57	992
Cyprus	Open University of Cyprus	27	294
India	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University	63	N/A
	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University	33	335
	Indira Gandhi National Open University	225	N/A
	Karnataka State Open University	32	32
	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	67	652
	Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University	58	N/A
	Nalanda Open University	75	75
	Netaji Subhas Open University	13	56
	Odisha State Open University	14	90
	Pandit Sunderlal Sharma (Open) University	16	25
	Tamil Nadu Open University	148	1,481
	Uttarakhand Open University	70	742
	Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University	158	NA
	Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University	115	942
	Yashwantrao Chavan Open University of Maharashtra	99	3,149
Malaysia	Open University Malaysia	59	716
	Wawasan Open University	57	385
Mauritius	Open University of Mauritius	39	515
Nigeria	National Open University of Nigeria	93	N/A
Pakistan	Allama Iqbal Open University	133	1,929
South Africa	University of South Africa	624	2,974
Sri Lanka	Open University of Sri Lanka	67	1,603
Tanzania	Open University of Tanzania	92	N/A
United Kingdom	The Open University	20	400
<b>12 Countries</b>	<b>27 Universities</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>18,342</b>

**FIGURE 4: PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN DISCIPLINES****FIGURE 5: COURSES OFFERED IN DISCIPLINES**

# Learner Support Services

Distance education systems largely depend on extended learner support services to help learners understand better, develop skills and build social capital through interaction with other learners. The learning support networks of Commonwealth OUs cover headquarters/central offices as well as study and learning centres spread across the geographical area of the province/country and sometimes beyond those borders. Based on the size of the student body and the number of programmes and courses available, universities set up regional and study centres. Sometimes, these are established by the universities, but most are established in collaboration with local institutions that have the human resources and technical facilities to provide laboratory training and other requirements. These centres perform both academic and administrative roles, from student recruitment and admission to academic counselling, practicums and examinations. Most of the time, these centres are also learners' first contact point with the university. Through these centres, several universities have successfully reached marginalised communities and/or the unreached in remote areas. Special study centres have been established in prisons in India by many universities to give inmates access to learning opportunities.

# Student Enrolment

Over 4.4 million learners were enrolled in 2016 in all 27 Commonwealth OUs, of whom 52.84 per cent were male and 47.16 per cent female. In terms of enrolment, AIOU reported the highest enrolment at over 1.2 million learners, with females outnumbering males by over four per cent. This is followed by YCMOU with 678,207 learners and IGNOU with 514,685 learners. Overall, the OUs in India cater to 41 per cent of learners in Commonwealth OUs. It is important to note that in several OUs (AIOU, BAOU, OUC, OUM, OUMa, OUSL, UKOU, UNISA, UOU and WOU), female learners outnumber male learners, indicating that female learners have preferred the OUs' flexible teaching and learning systems. Whilst the enrolment ratio of male and female learners varies across the universities and there is room for substantial improvement in gender equity, the average for the Commonwealth shows that gender equity in enrolment is not far off.

In total 1,368,997 students were eligible for various degrees and diplomas in 2015. The successful learners who received qualifications from OUs were 50.22 per cent males and 49.78 per cent females. We did a crude analysis of the output rate of the OUs in terms of enrolment and awards in a particular year. The results indicate that in a particular year, an average of 15.26 per cent of learners leave with qualifications from these OUs. Amongst the 27 OUs, UKOU has the highest output rate at about 55 per cent (calculated as a ratio of entry vs exit and not cohort based pass out). Whilst the output rate calculated here statistically does not provide solid evidence, it indicates the huge attrition rate in these OUs (Table 2).

**TABLE 2: ENROLMENTS AND AWARDS IN OPEN UNIVERSITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

University	Enrolment in 2016			Awards in 2015			Output Rate
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
AIOU	610,115	667,525	1,277,640	183,916	234,073	417,989	18.32
AU	3,388	8,883	12,271	573	1,187	1,760	9.67
BAOU	26,383	31,485	57,868	13,943	9,295	23,238	16.06
BOU	251,338	159,356	410,694	55,314	48,314	103,628	11.76
BRAOU	87,246	78,804	166,050	19,110	13,161	32,271	7.93
IGNOU	285,195	229,490	514,685	105,500	86,318	191,818	16.77
KKSHOU	14,253	11,111	25,364	1,369	1,454	2,823	5.73
KSOU	*	*	*	9,985	19,855	29,840	
MPBOU	76,840	46,044	122,884	62,630	38,387	101,017	31.24
NOU	15,752	9,828	25,580	15,502	9,967	25,490	38.96
NOUN	143,811	128,573	272,384	N/A	N/A	N/A	
NSOU	36,673	19,748	56,421	4,736	2,782	7,518	4.93
OOUSL	14,196	24,007	38,203	1,704	4,322	6,026	11.31
OSOU	970	564	1,534	189	34	223	2.22
OUC	2,236	3,455	5,691	270	564	834	9.91
OUM	36,027	37,318	73,793	2,960	6,061	9,021	8.21
OUMa	1,682	3,058	4,740	157	340	497	7.17
OUT	10,151	5,602	15,753	3,554	2,448	6,002	15.54
PSSOU	14,288	9,792	24,080	12,245	7,958	20,203	33.05
TNOU	13,492	12,766	26,258	5,581	7,913	13,494	30.14
UKOU	62,717	88,414	151,131	59,024	82,989	142,013	54.91
UNISA	126,574	224,586	351,160	12,923	27,123	40,046	7.72
UOU	5,426	5,787	11,213	3,798	3,603	7,401	32.13
UPRTOU	27,601	23,301	50,902	8,254	7,670	15,924	15.07
VMOU	53,993	29,863	83,856	22,656	14,452	37,108	17.23
WOU	3,029	3,360	6,389	241	252	493	3.94
YCMOU	435,765	242,442	678,207	81,323	50,997	132,320	7.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,359,141</b>	<b>2,105,162</b>	<b>4,464,751</b>	<b>687,457</b>	<b>681,519</b>	<b>1,368,997</b>	<b>15.26</b>

\* No admission in 2016.

# Staffing

The OUs in this study depend largely on the services of part-time teachers to deliver academic programmes. Teaching materials are normally developed by full-time staff, with assistance from teachers in the country's conventional universities, and are pre-packaged and delivered to learners by post or through a learning management system. Tutorial support or academic counselling services are normally offered on weekends to support student learning. These sessions are typically facilitated by part-time tutors or academic counsellors, who also serve as assessors of student assignments and play an important role in providing instructional feedback to help with learning. In online courses, they also facilitate discussions. So, part-time tutors play a very significant role in the operation of OUs.

Universities also have administrative staff to support their operations, including finance, human resources, logistics, etc. As most OUs offer multimedia learning materials and use a range of technologies, normally there are separate divisions for media and IT experts or technical and professional staff. The survey collected data on the gender of the teaching staff, administrative staff and technical staff. Table 3 reveals there are 7,376 full-time teachers in the OUs in the Commonwealth, of whom 51.6 per cent are female and 48.4 per cent are male. It is a matter of concern that of the 27 universities in the survey, 15 have fewer than 50 teachers. Interestingly, 80.4 per cent of teachers are in five universities (IGNOU, UKOU, OUSL, OUT and UNISA), constituting 20 per cent of the universities in the Commonwealth. UKOU and UNISA have the largest number of teachers, with 2,552 and

2,159, respectively. The percentage of a university's total full-time staff strength that is comprised of teaching staff can be an indicator of its academic strength. For example, at UKOU, 67.53 per cent of full-time staff are teachers. At OUT, this percentage is 48 per cent, followed by OSOU with 44.4 per cent. However, OSOU is a relatively new open university with very low staff strength. Therefore, these numbers need to be interpreted with caution, and there are no optimal numbers for calculating faculty strengths in OUs.

There are 197,483 part-time teachers/tutors engaged in the 27 Commonwealth OUs covered by this survey. AIOU has 45.7 per cent of the total part-time tutors, and over 80 per cent of the part-time teachers are in three universities in Asia (AIOU, BOU and IGNOU). Overall, there are more female full-time teachers in the OUs of the Commonwealth. However, the gender equity distribution is not uniform across the universities. Whilst UKOU has more women teachers than men, topping the chart with the highest percentage of female teachers, 15 out of the 27 universities are below 0.9 in the gender equity score for full-time teachers. The lowest gender equity score is that of VMOU, at 0.21. VMOU also did not report having part-time teachers/tutors. Some universities use the services of only a limited number of part-time teachers/tutors. In AIOU, there are 544 part-time teachers/tutors for every full-time teacher. BOU comes next with 217, followed by BRAOU with 121 part-time teachers/tutors for every full-time teacher. AU and UKOU, in contrast, have about two part-time teachers/tutors for every full-time teacher.

Taking together the full-time and part-time teachers/tutors in the OUs, AIOU tops the chart with 90,561, followed by IGNOU with 44,309 teachers. Table 4 also shows students per teacher in the OUs, which is a potential indicator for the quality of service provided to learners, the assumption being that more teachers means more support and timely learning for learners. The number of learners per teacher ranges from seven (OSOU) to 8,777 (MPBOU). For AU and UKOU, the numbers are 21.42 and 21.68, respectively. Whilst a lower learner-to-teacher ratio can indicate that learners receive better attention, it may also have an effect on the economies of scale and finance of the universities. Many OUs in India need to rethink the number of teaching staff engaged to provide academic services to their learners.

