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

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.

Professor Asha Kanwar
President and CEO
Commonwealth of Learning, Canada

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.

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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.

Professor Asha Kanwar
President and CEO
Commonwealth of Learning, Canada
At a Glance
Open Universities in the Commonwealth

Levels
Levels of education offered*
OUs often offer programmes ranging from higher secondary to technical diploma to doctoral degrees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Illustration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(higher secondary) Level 3</td>
<td>📚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(post-secondary, non-tertiary) Level 4</td>
<td>📚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(associate degree, technical diploma) Level 5</td>
<td>📚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(bachelor’s or equivalent) Level 6</td>
<td>📚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(master’s or equivalent) Level 7</td>
<td>📚</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(doctoral degree or equivalent) Level 8</td>
<td>📚</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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
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.
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\(^1\) 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).

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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.

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\(^2\) 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).

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2 India has two private state open universities, which did not respond to our survey and are excluded from this report.
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 plan to incorporate using MOOCs in their teaching and learning strategy. For example, the FutureLearn 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.

3 https://www.futurelearn.com/
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\(^4\) 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\(^5\) 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).

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\(^5\) Some universities did not supply information on number of courses.
## Table 1: Numbers of Programmes and Courses

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

12 Countries 27 Universities | 2,497 | 18,342
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Enrolment in 2016</th>
<th>Awards in 2015</th>
<th>Output Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIOU</td>
<td>610,115</td>
<td>667,525</td>
<td>1,277,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>3,388</td>
<td>8,883</td>
<td>12,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAOU</td>
<td>26,383</td>
<td>31,485</td>
<td>57,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOU</td>
<td>251,338</td>
<td>159,356</td>
<td>410,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAOU</td>
<td>87,246</td>
<td>78,804</td>
<td>166,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGNOU</td>
<td>875,195</td>
<td>229,490</td>
<td>514,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKSHOU</td>
<td>14,253</td>
<td>31,111</td>
<td>25,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSOU</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPBOU</td>
<td>76,840</td>
<td>46,044</td>
<td>122,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOU</td>
<td>15,752</td>
<td>9,828</td>
<td>25,580</td>
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<td>NOUN</td>
<td>143,811</td>
<td>128,573</td>
<td>272,384</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSOU</td>
<td>36,673</td>
<td>19,748</td>
<td>56,421</td>
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<td>14,196</td>
<td>24,007</td>
<td>38,203</td>
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<td>1,682</td>
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<td>4,740</td>
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<td>OUT</td>
<td>10,151</td>
<td>5,602</td>
<td>15,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSSOU</td>
<td>14,288</td>
<td>9,792</td>
<td>24,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNOU</td>
<td>13,492</td>
<td>12,766</td>
<td>26,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKOU</td>
<td>62,717</td>
<td>88,414</td>
<td>151,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISA</td>
<td>126,574</td>
<td>224,586</td>
<td>351,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UOU</td>
<td>5,426</td>
<td>5,787</td>
<td>11,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPRTOU</td>
<td>27,601</td>
<td>23,301</td>
<td>50,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMOU</td>
<td>53,293</td>
<td>28,863</td>
<td>83,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOU</td>
<td>3,029</td>
<td>3,360</td>
<td>6,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YCMOU</td>
<td>435,765</td>
<td>242,442</td>
<td>678,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,359,141</td>
<td>2,105,162</td>
<td>4,464,751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* No admission in 2016.
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, UPRTOU 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Full-Time Teachers</th>
<th>Part-Time Teachers (Tutors/Academic Counsellors)</th>
<th>Administrative Staff</th>
<th>Technical Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIOU</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>55,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAOU</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOU</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>16,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAOU</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGNOU</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>14,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKSHOU</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSOU</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPB OU</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOU</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOUN</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSOU</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSOU</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUC</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUM</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>4,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUMa</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUSL</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSSOU</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNOU</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKOU</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>1,661</td>
<td>2,552*</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISA</td>
<td>1,101</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>2,159</td>
<td>4,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UOU</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPTOU</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMOU</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOU</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YCMOU</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,569</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,807</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,376</strong></td>
<td><strong>99,638</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Gender Equity</th>
<th>Ratio of Part-Time to Full-Time Teachers</th>
<th>Ratio of Administrative Staff to Full-Time Teachers</th>
<th>Ratio of Full-Time Teachers to Technical Staff</th>
<th>Full-Time Teachers as % of All Full-Time Staff</th>
<th>Number of Learners per Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIOU</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>544.55</td>
<td>6.95</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>12.13</td>
<td>14.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>27.00</td>
<td>21.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAOU</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7.09</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>12.29</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOU</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>217.52</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>14.08</td>
<td>14.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAOU</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>121.57</td>
<td>4.96</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>14.01</td>
<td>26.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGNOU</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>83.56</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>27.25</td>
<td>11.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKSHOU</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>1.76</td>
<td>33.00</td>
<td>35.87</td>
<td>685.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSOU</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>21.75</td>
<td>28.25</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPBBOU</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>11.59</td>
