



The Open  
University

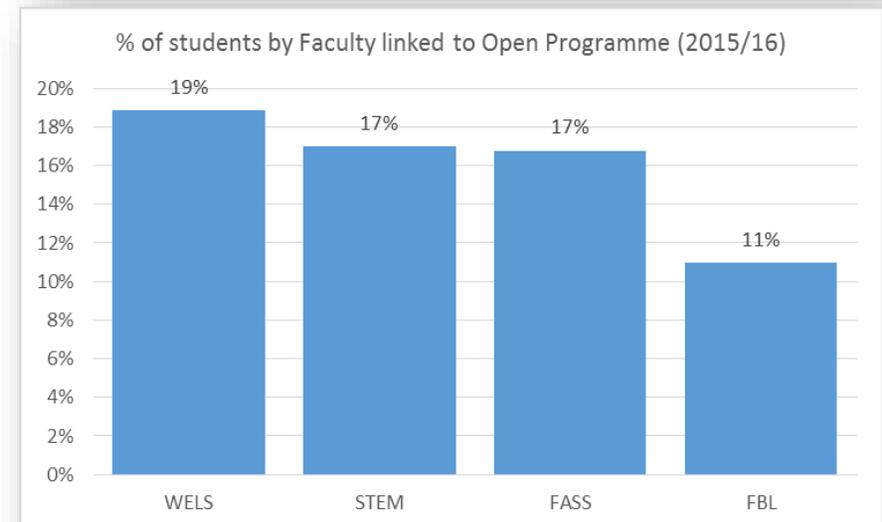
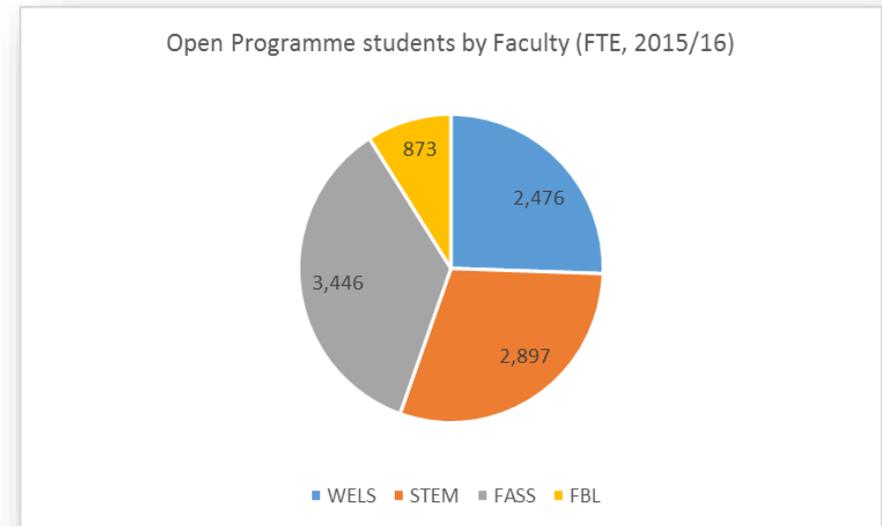
Peter Taylor

Director of the Open Programme

# Facts and figures

## Still the OU's largest programme of study

- Around 25,000 individual students studying an “Open” qualification
- Open degree with honours accounts for approximately 20% of all honours degrees awarded over the last 5 years
- Students on Open qualifications account for up to 1/5 of students within each Faculty\*
- Importance of Open qualifications for faculty income and student number targets



\* Based on new faculty structures, 2015/16 module registration data at 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 (Source: IET)

# Walter Perry, 1976

“The usual criticism...is that a student who has a free choice of courses that he can take credit for is liable to end up with what has been called ‘a miscellaneous rag-bag of credits’ – a selection of courses with little or no internal coherence.

Such people argue strongly that ‘the student should determine the pattern of his studies’ suited to the individual student. This kind of freedom of choice is of the essence of

... Opponents of this view, on the other hand, argue equally strongly that a ‘student is the best judge of what he wishes to learn’ and that he should be given the maximum freedom of choice consistent with a coherent overall pattern.

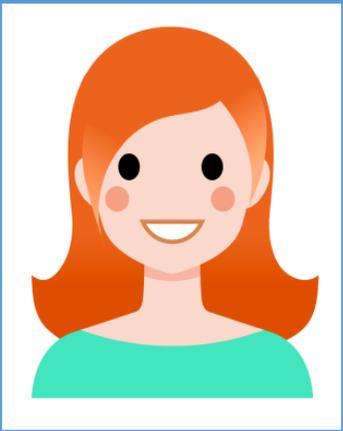
They hold that this is ‘doubly true when one is dealing with adults’ who, after years of experience of life, ought to be in a better position to judge what precise studies they wish to undertake...”