The strength of administrative support staff to carry out the operations of OUs is important. However, there is no norm for the ratio of administrative staff required to

support teaching functions. The ratio of administrative staff to full-time teaching staff in Commonwealth OUs ranges from 0.15 (UPRTU) to 24 (PSSOU). The ratios for UKOU and AU are 0.48 and 1.4, respectively. Only 11 OUs depend on about two administrative support staff per full-time teacher.

As indicated earlier, technical staff perform a variety of functions, including media development and operation of the universities' IT systems. They support the teachers in developing audio, video, multimedia and online learning materials. In some universities (AU, BRAOU, NOU, NOUN, OUMa, PSSOU, UPRTU and YCMOU), there are more technical staff than full-time teachers. Some universities have very low technical staff strength (such as BAOU, KKSHOU and KSOU). In many universities, there are no women technical staff.



**TABLE 3: STAFFING PATTERNS IN OPEN UNIVERSITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

University	Full-Time Teachers			Part-Time Teachers (Tutors/ Academic Counsellors)			Administrative Staff			Technical Staff		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
AIOU	106	60	166	55,183	35,212	90,395	1,099	54	1,153	49	0	49
AU	97	89	186	158	229	387	32	228	260	95	148	243
BAOU	8	14	22	NA	NA	NA	113	43	156	1	0	1
BOU	78	49	127	16,575	11,050	27,625	633	59	692	69	14	83
BRAOU	34	17	51	NA	NA	6,200	195	58	253	46	14	60
IGNOU	326	198	524	14,021	29,764	43,785	777	204	981	353	65	418
KKSHOU	11	22	33	2	2	4	48	10	58	1	0	1
KSOU	55	32	87	1	1	2	148	69	217	4	0	4
MPBOU	4	4	8	3	3	6	31	25	56	5	0	5
NOU	3	4	7	15	5	20	83	0	83	14	0	14
NOUN	214	143	357	33	30	63	1,264	847	2,111	479	57	536
NSOU	25	13	38	2,379	952	3,331	63	15	78	3	1	4
OSOU	6	2	8	157	54	211	9	0	9	0	1	1
OUC	13	9	22	151	106	257	22	54	76	0	0	0
OUM	54	67	121	4,784	3,123	7,907	209	207	416	15	30	45
OUMa	6	7	13	242	73	315	20	51	71	38	16	54
OUSL	152	161	313	NA	NA	NA	356	223	579	29	18	47
OUT	218	122	340	NA	NA	NA	132	175	307	44	10	54
PSSOU	6	6	12	114	79	193	247	41	288	23	4	27
TNOU	33	12	45	920	1,230	2,150	38	26	64	3	2	5
UKOU	891	1,661	2,552*	NA	NA	4,420	329	898	1,227	*	*	*
UNISA	1,101	1,058	2,159	4,299	4,796	9,095	1,507	2,216	3,723	N/A	N/A	270
UOU	23	5	28	14	7	21	86	19	105	6	0	6
UPRTOU	37	9	46	405	270	675	7	0	7	104	9	113
VMOU	24	5	29	0	0	0	235	19	254	13	0	13
WOU	18	28	46	182	239	421	65	87	152	11	17	28
YCMOU	26	10	36	NA	NA	NA	143	36	179	47	2	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,569</b>	<b>3,807</b>	<b>7,376</b>	<b>99,638</b>	<b>87,225</b>	<b>197,483</b>	<b>7,891</b>	<b>5,664</b>	<b>13,555</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>2,130</b>

\* At UKOU, the teachers are categorised as professional/technical. For this report, we have treated all of them as teachers.

**TABLE 4: ANALYSIS OF STAFF STRENGTH IN OPEN UNIVERSITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

University	Gender Equity	Ratio of Part-Time to Full-Time Teachers	Ratio of Administrative Staff to Full-Time Teachers	Ratio of Full-Time Teachers to Technical Staff	Full-Time Teachers as % of All Full-Time Staff	Number of Learners per Teacher
AIOU	0.57	544.55	6.95	3.39	12.13	14.11
AU	0.92	2.08	1.40	0.77	27.00	21.42
BAOU	1.75	NA	7.09	22.00	12.29	NA
BOU	0.63	217.52	5.45	1.53	14.08	14.80
BRAOU	0.50	121.57	4.96	0.85	14.01	26.56
IGNOU	0.61	83.56	1.87	1.25	27.25	11.62
KKSHOU	2.00	0.12	1.76	33.00	35.87	685.51
KSOU	0.58	0.02	2.49	21.75	28.25	NA
MPBOU	1.00	0.75	7.00	1.60	11.59	8,777.43
NOU	1.33	2.86	11.86	0.50	6.73	947.41
NOUN	0.67	0.18	5.91	0.67	11.88	648.53
NSOU	0.52	87.66	2.05	9.50	31.67	16.75
OSOU	0.33	26.38	1.13	8.00	44.44	7.00
OUC	0.69	11.68	3.45	0.00	22.45	20.40
OUM	1.24	65.35	3.44	2.69	20.79	9.19
OUMa	1.17	24.23	5.46	0.24	9.42	14.45
OUSL	1.06	NA	1.85	6.66	33.33	NA
OUT	0.56	NA	0.90	6.30	48.50	NA
PSSOU	1.00	16.08	24.00	0.44	3.67	117.46
TNOU	0.36	47.78	1.42	9.00	39.47	11.96
UKOU	1.86	1.73	0.48	NA	67.53	21.68
UNISA	0.96	4.21	1.72	8.00	35.09	31.20
UOU	0.22	0.75	3.75	4.67	20.14	228.84
UPRTOU	0.24	14.67	0.15	0.41	27.71	70.60
VMOU	0.21	0.00	8.76	2.23	9.80	2,891.59
WOU	1.56	9.15	3.30	1.64	20.35	13.68
YCMOU	0.38	NA	4.97	0.73	13.64	NA
<b>Average</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>26.77</b>	<b>1.84</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>31.98</b>	<b>21.79</b>

# Finance

Financial information was received in the currency of the country and is presented in Table 5. Some universities did not share their financial information, whilst others provided incomplete information, making comparative analysis difficult. In addition, the nature of the programmes offered and their duration did not allow the calculation and analysis of cost per full-time equivalent learner. However, we analysed the OUs' broad revenue streams and expenditures to see whether any patterns emerged. It may be noted that most OUs have surplus revenue. They are largely dependent on student fees (Figure 6) and therefore self-sufficient, and their business depends on market needs and the ability to recruit students if they are to operate efficiently and with economies of scale. It is also interesting to note that the OUs' main expenditure is on staff. Operational programme-related costs are mostly below 40 per cent. Wide differences in expenditures on staff and operational costs are seen in PSSOU and KSOU, whilst BRAOU and VMOU show balanced expenditures on staff and operational costs. Only five universities (BOU, PSSOU, UPRTOU, VMOU and YCMOU) have more than 50 per cent expenditure on operational programme costs (Figure 7). The income and expenditure patterns reveal that many OUs have surplus funds. It is important that such funds be diverted towards student services and technological improvements to provide better experiences for learners.

