

Future of Open Universities



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Co-written with **Dr Sanjaya Mishra**, Director: Education

AAOU 36th Annual Conference
Istanbul, Turkey | 28 September 2023



**ASIAN ASSOCIATION
OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES**

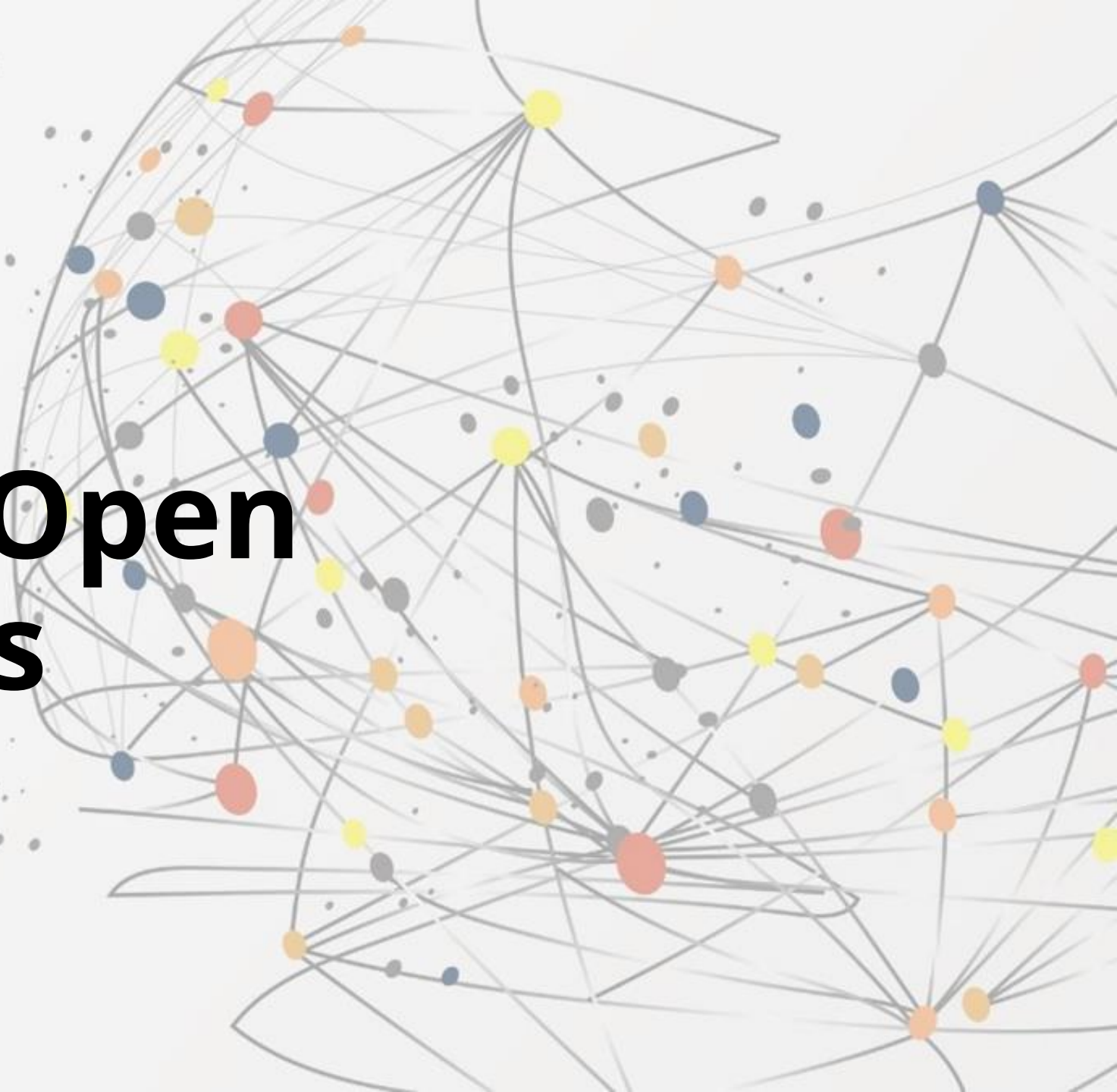


Outline



- Genesis of Open Universities
- Key Issues for Higher Education
- Emerging trends in OUs
- Future of Open Universities

Genesis of Open Universities



In the beginning...

1728 Boston Gazette



PITMAN'S SHORTHAND
THE SYSTEM THAT STANDS THE STRAIN.

UNIVERSALLY USED. **YOU** EASY TO LEARN.

can learn the System thoroughly and quickly by making use of the latest textbook, entitled
PITMAN'S SHORTHAND RAPID COURSE

It consists of twenty simple Lessons, with the principles grouped in a new order.

AN ABSORBING HOBBY. **3/6** AN ASSET IN BUSINESS.

"I have frequently expressed my admiration for Pitman's Shorthand, and my belief in its usefulness, and I have pleasure in doing so again." Arnold Bennett.
"Pitman's is, for practical purposes, the only system of Shorthand." Sir W. Robertson Nicoll.

Write at once for Prospectus M to
SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, Ltd., 1, Amen Corner, E.C.4.

1840 Pitman's Shorthand

During Apartheid



1946 UNISA is the first distance teaching university



1969 The Open University UK: Reaching Adult Learners



The Open
University



1974 AIOU: people's university



*1978 OUSL: Innovations in
science teaching*



THE
OPEN UNIVERSITY
OF SRI LANKA



1979 China Central Radio and TV University (CCRTVU)



国家开放大学
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

OPEN UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA

- 1 Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU)
- 2 Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU)
- 3 Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- 4 Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University
- 5 Karnataka State Open University (KSOU)
- 6 Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU)
- 7 Madhya Pradesh Bhoj University (MPBOU)
- 8 Nalanda Open University (NOU)
- 9 Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU)
- 10 Odisha State Open University (OSOU)
- 11 Pandit Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University (PSSOU)
- 12 Sreenarayanaguru Open University
- 13 Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU)
- 14 Uttarakhand Open University (UOU)
- 15 Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU)
- 16 Vardhman Mahaveer Open University (VMOU)
- 17 Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU)



