The Open University
Scotland

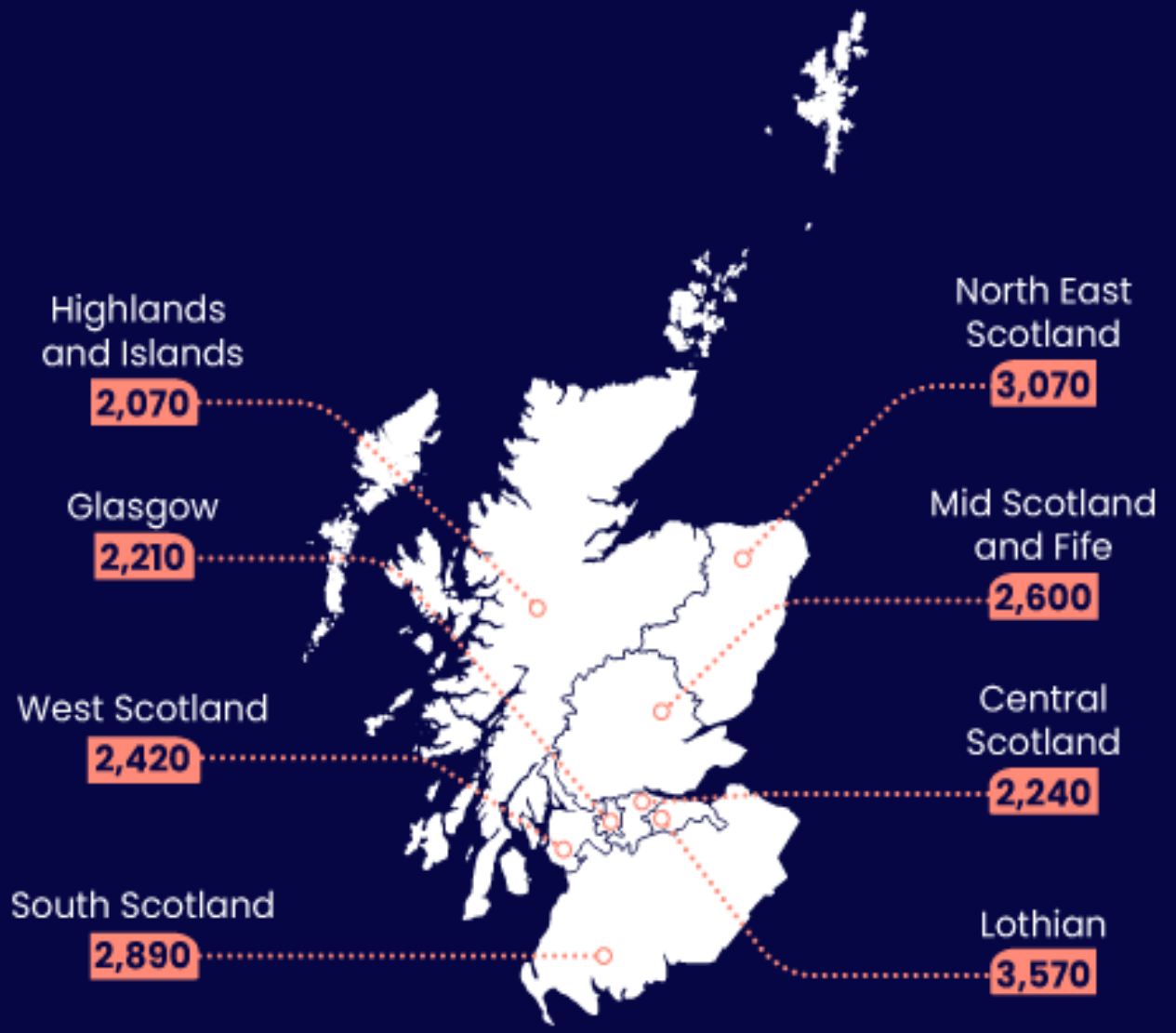
Fully-Funded Microcredentials for Career Development

Page Munro, Partnerships Manager

The Open University Scotland

21,000+ students currently studying with The OU in Scotland

We have students in all
73
Scottish Parliament constituencies, work with schools in
29
local authority areas and partner with
16
regional colleges



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Upskilling the nation

168
community learning and development practitioners gained new skills through our online teaching microcredentials

76
health and social care staff gained new skills through funded modules and microcredentials

74%
of our students are in full-time or part-time work

Working with over **250** employers across Scotland

980
applications for funded microcredentials in business and management, leadership, computing and IT, and sustainability

587
fully-funded places awarded

40%
of our students study Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths subjects

85%
of alumni say OU studies improved their job skills

88%
of graduates in Scotland say OU study supports their career goals

78
small and medium-sized enterprises across Scotland accessed OU training via the Flexible Workforce Development Fund

What are Microcredentials?

