



University Campus  
**Oldham**

Higher Education at Oldham College

# YOU'RE OUR NUMBER **ONE**

**We put your future first**

## **Mini Guide 2026/27**

DEGREES • HNC/HND • TEACHER TRAINING • FOUNDATION YEARS  
FOUNDATION DEGREES • MASTER'S

# Welcome to University Campus Oldham



## You're our number one.

At University Campus Oldham (UCO), we put your future first. From day one, you'll be supported by tutors who genuinely care about your progress. We keep our class sizes small, so you get the one-to-one support that makes all the difference.

Whether you're returning to education or progressing from college or sixth form, you'll find high-quality, career-focused courses right here in Oldham. Developed with leading universities and shaped by local employers,

our programmes are designed to give you the skills and confidence you need for your future.

As part of the Oldham College family, UCO offers a dedicated campus and a shared commitment to investing in your future and empowering you to succeed.

You're not just a student here, you're at the heart of everything we do.

**Susan Holden**

Assistant Principal - HE and Higher Skills



## UCO celebrates outstanding 2025 NSS results



We're proud to share that University Campus Oldham has scored above the national sector average in all key areas of the 2025 National Student Survey (NSS).

### Key areas where UCO scored above the sector average include:

- ↑ Academic support – **9.1% above**
- ↑ Assessment and feedback – **11.1% above**
- ↑ Learning opportunities – **4.7% above**
- ↑ Learning resources – **4.9% above**
- ↑ Organisation and management – **5.1% above**
- ↑ Student voice – **8% above**
- ↑ Teaching – **4.1% above**

## Leading in Greater Manchester



UCO achieved the highest scores among all further education colleges in the region of Greater Manchester for:

### Academic support

# 96.9%

### Learning resources

# 92.8%

These results reflect our commitment to delivering high-quality teaching, tailored student support, and a positive learning experience.

# Why UCO?

UCO offers degrees and professional qualifications in the heart of Oldham, with the support to help you succeed.

Here are five reasons to choose us:



## Study close to home

Our town centre campus is easy to reach and right in the centre of the community, meaning no long commutes and no extra costs for accommodation or living away from home.



## Learn from genuine experience

Our tutors bring industry knowledge and experience into every session, so you can be sure that what you learn will apply in the professional world.



## Degrees that open doors

We work with respected universities and local employers to deliver qualifications that lead to real opportunities.



## Designed around real life

Whether you're working, raising a family or starting afresh, we offer flexible study options to help you balance learning with other commitments.



## Support that puts you first

You'll get tailored support and regular check-ins, because we genuinely care about your progress. From your first day to graduation and beyond, at UCO, **you're our number one.**



**"UCO not only gave me the degree I needed but also the confidence to grow. The advice and encouragement from my tutors still guides me today."**

**Esther Malala**  
BSc (Hons) Psychology



# Hear from our students



## Aliyah Jabbar

### BA (Hons) Education and Early Years

☞ I chose UCO because it was close to home and I wasn't ready for a big university. Visiting on Open Days reassured me, smaller classes and extra support were exactly what I needed.

One of my highlights was accessing Student Support, where I got a dyslexia assessment. It completely changed how I learned, and tutors knew how to support me. I also chose my own placements, which gave me the freedom to explore safeguarding and mental health work.

Careers helped me with CVs and job hunting, even after I graduated.

Now I'm a Programme Co-ordinator at Greater Manchester Youth Network and a Mental Health First Aider. UCO gave me the skills and confidence to get here. ☞



## Gareth Kerwin

### BA (Hons) Business Management

☞ I was drawn to UCO for its unique strengths, particularly the personalised support and smaller class sizes. This allowed me and other students to form a personal relationship with tutors, which meant tailored support and guidance was provided to each student. Tutors and support staff were available to answer questions, offer guidance and provide quality feedback, which enabled me to achieve a first-class degree in Business Management.

My UCO studies equipped me with essential skills in communication, project management, and relationship building, tools I rely on daily in my position as a Work Experience Placement Officer.

I would strongly recommend that anyone considering university should visit UCO to explore what it has to offer. ☞

## Makshuda Khatun

### BA (Hons) Children and Young People

☞ I chose UCO because it was local and I'd heard great things from family who had studied here. Returning to education after a long break felt like a dream come true.