National priorities & Technologies

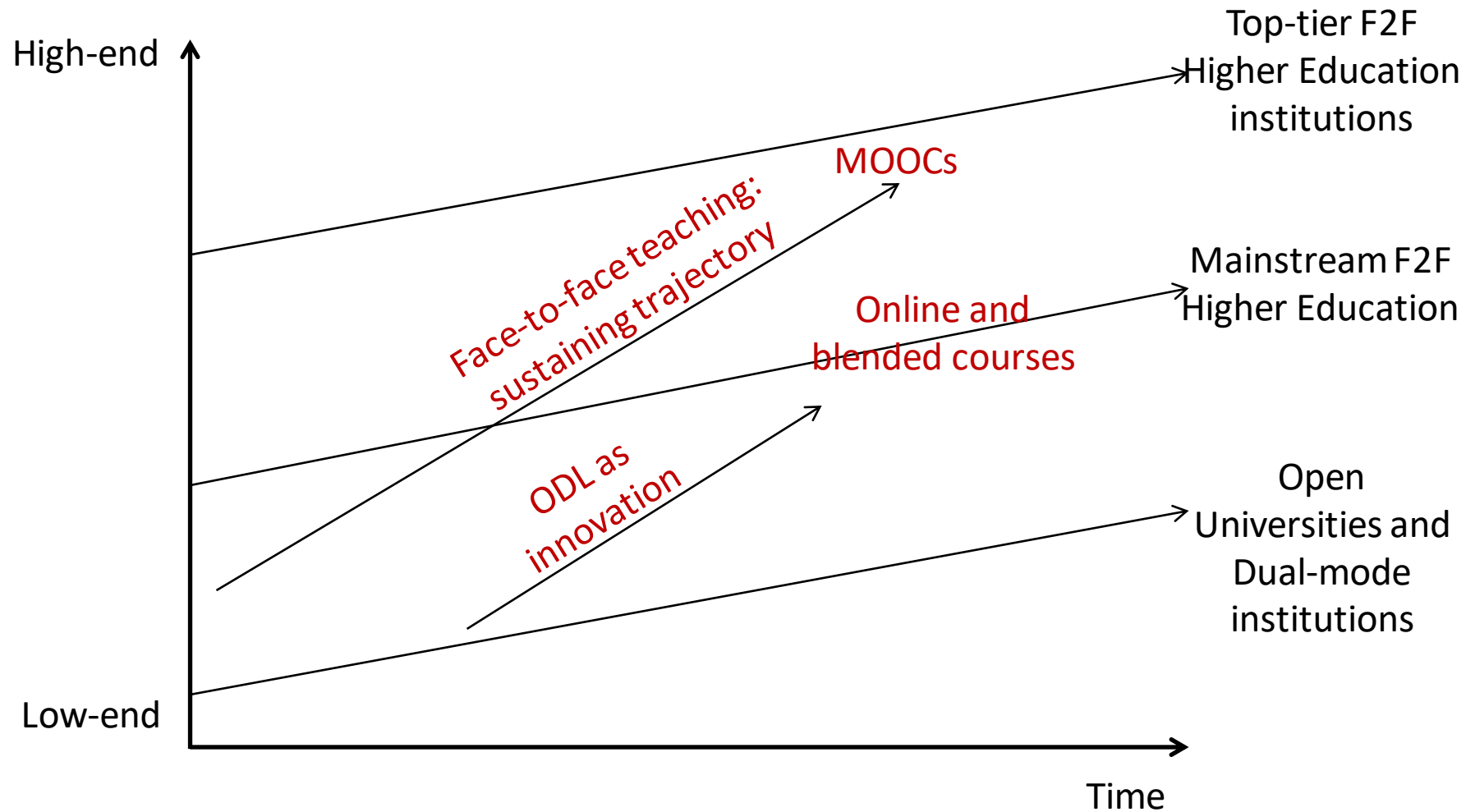
- Access to higher education opportunities
- Economic benefits of HE for development
- Social justice (apartheid and adult learners)

Higher Education: Return on Investment

Per Capita Income level	Private ROI	Social ROI
Low	26.8	13.2
Middle	20.2	11.4
High	12.8	9.7
Average	15.8	10.5

Source: Psacharopoulos, G., & Patrinos, H. A. (2018). Returns to investment in education. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29572>

Disruption in Higher Education



Key Issues for Higher Education

The background features a complex network diagram with numerous nodes of various colors (yellow, red, blue, orange, grey) connected by thin grey lines. This network is overlaid on a faint, light-colored globe, suggesting a global or interconnected context. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a light grey and white color palette.

GOAL 4

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY
EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

More at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal

Source: <https://www.education-progress.org/en/indicators>

SDG 4: Lifelong learning imperative

4.3: ensure equal access to affordable and quality tertiary education

4.7: *integrate key sustainability concepts across the curriculum*

Technology

- AI-Enabled Applications for Predictive, Personal Learning
- Generative AI
- Blurring the Boundaries between Learning Modalities
- HyFlex (i.e., students enrolled in a course can participate on site, synchronously online, or asynchronously online as preferred)
- Micro-credentials
- Supporting Students' Sense of Belonging and Connectedness

Source: <https://library.educause.edu/resources/2023/5/2023-educause-horizon-report-teaching-and-learning-edition>



Principles on the Use of AI

1. Universities will support students and staff to become **AI-literate**.
2. **Staff** should be equipped to support students to use generative AI tools effectively and appropriately in their learning experience.
3. Universities will adapt teaching and assessment to incorporate the **ethical use** of generative AI and support **equal access**.
4. Universities will ensure **academic rigour and integrity** is upheld.
5. Universities will work **collaboratively** to share best practice as the technology and its application in education evolves.



Digital divide

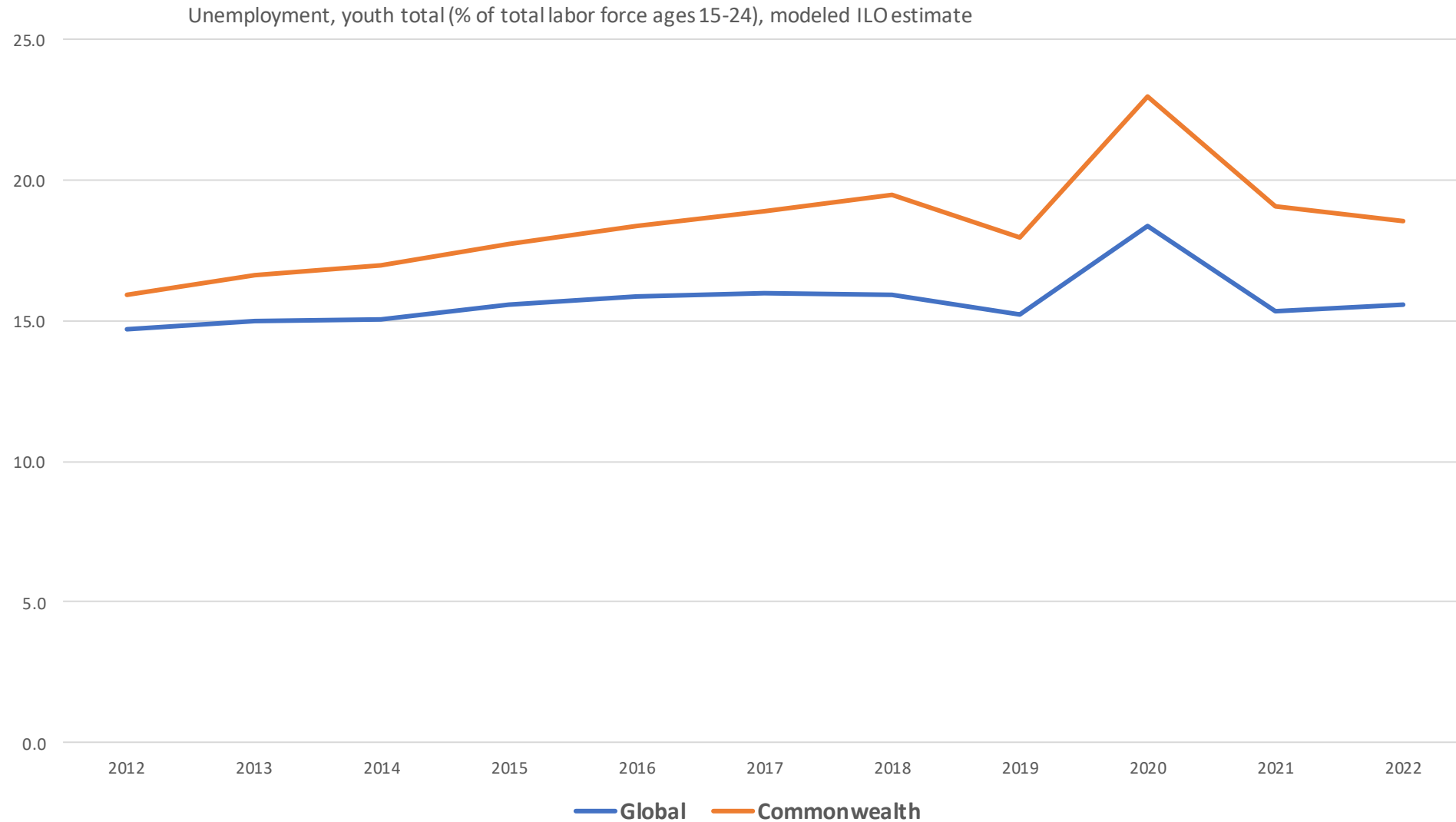
Internet usage / ownership of mobile phones

Globally: 60% | Africa: 40%

Men: 69% | Women: 63%

- 259 million more men than women were using the internet last year.
- Women are 12% less likely to own a mobile phone than men.

