

# The Open University in Northern Ireland

## Skill Up Flexible Skills Fund 2024

### Guidance Notes

August 2024



Department for the  
**Economy**  
[www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)

An Roinn  
**Geilleagair**

**Skill Up**

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## **1.0 KEY APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Welcome to The Open University's Skill Up, Flexible Skills Fund guidance notes for our Autumn 2024 offering.

### **1.1 Residential eligibility criteria**



- To be eligible for a fully funded place you must be domiciled in Northern Ireland
- eligible to work in Northern Ireland
- settled in Northern Ireland, and ordinarily resident in the UK for at least three years or have indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK
- over 18 years of age

Please note as part of the application process and entry requirements stipulated by the Department for the Economy, you will be asked to provide proof of residential status in Northern Ireland. We are required to verify residential status for every round of funding. All applicants are required to provide this with every application.

### **1.2 Further eligibility**

For this presentation, we have a limited number of funded places available. Please review the eligibility requirements for the module you wish to apply for.

### **1.3 Shortlisting criteria**

The panel when assessing applications will consider the following:

- The overall quality and strength of the application and supporting statement. The panel will assess educational background, professional background and evidence of how funding will aid career and/or personal development.
- Academic achievement on previous Open University postgraduate modules and/or microcredentials. Assessment scores and examinable scores (where available) will be taken into consideration.
- Where applicable how applicants meet their chosen module entry requirements.

The decision of the panel is final.

### **1.4 Making an application.**



Please note that to be considered for a fully funded place, an application form must be completed via the application form on the Skill-Up webpage: <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/choose/skill-up>

Complete the application form for the module that you would like to apply for. The application form is available from: [The Open University | Courses and Qualifications](#) under “**How to Apply**”.

Whilst it is extremely unlikely, we cannot guarantee that **all courses** will run.

The closing date for applications is:

- **12 September 2024 at 12 noon**

Late applications will **NOT** be accepted.

We ask that you only submit one application form for the module you would like to study. If you submit more than one application, we will shortlist based on the information included in the first application. We expect to receive significant interest for our courses so please apply as soon as possible.

If you have studied with us previously, you will be required to provide your personal identification (PI) number with your application. If you are unsure of this number or need to confirm any detail from your study record, please contact our student support team by e-mailing [northern-ireland@open.ac.uk](mailto:northern-ireland@open.ac.uk)

### **1.5 Deferred Students**

If you have formally deferred a funded place and are applying to return to your module within the permitted timeframe outlined at the time of your deferral, please make an application as via the deferred application link: [Skill Up: Deferred postgraduate student form \(open.ac.uk\)](#).



Please note that if you are intending to take up your deferred place, you will not be eligible to apply for a further funded module to study concurrently along with the module you are returning to. An application to return to a deferred module will supersede any additional application for a further module. Additional applications will not be considered by the panel.

### **1.6 Registration**

If you are successful in securing a place on a funded module, you will be notified by email. (Please see section 2 for key timescales for anticipated dates of notifications) The email will outline the steps you are required to complete registration and the deadlines for this process.

All applicants will be notified of outcome of decision **by email**.

## **2.0 KEY TIMESCALES**

### **2.1 Key timescales**



Submit your application form by:

- **12 September 2024 at 12 noon**
- Late applications will **not be accepted**.
- Confirmation of receipt of application form will be sent to you within 24 hours (if submitted on a Friday, it will be Monday before we can confirm).
- Following this, if you still haven't received a confirmation, please email: **[Ireland-skillup@open.ac.uk](mailto:Ireland-skillup@open.ac.uk)**

## **2.2 Decision outcome**

We hope to provide the outcome of applications **by the following dates:**

### **Postgraduate Applications:**

- All applications will be notified by **week commencing 23 September 2024**.

### **Microcredential Applications:**

- All applications will be notified by **week commencing 23 September 2024**.

*Due to the significant volumes of applications, we are likely to receive, we are unable to provide unsuccessful applicants with feedback on their application.*

## **3.0 DISABILITY SUPPORT**

### **Open University Postgraduate Modules**



If you have a disability, you can find out more information on the support that may be available to you while you study an Open University course here: [Disability support | Help Centre | The Open University](#)

#### 4.0 KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

For all further enquiries, please email [Ireland-skillup@open.ac.uk](mailto:Ireland-skillup@open.ac.uk)

#### 5.0 FUNDED MODULES AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

##### 5.1 Postgraduate study general information

At The Open University we offer a modular approach to learning. Our modular delivery has many benefits including bite size, stackable blocks of learning that can be built upon to suit professional and/or personal commitments across short, medium, and long - term plans, helping to make adult learning opportunities more flexible and accessible to help you fit your study around life commitments.