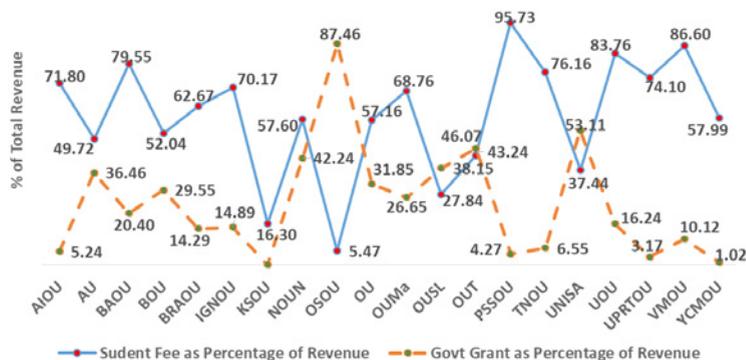


FIGURE 6: REVENUE OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

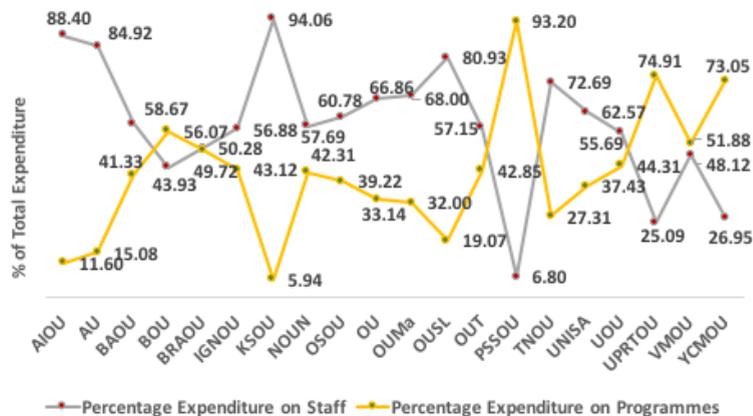


FIGURE 7: EXPENDITURE OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH

**TABLE 5: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

University	Currency	Financial Year	Student Fees	Government Grants	Endowments	Other Sources	Total Revenue	Staff Salary	Programme Delivery	Total Expenditure
AIOU	PKR	2015	4,525,712,000	330,320,000	1,240,000,000	207,430,000	6,303,462,000	1,318,400,000	172,990,000	1,491,390,000
AU	CDN	2016	65,952,000	48,367,000	1,545,000	16,776,000	132,640,000	91,068,000	16,168,000	107,236,000
BAOU	INR	2015-16	116,994,182	30,000,000	0	66,903	147,061,085	23,514,815	16,566,447	40,081,262
BOU	Taka	2016	1,103,500,000	626,500,000	0	390,303,000	2,120,303,000	931,530,000	1,188,770,000	2,120,300,000
BRAOU	INR	2014-15	474,227,125	108,163,000	152,283,692	22,087,260	756,761,077	278,071,000	274,986,000	553,057,000
IGNOU	INR	2015-16	3,498,900,000	742,500,000	0	744,900,000	4,986,300,000	3,322,100,000	2,518,300,000	5,840,400,000
KKSHOU	INR	2015-16	241,975,598	66,541,000	0	0	308,516,598	49,563,232	0	49,563,232
KSOU	INR	2015-16	281,878,766	0	0	1,447,360,067	1,729,238,833	290,058,270	18,313,389	308,371,659
MPBOU	INR	2016	430,992,000	0	0	184,881,000	615,873,000	37,628,000	0	37,628,000
NOUN	Naira	2015	4,507,947,025	3,306,209,633	11,100,000	1,050,000	7,826,306,658	3,981,321,118	2,920,035,767	6,901,356,885
OSOU	INR	2016-17	3,375,500	54,000,000	2,293,707	2,072,555	61,741,762	12,269,237	7,917,708	20,186,945
OUC	Euro	2016	6,000,789	5,737,510	0	653,701	12,392,000	N/A	N/A	0
OUMa	MRU	2015	101,744,813	39,435,632	0	6,783,443	147,963,888	120,718,357	56,811,810	177,530,167
OUSL	LKR	2015	759,099,057	1,040,000,000	802,300,131	124,963,494	2,726,362,682	1,363,222,000	321,133,418	1,684,355,418
OUT	TZS	2015	11,735,192,750	12,503,498,767	1,455,904,574	1,448,201,839	27,142,797,931	15,747,270,313	11,808,854,636	27,556,124,950
PSSOU	INR	2015-16	224,379,000	10,000,000	0	0	234,379,000	7,722,000	105,764,000	113,486,000
TNOU	INR	2016	160,400,000	13,800,000	0	36,400,000	210,600,000	99,800,000	37,500,000	137,300,000
UKOU	British Pound	2015	241,000,000	134,300,000	5,200,000	41,100,000	421,600,000	286,900,000	142,200,000	429,100,000
UNISA	ZAR	2015	2,283,615,000	3,239,858,000	29,660,000	546,586,000	6,099,719,000	4,031,120,000	2,411,819,000	6,442,939,000
UOU	RS	2015-16	195,943,126	38,000,000	0	0	233,943,126	56,000,000	44,560,943	100,560,943
UPRTOU	INR	2015	300,000,000	12,832,000	0	92,000,000	404,832,000	66,850,000	199,550,000	266,400,000
VMOU	INR	2015	573,471,000	67,000,000	0	21,738,000	662,209,000	193,023,000	208,143,000	401,166,000
YCMOU	INR	2015-16	1,288,956,073	22,644,601	819,999,257	91,107,139	2,222,707,070	163,823,133	443,947,058	607,770,191

# Governance

All the OUs covered in this report are authorised by the relevant national governments to offer degrees and diplomas. Some even have a formal structure for the accreditation of programmes by national quality assurance bodies. The governance structure is hierarchical and follows the traditional patterns of university management, even though the operations of OUs are mostly industrial in nature. With the increasing use of ICTs, some of the operational and governance structures may need rethinking in future. Mostly these universities have a governing board and are led by a chief executive, such as a president or vice chancellor. The academic decisions are largely taken in academic councils, senates or general faculty councils. Many universities have operations units for the efficient management of their activities. Some of the areas covered by operations are planning, finance, administration, materials development and distribution, media production and educational technology, and research and development, amongst others. Faculty and schools are normally the academic wings responsible for the design, development and offering of academic programmes.

# Research

Commonwealth OUs encourage and foster disciplinary and interdisciplinary research, internally as well as in collaboration with other educational institutions. Most universities offer master's and PhD research degrees, with some additionally providing opportunities for post-doc fellowships and research and teaching assistantships. International and national research conferences, seminars and workshops are frequently hosted by OUs and attended by researchers from OUs. In addition to hosting research events, a number of universities publish their own in-house academic journals and encourage academics to author and publish research papers in reputed international and national academic journals. Several universities have set up university research institutes and units to foster and financially fund internal and collaborative research activities. Current research focuses identified by the OUs in the Commonwealth include but are not limited to:

- ODL for sustainable development
- ICTs and learning technologies
- Open educational resources
- Quality assurance
- Tracer studies

# International Reach

Most Commonwealth OUs engage in international collaborations and recruit international students. Several universities have established study and examination centres in foreign countries or have made arrangements with embassies to accommodate international students. International collaborations on the other side are fostered through opportunities for study and research abroad as well as joint degrees and joint research. OUs have been collaborating with international organisations for academic development, technological development and workshop organisation. Besides collaborating with other national and international ODL institutions and with international organisations, Commonwealth OUs have reached out to form global partnerships with development partners for the design and development of programmes, to national broadcasters to broaden their educational reach, and to corporations to provide students with opportunities to develop technical and vocational skills and increase student employability. A number of universities' jurisdictions are limited to their state due to regulations in their country; therefore, their international reach is limited. However, even with such restrictions, the enrolment of international students through study centres is still possible in some cases, and online courses are often made globally available.

# Achievements

A significant number of OUs identified an increase in student enrolment over the last few years as a top achievement. The creation and launching of new academic programmes, including eLearning programmes, as well as the development of new software and applications were regarded as further significant achievements. Another major achievement for Commonwealth OUs has been “reaching the unreached” in marginalised communities. OUs also viewed collaborations with foreign educational institutions and other international organisations to host research conferences, seminars and workshops as achievements. Furthermore, they identified as achievements the establishment of new study and research centres, along with improvements in their facilities over the last five years. Some also indicated recognition and awards received from national and international agencies as achievements. The nature of these achievements indicates that the OUs are more focused on their internal operational efficiencies. A critical look into the achievements reveals a lack of conscious effort to relate the missions of the universities to outcomes, and the undertaking of performance evaluations to record real achievements in terms of learner progress and success. Whilst such data may have been recorded and collected in the universities, the responses received by us did not reveal information along those lines.

# Priorities

We asked the OUs to list their top three priorities in the next three years. It is reassuring to note that the top priority is learner support and strengthening of the eLearning infrastructure, followed by the development of skills programmes and quality assurance. When it comes to learner support, more and more universities are planning to use online approaches to strengthen it. Skills development is a priority in the Commonwealth, and the OUs are responding to national needs. Similarly, quality assurance has always been a matter of concern, and it is still a top priority for many of the universities. The top-ranking priorities are included in Figure 8. It is interesting to note that capacity building, though one of the top five priorities, it is not a strong one. This may be because most of the universities were established over ten years ago, and they have accumulated enough experience over time. OER, research, curriculum revision and international reach are other top priorities identified by the universities. AU and UKOU identified financial sustainability as one of their top priorities, whilst for the majority of the OUs in the Asian sub-continent, this is not a problem, as their surplus available funds indicate. For financial sustainability, it is important to focus on student recruitment and outreach, and some of the universities did highlight these as priorities.