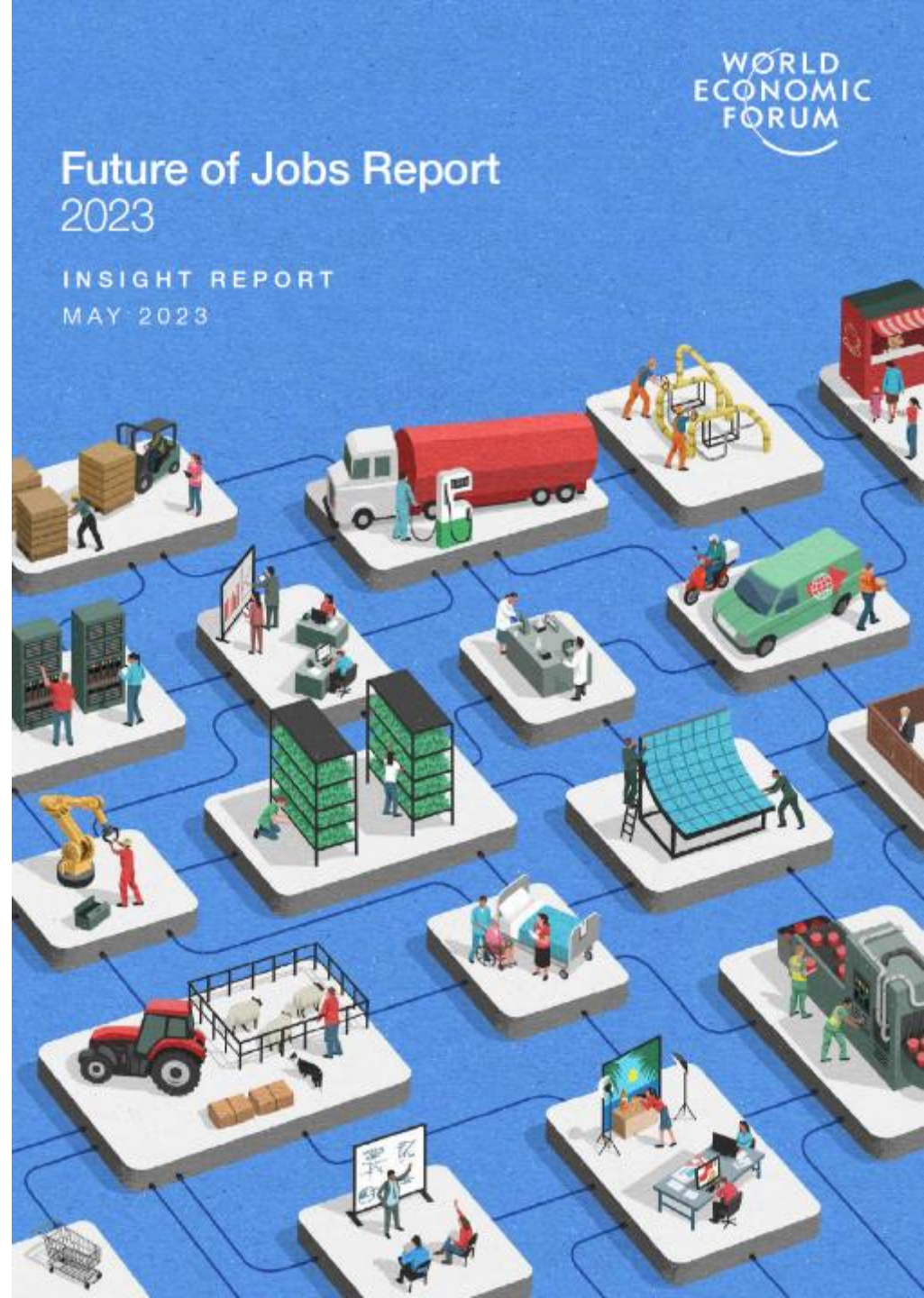
Youth Unemployment



Future of Jobs 2023-2027

- **On demand jobs:**
AI, machine learning and IT related jobs
- **Declining jobs:**
Banking, postal services and data entry type jobs

Source: <https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-future-of-jobs-report-2023/>



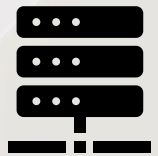
Impact of the climate crisis on education



Infrastructural damage



Damage to resource and materials



Loss of data and records



Collapse of systems = Out of school youth

Education and Emissions

Direct

- Emissions from construction of schools/infrastructure
- Emissions from energy use in schools
- Learner emissions

Indirect

- Emissions from 'development' and economic growth associated with higher levels of education in a country



UNESCO Roadmap 2022

- QA and continuous improvement
- Flexible learning pathways and recognition, mobility
- Research and capacity development
- More robust data
- Collaboration

Source: <https://www.who2022.org/EN/homepage/Roadmap>

— Are OUs keeping pace with changing times?



The background features a complex network diagram with nodes of various colors (yellow, red, blue, orange, grey) and sizes, connected by thin grey lines. This network is overlaid on a faint, light grey world map. The overall aesthetic is modern and data-driven.

Emerging Trends in Open Universities

Generation of OUs

1. Correspondence model (printed-text)
2. Multi-media model (Radio, TV)
3. Tele-learning model (Interactive television)
4. Flexible learning model (WWW)
5. Intelligent flexible learning model (WWW+)



Gen 1

Gen 2

Gen 3

Gen 4

Gen 5

(Taylor, 2001)



33 Commonwealth Open Universities

(2023)

CANADA
Athabasca University
TÉLUQ

CYPRUS
Open University of Cyprus

UNITED KINGDOM
The Open University

BOTSWANA
Botswana Open University
MAURITIUS
Open University Mauritius
KENYA
Open University of Kenya
NIGERIA
National Open University of Nigeria
SOUTH AFRICA
University of South Africa
TANZANIA
Open University of Tanzania
ZAMBIA
Zambian Open University

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Open University

INDIA

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University
Karnataka State Open University
Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
Madhya Pradesh Bhoj University
Nalanda Open University
Netaji Subhas Open University
Odisha State Open University
Pandit Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University
Sreenarayanaguru Open University
Tamil Nadu Open University
Uttarakhand Open University
Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University
Vardhman Mahaveer Open University
Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University

MALAYSIA

Open University Malaysia
Wawasan Open University

PAKISTAN

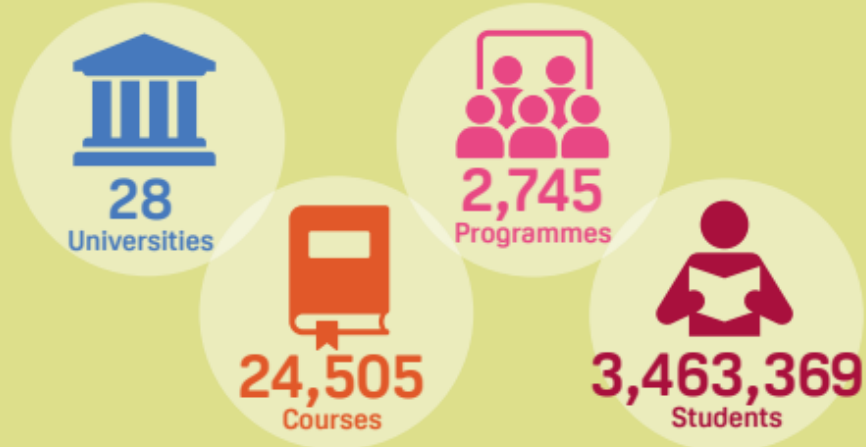
Allama Iqbal Open University

SRI LANKA

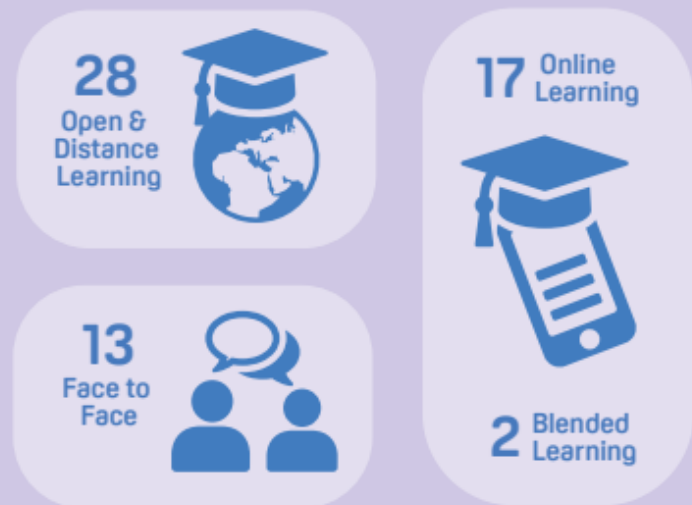
Open University of Sri Lanka

At a Glance

Open Universities in the Commonwealth



Modes of Teaching



Levels of Education Offered

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



Two universities offer programmes at all six ISCED levels

Open Learning Agency to TRU



Open University of Hongkong to MU



Developed Developing country differences

Developing

More open universities in Asia (India and China).

