

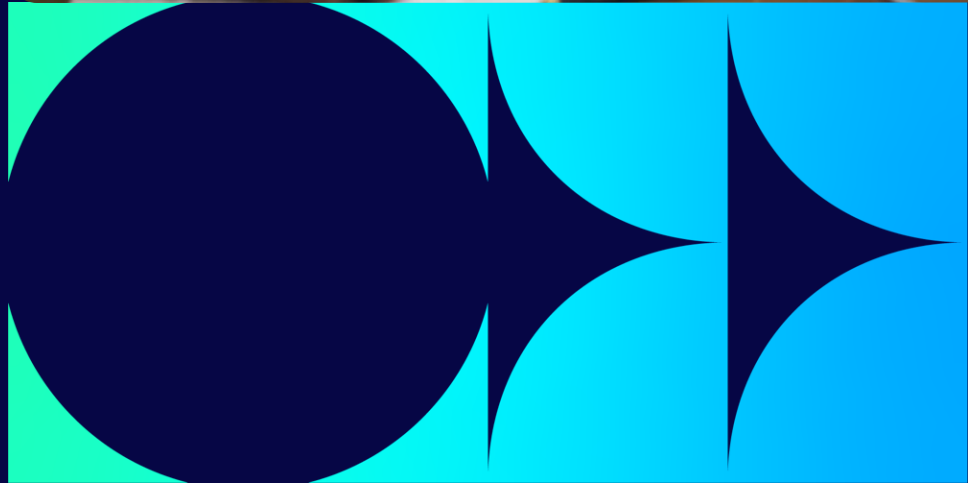
Microcredentials The OU in Wales

QAA Cymru – 24 May 2023

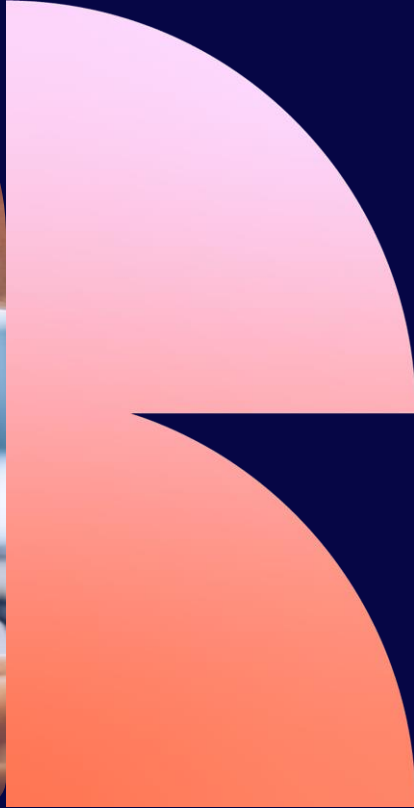
Caitlin Harvey | Head of Academic Governance
(Microcredentials)

Rhys Daniels, Senior Manager Skills, The OU in Wales

May 2023



The Open University Microcredential Offer



The OU has pioneered distance learning for over 50 years, enabling more than 2 million students to realise their ambitions.

We are living in unprecedented times with high levels of uncertainty.

Now, more than ever, there is a rapidly growing requirement for organisations and individuals to retrain or upskill.

Never has our vision been more important:

