



Dear Student,

**Welcome..... to the Open University Students Association
(OUSA) in London.**

OUSA in London has been re-launched and we want you to tell us
what you want to see from **your** Students Association!

OUSA Conference takes place in Milton Keynes from 15th -17th
April and we would like to hear from you if you would like to be
a London delegate. All London students can apply.

Quicknews is being updated.

You can obtain this newsletter in an alternative format, such
as large print or on coloured paper. Email
ousa@student.open.ac.uk with your request

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OUSA Conference

Every year, students from around the U K and mainland Europe meet for a weekend to discuss student issues and elect the President and Vice Presidents. It is also one of our opportunities to discuss issues affecting students and let our representatives on O U Committees know YOUR views.

This year we will (hopefully) be agreeing the new Constitution which will allow us to function better as a Student Association. This is the result of OUSA Futures process which has been on-going for the last two years.

There were two main reasons for this re-structure. Firstly, a change in the law means that our Constitution now has to be approved by the Charities Commission. Secondly, Conference 2010 agreed in a series of policy motions that we would have a more flexible structure within OUSA. The new Constitution will not include the type of day-to-day operational detail of the current one and will not need to be constantly amended.

One major change is the role of the trustees. Currently all of the Executive Committee Members are trustees, however under the new Constitution this will be reduced to 8 made up of 4 Officer Trustees (e.g. President, Deputy President or Vice Presidents) and 4 Student Trustees drawn from the Region/Nation members of the new Central Executive Committee (C E C). Additionally there will be capacity for the trustees to appoint up to 2 external trustees if required.

The bye laws will contain the operational details which are in the current Constitution and policies though these are expected to be slimmed down from the current versions to encourage flexibility. Bye-laws can be changed by trustees/C E C but amendments will need to be ratified by the next Conference. This will enable OUSA to respond quickly to situations such as the recent funding issues.

This year the Conference is at Milton Keynes, our own campus. It is your chance to have a look around and also see the Library for yourself. All travel costs are paid and food and accommodation provided. If you have any additional requirements, the office staff will provide confidential support.

So... come along and help decide the future of the Students Association and elect our Representatives. **Email us and let us know you are interested in being a London delegate.** Several students have already signed up and we have plenty of places available, all students will be made very welcome. We arrange to meet up before Conference so you will know your fellow London delegates.

OUSA London Assembly

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Saturday 12th March at the Regional Centre in Camden at 2pm. There will be an online element to the meeting in the FirstClass forums (there is a link on your student homepage to student discussion forums - click on the link and then regions - London) from 5th to 19th March.

We will be offering places for delegates to attend OUSA Conference and discussing events which members would like us to run this year. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend either part of the meeting.

About the London Assembly

The Regional Assembly is a group of students who meet and discuss issues affecting students in the region. The Assembly is directly elected by the London membership.

The Assembly meets three or four times a year and members are welcome to come along and join in - although only elected members may vote. There is an Executive of up to 8 students who handle the day to day running of the Assembly.

We are looking for volunteers for both the Assembly and the Executive: come and join us!

We will hopefully be organising events such as Open Days at the London Regional Centre, events at O U Residential Schools held in the summer at Queen Mary's University in Mile End and OUSA's Gift Shop at Degree Ceremonies.

We will also be electing representatives to other O U and OUSA bodies. London has around 24,500 of the O U's current 200,000 students.

Send us an email or join in the next meeting if you would like to know more or get involved in OUSA London.

About London Groups

Local OUSA Groups are a number of O U students from our region who would like to get together either based around a specific interest or would just like to meet up with other students for a chat over a coffee, or possibly something stronger! Meetings can either be face to face or online or a combination of the two. Now that we are an Assembly there is no need to elect officers, hold formal meetings or take minutes, we still have the ability to send out email newsletters and request funding for some specific purposes. If you wish to start a local group you will be required to give the Assembly details of its membership. Once these Groups are established you can apply for funds to support various activities direct from the Assembly.

Where would you like to meet up? Would you like the meeting to have a specific theme? If you have any ideas or are interested in helping to organise these events please email us.

About OUSA London Events

In previous years OUSA in London has organised workshops on Elluminate Live, Revision Techniques (Prep and Rev sessions), using the O U Library, FirstClass as well as organising theatre trips, pub lunches, coffee mornings and walks.

What would you like us to arrange? Are you interested in helping to organise these events. Email us or come along or join in the meetings.