Africa: Open University of Kenya; Botswana Open University.

Developed

Open University of Hong Kong became dual mode in 2021.

The Open University, UK planning face-to-face university.



ODL for poverty alleviation

- Targeted to 50,000 rural villagers
- Evidence of increase in income, enterprise profit, employment opportunities

Practices of poverty alleviation by open and distance education: a case report from the Open University of China

Chuanjin Ju, Songyan Hou, Dandan Shao, Zhijun Zhang and
Zhangli Yu
The Open University of China, Beijing, China

Source: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/AAOUJ-09-2021-0110/full/html>





National University for the Aged, China



OUs offering MOOCs



Subjects ▾

Courses ▾

FutureLearn for business

Search onli



About Swayam | All Courses | National Coordinators | Local Chapters

COURSE CATALOG ▾

Search Catalog



SIGN-IN / REGISTER

FILTERS

National Coordinator:

IGNOU ▾

Course Mode:

AI ▾

Course Duration:

AI ▾

Course Exam Date:

AI ▾

Course Credits:

AI ▾

CATEGORY

AI ▾

Upcoming (Enrollment Open)

Ongoing (Enrollment Closed)

Android Mobile Application Development
Dr. Himanshu N. Patel
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), ...
IGNOU
12 Weeks (Starts: 30-07-2023)

Android Mobile Application Development
Dr. Himanshu N. Patel
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), ...
IGNOU
12 Weeks (Starts: 29-07-2023)
Transition: Trade: 15-Mar-2023

Artificial Intelligence using Prolog...
Mr. Ankit Arora and Mrs. Madhur Gupta
Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University, ...
IGNOU
12 Weeks (Starts: 14-05-2023)

অসমীয়া কবিতা
অতীতৰ পৰা আধুনিকলৈ
Prof. Pranjit Bora
Krishna Kantu Hazroli State Open University
IGNOU
12 Weeks (Starts: 14-05-2023)

Awareness Programme on Solar Water...
Dr. Mukesh Kumar
Indira Gandhi National Open University
IGNOU
4 Weeks (Starts: 30-07-2023)
Transition: Trade: 31-Aug-2023

Awareness Programme on Solar Water...
Dr. Mukesh Kumar
Indira Gandhi National Open University
IGNOU
4 Weeks (Starts: 30-07-2023)
Transition: Trade: 15-Mar-2023

The Open University



About

In 2012, The Open University (OU) founded FutureLearn to extend its mission to open education to all. OU courses on FutureLearn are designed and delivered by world class



Microcredentials

Microcredentials 25 Microcredentials



Our online microcredentials are designed to upskill you for work in rapidly-growing industries, without the time and cost commitment of a full degree. They can be used as an independent certification, and some even offer academic credit to use towards a degree. Each microcredential also includes a formal online assessment.



The Open University in collaboration with Agile Business Consortium

Agile Leadership and Management

Develop Agile Leadership skills to support your professional development and benefit your organisation and teams.

1 course 12 weeks @ 1h/week

[Find out more](#)



The Open University in collaboration with AWS

AWS: Machine Learning Foundations

Develop highly sought-after skills to design and deploy machine-learning models on the cloud with the AWS Academy.

1 course 9 weeks @ 1h/week

[Find out more](#)



The Open University in collaboration with AWS

AWS: Solutions Architect

Learn best practices and strategies to guide the implementation of your solutions on AWS with the AWS Academy experts.

1 course 9 weeks @ 1h/week

[Find out more](#)



The Open University

Business Management: Financial Accounting for Non-Financial



The Open University

Business Management: Fundamentals of Management



The Open University

Business Management: Improving Organisational



What are micro-credentials?

PowerED / Professional Development | November 4, 2020



eGyanKosh

Communities in eGyanKosh

- IGNOU FR Live Recorded Videos
- IGNOU Self Learning Material (SLM)
- IGNOU SWAYAM Course Content
- IGNOU YouTube Videos

The eSLM for different CBCS Courses

BA Degree (BAC)	BA Honors	Others
BA (Hindi)	BA (Hindi)	BA (Hindi)
BA (English)	BA (English)	BA (English)
BA (Sanskrit)	BA (Sanskrit)	BA (Sanskrit)
BA (Sociology)	BA (Sociology)	BA (Sociology)
BA (History)	BA (History)	BA (History)
BA (Economics)	BA (Economics)	BA (Economics)

NOUN-OER

NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA OER REPOSITORY

Welcome to the National Open University of Nigeria OER Repository. All OER materials are categorized by topic & are formatted into modules.

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UNIVERSITY

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Dive in and start learning

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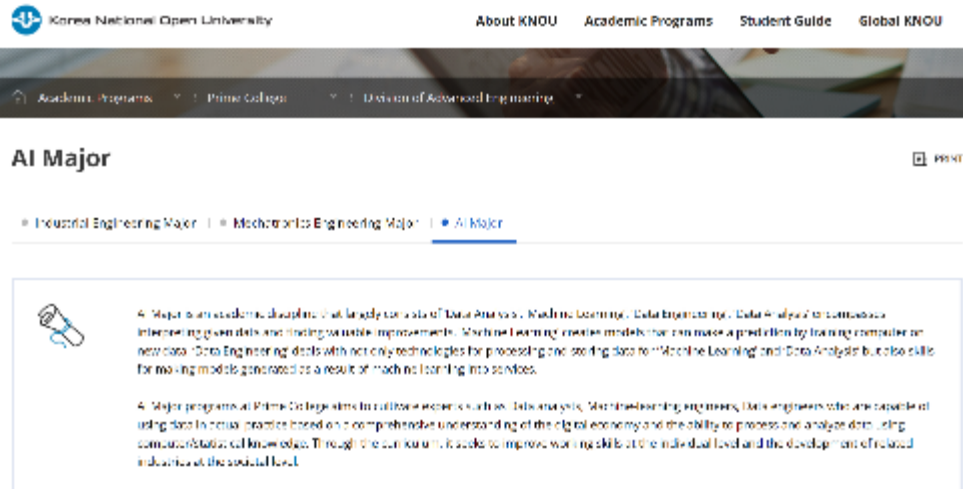
Search over 1000 free courses, interactives, videos and more ...



OUs Responding to AI



The screenshot shows the website for Virtual University of Pakistan. At the top left is the VUI logo. The main header reads "Virtual University of Pakistan" and "Federal Government University". Below this is a navigation menu with links: Home, About, What You Will Learn, Meet the Trainer, and Benefits. The central banner features a large "AI" logo and the text "INTRODUCTION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE for IT and NON-IT professionals".



The screenshot shows the website for Korea National Open University. At the top left is the KNOU logo. The main header reads "Korea National Open University". Below this is a navigation menu with links: About KNOU, Academic Programs, Student Guide, and Global KNOU. The page title is "AI Major". Below the title is a breadcrumb trail: "Industrial Engineering Major" > "Mechatronics Engineering Major" > "AI Major". The main content area contains two paragraphs of text describing the AI major program.

AI Major is an academic discipline that includes the study of Data Analysis, Machine Learning, Data Engineering, Data Analytics to understand interesting patterns and finding suitable improvements. Machine Learning creates models that can make a prediction by training computer on new data. Data Engineering deals with new data technologies for processing and storing data in "Machine Learning and Data Analysis" but also skills for making models generated as a result of machine learning into services.

