



The Open  
University

# Credit Rating

Recognising your investment in learning





# Is Credit Rating for you?

## What is credit rating?

The Open University (OU) offers a credit rating service to professional bodies, employers, educational organisations, public, private and non-profit organisations who are seeking accreditation of their learning programmes.

“ Appropriate learning, wherever it occurs, providing it can be assessed, may be endorsed through the Open University for credit . ”

The **Credit rating** process looks at the delivery and outcomes of your learning programmes and if they meet the criteria described on the following page, it will lead to a UK credit rating at pre-HE or HE level.

## What are the advantages?

Credit rating by the OU gives a nationally-recognised endorsement of quality to learning programmes which:

- ▶ increases the confidence and motivation of both learners and providers;
- ▶ improves the ‘transfer value’ of the learning undertaken;
- ▶ provides the opportunity to combine learning in the workplace with learning in an academic institution;
- ▶ encourages life-long learning and continued professional development;
- ▶ helps to widen participation;
- ▶ provides a pathway from professional qualifications to OU qualifications;
- ▶ at Pre-HE level provides a possible route for students to enter higher education;
- ▶ enhances the value and transfer of work-based learning;
- ▶ provides an opportunity to have your training recognised within University frameworks.



# What is the Credit Rating Process?

## What does it involve?

The credit rating process is concerned with identifying:

- ▶ what has been learned;
- ▶ how the learning has been assessed;
- ▶ how the quality and consistency of the learning and assessment has been maintained and controlled.

In order to be assessed learning must:

- ▶ be at a prescribed Pre-HE or HE level, including the programme's objectives, learning outcomes, assessment criteria and actual assessment;
- ▶ be mapped against the credit level descriptors to help determine the level of learning;
- ▶ be formally assessed, by appropriately qualified people, with external validation or moderation by at least one independent external assessor who is able to make judgements about standards at higher-education level;

- ▶ have appropriate quality assurance arrangements to monitor the delivery of the programme;
- ▶ be essentially academic (although it may include an assessed practical, vocational, or professional element).

## What does it cost?

There is a charge for the process of credit rating. The actual cost will depend upon the complexity of the exercise. There is no charge, however, for informal, preliminary discussions.

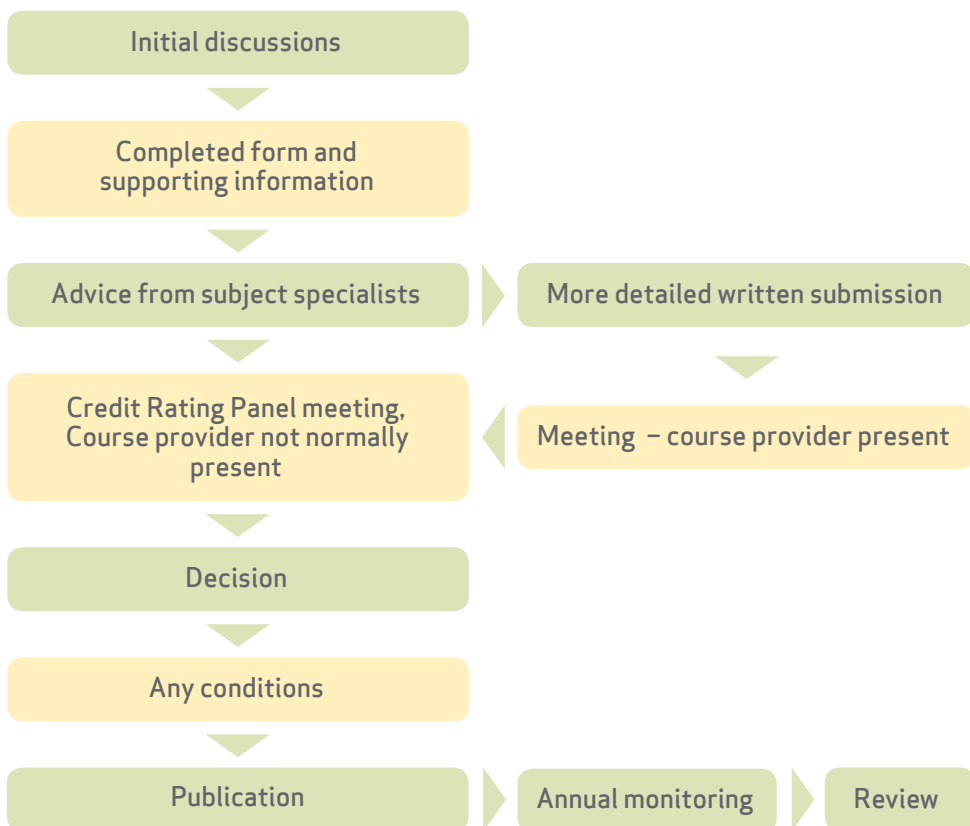
As part of the OU's arrangements for maintaining the quality of the awards, programmes are monitored annually. The annual fee for this activity also covers the cost of publicity and self-certification via the University's website.

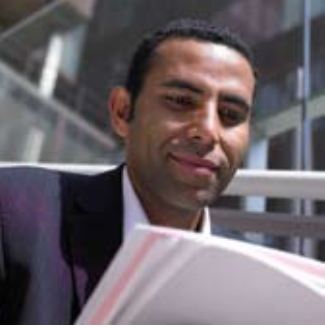


# How does it work?

## The process explained

The process is designed to be streamlined. A named contact will provide information and advice to the client organisation at every stage of the process as set out below:





# Who do we work with?

## Some organisations with courses accredited by the OU

Chartered Institute of Marketing

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Chartered Management Institute

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Excitec Ltd

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Institute of Fisheries Management

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Institute of Healthcare Management

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Royal Navy School of Physical Training

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Dyslexia Action

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University of Cambridge International Examinations

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“ The original reason for choosing accreditation from the OU was because it was UK-wide and creditworthy for students aiming to go to university and has an excellent reputation nationally. ”

**Excitec Ltd**

“ We chose to have our programme credit rated by The Open University to provide a quality kite mark to the learning. Students have found this helpful when applying to universities for credit transfer. ”

**Chartered Institute of Marketing**

“ We believe that a general credit rating from the OU is both a strong endorsement of a qualification and a valuable service to students who want to go on to take further programmes of study in higher education. ”

**Chartered Management Institute**

A selection of quotes from credit-rated organisations.

## How do I find out more?

If you would like further information or the opportunity for an informal meeting, then please contact the Credit Rating Service at the address below. A named officer will be nominated to be your contact.

The Credit Transfer Centre  
The Open University  
Walton Hall  
Milton Keynes  
MK7 6AA

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Fax +44 (0)1908 654918  
[credit-rating@open.ac.uk](mailto:credit-rating@open.ac.uk)

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[www.open.ac.uk/credit-rating](http://www.open.ac.uk/credit-rating)