**FIGURE 8:** KEY PRIORITIES OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH



# Key Trends and Conclusions

- This report provides an overview of the status of OUs in the Commonwealth as reported by the universities. The OUs offer a wide range of programmes covering all possible disciplines and have been established to offer degrees and diplomas through national or provincial regulations. Whilst the universities normally offer programmes at the higher education level, some also offer programmes at the secondary level, showing an openness to meeting national development targets. Although OUs broadly employ ODL, this is changing. Some have started using complete or partial online learning and face-to-face modes of programme delivery. Whilst ODL includes the occasional use of face-to-face delivery within the teaching and learning system, OUs are offering some of their programmes only through the face-to-face mode. This is increasingly happening in research degree programmes.
- Social sciences, humanities and education programmes dominate the list of programmes offered in the OUs. Programmes in engineering and technology areas are limited, as these demand more infrastructure, and in many places (such as India), regulatory agencies do not permit the offering of these programmes through the ODL mode. UNISA offers the highest number of programmes, followed by IGNOU.
- Together, the 27 OUs in the Commonwealth serve over 4.4 million learners, of whom 52.84 per cent are male and 47.16 per cent female. AIOU reported the largest enrolment, with 1.2 million learners. Indian OUs together cater to about 41 per cent of the total learners in all the OUs. Many OUs have more women learners than men, and overall, OUs are approaching gender equity. This is a welcome sign that is aligned with the objectives of these universities to provide opportunities for those who miss out for various reasons.
- Over 1.3 million learners (50.22 per cent male and 49.78 per cent female) received various degrees and diplomas in 2015. On average, 15.26 per cent of learners leave with qualifications in a particular year from the OUs. Amongst the 27 surveyed, UKOU has the highest output rate at about 55 per cent.
- Whilst there is gender disparity amongst teachers in the OUs, overall there are more women teachers than men. The number of full-time teachers in the OUs is also not distributed uniformly, with 80 per cent of them in only 20 per cent of the universities. It should be a matter of concern for policy makers to engage full-time teachers to design, develop and deliver educational and skills development programmes.
- As noted earlier, OUs depend heavily on the services of part-time teachers/tutors for programme delivery. Of the 197,483 part-time teachers/tutors engaged in the OUs of the Commonwealth, 45.7 per cent are with AIOU. In AIOU, there are 544 part-time teachers/tutors for every full-time teacher. BOU comes next with 217, followed by BRAOU with 121. AU and UKOU, in contrast, have about two part-time teachers/tutors for every full-time teacher. Having a balanced approach

to part-time versus full-time staff is important for the delivery of quality educational programmes.

- The number of learners per teacher is highest at MPBOU (8,777). For AU and UKOU, the numbers are 21.42 and 21.68, respectively. Whilst a lower learner-to-teacher ratio can indicate that learners receive better attention, it may also have an effect on the economies of scale and finance of the universities. Many OUs in India need to rethink the number of teaching staff engaged to provide academic services to their learners.
- In terms of their financial strength, most OUs are in a strong position, as they have surplus funds. They are largely dependent on student fees and therefore self-sufficient, and their business depends on market needs and the ability to recruit learners if they are to operate efficiently and with economies of scale. Some universities indicated deficits in their income and expenditure and are concerned about financial

sustainability. However, universities with surplus funds should invest these appropriately for the future, putting them towards improving student services and technology to provide better facilities for learners.

- Research has not been a key strength of OUs. However, they are now focusing on research as a priority. OUs are dynamic organisations and able to respond to local as well as national priorities quite quickly. The top priorities identified by the OUs are about strengthening their learner support and their eLearning infrastructure. Whilst these are mostly local requirements within the institutions, to serve their learners better, there are also priorities related to skills development and quality assurance, which are more related to national development agendas. OUs also realise that international collaboration and reach are important if they are to operate efficiently in the current educational climate and scenario.



# Notes

We asked 29 OUs in the Commonwealth to respond to a survey questionnaire; 27 responded, and this report is based on the data received. Two private state OUs in India<sup>6</sup> did not respond to the survey. No effort has been made to check or clarify the data supplied by the universities. Our analysis is only for the purpose of identifying trends and highlighting statuses in an “as is” manner for easy understanding by stakeholders. There is no intention to make any judgement about what is happening in any of the universities. It is for the management of these universities to compare their

university with others and take appropriate decisions. If that happens, we will consider our efforts in preparing this report to have been useful. In the analysis of financial data, we have used the information as received. However, for the profiles in the annex, we have converted the financial data into USD using the World Bank PPP conversion factor<sup>7</sup> to allow comparison amongst the universities. Some universities did not share their financial information, as they consider it confidential. In many other places, our survey did not result in full disclosure of the requested information, and in such instances, we have either kept those fields blank or indicated NA (meaning the information was not available to us).

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6 The two universities that did not respond to the survey are Global Open University, Nagaland, and Venkateshwara Open University, Arunachal Pradesh.

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7 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.PPP?view=map>

# Annex: Profiles of the Open Universities in the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Open Universities that Participated in the Survey

Full Name	Year of Establishment
Allama Iqbal Open University	1974
Athabasca University	1970
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University	1994
Bangladesh Open University	1992
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University	1982
Indira Gandhi National Open University	1985
Karnataka State Open University	1996
Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University	2006
Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University	1991
Nalanda Open University	1987
National Open University of Nigeria	2002
Netaji Subhas Open University	1997
Odisha State Open University	2015
The Open University	1969
Open University of Cyprus	2002
Open University Malaysia	2001
Open University of Mauritius	2012
Open University of Sri Lanka	1980
Open University of Tanzania	1992
Pandit Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University	2005
Tamil Nadu Open University	2002
University of South Africa	1946
Uttarakhand Open University	2005
Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University	1999
Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University	1987
Wawasan Open University	2006
Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University	1989

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui

**Registrar:** Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem Quraishi

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED3, ISCED4, ISCED5, ISCED6, ISCED7, ISCED8

**Number of Programmes:** 133

**Number of Courses:** 1,929

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, face-to-face education, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 166 (Male: 106; Female: 60)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 90,395 (Male: 55,183; Female: 35,212)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 1,153 (Male: 1,099; Female: 54)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 1,277,640 (Male: 610,115; Female: 667,525)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 417,989 (Male: 183,916; Female: 234,073)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 215,989,931; Expenditure: 51,102,905

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 49 (Male: 49; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 44; study centres: 1241

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** SLM (print and digital), TV and radio programmes, satellite and online distance teaching, practical training workshops, face-to-face teaching, self-assessment, assignments, final examinations, part-time tutors for academic guidance, online support

**International Reach:** Through the Directorate of Overseas Educational Programs and E-Learning, with 715 international students (spring and autumn of 2016)

**Research Activities:**

- 5 research journals from different AIOU departments
- Organisation of national and international research conferences
- Key priority areas for research: socio-economic issues, development of international and intercultural competencies

**Achievements:**

- Launching of new programmes
- Technology support and integration
- Student support services
- National and international collaborations and research initiatives

**Key Priorities:**

- Upgrading content
- Quality assurance and enhancement
- Research and capacity building

**Address:**

Main Campus AIOU, Sector H-8, Islamabad, Pakistan  
Web: <http://www.aiou.edu.pk>

## ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1970, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Dr. Neil Fassina

**Registrar:** Mr. Richard Macleod

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 57

**Number of Courses:** 992

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning, blend of online and face-to-face learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 186 (Male: 97; Female: 89)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 387 (Male: 158; Female: 229)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 260 (Male: 32; Female: 228)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 12,271 (Male: 3,388; Female: 8,883)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 1,760 (Male: 573; Female: 1,187)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 104,508,011; Expenditure: 84,492,016

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 243 (Male: 95; Female: 148)

**Learner Support Network:** 1 central office; 3 administrative and examination centres

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** eLearning management system, Web conferencing, supported self-paced facilitation, access to students with disabilities, advising and counselling, print, e-text, OER, online courses, optional face-to-face teaching for graduate courses, text-based and Web-conference interactions, examinations, electronic assignments

**International Reach:** About 2% of students live and study outside of Canada. AU provides opportunities for study and research abroad.

### Research Activities:

- Research areas: Business, Computing Science, Environment and Sustainability, Globalisation and Cultural Studies, Indigenous Education, Nursing and Health, Labour and Canadian Studies, Space Science and Astronomy, Technology-enhanced Online and Distributed Learning, Workplace and Community Education
- Advances its research goals in the form of research institutes (TEKRI and ARBRI)
- University–industry partnerships

### Key Priorities:

- Financial stability
- Align planning, implementation and measurement cycles
- Strategic planning

### Achievements:

- Opened a new academic and research centre
- Undertook comprehensive educational, administrative and student services reviews
- Established an Architecture programme with the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada
- Established comprehensive risk-management and legislative-compliance programmes
- Relocated North Edmonton and Calgary centre

### Address:

1 University Drive, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A2, Canada  
Web: <http://www.athabascau.ca>

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Dr. Pankaj L. Jani

**Registrar:** Prof. (Dr.) Ami Upadhyay

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 63

**Number of Courses:** N/A

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 22 (Male: 8; Female: 14)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** N/A

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 156 (Male: 113; Female: 43)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 57,868 (Male: 26,383; Female: 31,485)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 23,238 (Male: 13,943; Female: 9,295)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 8,429,152; Expenditure: 2,297,351

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 1 (Male: 1; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional Centres: 3 ; Study Centres: 232

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Management, Computer Sciences and Informatics

**Instructional System:** eLearning platform OMKAR-e for device independent learning, counselling, course material (print), online video lectures (on Swadhyay TV, Swadhyay Radio), video lecture telecast on the Government of Gujarat educational channel, VANDE Gujarat, multilingual courses consisting of text, videos, self-assessment exercises and discussion forums

**International Reach:** The university's reach is limited to the State of Gujarat, India. Courses on OMKAR-e are globally available and open access.