AI Major programs at Prime College aims to cultivate experts such as Data Analysts, Machine Learning Engineers, Data Engineers who are capable of using data in real practice based on a comprehensive understanding of the digital economy and the ability to process and analyze data using computational knowledge. Through the curriculum, it seeks to improve working skills at the individual level and the development of related industries at the societal level.

- KNOU: offers major in AI
- VUP: has a course on AI developed in partnership with COL
- Research on AI for online learning at Anadolu University
- OUUK: offers AI courses and focusing on learning design and assessment



Strengths

of Open Universities

- Flexible and easy access
(for marginalized and persons with disabilities)
- Opportunities to combine work and study
- Achieve economies of scale
- Blended approach to learning
- Innovations (team approach, use of technology)



Weaknesses

of Open Universities

- Lingering perception of poor quality
- Low completion rates
- Uneven learner support
- Difficulty in securing experts
- Inadequate emphasis on research



Threats

to Open Universities

- Competition from too many online providers
- Dizzying pace of technology change
- Mismatch between curriculum and skills requirements
- Declining investments in CPD



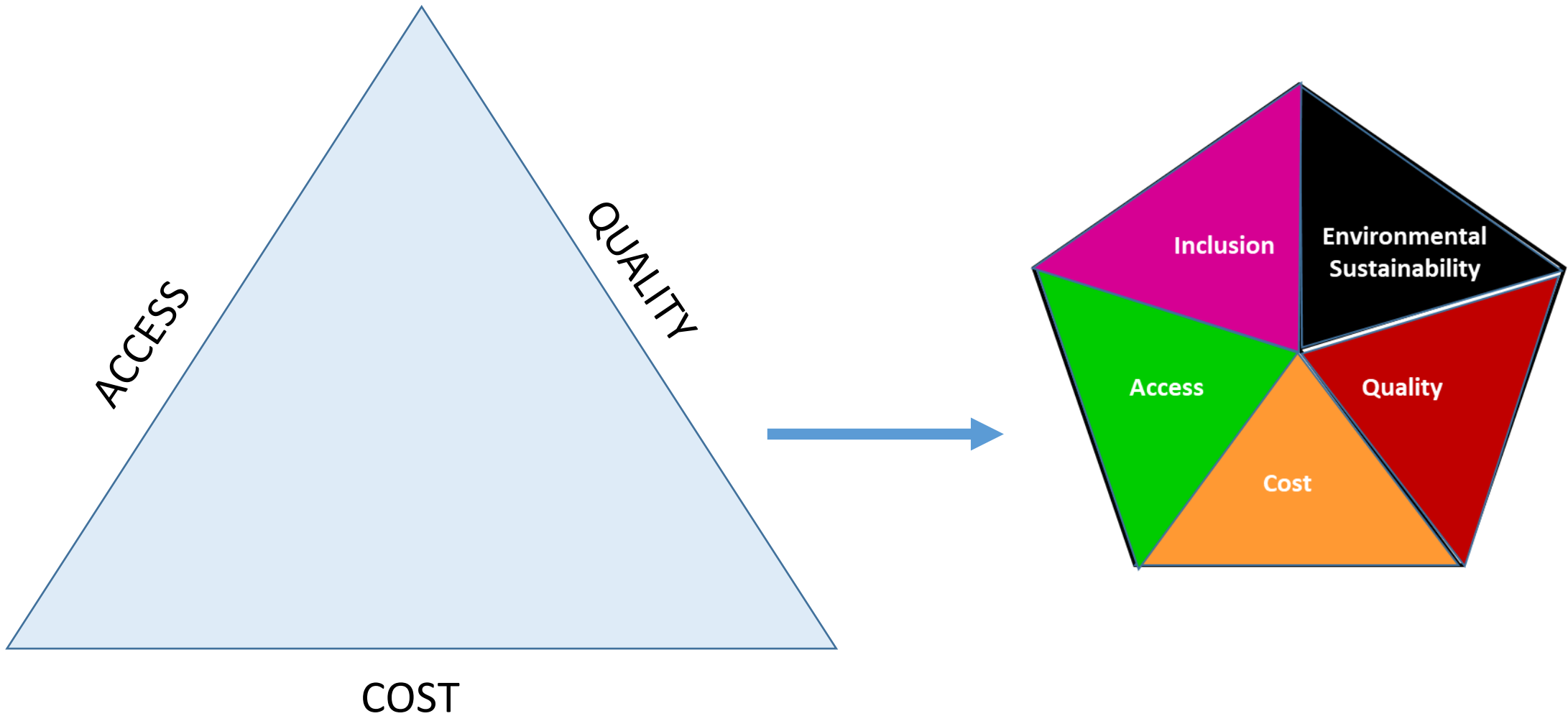
Opportunities

Open Universities

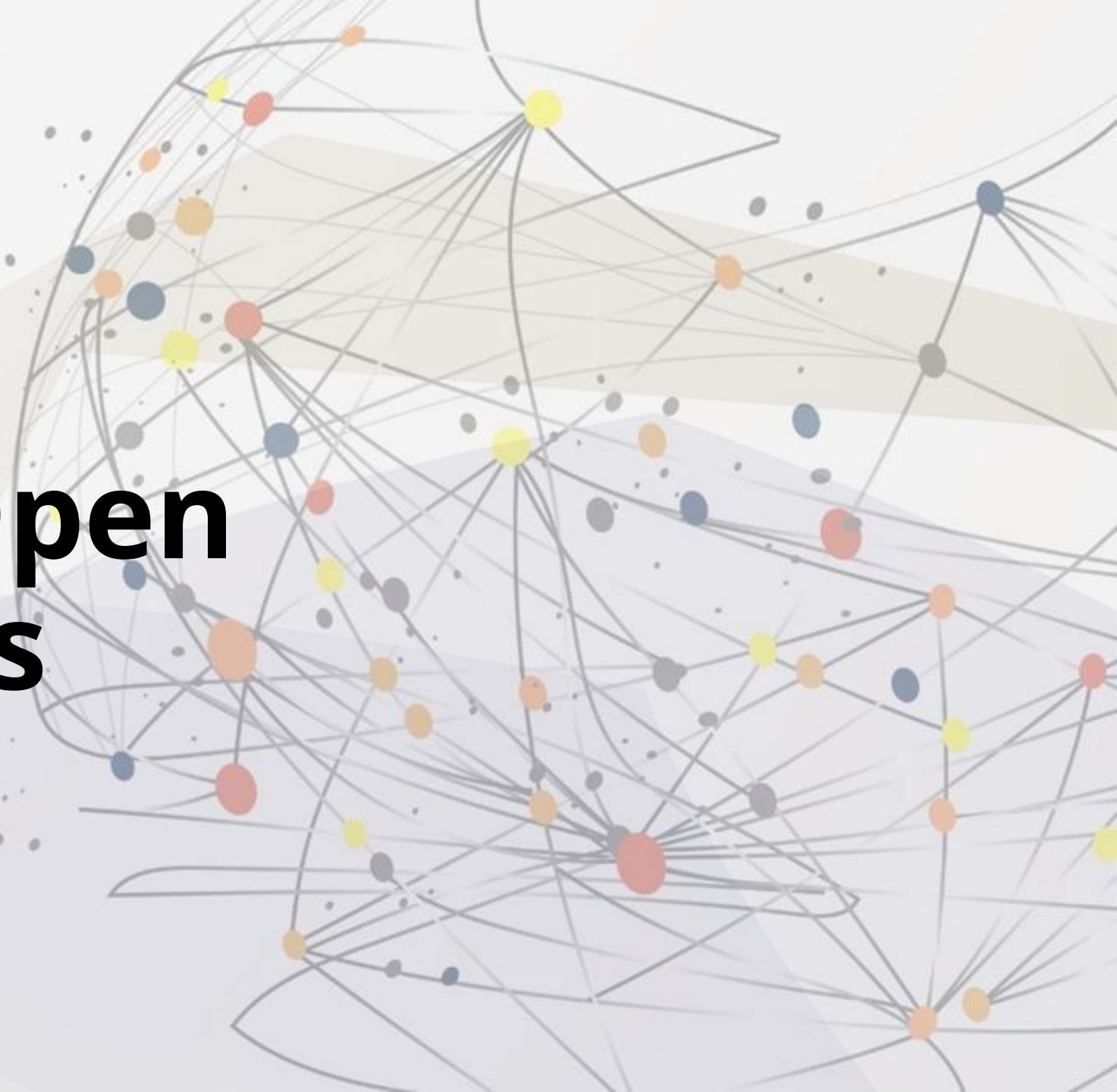
- Global acceptance of distance and online education
- Better technology infrastructure
- Harnessing the potential of AI
- Availability of OER



