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**Partner quotes:**

Birmingham

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Professor David Eastwood: “Our ambition is to be a leading global university and this new collaboration with the Open University will enable us to make our high quality academic content available world-wide, increasing access to HE for whole new cohort of learners.”

Bristol

Professor Eric Thomas, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol: "This is an important step forward in opening up the channels by which individuals can access some of the highest quality educational opportunities. In a world where people increasingly access content in a multiplicity of ways, it is only right that Higher Education can be accessed by alternative and complementary methods."

Cardiff

Professor Colin Riordan, Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University said: “Cardiff is a global player, with an academic community recognised for its international distinction and impact. We’re pleased to partner with the Open University as one of the first universities to join Futurelearn and to lead the sector in Wales.  This exciting initiative provides a real opportunity to extend access across the world to our high quality education experience.”

East Anglia

University of East Anglia Vice-Chancellor Professor Edward Acton described the venture as an exciting opportunity in the development of accessible education. He said: “We are delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Open University on this venture and to be part of a much wider movement to make higher education truly accessible.”

Exeter

Professor Sir Steve Smith, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter, said: “This is an exciting new opportunity to provide learning in a different way and open up our expertise to new audiences. Online learning is becoming an integral part of what universities do and Futurelearn will take provision to a new level.”

Lancaster

Lancaster’s Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark E. Smith: “I believe that MOOCs have the potential to make a transformational impact on global higher education and Lancaster University has been following their rapid development by leading US universities with interest. We welcome this initiative spearheaded by the Open University, and we look forward to examining in detail what role Lancaster might play in the coming months.”

Leeds

“I’m delighted that Leeds is part of this exciting development. FutureLearn will give people around the world the opportunity to sample some of the great education offered here. It will also mean that those unable to access a traditional university education will have the chance to learn from our world-leading academics,” said Professor Vivien Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Student Education at the University of Leeds.

“And our current students will have access to a rich, interactive set of resources, from both Leeds and our partners.  In line with the Leeds Curriculum, this will help give them a deeper and fuller understanding of their field of study as well as encouraging them to broaden their education beyond their main subject areas.”

St Andrews

Professor Louise Richardson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of St Andrews: “We are delighted to be involved in Futurelearn and to explore the exciting possibilities it offers students both here at home and across the world to experience the best of Scottish higher education.

“New technologies necessarily mean that universities will be very different in 20 years’ time, and Futurelearn is aiming to set an early benchmark for the UK in distance learning by marrying high quality academic content with state of the art expertise in course delivery.”

Southampton

“As a recognised pioneer of open data, the University of Southampton is delighted to join The Open University as one of the Foundation partners in Futurelearn," said Professor Don Nutbeam, Vice-Chancellor. "We are a university with a strong global outlook and can foresee many potential benefits to making our coursework available and accessible to people around the world as part of this excellent initiative for UK higher education."

Warwick

Professor Nigel Thrift Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick said: “Warwick already has significant experience of creating and delivering innovative online teaching and learning such as; its Teaching Shakespeare programme delivered in partnership with the RSC, its renowned distance learning MBA, and the work of its International Gateway for Gifted Youth. We are delighted to bring that experience, and add some of our innovative teaching, to this initiative. This will clearly be an exciting way for a global audience to experience the high quality teaching of a selection of the UK’s top ranked universities. Students will gain access of some of the most exciting teaching and learning opportunities offered by many of the UK’s leading universities.”