**Research Activities:**

- Offers PhD programmes in 26 disciplines
- Researchers are encouraged to publish research papers in reputed research journals and participate in international and national research conferences and workshops

**Achievements:**

- Became the first State University in India to successfully launch a free and open access eLearning platform (OMKAR-e)
- Initiated two new web based learning projects (Swadhyay TV and Swadhyay Radio)
- Implemented a “virtual classroom”
- Received several awards in the areas of ICT, ODL and Innovation
- Initiated the telecasting of various eLearning programmes on the regional TV channel, Vande Gujarat

**Key Priorities:**

- Support staff in developing and sustaining a core capability in online and distance education
- Extend the reach and flexibility of the university's virtual learning environment, learning toolset, and student support systems
- Design skills development programmes

**Address:**

Jyotirmay Parisar, Opp. Shri Balaji Temple, Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway, Chharodi, Ahmedabad, PIN-382481, India  
Web: <http://www.baou.edu.in>

## BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1992, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Dr. M. A. Mannan

**Registrar:** Prof. Dr. Abul Hossian Ahmed Bhuiyan

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 3, ISCED 4, ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 43

**Number of Courses:** 955

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, face-to-face education, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 127 (Male: 78; Female: 49)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 27,625 (Male: 16,575; Female: 11,050)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 692 (Male: 633; Female: 59)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 410,694 (Male: 251,338; Female: 159,356)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 103,628 (Male: 55,314; Female: 48,314)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 121,530,154; Expenditure: 121,529,982

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 83 (Male: 69; Female: 14)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 12; study centres: 1,478; media centre: 1

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** Video conferencing, face-to-face tutoring, online tutorial sessions via classroom live streams, online SLMs in modular form, multimedia instructional programmes and materials for mobile use, radio and TV broadcasts, delivery of learning materials through ICTs, mobile-compatible memory cards containing e-books and audio-visual materials are provided to learners

**International Reach:** Collaboration and partnership with many international agencies, 9 universities in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean

### Research Activities:

- Research areas include: quality assurance, eLearning, learning technologies, student support services, university governance, and science teaching through ODL
- Research projects were supported by the UGC of Bangladesh, the British Council, COL and the World Bank

### Achievements:

- More than doubled the number of programmes in the last five years
- Digitisation of the university
- Implementation of COL RIM for quality assurance
- International collaborations

### Key Priorities:

- Implementation of eLearning programmes
- Training of tutors and the establishment of virtual connections between HQ, RCs, SRCs and study centres
- Ensure quality education

### Address:

Gazipur, Bangladesh 1705  
Web: [www.bou.edu.bd](http://www.bou.edu.bd)

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1982, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. K. Seetharama Rao

**Registrar:** Prof. C. Venkataiah

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 3, ISCED 4, ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 33

**Number of Courses:** 335

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 51 (Male: 34; Female: 17)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 6,200 (Male: N/A; Female: N/A)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 253 (Male: 195; Female: 58)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 166,050 (Male: 87,246; Female: 78,804)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 32,271 (Male: 19,110; Female: 13,161)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 43,375,541; Expenditure: 31,699,762

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 60 (Male: 46; Female: 14)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 23; study centres: 212

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Management, Basic Sciences, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** Teleconferencing, face-to-face teacher/student interactions and counselling, information services, administration services, library support, examination support, Science and Technology Multimedia Lab, SIMs (print), supplementary audio lessons (on All India Radio) and video lessons (on Doordarshan Channel and Mana TV Channel), regular assignments, final exams, and project reports

**International Reach:** NA

**Research Activities:**

- Set up the G. Ram Reddy Research Academy of Distance Education (GRADE)
- Offers PhD and MPhil programmes

**Achievements:**

- Received the CSR Top Distance Learning Institutes of India Award (2013, 2014)
- The BSc programme ranked first amongst India's best distance learning institutions
- Received the Indus Foundation Award for Education Excellence in Distance Education (2012)

**Key Priorities:**

- OER policy at the institutional level
- Adaptation of choice-based credit system in ODL
- MOOCs

**Address:**

Road No. 46, Jubilee Hills  
Hyderabad, PIN- 500033, India  
Web: <http://www.braou.ac.in>

## INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1985, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Ravindra Kumar

**Registrar:** Sh. S. K. Sharma

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 225

**Number of Courses:** NA

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 524 (Male: 326; Female: 198)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 43,785 (Male: 14,021; Female: 29,764)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 981 (Male: 777; Female: 204)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 514,685 (Male: 285,195; Female: 229,490)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 191,818 (Male: 105,500; Female: 86,318)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 285,801,513; Expenditure: 334,756,264

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 418 (Male: 353; Female: 65)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: NA; study centres: NA

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** video conferencing, Web-based platforms, mobile phones, practical classes/teaching, interactive radio counselling, face-to-face counselling/tutoring, SIMs (print), audio-video material, interactive multimedia CDs, radio and television broadcasts, online learning, laboratory and hands-on experience, teleconferencing, video conferencing, interactive lectures and counselling through EduSat and DTH platforms

**International Reach:** Offers academic programmes through its overseas centre. Cumulative enrolment of 62,122 international students.

### Research Activities:

- Research degrees offered in Hindi and English
- Establishment of the Research Unit in October 2008
- Fellowships for PhD students
- Research and teaching assistantships

### Key Priorities:

- Serve as a leader in setting norms, benchmarks, and standards for ODL for the country
- Become a completely paperless university
- Provide all student services online

### Achievements:

- Expanded its outreach throughout India and 11 other countries
- National co-ordinator for MOOCs in India for diploma and certificate programmes
- Outreach to remote populations

### Address:

Maidan Garhi  
New Delhi, PIN-110068, India  
Web: <http://www.ignou.ac.in>

## KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1996, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. D. Shivalingaiah

**Registrar:** Prof. A. Somashekhar

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 32

**Number of Courses:** 32

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 87 (Male: 55; Female: 32)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 2 (Male: 1; Female: 1)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 217 (Male: 148; Female: 69)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 0 (Male: 0; Female: 0)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 29,840 (Male: 9,985; Female: 19,855)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 99,115,391; Expenditure: 17,675,047

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 4 (Male: 4; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** NA

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics

**Instructional System:** Personal contact programmes between students and teachers, SLM (print, audio-video CDs, audio and video programmes broadcast by radio channels (Gyanavani and Doordarshan), assignments, tests, self-assessment exercises

**International Reach:** NA

**Research Activities:**

The university offers competitive MPhil and PhD courses.

**Achievements:**

- Reached all districts within the state
- Door delivery of study material
- Arrangements for disabled candidates
- Education for prisoners

**Key Priorities:**

- Outreach to small villages within the state
- Offer skills development courses
- Improving learner support

**Address:**

Mukthagangothri  
Mysuru, PIN-570006, India  
Web: <http://www.ksoumysore.edu.in>

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 2006, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Hitesh Deka

**Registrar:** Rajat Baran Mahanta

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 4, ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 67

**Number of Courses:** 652

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 33 (Male: 11; Female: 22)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 4 (Male: 2; Female: 2)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 58 (Male: 48; Female: 10)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 25,364 (Male: 14,253; Female: 11,111)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 2,823 (Male: 1,369; Female: 1,454)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 17,683,354; Expenditure: 2,840,833

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 1 (Male: 1; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 1; study centres: 220

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Management, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** counselling sessions, practical, library facilities, audio-visual aid, ICT support service (community radio service; phone-in-programme, e-Bidya, assessment practice, open access journals search engine, special educational programme (Ekalavya)), SLMs, audio and video material

**International Reach:** NA

**Research Activities:**

- The university has its own resource and development unit (Banikanta Kakoti Research Institution), which initiates various research activities
- Priority areas of research are ODL and ICT

**Achievements:**

- Received the Excellence in Institutional Achievement in Distance Education award (2011–13) from COL
- Received the 2014 Competition Success Review Top Distance Learning Institution award
- Collaborative partnership with TESS-India

**Key Priorities:**

- Aims to become one of the leading people's universities in the north-east region of India
- Aims to become a transnational university in South East Asia
- OER policy implementation

**Address:**

Patgaon, Rani, Guwahati-781017  
Housefed Complex  
Guwahati, PIN- 781006, India  
Web: <http://www.kkhsou.in>

## MADHYA PRADESH BHOJ (OPEN) UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1991, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. (Dr.) Tariq Zafar

**Registrar:** Shri Manoj Kumar Tiwari

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 58

**Number of Courses:** NA

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 8 (Male: 4; Female: 4)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 6 (Male: 3; Female: 3)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 56 (Male: 31; Female: 25)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 122,884 (Male: 76,840; Female: 46,044)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 101,017 (Male: 62,630; Female: 38,387)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 35,300,209; Expenditure: 2,156,737

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 5 (Male: 5; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** NA

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** ICTs, face-to-face contact programme, SLM (online), audio-video lectures and Web-based instructional materials

**International Reach:** NA

**Research Activities:**

NA

**Achievements:**

- Enrolment of more than 100,000 students each year
- Organisation of a Central Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet in association with the Association of Indian Universities

**Key Priorities:**

- Adoption of an OER policy
- Improvement of instructional material quality
- Innovative types of research in the area of ODL

**Address:**

Raja Bhoj Marg (Kolar Road)  
Bhopal, PIN-462016, India  
Web: <http://www.bhojvirtualuniversity.com>

## NALANDA OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1987, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. (Dr.) Shivakant Jha

**Registrar:** Dr. S.P. Sinha

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 7

**Number of Programmes:** 75

**Number of Courses:** 75

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 7 (Male: 3; Female: 4)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 20 (Male: 15; Female: 5)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 83 (Male: 83; Female: 0)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 25,580 (Male: 15,752; Female: 9,828)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 25,490 (Male: 15,502; Female: 9,967)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** NA