<td>8,777.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOU</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>11.86</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>6.73</td>
<td>947.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOUN</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>5.91</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>11.88</td>
<td>648.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSOU</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>87.66</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>31.67</td>
<td>16.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSOU</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>26.38</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>44.44</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUC</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>11.68</td>
<td>3.45</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>22.45</td>
<td>20.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUM</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>65.35</td>
<td>3.44</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>20.79</td>
<td>9.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUMa</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>24.23</td>
<td>5.46</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>9.42</td>
<td>14.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUSL</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>6.30</td>
<td>48.50</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSSOU</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>16.08</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>117.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNOU</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>47.78</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>39.47</td>
<td>11.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKOU</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>67.53</td>
<td>21.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISA</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>35.09</td>
<td>31.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UOU</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>4.67</td>
<td>20.14</td>
<td>228.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPRTOU</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>14.67</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>27.71</td>
<td>70.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMOU</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>8.76</td>
<td>2.23</td>
<td>9.80</td>
<td>2,891.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOU</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>20.35</td>
<td>13.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YCMOU</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4.97</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>13.64</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>26.77</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>31.98</td>
<td>21.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Student Fees</th>
<th>Government Grants</th>
<th>Endowments</th>
<th>Other Sources</th>
<th>Total Revenue</th>
<th>Staff Salary</th>
<th>Programme Delivery</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIOU</td>
<td>PKR</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4,525,712,000</td>
<td>330,320,000</td>
<td>1,240,000,000</td>
<td>207,430,000</td>
<td>6,303,462,000</td>
<td>1,318,400,000</td>
<td>172,990,000</td>
<td>1,491,390,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>CDN</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>65,952,000</td>
<td>48,367,000</td>
<td>1,545,000</td>
<td>16,776,000</td>
<td>132,640,000</td>
<td>91,068,000</td>
<td>16,168,000</td>
<td>107,236,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>116,994,182</td>
<td>30,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>66,903</td>
<td>147,061,085</td>
<td>23,514,815</td>
<td>16,566,447</td>
<td>40,081,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOU</td>
<td>Taka</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,103,500,000</td>
<td>626,500,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>390,303,000</td>
<td>2,120,303,000</td>
<td>931,530,000</td>
<td>1,188,770,000</td>
<td>2,120,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>474,227,125</td>
<td>108,163,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16,776,000</td>
<td>132,640,000</td>
<td>91,068,000</td>
<td>16,168,000</td>
<td>107,236,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGNOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>3,498,900,000</td>
<td>742,500,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>744,900,000</td>
<td>4,986,300,000</td>
<td>3,322,100,000</td>
<td>2,518,300,000</td>
<td>5,840,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKSHOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>241,975,598</td>
<td>66,541,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,293,707</td>
<td>308,516,598</td>
<td>49,563,232</td>
<td>49,563,232</td>
<td>308,371,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>281,878,766</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,729,238,833</td>
<td>290,058,270</td>
<td>18,313,389</td>
<td>20,186,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPBOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>430,992,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>184,881,000</td>
<td>615,873,000</td>
<td>37,628,000</td>
<td>37,628,000</td>
<td>37,628,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>3,375,500</td>
<td>54,000,000</td>
<td>2,293,707</td>
<td>2,072,555</td>
<td>1,447,361,067</td>
<td>12,269,237</td>
<td>7,917,708</td>
<td>20,186,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Euro</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>6,000,789</td>
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<td>653,701</td>
<td>12,392,000</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUMa</td>
<td>MRU</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>101,744,813</td>
<td>39,435,632</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,783,443</td>
<td>147,963,888</td>
<td>120,718,357</td>
<td>56,811,810</td>
<td>177,530,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUSL</td>
<td>LKR</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>759,099,057</td>
<td>1,040,000,000</td>
<td>802,300,131</td>
<td>124,963,494</td>
<td>1,363,222,000</td>
<td>321,133,418</td>
<td>1,684,355,418</td>
<td>1,684,355,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT</td>
<td>TZS</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>11,735,192,750</td>
<td>12,503,498,637</td>
<td>1,455,904,574</td>
<td>2,293,707</td>
<td>27,142,797,931</td>
<td>11,808,854,636</td>
<td>27,556,124,950</td>
<td>27,556,124,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSSOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>224,379,000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>234,379,000</td>
<td>7,722,000</td>
<td>105,764,000</td>
<td>113,486,000</td>
<td>113,486,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>160,400,000</td>
<td>13,800,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36,400,000</td>
<td>210,600,000</td>
<td>99,800,000</td>
<td>137,300,000</td>
<td>137,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKOU</td>
<td>British Pound</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>241,000,000</td>
<td>134,300,000</td>
<td>5,200,000</td>
<td>41,100,000</td>
<td>421,600,000</td>
<td>142,200,000</td>
<td>429,100,000</td>
<td>429,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISA</td>
<td>ZAR</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,283,615,000</td>
<td>3,239,858,000</td>
<td>29,660,000</td>
<td>546,586,000</td>
<td>6,099,719,000</td>
<td>4,031,120,00</td>
<td>2,411,819,000</td>
<td>6,442,939,000</td>
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<td>UOU</td>
<td>RS</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>195,943,126</td>
<td>38,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>233,943,126</td>
<td>56,000,000</td>
<td>44,560,943</td>
<td>100,560,943</td>
<td>100,560,943</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPRTOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>300,000,000</td>
<td>12,832,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>92,000,000</td>
<td>404,832,000</td>
<td>66,850,000</td>
<td>199,550,000</td>
<td>266,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>573,471,000</td>
<td>67,000,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21,738,000</td>
<td>662,209,000</td>
<td>193,023,000</td>
<td>401,166,000</td>
<td>401,166,000</td>
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<td>YCMOU</td>
<td>INR</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>1,288,956,073</td>
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<td>819,999,257</td>
<td>91,107,139</td>
<td>2,222,707,070</td>
<td>163,823,133</td>
<td>443,947,058</td>
<td>607,770,191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.
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, 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.
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.
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\(^6\) 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\(^7\) 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).