From Iron Triangle to Pentagon



Future of Open Universities



1

Towards lifelong learning



Skills and short courses
for livelihoods



More flexibility: Learners
can move from education to
work and back



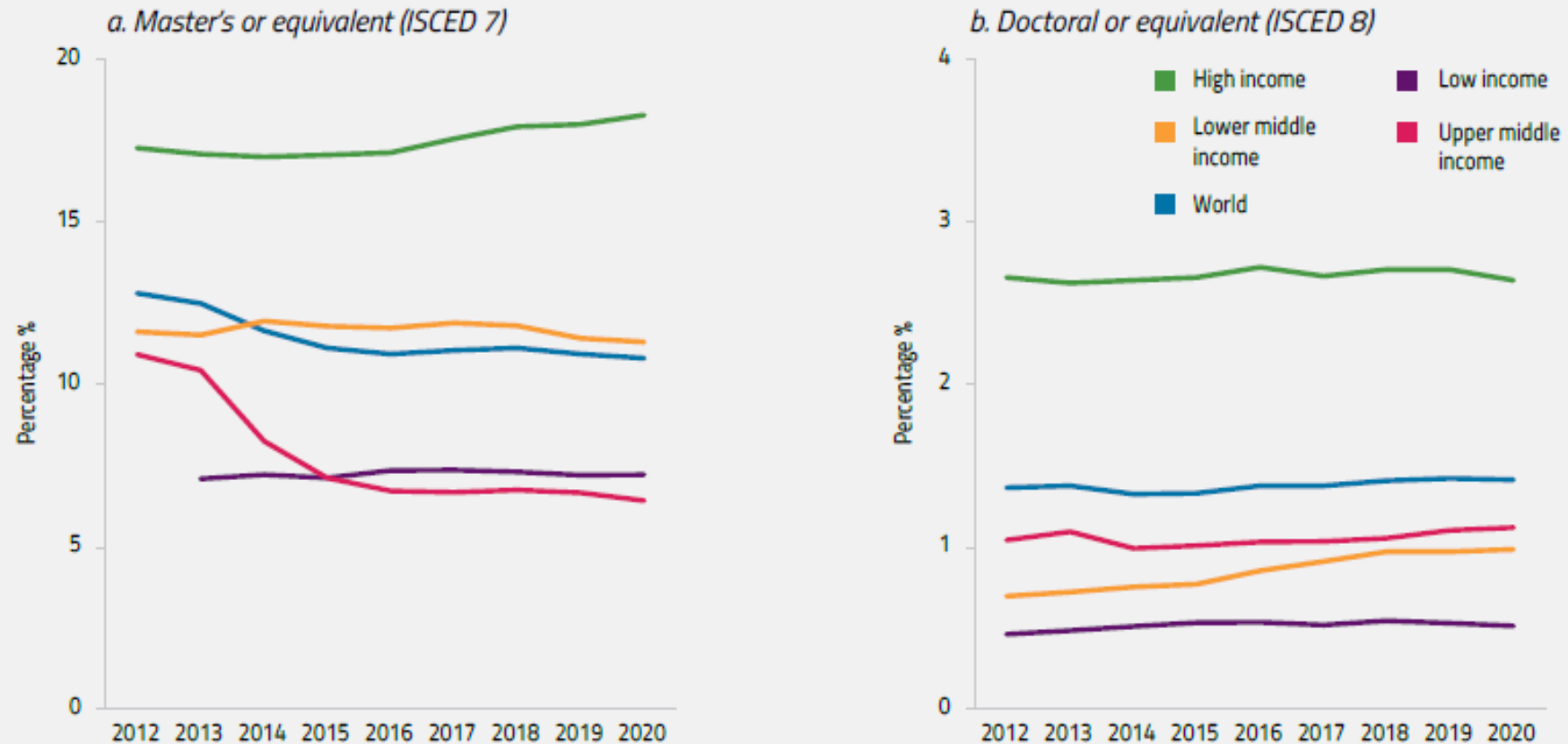
Staff and learners develop
skills for lifelong learning

Reducation in postgraduate students

FIGURE 14.4:

The share of students in master's programmes has halved in upper-middle-income countries

Share of tertiary education students in postgraduate education, by country income group, 2012–20



GEM StatLink: https://bit.ly/GEM2023_fig14_4

Source: UIS database.

Source: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385723>



Degree completion as trend for curricular reform

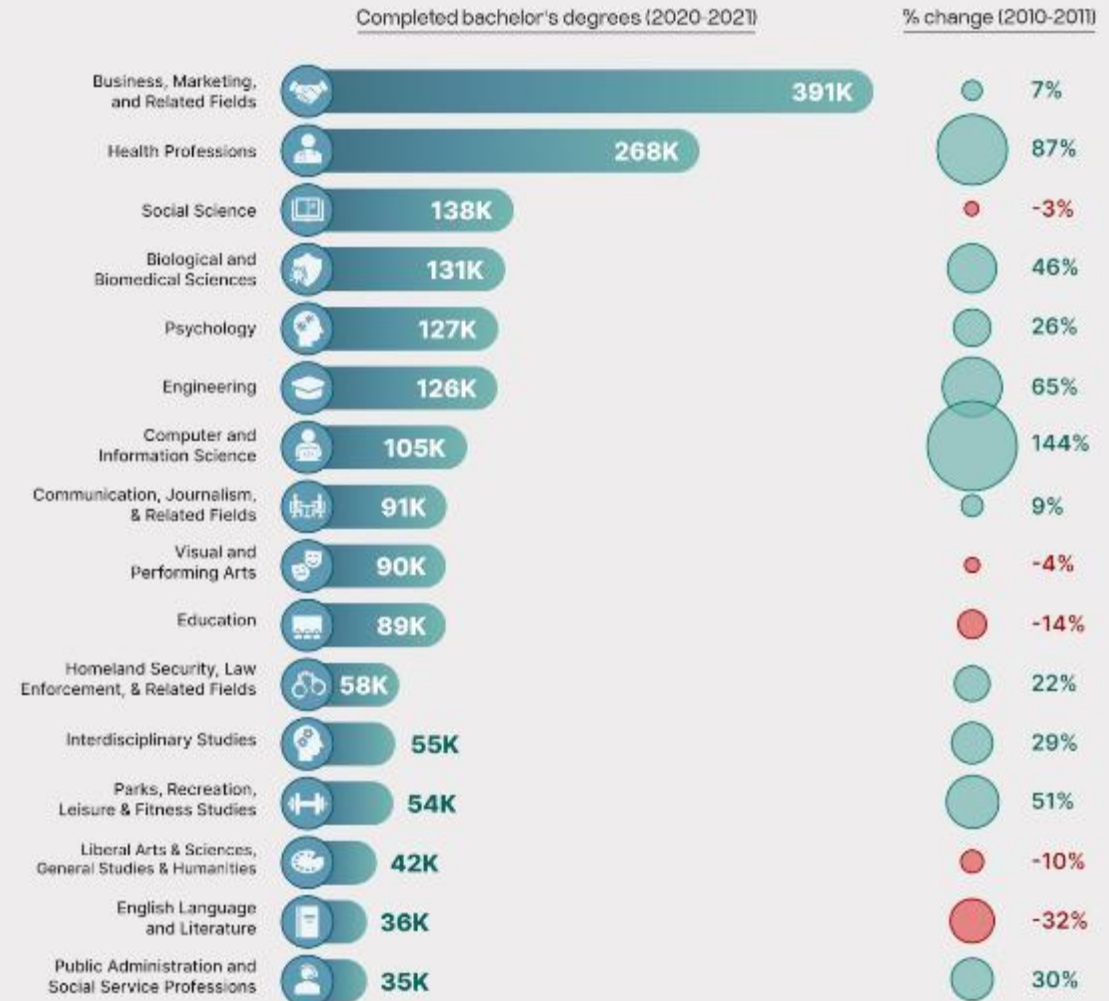
- Increased completion: IT related job skills, health professionals, engineering, leisure and fitness
- Declining completion: language and literature, education, liberal arts.

