

Managing My Money

AN AWARD-WINNING INTRODUCTORY COURSE DESIGNED TO DEVELOP PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS PRODUCED BY THE OPEN UNIVERSITY'S TRUE POTENTIAL CENTRE FOR THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF FINANCE (TRUE POTENTIAL PUFIN).

THE COURSE IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND FREE OF CHARGE.

Over 45,000 people signed up for the first three presentations of the course in 2014 and 2015. Amongst the substantial positive feedback were these comments:-

"Many thanks for the course. It should be compulsory for all school leavers! Given the upheavals in pensions and benefits, the course content is highly relevant to all households."

Jeff Shaw

"This course was quite an eye opener for me as I thought I was quite 'savvy' with my personal finance. Thank you all very much both to staff and to other students who have made comments, suggested new things and generally helped me on my way."

Hilary Kitchen

Managing My Money will have regular further presentations on FutureLearn.

The course has also been adapted for radio. It is now presented as a 16 programme series by Share Radio.

Overview

With Managing My Money you learn the key basic skills to manage your personal finances: managing budgets, debts, investments, property purchase, pensions and insurance.



About the course

With household budgets under pressure in recent years and personal debt at a record high, there has never been a better time to improve your personal financial skills – 'Managing My Money' aims to do just that.

The course starts by giving you practical guidance on how to compile a budget and use it to make good decisions about your spending. You'll explore debts and investments, and find out how mortgages are used to finance home ownership. The critical issue of pension planning is explained, with guidance on different pension products.

The course concludes by examining different types of insurance and offers practical advice on how to make rational decisions about which insurance products to buy.

Using up-to-the-minute data from the UK you develop financial skills and approaches that are relevant globally. The course is rich in high-quality text, images, video, audio and interactive elements to support your learning. Multiple-choice tests at the end of each week of study enable you to track your progress up the personal finance learning curve.

Your financial profile

Some of the handiest features are the financial challenges, planners and calculators you get to explore throughout the course. See how you score in the financial bad habits test, build up your personal budget and household balance sheet, and develop your own 'fact find' to take away at the end of the course. Your fact find is available to use throughout the course as a record of your goals and financial circumstances. Record your own details and, if you wish, those of your partner.

Where to find the course

This course is presented on **OpenLearn** (the home of free learning from The Open University) and will be presented again on FutureLearn in 2016. You can also follow the radio series of Managing My Money on Share Radio:

www.open.edu/openlearn/ocw/money-management/managing-my-money/content-section-overview

www.futurelearn.com/courses/managing-my-money

www.shareradio.co.uk/help-guides/managing-my-money

What are the requirements?

This free course is intended for anyone with an interest in developing their personal financial skills to make good decisions when managing their finances and buying financial products. The course does not require any previous experience of studying this subject.

The course is designed to run on desktops, tablets and mobile devices; however, some of the material is quite detailed and using a larger screen will enhance your experience. Materials are best viewed running the most up-to-date software available for your device and using the most recent version of the web browser.

What's in the course?

The course involves 3 hours of study per week.

Week 1: Financial planning and the life-course
Week 2: Income, taxation and benefits
Week 3: Expenditure and budgeting
Week 4: Debt and borrowing
Week 5: Savings and investments
Week 6: Housing and the household balance sheet
Week 7: Pensions
Week 8: Insurance

Martin Upton is your educator and guide through the course. He is Director of the True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance, based at The Open University Business School. He'll meet you at the start of each week to tip you off about highlights and challenges, to remind you what you've learned and to help you make the most of these eight weeks of learning to manage your money.



The establishment and activities of the Open University's True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance have been made possible thanks to the generous support of True Potential LLP. True Potential has committed to a five-year programme of financial support for the Centre.

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