

## MOOCS - Massive Open Online Courses

MOOCs are a development of distance learning – from correspondence study where information was disseminated via post, radio and television – Who remembers the Saturday morning sessions where we were introduced to Science through the likes of Professor Julius Sumner Miller? With the development of academic institutions such as the Open University in the United Kingdom in 1969 and computers and multimedia the opportunity to learn anywhere/anytime greatly expanded.

MOOCs are online courses that are offered by many academic institutions (Universities, Colleges, Business Schools, Polytechnics, etc.) from around the world. (Tell everyone you have studied at Yale, Princeton, Stanford or Melbourne University).

They can be found in all areas of interest – the number and variety increasing each year.

**They vary in length** from a couple of weeks through to several months and may be self-paced or run at set times throughout the year.

**Starting a course** requires signing up with name, email and creating a password. An email will be sent which requires clicking on a link to confirm the registration.

The next step is to select a course and click on the link to start it.

The organization will keep a record of courses started/completed.

**Completing a course** involves:

- Use of short video 'lectures'
- Group chats
- Possibly further reading lists
- Assignments/Practical activities
- Quizzes/Tests – generally, a short test covering the information at the end of the module just covered and then a final one covering the complete course.

**At the end of the study** a certificate may be available. Some of these are purely a statement of having completed the course. In some, a recognised certificate is available – this usually requires a payment.

**Using it with U3A classes:**

- Have all enrol in the course and have group discussions each week about issues involved.
- Course Leader enrol and use with whole group using data projector (for those without computer [confidence])
- Use it to gain further background knowledge for presentations.
- Use the courses to allow people to do further study themselves on the topic being covered.

## Sites for MOOCs:

### **Coursera:**

<https://www.coursera.org/courses?courseType=v2.ondemand>

Coursera has their offering of courses organised under the categories listed below

Some courses are listed as 'Go at your own pace'. The shortest courses run for 4 weeks

<b>Eligible For</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verified Certificates 264
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specialization 105
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>All Categories</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts 53
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biology & Life Sciences 137
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business & Management 171
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemistry 33
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Science: Artificial Intelligence 45
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Science: Software Engineering 77
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Science: Systems & Security 41
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Science: Theory 66
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economics & Finance 138
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education 129
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy & Earth Sciences 49
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering 91
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food and Nutrition 29
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health & Society 156
<input type="checkbox"/>	Humanities 188
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information, Tech & Design 143
<input type="checkbox"/>	Law 44
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathematics 83
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicine 120
<input type="checkbox"/>	Music, Film, and Audio 51
<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical & Earth Sciences 54
<input type="checkbox"/>	Physics 51
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Sciences 177
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statistics and Data Analysis 85
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher Professional Development 92

### **EdX:** <https://www.edx.org/>

EdX has their offering of courses organised under the categories listed below

Some courses are run by High Schools

<b>Subjects</b>	
Architecture	7
Art & Culture	37
Biology & Life Sciences	58
Business & Management	63
Chemistry	24
Communication	24
Computer Science	96
Design	3
Economics & Finance	38
Education	21
Electronics	25
Energy & Earth Sciences	12
Engineering	94
Environmental Studies	32
Ethics	10
Food & Nutrition	11
Health & Safety	36
History	57
Humanities	99
Law	19
Literature	41
Math	48
Medicine	29
Music	7
Philosophy & Ethics	27
Physics	54
Science	86
Social Sciences	84
Statistics & Data Analysis	49

**MOOC List:** <https://www.mooc-list.com/>

MOOC List has a huge range of courses with a variety of sorting categories to help choose a course – including sorting by date the course begins

The screenshot shows the MOOC List search interface. It includes three dropdown menus for filtering: Providers (listing institutions like 360training, Alliversity, etc.), Categories (listing subjects like Art, Architecture, and Design, Biology & Life Sciences, etc.), and Tags (listing technical topics like .NET Framework, 20th Century, etc.). Below the filters are three more dropdown menus: Start Date (set to 'is between'), Sort by (set to 'Start Date'), and Order (set to 'Desc'). An 'Apply' button is located below the Sort by dropdown. There are also input fields for Start date and End date, with examples like 'E.g., Tuesday, June 23, 2015'.