Source: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/charted-most-popular-u-s-undergraduate-degrees-2011-2021/>

U.S. GROWING & DECLINING UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

This graph shows the number of college bachelor's degrees completed in the 2020-2021 academic year and the ten-year change.

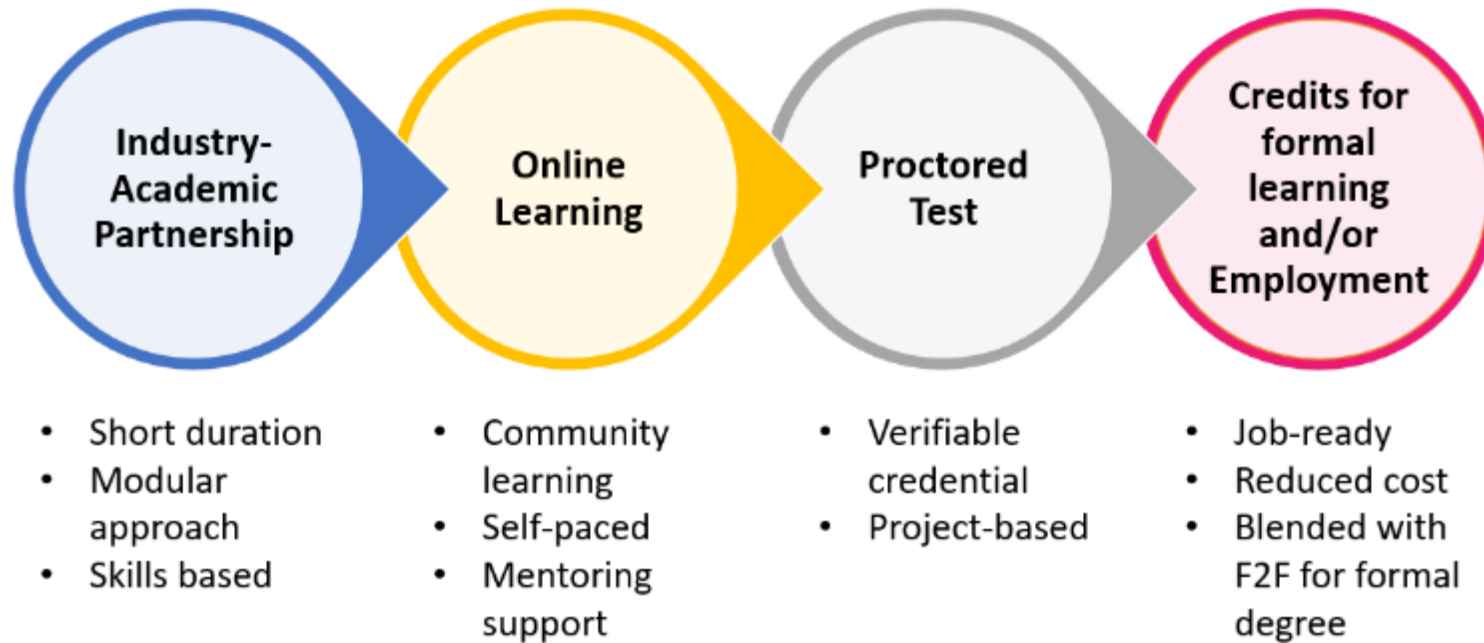
Majors with less than 30,000 completed degrees are excluded.



Design: Kashish Rastogi

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Micro-credentials



2

Massification to personalisation

- Using existing and emerging technologies
- Adopting learning analytics
- Predictive analysis and data to identify trends



Pedagogical innovations

- Pedagogies using AI tools
- Metaverse for education
- Multimodal pedagogy
- Pedagogy of care in digitally mediated settings
- Seeing yourself in the curriculum
- Integrate Universal Design for Learning in all content

Source: <https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/innovating/?p=784>



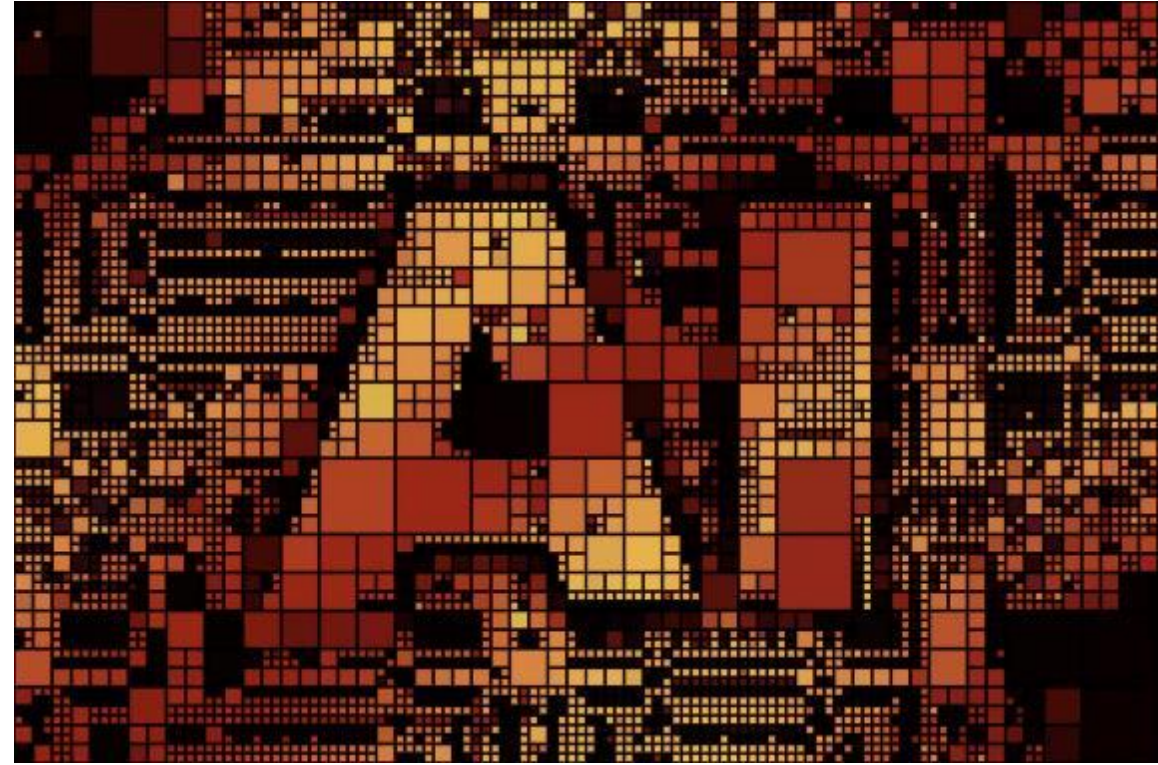
Innovating Pedagogy 2023

Exploring new forms of teaching, learning and assessment, to guide educators and policy makers

Agnes Kukulska-Hulme, Carina Bossu, Koula Charitonos, Tim Coughlan, Andrew Deacon, Nawaal Deane, Rebecca Ferguson, Christothea Herodotou, Cheng-Wen Huang, Tabisa Mayisela, Irina Rets, Julia Sargent, Eileen Scanlon, Janet Small, Sukaina Walji, Martin Weller, Denise Whitelock

Open University Innovation Report 11

- Adaptive Learning
- Intelligent Tutoring Systems
- Gamification
- Content creation
- Assessment and feedback



