

Short courses and flexible learning

There is huge variety in both content and quality of these courses. Many students use them to top up their business, maths, IT or other vocational/professional skills but almost any subject is available. When deciding to undertake additional learning, you should be clear about what you are aiming to achieve. Are you learning for personal interest, or is it to make yourself a more attractive candidate for a career opportunity. You should also be aware that some providers are regarded more highly than others and it is important to research the courses and providers thoroughly before committing your time and money to a course.

The sites below will help you to find short courses, part-time courses, courses taught through distance learning, and online. All these courses range from introductory through to postgraduate level.

Course listings:

- **Hot Courses** www.hotcourses.com database of courses in the UK, including short courses
- **Training Pages** www.trainingpages.com directory of training courses on the web
- **National Institute of Adult Continuing Education** www.niace.org.uk
- **Association of Colleges** www.aoc.co.uk/en/about_colleges/Directory_of_AoC_member_colleges.cfm Directory of colleges of further education
- **The Complete University Guide** distance learning pages www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/distance-learning/
- **LearnDirect** database of courses www.learndirect.co.uk
- **Guidebook to Online Schools and Effective Learning Techniques** www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/online-schools-guidebook

Institutions:

- **City Lit** www.citylit.ac.uk/courses part-time, evening and weekend courses for adults in London
- **Birkbeck** www.bbk.ac.uk Part of London University: all courses are delivered through evening study and include certificates, short courses and undergraduate and postgraduate degrees
- **Open University** www3.open.ac.uk/courses/bin/p12.dll?A02 Distance Learning Courses at the OU
- **Oxford Distance Learning College** www.oxfordcollege.ac distance education provider

Online courses:

- **Futurelearn** www.futurelearn.com free online courses from leading UK and international universities
- **Coursera** www.coursera.org partners with the world's top universities and organizations to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free