

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)

Recently, MOOCs have become increasingly popular. They offer a large number of students the opportunity to study high quality courses online with prestigious universities, normally at no cost.

- MOOCs do not always lead to formal qualifications. There are no entry requirements.
- Courses are offered by Harvard, Yale and Stanford, among other leading universities in the US, the UK, Europe and Asia.

What MOOCs offer

MOOCs offer university-level courses without the need to complete an entire programme of studies.

- They are ideal for independent study and users can select courses from any institution offering them.
- Video-based, they offer interaction either through peer review and group collaboration or automated feedback through objective, online assessments (including quizzes and exams).

What you need to know

While most courses are free, some are fee-paying. Videos are normally short and much activity takes place on online discussion groups and forums.

- Drop-out rates are high – up to 90%. Rates are marginally lower for paid-for courses.
- A reasonable degree of computer literacy is needed.
- Many MOOC users are graduates seeking to top up their skills and competences.



Why you might consider a MOOC

- They are low cost routes to accessing quality courses.
- They can be combined with other study or work.
- They are accessed from any computer at any location including your home.

Why a MOOC may not be suitable for you

- MOOCs do not feed into a degree or other qualification but are self-contained.
- Few students complete the courses.
- Content from a MOOC offered by a university outside your home country may not match cultural and other conditions with which you are familiar.

Please visit: [http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/distance-learning/moocs-\(massive-open-online-courses\)](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/distance-learning/moocs-(massive-open-online-courses))