Source: <https://er.educause.edu/articles/2023/8/10-ways-artificial-intelligence-is-transforming-instructional-design>

AI in teaching and learning

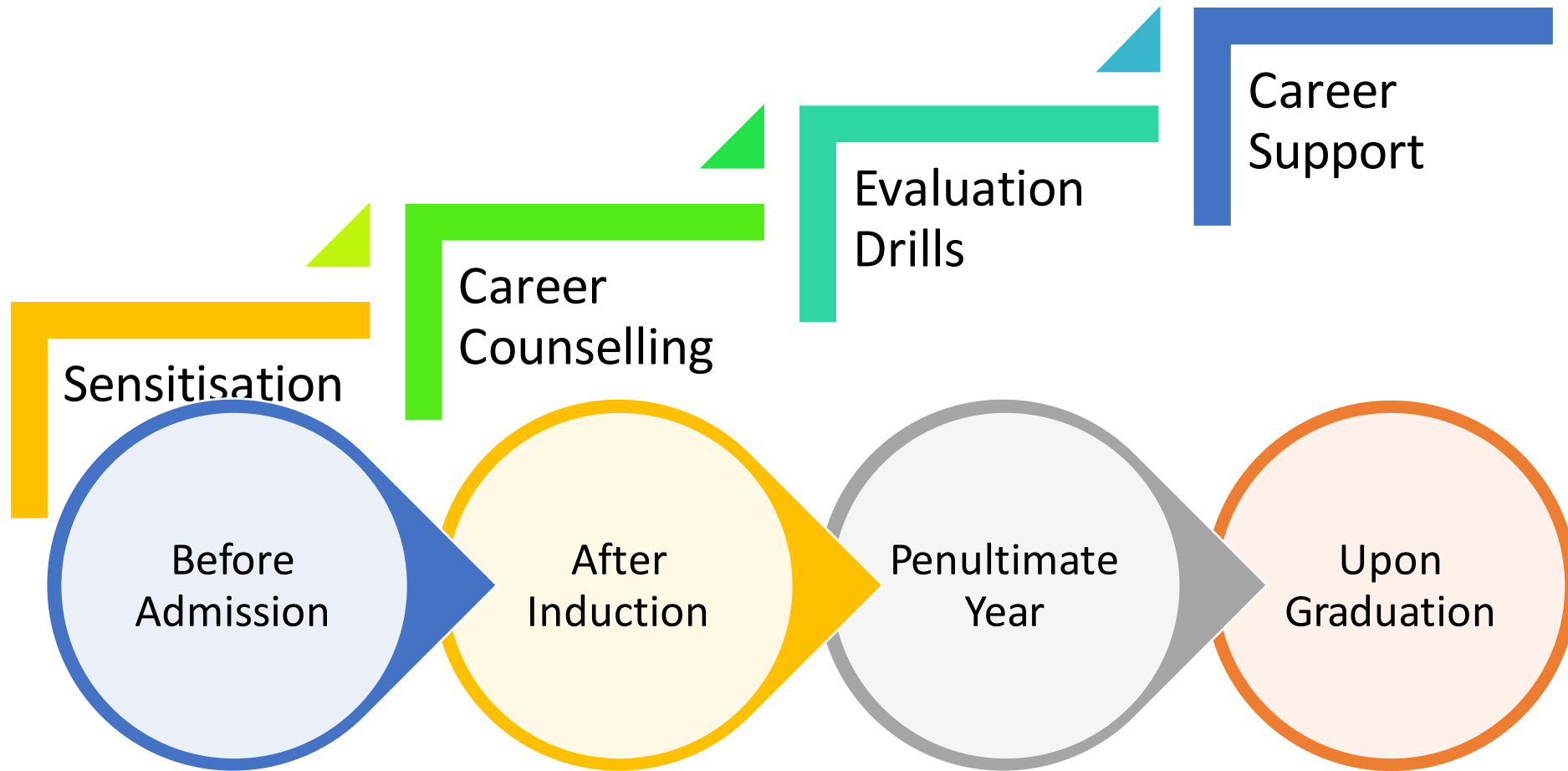


3

Collaboration with labour market

- Digital skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, and big data.
- Provide soft skills training through industry immersion to strengthen and expand attributes such as active learning, resilience, stress tolerance, and flexibility.
- Employers increasingly value meta-skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity in today's complex and fast-paced work environments.
- Offer role-specific competencies/courses to differentiate learners in the highly competitive labor market.

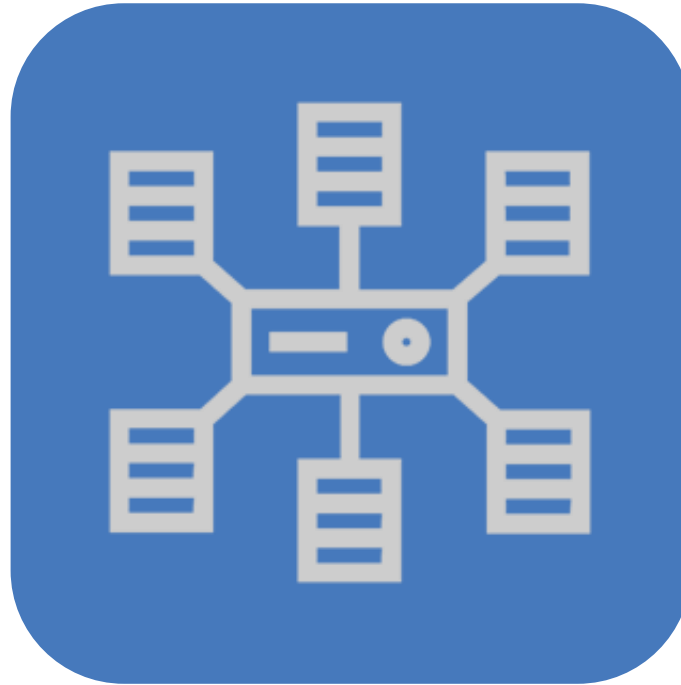
Employability Pathways



Three Key Literacies



Human



Data



Technological

4

Focus on sustainable development

- Greening the Curriculum to integrate ESD
- Greening campus and site operations
- Using distance and online learning

- Sally Caird & Robin Roy



Green learning agenda

CHRISTINA KWAIK AND OLIVIA CASEY

B Center for
Universal Education
at BROOKINGS

A new
green
learning
agenda

Skills for green jobs

Skills aimed at fulfilling the requirements of green jobs and supporting the transition to a low-carbon green economy

Green life skills

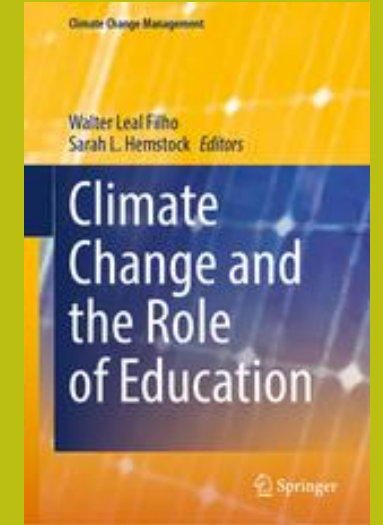
Cross-cutting skills that serve both technical, instrumental, and adaptive, transformative ends

Skills for a green transformation

Adaptive skills aimed at transforming unjust social and economic structures



Research on Emissions and ODL



3x less carbon emissions



Travel – greatest contributor



Mode of delivery - determinant



5

From 'parity of esteem' to leadership

- OU has expertise, capacity and resources to share
- Advocacy for ODL in national regulations
- From national to regional and global reach



OPEN



Leadership is key

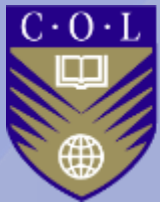
Is access enough?
Does access diminish inequality?
Are we leading to a world in which everyone is free to learn?

How will quality open education be assured?
What do leaders need to do?

How do we bridge the gap between our goals and provide real opportunities for the millions who cannot afford education?



Thank you



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

www.col.org

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