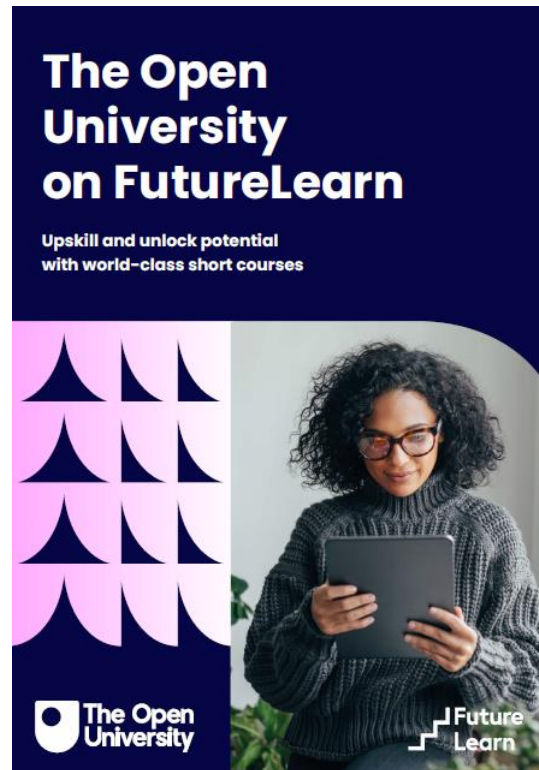
'to reach more students with life-changing learning that meets their needs and enriches society.'

Our work on developing microcredentials and short courses at the Open University supports our delivery of that vision.



We offer 26 microcredentials in the following subject areas

- ▶ Leadership and Management
- ▶ Computing and Digital Technologies
- ▶ Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability
- ▶ Teacher Development and Inclusive Learning
- ▶ Health and Social Care




allows us to:

- broaden our reach by targeting learners looking for professional development
- provide learning opportunities to those looking to reskill or upskill as a result of the pandemic and changes in employment markets
- reach different audiences including vocational and international learners.
- Adopt a distinctive pedagogical approach allows us to explore new ways of delivering learning experiences.



[European MOOC Consortium](#) (which includes FutureLearn) have created the Common Microcredential Framework. It sets out microcredentials as:

- 4-6 ECTS = 100–150 study hours per microcredential (10-15 FHEQ* credits)
 - Undergraduate or postgraduate
 - Includes summative assessment
 - ID verification required
 - Transcript with full course details to be provided
- 
- The logo for the European MOOC Consortium (EMC). It features the letters "EMC" in white on a blue circular background. To the right of this is the text "European MOOC Consortium" in blue. The logo is surrounded by several overlapping circles in various colors: orange, green, purple, and pink.
- *Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of Degree-Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ).

MICROCREDENTIALS : THE OU MODEL

- 10 credits at undergraduate level or 15 credits at PG level.
- Microcredentials can be at Levels 4, 5, 6 or 7 on the FHEQ (OU levels 1, 2,3, M).
- Continuous formative assessment to be integrated as part of the design of the microcredential.
- Summative assessment in the form of an end-of-module assessment (EMA).
- OU Study Advisors provide tuition support.
- EMA markers will mark the EMA.
- Grades and grade boundaries are the same as those used on standard OU modules.
- Microcredentials must fit into current standard OU presentation and conflation periods.



The QAA Characteristics Statement launched in May 2022 covers seven main themes:

- 1) Definition
- 2) Context and Purpose of Microcredentials
- 3) Characteristics of the learner
- 4) Admissions and Access, including RPL
- 5) Course design, including learning and teaching and assessment
- 6) Certification
- 7) Quality management of microcredentials