# You need to think of the whole student

## STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD

Name: Anne

Degree: BSc (Hons) Open degree



**Modules**

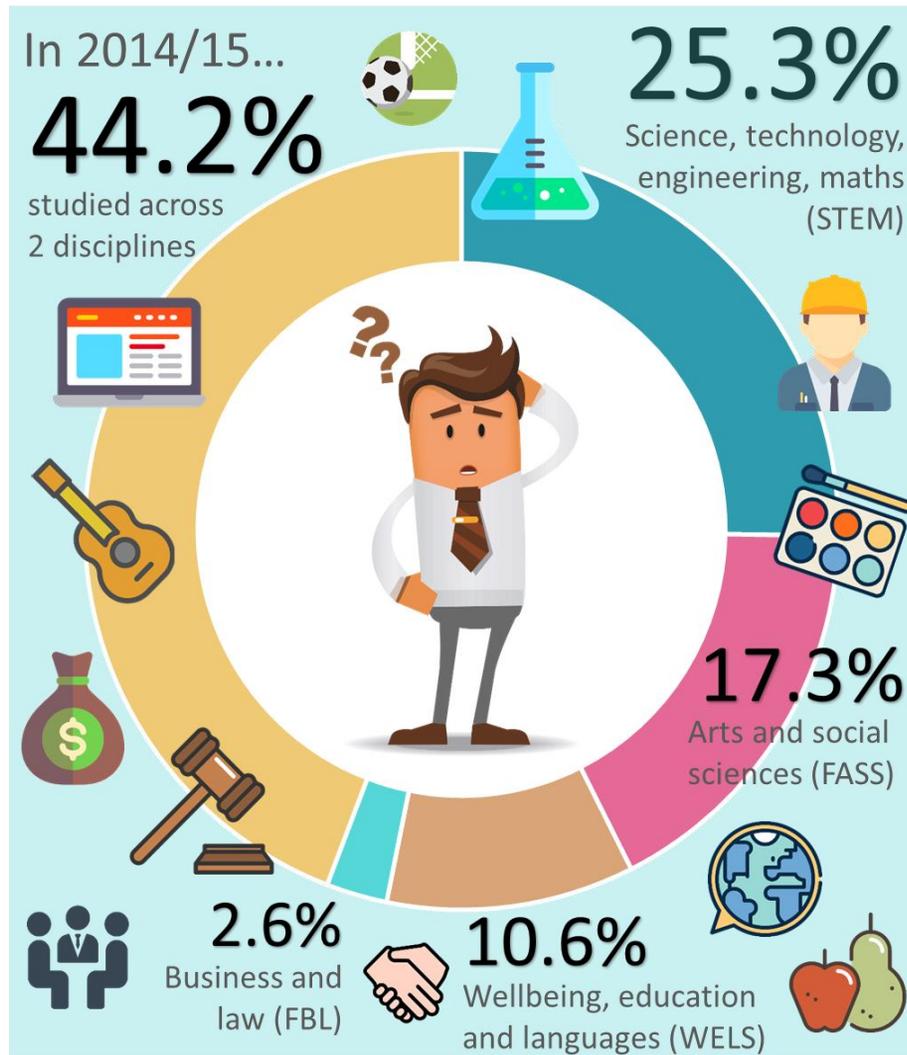
Code	Module	Credits
M364	Fundamentals of interaction design	30
B322	Investigating entrepreneurial opportunities	30
A363	Advanced creative writing	
B291	Financial accounting	
A215	Creative writing	
T227	Change, strategy and work	
T189	Digital photography	
T156	Digital film school	
T150	Digital audio	
T183	Design and the Web	
TU100	My digital life	
T151	Digital worlds	
A174	Start writing fiction	

*Please note: some of these modules are r*



# Faculty “loyalty” data

Do Open degree students choose to study across faculties, or within just one main subject area?



- Approximately half of Open degree graduates chose to study modules owned by one faculty (based on the new faculty structure), with STEM being the most popular.
- However, almost half still chose to study across more than one faculty, therefore there is still a need to support students across faculties.
- The most popular cross-faculty combination was FBL and MCT.
- Arts and FELS was the most popular combination of modules that did not use STEM modules.