**Alison:** <https://alison.com/course/>

Large range of different and interesting courses



## Online Course Subjects

<a href="#">Accounting</a>	<a href="#">Accounting &amp; Finance Professionals</a>	<a href="#">Adobe</a>	<a href="#">Anatomy</a>
<a href="#">App Development</a>	<a href="#">Arabic</a>	<a href="#">Art</a>	<a href="#">Banking</a>
<a href="#">Biology</a>	<a href="#">Business</a>	<a href="#">Business Communication Skills</a>	<a href="#">Career Development</a>
<a href="#">Carpentry</a>	<a href="#">Chemistry</a>	<a href="#">Childcare Studies</a>	<a href="#">Chinese Language Studies</a>
<a href="#">Computer Basics</a>	<a href="#">Construction Skills</a>	<a href="#">Customer Service</a>	<a href="#">Digital Creative Design</a>
<a href="#">E-Business</a>	<a href="#">E-Business and Marketing Professionals</a>	<a href="#">Economics</a>	<a href="#">Electrical Engineering</a>
<a href="#">Engineering</a>	<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">English Diplomas</a>	<a href="#">English for Business</a>
<a href="#">English for Teaching</a>	<a href="#">English for Tourism</a>	<a href="#">English Grammar</a>	<a href="#">English Literature</a>
<a href="#">English Speaking Skills</a>	<a href="#">Entrepreneurial Skills</a>	<a href="#">Finance</a>	<a href="#">Food Safety</a>
<a href="#">French</a>	<a href="#">Geography</a>	<a href="#">German</a>	<a href="#">Global Health Initiative</a>
<a href="#">Google</a>	<a href="#">Health &amp; Healthcare Professionals</a>	<a href="#">Health and Fitness</a>	<a href="#">Health and Safety</a>
<a href="#">Health Management</a>	<a href="#">History</a>	<a href="#">Human Nutrition</a>	<a href="#">Human Resources</a>
<a href="#">Information Technology</a>	<a href="#">Investment</a>	<a href="#">Irish</a>	<a href="#">Job Search Skills</a>
<a href="#">Law and Legal Skills</a>	<a href="#">Management</a>	<a href="#">Management Professionals</a>	<a href="#">Manufacturing</a>
<a href="#">Marketing and Sales</a>	<a href="#">Masonry Skills</a>	<a href="#">Maths</a>	<a href="#">Mental Health Studies</a>
<a href="#">Microsoft Office</a>	<a href="#">Multimedia Technology</a>	<a href="#">Music</a>	<a href="#">Nursing Studies</a>
<a href="#">Office Skills</a>	<a href="#">Operations Management</a>	<a href="#">Photography</a>	<a href="#">Photoshop</a>
<a href="#">Physics</a>	<a href="#">Plumbing</a>	<a href="#">Procurement</a>	<a href="#">Programming</a>
<a href="#">Project Management</a>	<a href="#">Project Maths</a>	<a href="#">Psychology</a>	<a href="#">Quality Management</a>
<a href="#">Science</a>	<a href="#">Six Sigma</a>	<a href="#">Social Media Techniques</a>	<a href="#">Social Work Skills</a>
<a href="#">Spanish Language Skills</a>	<a href="#">Statistics</a>	<a href="#">Study Skills</a>	<a href="#">Supply Chain Management</a>
<a href="#">Swedish</a>	<a href="#">Teacher Resources</a>	<a href="#">Teaching and Training Professionals</a>	<a href="#">Tourism</a>
<a href="#">Typing</a>	<a href="#">Web Development</a>	<a href="#">Workplace Safety</a>	<a href="#">Yoga</a>

**Open Culture:** <http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>

1100 courses offered from Universities around the world plus a huge range of links to free (public domain) resources/ courses/ multimedia (audio books, films, ebooks, music and more)

**Open Education Database:** <http://oedb.org/open/>

American-based offering a huge number of courses.

**Open University:** <http://www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/try>

Over 800 courses ranging in length from a couple of hours to several months.

**Open to Study:** <https://www.open2study.com/courses>

Free courses offered by Australian Universities.

**LearnFree:** <http://freecourses.iimra.com/>

A starting place to find a number of free courses.

Of course, a simple place to begin is going into a search engine and typing in:

“free...(pick a topic)...MOOC” or “free online course about...(topic)”

---

**To find more information about the development of MOOCs visit YouTube:**

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=MOOC](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=MOOC)

---

There are other websites covering areas of study that may also come in handy for both instructors and learners:

**Microsoft** provides a Digital Literacy Site with topics ranging from basic computer introduction, use of cloud, Internet security and using Microsoft Office.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/digitalliteracy/default.aspx>

**Broadband For Seniors** is an Australian website that provides lessons in basic computer/internet.

<http://bfseniors.com.au/>

---

**Examples used in talk:**

**Chinese Language and Culture:** <https://www.open2study.com/courses/chinese-language-culture>

**History of Rock Part 1:** <https://www.coursera.org/learn/history-of-rock>