Characteristics Statement

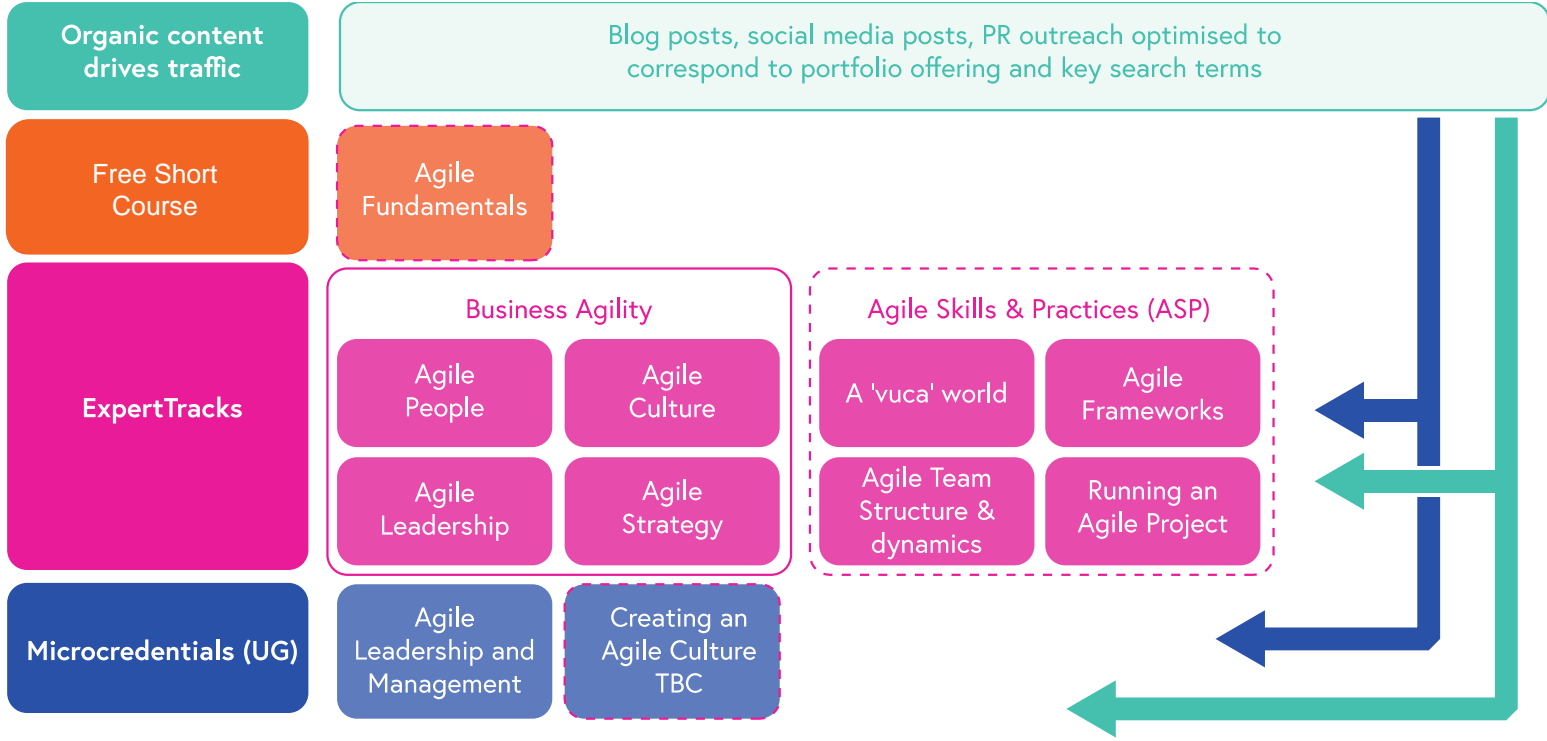
Micro-credentials

May 2022

Context and Purpose



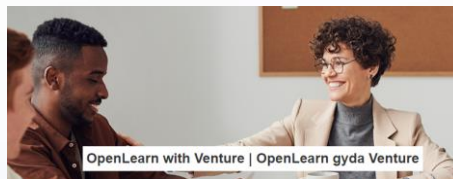
AGILE BUSINESS PATHWAY



NB. All Course/Specialisation titles and content may be subject to change following Faculty review

The Venture/OU in Wales Partnership for Graduates

[OpenLearn with Venture | OpenLearn gyda Venture - OpenLearn - Open University](#)



The OU in Wales has partnered with Venture to offer the following **microcredentials** as part of their Development Accelerator Programme, with graduates able to choose their own 'learning pathway':

- *Business Management: Project Management*
- *Business Management: People Management and Leadership*
- *Climate Change: Transforming your Organisation for Sustainability*
- *Cyber Security Operations*

The learning pathways are complimented by wraparound learning offered by OpenLearn with a bespoke hub focussed on professional development and work-ready skills



Effective communication in the workplace

This free course, *Effective communication in the workplace*, explores the importance of communication as a skill in the...