The highlight was the supportive environment, staff were helpful, and I made lots of friends. I completed placements at my children's school, delivering 1:1 interventions, which helped me connect theory to real-life experience and boosted my confidence.

With careers and library support, I developed research, CV, and interview skills, which helped me secure a role as a Teaching Assistant and now a Learning Mentor.

UCO changed my life, it opened doors I didn't know existed and gave me the confidence to step into the bigger world. ☞



## Stacey Sharples

### BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice

☞ I chose UCO because it was local, small, and supportive, perfect for studying Criminology, a subject I'd always wanted to pursue.

I really enjoyed the small lectures and personal approach from tutors, which motivated me and suited my learning style as someone with dyslexia. While my course didn't include placements, working in a care home gave me transferable skills.

UCO supported me through bereavement, having a child, and dyslexia, and the Careers team helped me secure my dream role as a Probation Officer.

UCO gave me the knowledge, perspective, and confidence to succeed in a challenging role I'd wanted since I was 15. I'd tell anyone thinking about UCO to go for it, it's welcoming, supportive, and life-changing. ☞



# Explore UCO: Visit an event

There's no better way to explore UCO than by visiting in person.

Our Open Events are the perfect chance to tour the campus, meet tutors and students, and get a feel for what it's really like to study here. Whether you're just starting to explore your options or ready to apply, everyone's welcome.

Already applied, or keen to explore university study in more depth? Our HE Experience Event is for you. It's a great opportunity to experience UCO first-hand through sample sessions, tours and time with our team, plus you'll get to meet some of your future classmates.

Visit our website to check upcoming dates and pre-register to secure your place.  
[uco.oldham.ac.uk/open-events](https://uco.oldham.ac.uk/open-events)



# Student support

You're our number one and that means real support, right from the start.

Whether you need help settling in, building confidence, improving your study skills, or planning your next steps, we're here for you.

- **Academic Success Centre:** Practical study support whenever you need it
- **Wellbeing and Disability Support:** Tailored help for your health needs and goals
- **The Wellbeing Hub:** A calm, welcoming space on campus
- **Graduate Hub:** Careers and progression support beyond your degree.

All of this, and more, is right here on our fully equipped campus, with teaching spaces, a library, social areas and everything in one easy-to-access location.

This is your journey. We're here to help you make the most of it.

[uco.oldham.ac.uk/student-support](https://uco.oldham.ac.uk/student-support)



Find out  
more



# Financial support

We'll help you to make sense of tuition fees, maintenance loans, grants and funding options.

Most students apply for a Tuition Fee Loan and a Maintenance Loan to support their studies and living costs. Depending on your circumstances, you might also be eligible for additional support such as a Childcare Grant or Disabled Students' Allowance.

While we don't offer onsite accommodation, our Student Services team can offer guidance on local housing options for living independently.

For full details and application advice, visit:  
[uco.oldham.ac.uk/fees-and-finance](https://uco.oldham.ac.uk/fees-and-finance)



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# Qualifications explained

Choose from a wide range of courses to suit your goals, from foundation degrees to post-graduate courses and professional qualifications.

Choose a qualification that works for you.

- **Bachelor of Arts or Science Degrees with Honours (BA/BSc)**  
A full degree recognised in the UK and Europe. Usually takes three years to complete full-time.
- **Foundation Degrees in Arts or Science (FdA/FdSc)**  
A level 5 qualification, equal to the first two years of a degree. Combines work-based learning with academic study.
- **Higher National Certificate and Diploma (HNC/HND)**  
Respected by employers and more practical than a traditional degree, these qualifications offer direct career pathways.

- **Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQ)**  
These are level 4 and 5 qualifications, such as Foundation Degrees, HNCs and HNDs that have been approved against employer developed standards and provide the skills needed for your career.
- **Master's Degrees (MA)**  
A Master's is a level 7 course you can take after finishing your degree. It lets you explore a subject in more depth and can help you get ahead in your career.
- **Professional Diplomas**  
These are practical courses that focus on skills for a specific job or industry.
- **Teacher Education Programmes**  
Courses to help you qualify as a teacher or advance your teaching career, with routes for both new and experienced professionals.
- **Top Up Degrees (Hons)**  
Add one final year to your HND or Foundation Degree to earn a full Honours Degree.