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 14 (Male: 14; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: – ; study centres: 146

**Disciplines:** Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** SLMs (print)

**International Reach:** N/A

**Research Activities:**

NA

**Achievements:**

Developed the Nalanda Open University mobile application

**Key Priorities:**

- Development of an MIS and automation of student support services
- Implementation of an LMS/LCMS
- Setting up of a studio for virtual classroom

**Address:**

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Biscomaun Bhawan, Gandhi Maidan  
Patna, PIN-800001, India  
Web: <http://www.nou.ac.in>

## NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA (ESTD. 2002, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Abdalla Uba Adamu

**Registrar:** Mr. Felix Edoke

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 4, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 93

**Number of Courses:** NA

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 357 (Male: 214; Female: 143)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 63 (Male: 33; Female: 30)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 2,111 (Male: 1,264; Female: 847)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 272,384 (Male: 143,811; Female: 128,573)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** NA

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 83,170,193; Expenditure: 73,340,747

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 536 (Male: 479; Female: 57)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional Centres: NA ; Study Centres: 78

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** face-to-face student support and lab/practical exercises at study centres, study materials (print, online, CD), industrial training and research work

**International Reach:** NA

### Research Activities:

- Research areas: Agricultural Sciences, Arts, Education, Health Sciences, Law, Management Sciences, Sciences, and Social Sciences
- Research within disciplines as well as interdisciplinary
- Researchers are expected to devote their research efforts to ODL

### Achievements:

- Expansion of academic programmes
- Accreditation of most programmes by the National Universities Commission
- Expansion of study centres
- Increase in student enrolment

### Key Priorities:

- Intensifying research activities and networks
- Curriculum review
- Digitisation

### Address:

University Village, Plot 91, Cadastral Zone, Nnamdi Azikiwe Expressway, Jabi, Abuja, Nigeria  
Web: <http://www.nou.edu.ng>

## NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1997, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar

**Registrar:** Shri Mohan Kumar Chattopadhyay

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 13

**Number of Courses:** 56

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 38 (Male: 25; Female: 13)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 3,331 (Male: 2,379; Female: 952)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 78 (Male: 63; Female: 15)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 56,421 (Male: 36,673; Female: 19,748)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 7,518 (Male: 4,736; Female: 2,782)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** NA

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 4 (Male: 3; Female: 1)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 1; study centres: 154

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Basic Sciences

**Instructional System:** personal contact programmes with teachers/counsellors at study centres, 24/7 Student Support Cell, SLMs (print), text materials and e-content (A/V lectures online)

**International Reach:** NA

### **Research Activities:**

Faculty members are encouraged to carry out their research projects in different disciplines, which are generally financed out of the UGC-DEB fund.

### **Achievements:**

- Adoption of an OER policy
- Digitisation of the admission and examination system
- 24/7 student support
- Received Best Innovative University award from DNA and Star of Industries Group 2016

### **Key Priorities:**

- Complete digitisation of the student support system
- Developing an OER repository
- Releasing all academic content as OER

### **Address:**

DD-26, Sector-1, Salt Lake  
Kolkata, India  
Web: <http://www.wbnsou.ac.in>

## ODISHA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 2015, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Dr. Srikant Mohapatra

**Registrar:** Dr. Jayanta Kar Sharma

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 4, ISCED 5

**Number of Programmes:** 14

**Number of Courses:** 90

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** Open and Distance Learning, Online Learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 8 (Male: 6; Female: 2)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 211 (Male: 157; Female: 54)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 9 (Male: 9; Female: 0)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 1,534 (Male: 970; Female: 564)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 223 (Male: 189; Female: 34)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 3,538,874 ; Expenditure: 1,157,062

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 1 (Male: 0; Female: 1)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 1; study centres: 32

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Management, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** Internet radio (Pragynavani.com) for online audio lectures, print materials (in English and local dialect), online video lectures

**International Reach:** NA

### Research Activities:

OSOU has taken up a short-term research project on institutional OER policy with the help of CEMCA

### Achievements:

- Reached all parts of the state
- Within a year of establishment, OSOU has started 14 courses
- OSOU is the first university in the state to launch its own Internet radio
- SLMs have been designed in both Odia and English

### Key Priorities:

- Expanding learner support network in the state of Odisha
- Starting skills-based education at a greater level
- Creating for students more job opportunities with an industry–academia interface

### Address:

G.M. University Campus  
Budharaja, Sambalpur, PIN-768004, India  
Web: <http://www.osou.ac.in>

## THE OPEN UNIVERSITY (UK) (ESTD. 1969, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Peter Horrocks

**Registrar:** Keith Zimmerman (University Secretary)

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 20

**Number of Courses:** 400

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, face-to-face education, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 2,552 (Male: 891; Female: 1,661)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 4,402 (Male: –; Female: –)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 1,227 (Male: 329; Female: 898)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 151,131 (Male: 62,717; Female: 88,414)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 142,013 (Male: 59,024; Female: 82,989)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 607,898,352; Expenditure: 618,712,483

**Technical and Professional Staff:** NA

**Learner Support Network:** 1 head office in Milton Keynes and offices in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast and Dublin

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** online learning environments based on Moodle, innovations in OER (e.g., OpenLearn), MOOCs (e.g., FutureLearn), supported open learning, instructional materials (print but mostly online), optional face-to-face and online tutoring sessions, tutor-marked assignments (with feedback), end-of-module assessments, collaboration with broadcasters (esp. BBC)

### International Reach:

- Most courses are available throughout Europe (some globally)
- 1 office in Dublin, Republic of Ireland
- Number of international students (2014/15): 8,353, number of Global Direct students (2014/15): 7,749

### Research Activities:

- Priority research areas: international development, citizenship and governance, space science, technology-enhanced learning, health and well-being
- UK research position (REF 2014 Power rankings): 41<sup>st</sup>/128, awarded 180 doctoral degrees in 2015/16, value of research grants and contracts awarded (2015/16): £18.1m
- 480+ running research grants and contract awards in 2015/16
- 950+ post-graduate research students registered for study in 2015/16
- Research deemed world-leading or internationally excellent (REF 2014): 72%
- Open Research Online (ORO) UK ranking (Ranking Web of Repositories) (2015/16) : 8<sup>th</sup>/142

### Key Priorities:

- Reach even more students and support them through to the completion of a qualification that meets their needs
- Provide enhanced employability and career progression outcomes for students
- Diversify income base

### Achievements:

- Maintained its position as the UK's largest university
- Continued to deliver OU's mission of widening participation in higher education (especially disadvantaged groups)
- Launched FutureLearn in 2013, a platform for free MOOCs
- In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, 72% of Open University research was assessed as being 4- or 3-star quality ("world-leading")

### Address:

Walton Hall  
MK7 6AA Milton Keynes  
United Kingdom  
Web: <http://www.open.ac.uk/>

## OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS (ESTD. 2002, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Costas Christou

**Registrar:** Christopher Christodoulides

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 27

**Number of Courses:** 294

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 22 (Male: 13; Female: 9)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 257 (Male: 151; Female: 106)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 76 (Male: 22; Female: 54)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 5,691 (Male: 2,236; Female: 3,455)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 834 (Male: 270; Female: 564)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 19,147,190; Expenditure: NA

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 0 (Male: 0; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** Examination centres in Greece, Cyprus, Cypriot embassies, and partner universities

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** eLearning platform (eClass; virtual classrooms equipped with real-time and asynchronous collaboration tools), video chat, forum, e-library, face-to-face and online tutorials with students and faculty, monitoring, feedback and support by faculty, printed educational materials, specially designed digital materials, video lectures, assignments, self-assessment exercises, final examinations

### International Reach:

- Has agreements with universities from Greece, Russia, Palestine, Portugal, Ukraine, Austria, Israel and the United States
- More than 60% of OUC students reside outside of Cyprus

### Research Activities:

- Research facilities: Educational Technology Lab, Telecommunication Systems Research Lab, Computational Cognition Lab, Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Lab
- Research focus areas: educational sciences, literature and linguistics, history and archaeology, journalism and social media, health sciences, health economics and applied statistics, business administration, environment and climate change, artificial intelligence

### Key Priorities:

- Securing a critical mass of faculty members for the autonomous operation of OUC and the elections of the first Senate and first University Council
- Securing university-owned building infrastructure
- International outreach

### Achievements:

- Implementation of the “eUniversity” project
- Enrolment of approx. 5,500 students, making OUC the largest university in Cyprus in terms of the number of post-graduate students
- Implementation of projects targeting vulnerable groups, such as the Cypriot National Guardsmen
- OUC has secured a co-ordinating role for distance higher education in Cyprus

### Address:

PO Box 12794  
2252 Latsia, Cyprus  
Web: <http://www.ouc.ac.cy>

## OPEN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA (ESTD. 2001, PRIVATE)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Dato' Dr. Mansor Fadzil

**Registrar:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Izanee Awang

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 59

**Number of Courses:** 716

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 121 (Male: 54; Female: 67)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 7,907 (Male: 4,784; Female: 3,123)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 416 (Male: 209; Female: 207)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 73,345 (Male: 36,027; Female: 37,318)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 9,021 (Male: 2,960; Female: 6,061)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** NA