[Learn more >](#)



Talk the talk

This free course introduces the mechanics of effective, persuasive oral presentations, by giving you the opportunity...

[Learn more >](#)



Business communication: writing a SWOT...

This free course, *Business communication: writing a SWOT analysis*, is designed to develop your writing skills for...

[Learn more >](#)



The importance of interpersonal skills

To succeed in management you need good interpersonal skills, you need to understand how to deal with other people. This...

[Learn more >](#)



Developing career resilience

Do you sometimes wish you were more resilient when faced with changes at work? Do you have career plans but feel...

[Learn more >](#)



Learning how to learn

Learning how to learn: a process we all engage in throughout our lives, but no single method of learning guarantees...

[Learn more >](#)



Making creativity and innovation happen

The trailer below explores one aspect that will be covered in the course: the paradox of choice.

[Learn more >](#)



Design thinking

Are you ever frustrated with something that you thought you could design better? This free course, *Design thinking*, will...

[Learn more >](#)



Digital skills: succeeding in a digital world

This free course, *Digital skills: succeeding in a digital world*, will develop your confidence and skills for life online, whether...

[Learn more >](#)



Learn to code for data analysis

This free course will teach you how to write your own computer programs, one line of code at a time. You'll learn how to...

[Learn more >](#)



Using data to aid organisational change

This free course explores how to use data to inform a change you would like to make within your business or organisational...

[Learn more >](#)

Microcredentials Case Study: Chwarae Teg

Support to women re-skilling post-Covid-19



Support women to break the barriers associated with careers in tech and digital

26

Microcredential places funded

23

Enrolled on Python Programming

3

Enrolled on Introduction to Networks



Enable access to flexible, knowledge and skills based provision

134

Unique visits to OpenLearn Hub (to date)

29

have explored formal courses post visit to the Openlearn site

Top courses engaged
Simple Coding
Introduction to ICT
Design Thinking



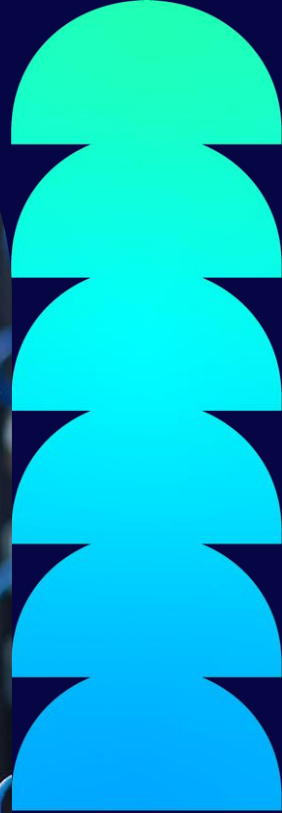
Creation of a bespoke Chwarae Teg OpenLearn hub of resources for digital skill. Choice to study one of two microcredential courses, funded by the pilot.

Chwarae
Teg



FinTech
Wales

Quality Management



Academic Principles for Microcredentials –

1

Microcredentials follow OU academic governance approval processes and quality assurance requirements in line with all credit-bearing OU curriculum.

2

Those studying OU microcredentials should be referred to as ‘learners’ to distinguish them from OU students on OU standard modules and qualifications and from apprentices.

3

OU microcredentials must align with the latest version of the [Common Microcredential Framework](#) (CMF) agreed by the [European MOOC Consortium](#).

4

Microcredentials should align with a single pre-approved model for assessment and tuition delivery.

5

OU microcredential credit is OU credit and may be counted towards an OU qualification and may be used within the qualification classification.

6

OU microcredentials can be counted towards an OU qualification provided the established principles, frameworks and policies are followed.