Quicknews

Quicknews is the OUSA in London email news system. We send a short email giving you details of OU news, interesting information, study events, OUSA workshops, OUSA Social events and meetings and much more.

We are updating the way we run the system and from now on, we will be sending out emails from a googlemail account. We will add anyone who has signed up in the last few months and will send out an email to confirm the correct email address. Anyone who was on the old system will need to reapply as many of the email addresses were no longer active.

If you wish to sign up or confirm you want to receive Quicknews, please send an email to ousainlondon@googlemail.com

Please indicate which faculties you would like updates about and if you would like to know about social events.

Open University in London Student Representatives

Three or four times a year representatives from London students meet with O U staff and Associate Lecturers (tutors to you and me). This is the O U in London Committee. They discuss issues affecting students studying in London, have a say on how the O U will support students in the future and about student and University issues. The staff and tutors in London value what students have to say...

Would you like to be one of the 12 students?

Email us and let us know. You will get papers sent to you before each meeting to read and students can discuss the papers. Then at the meeting, students have the opportunity to put their point of view across and raise other issues. You will not be expected to speak at any meeting, just help other students decide responses and of course you can raise any point if you wish. The University and tutors really appreciate our comments and ask for our opinion on issues.

It is a really good way of getting involved in YOUR University.

OUSA London Website and newsletters

This is being revamped, so tell us what you would like to see on the website. What would you find useful, interesting? Email us with suggestions or offers of help.

Or if you want to help improve the newsletters please let us know...

Things we do in London and you can join in too!

Degree Ceremonies

Every April and September London hosts the degree ceremonies for students at the Barbican Centre. OUSA runs a stall providing merchandise to remind students of their Degree Ceremonies. It is great fun and inspiring to see so many happy faces and proud families and friends. We are looking for volunteers to help out. Lunch and travel costs are met.

The next ceremonies are on April 1st and 2nd and if you are interested in helping out can you email us ASAP.

Residential School

During July and August, the O U runs Arts Residential Schools at Queen Mary University in Mile End. OUSA provide volunteers to help welcome students, produce student cards and sometimes put on quiz nights.

If you are interested in joining in the fun without having to do the study part, then do email us or let us know at the next meeting or go to the OUSA website www.ousa.org.uk for more information.

Central Representatives on O U Committees

Central Reps are students who sit on O U Committees and put forward a student point of view. There are reps for all faculties and some specialised committees such as Mental Health or Disciplinary Committees. There are several reps from London already. Application forms and details are on the OUSA website and appointments will be made in the Summer to start the new academic year in September. Meetings are usually held in Milton Keynes during normal office hours and expenses are paid. There are usually only 3 or 4 meetings a year.

If you are interested then please do go to the OUSA website www.ousa.org.uk for further details.

Did you know that.....?

There is a special website for students aged 18- 24?

<http://www8.open.ac.uk/choose/18to24/>

There are websites for each faculty with the latest news and information?

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/site/STUDYING-SCIENCE>

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/site/HEALTH-SCIENCES>

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/site/OUBS-UBM> (undergrad business & management)

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/site/HSC-PROG> (health science)

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/site/MATHS-STATS>

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/site/UICT-CP> (undergrad ICT & Computing)

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/site/ENVIRONMENTAL-SCIENCE>

<http://engineering.open.ac.uk/>

<http://learn.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4736&m=3> (arts & humanities)

<http://www.mcs.open.ac.uk/> or <http://www.mathematics.open.ac.uk/>

<http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/news/whats-new.shtml>

<http://www8.open.ac.uk/about/main/faculties-and-centres/faculties-and-research-centres>

Staying In Touch

Quicknews

Subscribe to Quicknews. Simply sign up at a meeting or send an email to:

ousainlondon@googlemail.com

Data Protection - the personal data you provide will be held by the OUSA London Assembly Executive Committee, for the purposes of contacting you in relation to OUSA activities and events and information relating to studying with the OU. Your details will not be passed to a third party or any other students without your prior consent.

Web Sites

OUSA central website: www.open.ac.uk/ousa

The OUSA in London web-site www.ousalondon.org.uk

Email Contact

OUSA London Region: Executive Committee Member: David Humble

ousainlondon@googlemail.com

Facebook

Keep up to date with the latest events in OUSA London by joining our OUSA in London Facebook group: [OUSA \(London Region\)](#)