We have prepared some answers to our “top ten” Skill Up questions. We hope you find these useful.

As part of the Northern Ireland Executive’s Economic Recovery Action Plan, a new Flexible Skills Fund, “Skill Up”, has been established by The Department for the Economy. The purpose of this funding is to help upskill and reskill individuals to meet the needs of the economy as we emerge from the pandemic and grow beyond it.

1. **How do I apply?**
   You can apply using the specific application forms:
   - Postgraduate application
   - Microcredential application

2. **When is the closing date?**
   8\(^{th}\) September 2022 at midnight. Late applications will not be accepted.

3. **How many modules can I apply to study?**
   You can apply to study **2 modules** at any one time. Please take into consideration the commitment involved with studying your module choice.

4. **How best do I prepare my application form?**
   We recommend when you have decided which module you are interested in studying that you look at the entry requirements in detail to ensure you meet them and explain as best you can how the skill-up programme will help to benefit you. We provide more information in our [guidance notes](#).

5. **When will the course start?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate modules:</th>
<th>Microcredential modules:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths– 1(^{st}) November</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Leadership and management – 5(^{th}) November</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Postgraduate – 10(^{th}) October</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Undergraduate – 24(^{th}) October</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6. **How many hours of study a week would I need to commit to?**
   - Postgraduate study – you'll need to be able to commit to **16-18 hours a week of study**
   - Microcredential study – You'll need to able to commit to **10-13 hours a week of study**.
Please find more information on postgraduate study here: Finding Time to Study | Open University and for Microcredentials: Microcredentials | The Open University.

7. When should I expect to hear the outcome of my application?
   • Postgraduate - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths – 6th October 2022
   • Postgraduate - Leadership and Management – 13th October 2022
   • Unsuccessful applicants – Week commencing 17th October 2022
   
   Microcredential Applications:
   • Microcredential postgraduate – Week commencing 26th September 2022
   • Microcredential undergraduate – Week commencing 3rd October 2022
   • Unsuccessful applicants – Week commencing 17th October 2022

8. What to expect if I am successful?
   If your microcredential application is successful, you will be emailed and invited to create a FutureLearn account (if you don’t already have one). If we find an existing Open University record for you then the email address provided in this application may be used to update the record accordingly.

   For postgraduate study, you will receive an email asking you to complete and sign your registration agreement and if applicable provide any evidence/documents needed to secure your place. We will create a personal identification (PI) number for you however if you already have one then provide this in your application form and if you are unsure of this, or for any queries relating to this, email: Ireland-general@open.ac.uk.

   If your circumstances change and you can no longer study then please email us so that we can reallocate your space: Ireland-skillup@open.ac.uk.

9. What happens if I am not successful?
   If you aren’t successful, then please don’t be disappointed as the Skill-up programme is extremely popular. Some pointers to take on board if you are thinking about applying again.

   Our panel shortlist applications on how well you meet the course entry requirements. If you decide to apply again then ensure you have provided a comprehensive overview of how the skill-up programme will support, you and your educational development. Unfortunately, we can’t offer any feedback due to the volume of applications we receive.

10. Who do I contact if I have any questions?
    You can email Ireland-skillup@open.ac.uk.