Learn more, visit: [uco.oldham.ac.uk/higher-education-qualifications](https://uco.oldham.ac.uk/higher-education-qualifications)



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# Our courses

## Business, Leadership and Management

Gain the insight, confidence, and professional qualifications to succeed in modern organisations. From understanding how businesses respond to change, to leading teams and managing projects, our courses develop the skills employers value most.

Choose from CMI-accredited pathways to sharpen your leadership, communication and decision-making abilities in a fast-changing world.



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Scan here to view our **Business, Leadership and Management** courses



## Construction

Our courses teach the essential and specialist skills construction employers want. You'll develop practical, hands-on experience and technical knowledge, including modern building methods and digital tools.

Prepare for a rewarding career in a growing industry.



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Scan here to view our **Construction** courses





## Counselling and Psychology

Help others improve their mental health and wellbeing with courses that teach therapeutic skills and psychological insight.

From counselling techniques to understanding human behaviour, you'll gain the tools to make a real impact in people's lives.



Scan here to view our **Counselling and Psychology** courses

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## Creative Arts and Design

Whether you're drawn to Graphic Design, Game Art or Illustration, our creative courses help you turn ideas into inspiring work.

You'll experiment with new techniques, respond to live briefs and build an industry-ready portfolio, all while developing your unique artistic voice.



Scan here to view our **Creative Arts and Design** courses

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## Criminology

Explore what drives criminal behaviour and how society responds to it. Our courses combine theory and practical insight, preparing you for roles in criminal justice, youth offending, social work or victim support.

Build the critical thinking and professional skills needed to make a real impact.



Scan here to view our **Criminology** courses

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## Education, Children and Young People

Make a difference in young lives. Our courses help you understand how children grow, learn and thrive and how to support them in doing so.

With experienced tutors and hands-on placements, you'll achieve the skills and confidence to work in education, family support, or youth services.



Scan here to view our **Education, Children and Young People** courses

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## Health and Care Professions

Health and care systems are evolving - now working more closely with services like social care, the NHS and charities. Our courses reflect these changes, so you won't just learn the theory, you'll explore how it applies to real-world settings.

You'll learn to support others, influence future services, and develop the knowledge and confidence to make a real difference.



Scan here to view our **Health and Care Professions** courses

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## Teacher Education

Want to teach in further education, adult learning or training? Our courses give you the skills to qualify and teach in a wide range of settings.

With options for those already in the sector or starting anew, with our expert support you'll receive the knowledge and experience to inspire others and progress your career.



Scan here to view our **Teacher Education** courses

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# What's next?

You can apply directly to University Campus Oldham or apply via UCAS.

Here's a quick overview of what happens next:

## Explore your options

Chat with us or speak to a careers adviser to find the right course for you.



## Come to our Open Event and HE Experience Event

Visit campus, meet our students and tutors and see what it's like to study here. Want to dive deeper? Join us at our HE Experience Event to discover more.



## Apply online

Choose your course and apply directly at [uco.oldham.ac.uk](http://uco.oldham.ac.uk). You can also choose to apply for a full-time undergraduate course through UCAS. Please make sure you follow the official UCAS deadlines, as late applications may not be given equal consideration.

## Sort your student finance

Most students apply for loans to help with tuition fees and living costs.



## Get ready to start

You'll be invited to Welcome Week, which is where you will register, meet your tutors and classmates, and settle into UCO life.

# How to find us

We're based in the heart of Oldham: easy to reach and easy to feel at home.



## By tram

Oldham Central and Oldham King Street Metrolink stops are just a three-minute walk from campus. Trams run every 12 minutes, connecting you to Manchester and Rochdale in less than 30 minutes.



## By bus

Oldham Bus Station is nearby, offering routes across Greater Manchester.



## By car

We're less than 15 minutes from the M60 (Junction 22) and M62 (Junction 20). Hobson Street Pay & Display car park (OL1 1TT) is directly opposite the campus.



Scan to find the best route for you




# Stay connected

Follow us on social media for the latest news and student stories.

 @UniversityCampusOldham

 University Campus Oldham

 @UC\_Oldham

# Our academic partners

We work with top UK universities and awarding bodies, so your qualification is nationally and globally recognised. Our partners include:

University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring global professionals

 University of  
Lancashire

  
HE Partner

 The Open  
University

 Sheffield  
Hallam  
University

 Pearson





University Campus  
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Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that all information in this mini guide is correct at the time of going to print. For the most up to date information please check **[uco.oldham.ac.uk](http://uco.oldham.ac.uk)**