



# OPTIMISING COURSE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT WITH HYDRA

How Hydra transformed the way The Open  
University optimises its course creation

## Testimonial

"Hydra was selected because we needed to put the project at the heart of everything we do; by optimising processes and working collaboratively internally and externally on a 'single source of the truth'"

*Richard Howes, Programme Manager*



# THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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### BACKGROUND

The Open University is the UK's largest university and leading expert in flexible higher education underpinned by their world-leading research.

It is the global leader in online education, promoting educational opportunity and social justice by providing high-quality university education to all who wish to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential.

It offers 180 qualifications and 600 modules, and every day, millions of people access free OU content, no matter where they live in the world with 76% of students studying alongside work.

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## THE CHALLENGE

“The core mission, at The Open University, is to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. It is to provide the best possible education to the largest possible audience,” said Richard Howes, Programme Manager, “so course creation and management is a key component of our success.

The Open University delivers new courses every year and it’s crucial that each one of them is designed and delivered in the most effective way at the highest quality standard.”



## THE SOLUTION

Richard concludes “Hydra was selected because we needed to put the project at the heart of everything we do. Optimising processes through the development of student materials and working collaboratively internally and externally on a ‘single source of the truth’ will help the Open University reduce costs at the same time as increasing the quality of outputs.”

Phil Kirkham, Sales Director of Hydra commented “being chosen by The Open University is a great source of pride for all the Hydra team. In today’s organisations people face more disruptive forces than ever. Hydra gave The Open University the ability to build a plan that digitally connects stakeholder across a projects economy, ensuring disparate resources are working on the highest priorities, executing the plan and ultimately bringing a course to life.

The Open University is a recognised leader for quality and innovation, two values that also form the basis of Hydra’s philosophy of supporting organisations in their path to excellence.

The Open University were disruptive and revolutionary in their use of technology in 1969, and as they approach their 50<sup>th</sup> year, we have provided a disruptive and revolutionary technology to help them digitally transform operations ultimately allowing them to change the lives of tens of thousands of future learners.”



## RESULTS

Over just a few months, The Open University has on-boarded, and are running, in the region of 250 projects in Hydra, giving them a wealth of visibility and control across their portfolio and on their creative and technical teams.

Along with Hydra's project planning and management features, its business intelligence reporting now helps them optimise their business practices, and they now take advantage of current, and historical reporting across 20 customised dashboards.

In addition, The Open University has already used the best practice blueprinting approach to improve, and integrate on, their course creation projects and continuously improve consistency with every iteration and optimise every project they deliver.



## CONCLUSION

Phil concludes “the implementation of Hydra at The Open University went very well.

Working with people who are expert project managers in their own field certainly makes delivering projects on time and on budget much easier.

Total customer satisfaction is a core aim of the Hydra’s business model, and we will work closely with The Open University into the future”.



## CONTACTS

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