Each module ranges from 15 – 120 credits with most modules having 30 credits. Credits measure the learner workload required for successful completion of a module qualification. One credit represents about 10 hours of study over the duration of the course.

We recommend that you study no more than 30 credits at any one time.

We offer the option to combine modules towards an Open University qualification, allowing you the flexibility to build your qualification from a postgraduate certificate to a Masters degree as highlighted below:

<b>Postgraduate certificate</b>	<b>Postgraduate diploma</b>	<b>Master's degree</b>
60 postgraduate points	120 postgraduate points	180 postgraduate points

[For more information on study pathways please visit: Postgraduate Qualifications | The Open University](#)

## **5.2 Funded Modules**

The following modules are available for application for November 2024

### **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) modules:**

[Strategic Capabilities for Technological Innovation](#) (T849) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

[Technological Innovation Management](#) (TB801) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

[Data Management](#) (M816) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

[Network Security](#) (T828) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

[Information Security](#) (M811) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

[Software Engineering](#) (M814) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

[Making Environmental Decisions](#) (T891) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

[Environmental Monitoring and Protection](#) (T868) (30 Credits)

Start date: 1 November 2024

### **Leadership and Management modules:**

\*[Managing in a Changing World](#) (B870) (30 Credits)

Start date: 2 November 2024

[Creating and Sustaining Value](#) (B872) (30 Credits)





*\*You must successfully complete Managing in a Changing World (B870) before taking this module\**

Start date: 2 November 2024

[\\*Effective Strategic Management in Business and the Public Sector](#) (B873) (30 Credits)

*You must successfully complete Managing in a Changing World (B870) and Creating and Sustaining Value (B872) before taking this module.*

Start date: 2 November 2024

[Finance for Strategic Decision-Making](#) (B874) (15 Credits)

*You must successfully complete Managing in a Changing World (B870) and Creating and Sustaining Value (B872) before taking this module.*

Start date: 2 November 2024

[MBA Project: Leaders of Change](#) (B875) (30 Credits)

*This is a compulsory module in the Open University Business School Masters degree programme, and you must have successfully completed Managing in a changing world (B870) and Creating and sustaining value (B872) before registering on this module.*

Start date: 2 November 2024

[Supply Chain Management](#) (BB849) (15 Credits)

Start date: 2 November 2024

[Sustainable Creative Management](#) (BB842) (15 Credits)

Start date: 2 November 2024

[Entrepreneurship in context](#) (BB851) (15 Credits)

Start date: 2 November 2024

[Contemporary Issues in Organisations](#) (BB853) (15 Credits)

Start date: 2 November 2024

*\*For the postgraduate business modules (*Effective strategic management in business and the public sector B873* and *Managing in a changing world B870*) listed above it is compulsory to attend a residential school. For those modules starting in November (2024), we will be offering one face-to-face residential school and online versions. More details about residential schools will be made available to successful applicants on registration.*

### **5.3 Microcredential study general information**



A microcredential is a shorter and sharper type of university-level online learning experience. Courses are delivered at undergraduate and postgraduate level and usually take 10-12 weeks to complete. Microcredentials are becoming more popular in industry and education due to their focused and flexible delivery.

There are many benefits to undertaking a microcredential:

- Current course content that is fully accredited to address specific skills gaps within a reasonable timeframe;
- Self-paced to suit professional and personal commitments; and
- Meets a range of diverse learning styles and preferences, contributing to professional growth.

The fully funded microcredentials on offer through the Skill up, Flexible Skills Fund include:

### **Undergraduate microcredentials**

Courses start **28 October 2024** and runs for **10 weeks**.

#### **Green skills**

- [Climate Change: Transforming your Organisation for Sustainability](#)

#### **Software**

- [Cisco: Python Programming \(OpenEDG\)](#)

#### **Leadership and Management**

- [Business Management: Marketing Principles and Practice](#)
- [Business Management: Improving Organisational Practice](#)
- [Business Management: People Management and Leadership](#)
- [Business Management: Project Management](#)
- [Business Management: Financial Accounting for Non-Financial Roles](#)
- [Business Management: Fundamentals of Management Accounting](#)

### **Postgraduate Microcredentials**

Courses start **14 October 2024** and runs for **12 weeks**.

#### **Leadership and Management**

- [Agile Leadership and Management](#)

