

Finding a course factsheet

Evening classes

If you would like to do a part-time course and prefer something in the evenings, community education might suit you best. This is usually run by the local authority who will send out a prospectus or list of courses to your address if you contact them. They offer classes in a range of subjects from language classes to arts and crafts to IT and will usually suit a range of levels from beginner upwards. Although not very expensive, you will get reductions if you are in receipt of benefits.

Distance learning

If you would prefer to learn in your own time at home, you could do a distance learning or 'e-learning' course. There are two main providers, the Open University and LearnDirect. There are a range of courses available at a range of levels and on the whole you can learn at your own pace.

Hafal Tip – If you are not using a well-known course provider, you will need to check with the Open and Distance Learning Quality Council whether the course provider is accredited. If it is not, do some additional checks to ensure that you are getting what you want. Ask:

- if you will get a recognised qualification at the end,
- if you can talk to some current or former students,
- if there is a refund policy.

University

If you want to make a bigger commitment and would like to study full-time, you will need to do some research first to make sure you find the right course for you. You might want to think about your preferred style of learning and the kind of qualification you want to get as well as the subject area that interests you. Visit the Universities and Colleges Admission Service web-site to search through its database of full-time undergraduate courses.

Further information

For more information on finances for students in Wales, go to <http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk>

Open and Distance Learning Quality Council <http://www.odlqc.org.uk/> 020 7612 7090

The Open University <http://www.open.ac.uk/> 0870 333 4340

LearnDirect <http://www.learndirect-advice.co.uk/> 0800 100 900

Universities and Colleges Admission Service <http://www.ucas.com/> 0870 112 2211



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