Microcredentials are professional development short courses (with academic credit) that allow learners to gain specialist knowledge and skills in rapidly growing industries.

- Allow learners to quickly build in-demand skills and knowledge to get ahead
- Courses take just 11 – 13 weeks of online study (10 – 13 hours of study a week)
- Courses run 3x a year in March, June and October
- Learners gain practical skills that they can immediately apply to their work, or boost their CV
- Courses are available at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- Designed by the OU's world-class academics, with many endorsed by industry partners

aws academy

cisco Networking Academy Partner

Agile Business Consortium

Mental Health Foundation

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What can I study?

We currently have 19 courses on offer, including subjects such as:

- Project Management
- People Management and Leadership
- Managing Change and Uncertainty
- Marketing
- Financial and Management Accounting
- Sustainability
- Mental Health
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Cyber Security
- Coding
- Cloud Computing
- Computer Networking

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How do Microcredentials work?

Microcredentials are hosted on the OU's partner platform FutureLearn

Learn online with expert mentors

Complete online courses over 10 - 12 weeks with guidance from a dedicated group of mentors.

Complete project based assessments

Test your understanding with weekly quizzes and exercises ahead of submitting your end-of-course assessment.

Earn a professional credential

Finish your studies and and pass your assessments to gain a certificate of completion.

Advance your career

Use your microcredential as evidence of your specialised skills and progress further in your career.

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How do Microcredentials work?

- Your studies will be fully online so you do not have to attend on campus or on specific days/times.
- It is up to you when you complete your studies each week and the study is designed to fit around your other work and life commitments.
- The final assignment for the course is due on a specific date and we cannot offer extensions.
- You will be supported on the course by study advisors who can answer questions about the course content or the course structure.
- One of the best parts of studying a Microcredential is the opportunity for peer learning. You'll be studying alongside a wide variety of learners in different types of organisations and sectors and there are fantastic opportunities to share knowledge and experience.

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WEEK 1
Introduction to the course
Welcome to the course
About the course
1.5 Course outline and learning outcomes
Article
1.6 How you will learn on this course
Article
1.7 Your assessment
Article
1.8 How to spend your time each week
Article
1.9 Glossary
Article
1.10 What to expect this week
Article
Transforming for sustainability
The response to climate change
Week 1 review

WEEK 2
Transforming your values

WEEK 3
Nature

WEEK 4
Long-term thinking

WEEK 5

A forest at sunrise © Ray Bilcliff from Pexels

Course outline and learning outcomes

8 comments

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The Application Process

Every time the courses run, we receive nearly double the number of applications as available funded places. To help us in awarding the places, we ask applicants to write a short statement which includes:

- Why they want to take that particular course
- What skills they hope to gain
- How they think it will help them in their career

The strength of this statement is the main deciding factor in the awarding of funded places. We also take into consideration the following factors:

- Balance across protected characteristics
- Geographics representation across the whole of Scotland

Priority is given to people who are unemployed or at risk of redundancy

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Tips for Success

- Make sure to read through the different courses on offer in detail and make sure you're choosing the right course for you. We can answer any questions you might have around course content and suitability.
- Take your time when writing your personal statement – make sure to answer the questions we've asked you and really think about how your chosen course can help you achieve your goals.
- We recommend using your personal email address in your application – if you're on holiday when we offer out the funded places you might miss the offer!

I have recently moved from a support role to a managerial role and I am keen to develop my managerial and leadership skills to build my confidence in this role. I work for a small but fast-growing Scottish start up and improving my skill-set in these areas will also be beneficial for the wider company, ensuring we have best practices in leadership and management. I have a people-facing role and helping to get the most out of the team and being a supportive and effective leader is really important to me.

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Next steps

- Applications for our next cohort of fully-funded Microcredentials starting in June will open on 17th April 2023
- You can add yourself to our mailing list at https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/choose/scotland-micro. We will notify you when applications open.
- You can also look at all of the courses on offer at the website above. If you have any questions, you can contact us as ouscotland-skills-support@open.ac.uk and we will be happy to help you

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