7

OU microcredential stackable qualifications will align to specific qualifications in the OU Qualifications Framework.

8

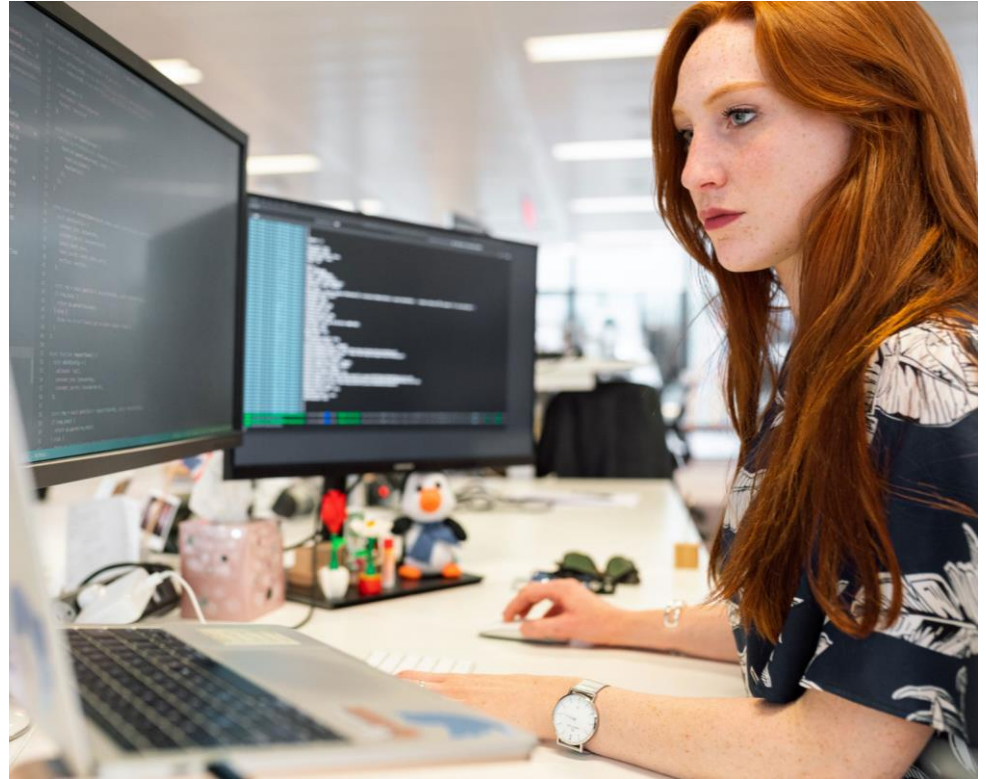
The maximum total credits for an OU microcredential stackable qualification is 60 credits.

Pace and ambition of our programme does not compromise quality.

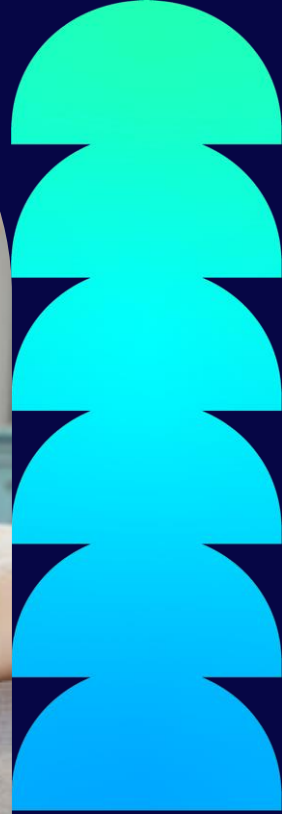
We are adhering to our internal quality assurance processes for microcredentials.

An Academic Framework of microcredential principles provide guidance and clarity and ensure academic standards are maintained.