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 45 (Male: 15; Female: 30)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: na; study centres: 34

**Disciplines:** Social Sciences, Education, Management, Engineering and Technology, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** LMS (myINSPIRE online and app), video conferencing, face-to-face tutorials, counselling, academic advising, e-advising/counselling, library training, video lectures, discussion forums, self-practice quizzes, eModules

### International Reach:

- Collaborations in 11 countries with 14 partners
- Organises regular staff visits, study tours, and conferences with partner institutions
- Study visit initiative with HUTECH (Vietnam)

### Research Activities:

- Research focus areas: assessment, mobile learning, e-tutoring and online learning, course and programme learning outcomes, developing online tasks for myINSPIRE, and student retention
- Involved in 5 collaborative research projects with 4 other ASEAN ODL institutions and a collaborative project on eLearning for lifelong learning

### Key Priorities:

- eLearning
- TVET
- University–industry collaboration

### Achievements:

- Received the SEAMEO–Jasper Award (2012)
- Received the Putra Brand Award from AAAA, Malaysia, and the silver award in the Education and Learning category (2013 and 2015)
- Received the Industry Excellence Award (Education Services) from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (2014)
- Received the Global Performance Excellence– Best in Class Award (Education) (2015) from APQO
- Received the Excellence for Institutional Achievement in Distance Education award from COL (2016)

### Address:

Jalan Tun Ismail  
50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Web: <http://www.oum.edu.my>

## OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS (ESTD. 2012, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Dr. K. S. Sukon (Director-General)

**Registrar:** Mrs. S. Ramasawmy and Mr. V. Veerabudren (Deputy Registrars)

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 39

**Number of Courses:** 515

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, face-to-face education, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 13 (Male: 6; Female: 7)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 315 (Male: 242; Female: 73)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 71 (Male: 20; Female: 51)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 4,740 (Male: 1,682; Female: 3,058)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 497 (Male: 157; Female: 340)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 9,079,754; Expenditure: 10,894,079

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 54 (Male: 38; Female: 16)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: NA; study centres: 3

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences

**Instructional System:** university's online platform (Moodle), peer group meetings, study/writing skills sessions, counselling, individual coaching (comments/feedback on assignments), administrative support and induction sessions, SIMs (print), CDs, videos, face-to-face

**International Reach:** 20 international students

### Research Activities:

- Research on "Webagogy"
- Paper presentations at conferences and seminars

### Key Priorities:

- Increase the number of programmes
- Increase enrolment
- Set up a language institute

### Achievements:

- Enrolment (4,500 students in 3 years)
- Increase in revenue

### Address:

Redit, 80834, Mauritius  
Web: <http://www.open.ac.mu>

## OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA (ESTD. 1980, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. S. A. Ariadurai

**Registrar:** Ms. W. L. Vindya Jayasena

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 4, ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 67

**Number of Courses:** 1,603

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 313 (Male: 152; Female: 161)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** NA

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 579 (Male: 356; Female: 223)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 38,203 (Male: 14,196; Female: 24,007)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 6,026 (Male: 1,704; Female: 4,322)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 60,137,065; Expenditure: 3,7152,867

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 47 (Male: 29; Female: 18)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 8; study centres: 24

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** The core instructional materials of OUSL are specially designed printed course materials. OUSL also uses online learning, audio and video materials and focuses on student-centred learning, the learner support system, induction, academic counselling, and practical use of the LMS (MyOUSL).

### International Reach:

- Provisions are made to conduct examinations for registered foreign students through the respective foreign missions
- A small number of international students are currently enrolled in OUSL programmes

### Research Activities:

- Discipline-based research
- ODL research
- Annual academic conferences
- OUSL journal

### Achievements:

- International awards to faculty for research
- Offering a cross-border exclusively online course partnering with e-mentors from the USA
- Offering staff development programmes to other South Asian universities

### Key Priorities:

- Further enhancement of online student services and academic activities
- Extension of the university's presence in neighbouring countries
- Increase collaborations with partner institutions to offer quality programmes

### Address:

PO Box 21, Nawala  
Nugegoda 10250, Sri Lanka  
Web: <http://www.ou.ac.lk>

## OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA (ESTD. 1992, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Elifas Tozo Bisanda

**Registrar:** Prof. Cornelia Muganda

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 92

**Number of Courses:** N/A

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 340 (Male: 218; Female: 122)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 0

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 307 (Male: 132; Female: 175)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 15,753 (Male: 10,151; Female: 5,602)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 6,002 (Male: 3,554; Female: 2,448)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 39,257,116; Expenditure: 39,854,919

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 54 (Male: 44; Female: 10)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 28; co-ordination centres: 2

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** eLearning Management Information System, library at headquarters and satellite libraries at regional centres, printed materials, CDs, audio and video material, online content, links to OER

### International Reach:

- OUT has co-ordination centres in neighbouring countries, including Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Ghana
- During the 2014/15 academic year, 458 foreign students (344 male and 114 female) were enrolled in OUT programmes

### Research Activities:

- Research is published in local and international journals
- OUT publishes five research journals

### Achievements:

- Increased enrolment
- Digitisation of learning resources
- More efficient use of resources
- Expansion of operations within Tanzania and beyond

### Key Priorities:

NA

### Address:

PO Box 23409  
Kawawa Road, Kinondoni  
Dar Ed Salaam, Tanzania  
Web: <http://www.out.ac.tz>

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Bansh Gopal Singh

**Registrar:** Dr. Rajkumar Sachdeo

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 16

**Number of Courses:** 25

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 12 (Male: 6; Female: 6)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 193 (Male: 114; Female: 79)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 288 (Male: 247; Female: 41)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 24,080 (Male: 14,288; Female: 9,792)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 20,203 (Male: 12,245; Female: 7,958)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 13,433,983; Expenditure: 6,504,717

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 27 (Male: 23; Female: 4)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 6; study centres: 162

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics

**Instructional System:** SLMs (print), central evaluation system for the assessment of assignments and end-of-term examinations

**International Reach:** NA

**Research Activities:**

- Hosting of national academic seminars
- PhD programmes in various subjects are proposed to start in the current academic session
- 4 ongoing research projects
- Participation and presentation of research papers in national/international seminars as well as the publication of research papers in various national/international journals

**Achievements:**

- Developed its own SLMs
- Started online admissions
- Installed a solar plant (50kV) on the university campus

**Key Priorities:**

- Focus on starting courses and strengthen the academic curriculum by adopting MOOCs
- Improve the headquarters' infrastructure
- Expand university's reach within the state

**Address:**

Koni-Birkona Road  
Bilaspur, PIN-495009, India  
Web: <http://www.pssou.ac.in>

## TAMIL NADU OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 2002, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. M. Bhaskaran

**Registrar:** Prof. S. Vijayan

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 148

**Number of Courses:** 1,481

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 45 (Male: 33; Female: 12)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 2,150 (Male: 920; Female: 1,230)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 64 (Male: 38; Female: 26)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 26,258 (Male: 13,492; Female: 12,766)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 13,494 (Male: 5,581; Female: 7,913)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 12,071,034; Expenditure: 7,869,672

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 5 (Male: 3; Female: 2)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 5; study centres: 430

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** SLMs (print), audio and video material, e-content CDs, video conferencing, Web-based instructional assistance, counselling, practical sessions, marked assignments, self-assessments, end-of-term examinations

**International Reach:** NA

### Research Activities:

- Current research areas: tsunami rehabilitation, empowerment of women, empowerment and certification of hair dressers, community colleges in the State of Tamil Nadu, and cultural studies
- TNOU has been awarding MPhil and PhD degrees since 2013

### Achievements:

- Trained 100,000 employable students in the field of skills training and development through community colleges
- Ranked 10<sup>th</sup> for reach and resources amongst 250 institutions that offer ODL in India
- Enrolled more than 500,000 students within a short period of its operation
- The State Government of Tamil Nadu recognised and authorised TNOU to maintain quality assurance of other universities that offer ODL in the State of Tamil Nadu

### Key Priorities:

- Strengthening TVET programmes for disadvantaged groups in Tamil Nadu
- Introduction of ICTs in all of TNOU's activities
- Expansion of research activities

### Address:

No-577, Anna Salai  
Saidapet, Chennai, PIN-600 015, India  
Web: <http://www.tnou.ac.in>

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA (ESTD. 1946, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Mandla Makhanya

**Registrar:** Prof. Michael Temane

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 624

**Number of Courses:** 2,974

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 2,159 (Male: 1,101; Female: 1,058)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 9,095 (Male: 4,299; Female: 4,796)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 3,723 (Male: 1,507; Female: 2,216)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 351,160 (Male: 126,574; Female: 224,586)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 40,046 (Male: 12,923; Female: 27,123)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 1,039,949,672; Expenditure: 1,098,465,732

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 270 (Male: –; Female: –)

**Learner Support Network:** NA

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** LMS, ODL orientation, face-to-face and electronic tutorials, study material (print), audio-visual materials, and online materials on the LMS