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

\(^7\) http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.PPPP?view=map
## Annex: Profiles of the Open Universities in the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Open Universities that Participated in the Survey

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

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:
- Advances its research goals in the form of research institutes (TEKRI and ARBRI)

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

Key Priorities:
- Financial stability
- Align planning, implementation and measurement cycles
- Strategic planning

Address:
1 University Drive, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A2, Canada
Web: http://www.athabascau.ca
DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1994, GOVERNMENT)

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
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  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Staff (Full-Time)</th>
<th>524 (Male: 326; Female: 198)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Staff (Part-Time)</td>
<td>43,785 (Male: 14,021; Female: 29,764)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Support Staff</td>
<td>981 (Male: 777; Female: 204)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  

**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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Vice Chancellor/President:</strong></th>
<th>Prof. (Dr.) Shivakant Jha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Registrar:</strong></td>
<td>Dr. S.P. Sinha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Levels of Programmes Offered:</strong></td>
<td>ISCED 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Programmes:</strong></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Courses:</strong></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modes of Teaching and Learning:</strong></td>
<td>ODL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Staff (Full-Time):</strong></td>
<td>7 (Male: 3; Female: 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching Staff (Part-Time):</strong></td>
<td>20 (Male: 15; Female: 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative and Support Staff:</strong></td>
<td>83 (Male: 83; Female: 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students Enrolled (2016):</strong></td>
<td>25,580 (Male: 15,752; Female: 9,828)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students Awarded Degrees (2015):</strong></td>
<td>25,490 (Male: 15,502; Female: 9,967)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget (Approximate in USD in 2015):</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technical and Professional Staff:</strong></td>
<td>14 (Male: 14; Female: 0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner Support Network:</strong></td>
<td>Regional centres: – ; study centres: 146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disciplines:</strong></td>
<td>Social Sciences, Commerce, Education, Management, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences and Informatics, Medical, Nursing and Health Sciences, Agricultural Veterinary Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Instructional System:</strong></td>
<td>SLMs (print)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Reach:</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Activities:</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Achievements:</strong></td>
<td>Developed the Nalanda Open University mobile application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Priorities:</strong></td>
<td>• Development of an MIS and automation of student support services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Implementation of an LMS/LCMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Setting up of a studio for virtual classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address:</strong></td>
<td>2nd/3rd Floor, Biscomaun Bhawan, Gandhi Maidan Patna, PIN-800001, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Web:</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.nou.ac.in">http://www.nou.ac.in</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA (ESTD. 2002, GOVERNMENT)

**Vice Chancellor/President:** Prof. Abdalla Uba Adamu  
**Registrar:** Mr. Felix Edoka  
**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](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
- 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): 8th/142

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”)

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

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
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
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
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

**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)

**Key Priorities:**
- eLearning
- TVET
- University–industry collaboration

**Address:**
Jalan Tun Ismail
50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Web: [http://www.oum.edu.my](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

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

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

Address:
Reduit, 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
PANDIT SUNDARLAL SHARMA (OPEN) UNIVERSITY CHHATTISGARH (ESTD. 2005, GOVERNMENT)

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 10th 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: –)  
**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  
**Achievements:**  
- Increase in enrolment graduation rate  
- Increase in number of graduating masters and doctoral students by ~25%  
- Increase in research activities  
- Community engagement projects  
**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  
**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

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

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

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:**
Rawatbhat 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

**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

**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

**Address:**
54 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah
Georgetown, Pulau Pinang, 10050
Malaysia
Web: http://www.wou.edu.my
**YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN MAHARASHTRA OPEN UNIVERSITY (ESTD. 1974, GOVERNMENT)**

**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)

**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:**
- 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

**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)

**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

**Address:**
- Dnyangangotri, Near Gangapur Dam
- Nashik, PIN-422222, India
- Web: [http://www.ycmou.ac.in/](http://www.ycmou.ac.in/)
notes:
notes: