

Student Mobility Through OpenCourseware

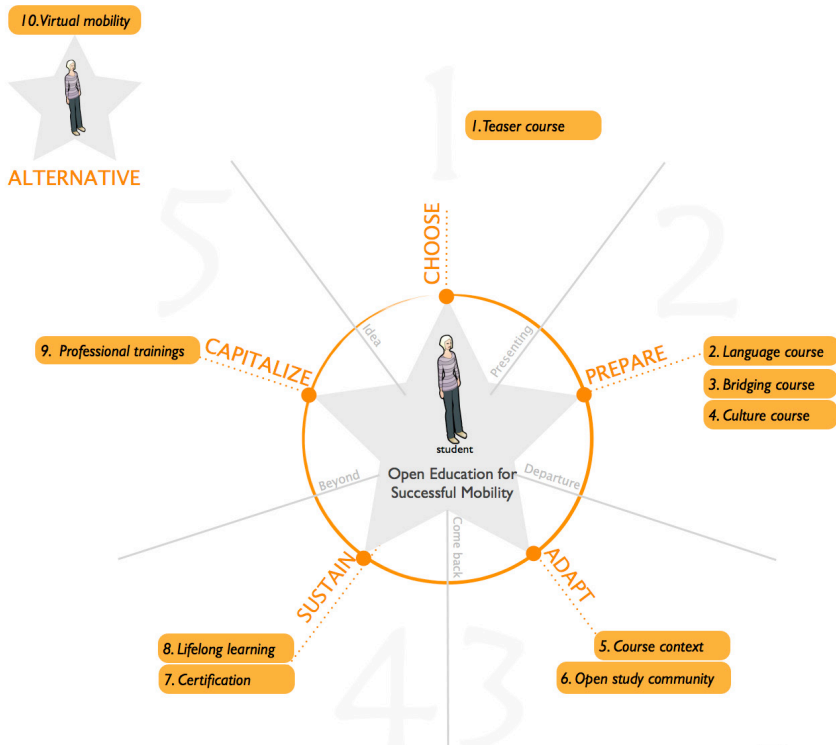
OpenCourseWare

Planning to study abroad? Interested in learning about other places, languages and approaches? Want to improve your understanding of your subject areas?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, OpenCourseWare can help you. OpenCourseWare (OCW) are openly licensed educational resources that are available for everyone to use, modify and share freely. There are hundreds of thousands of such resources, including video lectures, textbooks and readings, syllabi, notes, simulations and open discussion forums available now, with more resources added all the time. All you need to do is find what you'd like to study and start learning.

Student Mobility

Student mobility refers to the exchange of students among institutions. Typically, this means students leave their home university for a length of time to attend a university in another country. There are a lot of decisions to be made when deciding to study abroad, which can be divided into the 5 phases shown in the diagram below. At each phase, OCW can supplement and support your decision. Or maybe you'd like to have the experience of studying abroad, but can't physically go abroad. OCW can help here, too, by providing a virtual mobility option.



Virtual Mobility

If you can't study abroad, or if you've studied abroad and want more international experiences, following open courses lets you sample courses of universities from all over the world from wherever you are. You can supplement your studies, prepare for a new job, gain knowledge to be successful on a project, or discover something new. OCW opens the world to you, and opens you to the world.

Phase 5: Capitalize

I see how important it is to learn from multiple perspectives. Now what?

You will never stop learning, especially in your career. Professional trainings are often provided by companies, which organize them for certain groups of employees. When these trainings are made accessible for anyone inside and outside the company, people can benefit in several ways. You can use the content of these trainings to develop more skills and therefore increase your job opportunities in the labour market. Companies can showcase their needs and requirements, enlarging the pool of qualified applicants for open positions. Students can see what knowledge companies value and prepare themselves appropriately before graduation. When everyone contributes to open knowledge, everyone benefits.

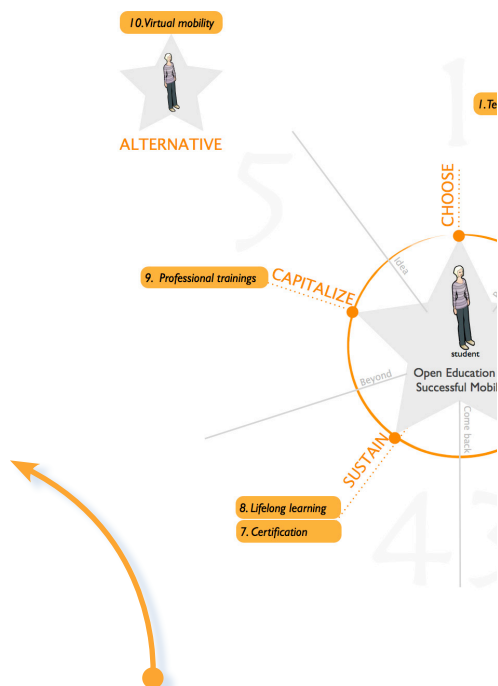
What can I do now that I'm home? How can I use what I've learned to help others?

Open Education can help you gain certification thanks to certificates of accomplishment, badges, Exemptions for Accredited Prior Learning (APL) can be attributed to you more easily when they are publicly available as OCW. When you graduate and become active in the labor market, you can keep your knowledge up to date and learning throughout your life. When the course is available, you have the opportunity to access the renewed and relevant content in the field of your study. You can learn about state of the art research results. Moreover, you can complement the course with your own experiences and insights you gain from working in the field of the Open Course. A real Open Community can be created.

Phase 1: Choose

How do I know?

Before going to Higher Education, you might wonder what it is like to study. You might wonder what it is like to study with 20 students instead of 20. Maybe you want to know what it is like to study and whether you will be able to understand the content. OCW can help you in your quest: it provides information that can help you understand the real difficulty of the content. OCW isn't only valuable when choosing your course to study abroad. In that case you can compare the content of the course to the one you best: you can assess the type of material and the quality of the teaching making a good choice.



Phase 4:

**Where do I go? What should I study?
How do I know if the institution will be a good fit for me?**

How to make decisions about what, where and how to study at university or to follow a class with 300 other students. Know what scientific articles and readings look like, and them. Using OCW and its educational materials for information about the new study and helps you to understand the course structure before you officially enroll. Your first university, but also when you plan to study at OCW of several institutions to gauge which one suits you best. Courses offered and increase your confidence that you're

Phase 2: Prepare

Do I have enough background in the subject area? Will I be able to understand all the vocabulary? What about cultural differences?

Once you choose the institute and the field of study, you can already start preparing for your experience abroad. You can use OCW to test your language readiness. An open language course can also help you integrate into the academic and cultural world of your destination. After all, language courses often contain a lot of cultural information about the countries where that language is spoken. Using OCW, you can also fill the knowledge gap at your own pace and on your own time.

Phase 3: Adapt

I'm abroad now, how do I make the most of my experience? I don't understand something in my class, what resources can help me? How do I stay connected to my home university?

Once you've started your international stay, you might stumble upon references to courses that local students have taken that you haven't. OCW can give you the missing background. If you don't understand a concept that's being taught in class, using OCW can help increase your understanding. Maybe there are resources beyond the classroom, for example, an open course on campus life for foreign students. By joining open online learning communities you can have contact with others in direct relation to the course content, or you can remain active in the social network of your own university by taking part in the open online communities at home. An open course presents the possibility to add content to the course and to share it with each other, no matter where you are. The study of an open course comes to its full potential when you actually become part of an open study community related to the content, which goes beyond students and teachers to include external stakeholders that are active in the field of study.

Sustain

How to get your study materials and how you benefit from OCW. How you took are openly shared and to read and learn practical knowledge can be constructed.

Open course



This leaflet was developed as a part of Workpackage 3 of the European OpenCourseWare project. A full version of the 'Handbook on OpenCourseWare and Student Mobility' is available on the project website www.opencourseware.eu/report.

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Authors

Mary-Lou Forward, Sophie Touzé, Edmundo Tovar, Fred Truyen, Stephanie Verbeken

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See www.opencourseware.eu/members

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