### International Reach:

- In addition to South Africa, students are enrolled from SADC and other African countries, and countries outside of Africa (136 countries overall)
- Number of international students: 25,447
- 1 study centre in Ethiopia

### Research Activities:

Five research priorities: knowledge generation and human capacity building in response to the needs of South Africa and the African continent; the promotion of democracy, human rights and responsible citizenship; innovation and capacity building in science and technology; economic and environmental sustainability; and ODL

### Key Priorities:

- Provide quality educational offerings serving current and future generations
- Create a management and governance framework which allows for flexibility and innovation
- Use ICTs to support the transformation of the university's core business

### Achievements:

- Increase in enrolment graduation rate
- Increase in number of graduating masters and doctoral students by ~25%
- Increase in research activities
- Community engagement projects

### Address:

Preller Street, Muckleneuk  
PO Box 392 UNISA, Pretoria  
0003 Pretoria, South Africa  
Web: <http://www.unisa.ac.za>

## UTTARAKHAND OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 2005, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Nageshwar Rao

**Registrar:** Prof. R. C. Mishra

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 70

**Number of Courses:** 742

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning, blended learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 28 (Male: 23; Female: 5)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 21 (Male: 14; Female: 7)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 105 (Male: 86; Female: 19)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 11,213 (Male: 5,426; Female: 5,787)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 7,401 (Male: 3,798; Female: 3,603)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 13,409,000; Expenditure: 5,763,887

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 6 (Male: 6; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 8; study centres: 234

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** EDU-SAT, smart classroom, counselling and workshop sessions, students support cell, SLM (print), audio/video material, Web radio

**International Reach:** NA

### Research Activities:

- UOU has recently been granted permission by the UGC to offer MPhil and PhD programmes
- UOU researchers have been publishing research papers in various national and international journals and have received several research awards and grants for research projects

### Key Priorities:

- Revision of SLMs
- Online learning, admissions, delivery of e-content, the technological support system, use of ICT for student counselling, and use of multimedia content and OER
- Accreditation of the university by national agencies and inclusion of the university in the National Institutional Ranking Framework

### Achievements:

- Made technological advances, including video lab, radio station, online admission, OER policy, MOOCs
- Academia–industry interface
- Increased enrolment

### Address:

University Road, Behind Transport Nagar (Teenpani Bypass)  
Haldwani, PIN-263 139, India  
Web: <http://www.uou.ac.in>

## UTTAR PRADESH RAJARSHI TANDON OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1999, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. M. P. Dube

**Registrar:** Mr. D. P. Tripathi

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 5, ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 158

**Number of Courses:** NA

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning, face-to-face

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 46 (Male: 37; Female: 9)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 675 (Male: 405; Female: 270)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 7 (Male: 7; Female: 0)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 50,902 (Male: 27,601; Female: 23,301)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 15,924 (Male: 8,250; Female: 7,670)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 23,203,898; Expenditure: 15,269,342

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 113 (Male: 104; Female: 9)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 8; study centres: 3,000+

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Commerce, Education

Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** face-to-face support, SLM (print, e-content, audio-video, TV, CD-ROM modules), continuous assessment and feedback at study centres

**International Reach:** NA

### Research Activities:

Research degrees are offered in various disciplines, with a focus on distance education, ICT and value education. It conducts workshops on research methodology regularly.

### Achievements:

- ICT-enabled university operations with most activities online
- Opened 5 new regional centres and more than 300 new study centres to cover the entire state of Uttar Pradesh in the last 5 years
- Started 21 skills-oriented and 37 job-oriented new programmes
- Established Environmental Awareness and Green Audit Committee
- Improvement in infrastructure

### Key Priorities:

- Developing MOOCs and TED-Talk type multimedia SLM
- Implementing OER Policy
- Setting up an Incubation Centre and establishing the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Centre for Skill Development

### Address:

Shantipuram (Sec-F), Phaphamau,  
Allahabad, PIN- 211021, India  
Web: <http://www.uprtou.ac.in>

## VARDHAMAN MAHAVEER OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1987, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Ashok Sharma

**Registrar:** Dr. S. C. Sharma

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 6, ISCED 7, ISCED 8

**Number of Programmes:** 115

**Number of Courses:** 942

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 29 (Male: 24; Female: 5)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** NA

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 254 (Male: 235; Female: 19)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 83,856 (Male: 53,993; Female: 29,863)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 37,108 (Male: 22,656; Female: 14,452)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 37,956,066; Expenditure: 22,993,772

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 13 (Male: 13; Female: 0)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 7; study centres: 84

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Commerce, Legal Studies, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** faculty support, counselling, SLM (print and online), video lectures, Web radio, various online sources, online assignments

**International Reach:** NA

### Research Activities:

- The university has been offering doctoral programmes since 1987
- Since 2015, research programmes have been offered in the following subjects: Commerce, Economics, Education, English, Hindi, History, Library and Information Science, Management, Political Science, Public Administration, Botany, Journalism, Geography, Chemistry, Sociology, Zoology, Law, and Special Education

### Achievements:

- Developed 400+ audio-video lectures
- Developed an integrated online system for student admission
- Has been offering post-graduate science courses and set up well-equipped labs for practical study components

### Key Priorities:

- E-governance
- Academic programmes and research activities
- Development of human and financial resources

### Address:

Rawatbhata Road  
Kota, PIN-324 021, India  
Web: <http://www.vmou.ac.in>

## WAWASAN OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 2006, PRIVATE)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Dato' Dr. Ho Sinn Chye

**Registrar:** Dr. Andy Liew Teik Kooi

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** NA

**Number of Programmes:** 57

**Number of Courses:** 385

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning, face-to-face

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 46 (Male: 18; Female: 28)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** 421 (Male: 182; Female: 239)

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 152 (Male: 65; Female: 87)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 6,389 (Male: 3,029; Female: 3,360)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 493 (Male: 241; Female: 252)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** NA

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 28 (Male: 11; Female: 17)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 5; study centres: 3

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Management, Engineering and Technology, Computer Sciences and Informatics

**Instructional System:** self-developed Moodle-based LMS, face-to-face and online tutorial support, digital and physical libraries, 24/7 WOU OER repository, online tutorial through WizIQ, ODL SIMS (online PDFs), videos, podcasts, online assessment through marked assignments, end-of-term examinations

**International Reach:** NA

### Research Activities:

- Institute of Research and Innovation to financially support research projects
- Research projects have focused on: action research, developmental applications, technology-based solutions, mobile applications
- Academics have been participating in regional/international conferences and awarded for their contributions to research and innovations in ODL
- Received research funding from IDRC, ADB, COL and the FRG, a Malaysian government research grant

### Key Priorities:

- Strengthening online programme delivery across Malaysia to improve the university's outreach
- Achieving excellence in learner support and services
- Establishing international collaborations to extend the university's programmes overseas

### Achievements:

- Established a reputation for high-quality courses and good delivery learning support services
- Increased enrolment and number of programmes
- Improved practice in quality assurance processes and systems
- Developed customised and robust solutions for technology-supported teaching and learning

### Address:

54 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah  
Georgetown, Pulau Pinang, 10050  
Malaysia  
Web: <http://www.wou.edu.my>

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. E. Vayunandan

**Registrar:** Dr. Dinesh Bhonde

**Levels of Programmes Offered:** ISCED 4, ISCED 6, ISCED 7

**Number of Programmes:** 99

**Number of Courses:** 3,149

**Modes of Teaching and Learning:** ODL, online learning, blended mode of learning

**Teaching Staff (Full-Time):** 36 (Male: 26; Female: 10)

**Teaching Staff (Part-Time):** NA

**Administrative and Support Staff:** 179 (Male: 143; Female: 36)

**Students Enrolled (2016):** 678,207 (Male: 435,765; Female: 242,442)

**Students Awarded Degrees (2015):** 132,320 (Male: 81,323; Female: 50,997)

**Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):** Revenue: 127,399,684; Expenditure: 34,835,778

**Technical and Professional Staff:** 49 (Male: 47; Female: 2)

**Learner Support Network:** Regional centres: 8; study centres: 3000+

**Disciplines:** Humanities, Commerce, Education, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences

**Instructional System:** face-to-face support, Web-based learner support system, peer counselling, online radio and TV counselling, counselling at study centres, online support, SLM (print, e-content, online, mobile-ready lectures, audio-video, TV, Web-radio, CD-ROM modules), continuous assessment and feedback at study centres, online tests

**International Reach:** NA

**Research Activities:**

Research focus areas: development of distance education system/programmes, innovative methods in distance education, communication technology, development and production of learning packages, evaluation system, quality assurance mechanisms, programme evaluation, tracer studies, student issues and retention

**Key Priorities:**

- Develop an ERP Web portal for better student support services
- Develop a learning management system
- Extend networking across all study centres and regional centres

**Achievements:**

- Developed double entry system accounting software and a payment system from online admission to examination using payment gateway
- Developed an online exam-question paper-generation system and a digital evaluation system
- Developed live teaching-learning support (Mobile/TAB ready lectures through Web-casting with student interaction)

**Address:**

Dnyangangotri, Near Gangapur Dam  
Nashik, PIN-422222, India  
Web: <http://www.ycmou.ac.in/>

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August 2017