

### About the study

This survey forms part of a doctoral study being conducted by **Leo Havemann** about open education policy in higher education institutions around the world. The survey seeks the views of staff working in HEIs on local institutional drivers and the forms of policy or resourcing that are present to support such practices.

This study aims to discover in what ways open education is found in the policy of higher education institutions, either in documented policies, strategies or guidelines, or in ways of working.

For the purposes of this study, the concepts of **open education** (OE) and **institutional OE policy** are considered in a wide sense, in order to better capture what institutions are doing in the OE space, even if this is not stated *explicitly* in a written policy.

**Open education** (OE) can be described as a wide umbrella term, which can potentially cover many practices across formal, informal and non-formal education. This study is particularly focused on the intentions and effects of institutional policies, in higher education, on the following areas of practice:

- use, creation, sharing and adaptation of open educational resources (OER) - for example, open textbooks
- offering of free and lower-cost online courses - for example, MOOCs or microcredentials
- opening up of aspects of learning, teaching and assessment to external participants, partners and audiences - for example, open publication of student-generated content
- participating in open professional development communities - for example, tweetchats for sharing and discussion of practices

'Institutional policy' is often found in the form of documented policies, strategies, regulations or guidelines, but for the purposes of this research could also include a usual course of action, a regular part of a person's work, or a funded/supported area of activity. Therefore, the questions which follow will ask you whether your institution

- Makes explicit reference to aspects of OE in written policy (strategies, regulations and guidelines)
- Allocates funding to support OE initiatives, projects
- Provides infrastructure (platforms, tools) or support staff with relevant expertise for OE



# Open Education Policy Study

## Survey participant information

### About your data, anonymity and consent

The survey will include a question asking for your **consent** for the responses you provide to be collected and analysed by the researcher, anonymised and openly licensed as open data, and the research findings communicated. You will be asked to provide your email address, but this is optional. If you do not provide your email, your data will already be anonymised at the time of collection.

The data you share will be used anonymously towards my doctoral research. In addition, aspects of the data gathered through this survey may inform related studies, publications, and presentations in support of the work of the UNESCO OER Dynamic Coalition in achieving point 2 of the 2019 OER Recommendations 'Developing supportive policy for OER'. The anonymised data will be openly licensed and archived in the UK Data Service.

This survey opens 25 April 2022 and will remain open until 30 June 2022. Participant responses will be aggregated and anonymised in all outputs of the study. If you participate, and later decide to **withdraw** your participation in the survey, please contact [leo.havemann@open.ac.uk](mailto:leo.havemann@open.ac.uk) **by the survey closing date** so I can remove your responses. In order to do this I will need to identify which response you provided, and for this reason I request that you provide your email address. I will also ask whether you wish to be updated regarding the results of the survey, and potentially contacted about participation in a follow-up interview.

Many thanks for your interest in this project and please contact me, or alternatively my supervisor, if you have any questions about participating.

Yours faithfully

**Leo Havemann**, Doctoral Researcher  
Institute of Educational Technology  
The Open University  
Email [leo.havemann@open.ac.uk](mailto:leo.havemann@open.ac.uk)  
Twitter @leohavemann

My supervisor is **Professor Martin Weller**, [martin.weller@open.ac.uk](mailto:martin.weller@open.ac.uk)

*This project has been reviewed by, and received a favourable opinion from, The Open University Human Research Ethics Committee, reference 4248*