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Universities: The Open University 开放大学

Andrea: Forty-one years ago The Open University was formed.

Jean: 英国的开放大学是英国第一所使用远程教育进行授课的大学。Distance learning 远程学习。

Andrea: And today, it's been voted one of Britain's top universities. Hello I'm Andrea.

Jean: 大家好，我是董征。

Andrea: In this series, we're finding out a bit about some of the UK's top universities and what it's like to study at them.

Jean: 但是这所开放大学 Open University 或者叫它的缩写 OU 并不是一所普通的大学，因为它的教学方式并不传统，并不 conventional.

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I think one of the stunning things about the OU is the way in which we use very high quality traditional texts in our teaching, but we guide students through them and our approach is multi-media. And I think for those who haven't studied for a long time, who lack those skills, our emphasis has always been on developing those skills and taking people through it.

Andrea: That was Professor Kathryn Woodward from the Open University. She says that the OU uses high quality texts or books, but the approach is multi-media.

Jean: The approach is multi-media 他们的教学方式是多媒体。

Andrea: And she also says that they help people who haven't studied for a long time.

Jean: 她还说，开放大学的教育重点是帮助学生开发他们的技能 developing skills.

Andrea: How the OU works is that you sign up for a course but you do the work in your own time. That means unlike other universities you don't go into classes. So it relies on technology. Former Vice-Chancellor of the OU, Brenda Gourley, explains.

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The Open University has an enormous virtual learning network of students, probably one of the largest virtual networks of any university in the world actually, and it's a very lively community of people. They've got support groups, chatrooms, they have seminars, they have clubs and societies, they have peer to peer mentoring. So when you talk about keeping in touch, all these new technologies have given us terrific ways of people being in touch with each other and in the process helping each other.

Jean: Brenda 刚才给我们谈到了开放大学中的虚拟学习网络 **virtual learning network**. 就是说, 学生们可以通过网上的聊天室和其他同学交流, 也可以开展网上的学术讨论会。

Andrea: They even have societies and clubs online, just like other universities.

Jean: 所以虽说开放大学的学生们不是坐在校园的教室里上课, 他们依然可以拥有一个丰富活跃的大学生活。当然如果他们的电脑出了毛病, 那就不好办了。

Andrea: It's definitely an alternative or different way of studying. This young woman has been doing a course through the Open University.

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I'm quite self-motivated which you have to be, but I've also found it amazing because I've been able to do so much at the same time. I'm 21 so obviously a social life is important, but I don't really think I've missed out at all.

Jean: 说话的这位女士就是在开放大学读完了一个专业, 她说她自己是一个很自觉很有自我激发力的人 **self-motivated**.

Andrea: Studying in this way has given her time to do other things and she doesn't think she's missed out on a social life.

Jean: A social life 社交生活。Andrea, did you have a good social life when you were studying 你上大学的时候有时间出去社交吗?

Andrea: I had a very good social life, thank you Jean, and meeting other students and going to university events was so much a part of my degree. So I really can't imagine not having that.

Jean: 是的, 大学生活相当重要的一部分就是和其他学生的社交和参加校园和社会的各种活动。不过正如刚才这位女毕业生所说, 在英国进行远程学习也是有着很强的优势。

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Because I could work at the same time, I've had enough money to move out of my parent's house and live with some friends who are actually at a regular university. And that's brought with it opportunities to join in with some of their activities and stuff as well.



- Andrea:** So studying with the OU has allowed this woman to save money and work at the same time as getting her degree.
- Jean:** 所以她和朋友们住在一起也能读完一个大学课程。而且她也并不缺少可以参加大学活动的机会 **opportunities**.
- Andrea:** Studying in the UK can be expensive, especially if you're a foreign student. It can cost around 4 thousand pounds a year to study here.

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I think the affordability of the Open University will be a real attraction for young people in the near future, because conventional university is getting more expensive and comparatively the Open University can be amazingly affordable.

- Jean:** 看来，读开放大学的一大优点就是费用不贵容易承担 **affordable**。尤其是和英国其他的大学相比就更是这样。“相比之下”就是 **comparatively**.
- Andrea:** And it's this that will attract young people to this particular university.
- Jean:** 虽然英国开放大学的排名还是比不上牛津和剑桥，但是它能为学生提供费用不高而且学习方式灵活的独特优势。看来也是值得我们考虑的一个选择。那么我们今天的节目就要结束了，也欢迎大家经常到我们的网站来收听和学习更多的 **BBC** 英语教学节目，我们的网址是 **bbcukchina.com**. **Goodbye!**
- Andrea:** Bye!

Glossary

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| distance learning 远程学习 | alternative 非传统的 |
| conventional 传统的 | self-motivated 自我激发的 |
| approach 方式，方法 | opportunities 机会 |
| developing skills 开发技能 | affordable 经济上可承担的 |
| virtual learning network 虚拟学习网络 | comparatively 相比之下 |