Understanding and challenging status-quo in order to ensure policy and processes are rigorous and proportionate



Course design and learner experience



Online Microcredential in [Business & Management](#)

Agile Leadership and Management

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

[Find out more](#)
[Join now £750](#)

Created by


[Learn more](#)

In collaboration with


[Learn more](#)

Dates

Starts on 11 Oct 2021

Join by 11 Oct 2021 at 22:59

[See more start dates](#)

Duration

12 weeks

Cost

£750

Credit

University credit

[Learn more](#)

Level

Postgraduate

[See requirements](#)

[Overview](#)

[Requirements](#)

[Syllabus](#)

[What you will receive](#)

[Educators](#)

[Start dates](#)

Learn Agile Leadership techniques to build, lead, and empower teams

This microcredential provides a solid foundation and introduction to Agile Leadership and Management. Designed by The Open University and The Agile Business Consortium, it combines

THE SOCIAL LEARNING MODEL

OU Microcredentials are designed around social learning with learners sharing knowledge and experience and learning from each other.

Supported by a study advisor or mentor who:

- answers questions
- points to relevant resources
- helps learners to achieve success.

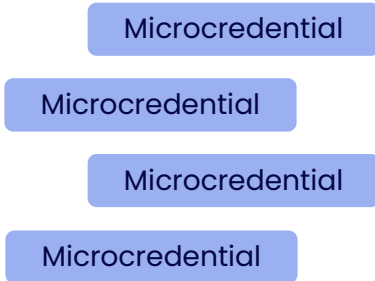


Microcredentials and qualifications

Developing our approach to stackability

Standalone

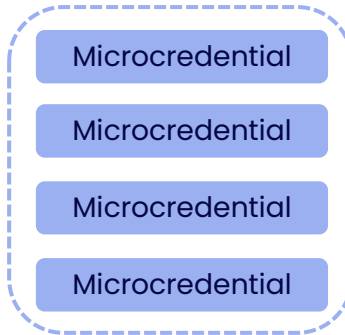
Learners may choose to do one or more microcredentials as standalone courses.



Counting towards a qualification

Learners may choose to undertake microcredentials to count towards a wider qualification up to 1/3.

APPROVED SEPT 22



Pilot with 4 Postgraduate qualifications

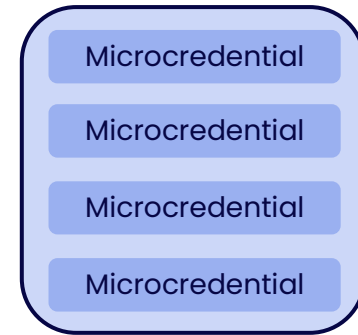
1. F61 Masters of Business Administration
2. F69 Masters of Business Administration
3. F81 MA/MSc Open
4. F98 Masters in Online Teaching

Stackable qualification

Learners may undertake a suite of microcredentials which make up a stackable qualification.

Certificates and Diplomas, up to a maximum of 60 credits.

APPROVED FEB 23



1. Professional Certificate (UG)
2. Graduate Certificate (UG L3)
3. Professional Diploma (PG)
4. PG Cert (PG)

What our learners say

More than 10,000 learners have joined a microcredential in the last two years

91%

of our learners rated their **overall study experience as excellent or good***

97%

of our learners rated the **quality of audio and video highly***

96%

of our learners said the **skills gained were excellent or good***

92%

of our learners rated their course as **good or excellent value for money***



* End of course survey – August 2022 (collating waves 1-4)



My line manager said that while these courses have greatly enabled my personal and professional development, they have also prepared me for taking on senior management responsibilities, and that the skills I have developed will be invaluable in driving our organisation through a process of digital transformation.

Tommy Breslin

Senior Development Officer – Scottish Union Learning, Scottish Trades Union Congress.
Studied Online Teaching microcredentials



"I somehow feel that there is a 'life before' and now a 'life after' the course!"

"This course is a **game changer**."

Climate Change: Transforming your Organisation for Sustainability



Thank you
Diolch

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