

Leadership and Management Skills

# Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship

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The Open University's Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship is designed to create leaders and managers capable of making strategy, managing change and co-designing systems interventions. The programme will provide apprentices with the underpinning knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) to enable effective managing of situations of ongoing change and uncertainty.



# Agenda

## Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship

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- About The Open University
- Video What is Systems Thinking ?
- What do Systems Thinking Practitioners do?
- What skill sets do Systems Thinking develop?
- How systems thinking and practice benefit organisations?
- Where can Systems Thinking be used?
- System Thinking and Practice at The Open University
- About the System Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship delivered by The Open University



# Our pedigree.

Choose from

**200**  
qualifications  
**400**  
modules



**1 in 12**  
degree apprentices  
in England are on  
OU programmes



students are  
already in work.



Provides training  
to over **190** local  
councils and health  
care providers

FTSE  
100



**77**

FTSE 100 companies  
have sponsored  
staff with us

**+2,800**

employers work with the OU to  
support their ongoing learning  
and development needs

**50**  
years

we've made it our  
mission to open up  
education for all

**+2 million**

students in 157 countries

**+168,000**

current students

The fastest  
**growing**  
provider of degree  
apprenticeships

**27**

International  
partnerships with  
educational institutions  
across 20 countries



UNIT 10: THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

UNIT 10: THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

# Where are Systems Thinking Practitioners found?

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Ideal for people who:

- work across **numerous organisational, disciplinary, and political boundaries** (internal or external),
- encounter a wide range of often **incompatible perspectives on issues** and tasks
- recognise the value of **engaging with multiple stakeholders** both within and beyond one's immediate sphere of influence and **seek to secure collaborative action** amongst them
- experience uncertainty** about the nature of the problem and thus what would constitute a solution (i.e. dealing with wicked problems or 'messes')

# What do Systems Thinking Practitioners do?

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- Support decision-makers in strategic and leadership roles to:
  - understand and address **complex** even '**wicked**' problems
  - that cannot be addressed by any one organisation or person,
  - which often require **cross-boundary collaboration**
  - that have no single 'owner' or cause,
  - no simple solution
  - require **multi-disciplinary, multi-organisational** responses
  - with sensitive attention to **diverse viewpoints**, behaviour, culture and politics
  - through provision of expert systemic analysis, advice and facilitation

# Where are Systems Thinking Practitioners found?

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- In the following situations :
  - **project or programme development** and/or delivery
  - multi-level group, organisational, institutional or professional **change and transformation**
  - **policy** analysis, development or implementation
  - **product and service design**, innovation and creativity
  - **leadership, team management** and professional development



# System Thinking and Practice at The Open University

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- Over 50 years experience of systems thinking education
- 30,000 people have studied our ideas
- We undertake research on systems ideas and their application in real-world settings
- We work with a wide range of issues and settings including:
  - environmental decision-making for sustainable development
  - international development
  - information systems management
  - social learning
  - systemic governance
  - organisational change in both public and private sectors
- Well established MSc Systems Thinking and Practice



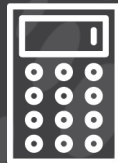
# Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship

Leadership and Management Skills

The work based training programme includes:



Postgraduate Diploma  
in Systems Thinking in  
Practice (Professional)



English and maths  
functional skills



Portfolio &  
Work-based Project  
Report



End point  
assessment

Duration: 2 years (excluding the End-point Assessment period).

# Programme delivery

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## Tutor supported, online learning:

- Books and eBooks
- Interactive and reflective activities
- Rich media (videos and animations)
- Online tutorials
- Practice tutor visits
- Forum discussions and activities
- OU Anywhere App



Source: Education & Skills Funding Agency



# B100 17B

An introduction to business and management

0%

Current weeks

All weeks

EXPAND ALL

## Welcome

### Welcome to B100

A warm welcome to *An introduction to business and management*. Feel free to make an early start on the tasks outlined in Week 1 if you are able to do so. We hope you will find B100 enjoyable and exciting to study and we wish you every success in your studies.



Block 1 Introduction  
28 January – 3 February

0 of 4  
completed



Block 1 Introduction, continued

0 of 1



Tutor

Anon ymous

[Contact your tutor >](#)

News

There is no news yet







WEEK

7


## Block 2 Working in organisations, continued

### Block 2: Session 7

[Introduction](#)[1 What does 'flexibility' mean?](#)[2 Readings 18–20](#)[3 Contrasting perspectives on zero-hour contracts](#)[4 Tutor Group Forum activity](#)[5 Using a mind map to understand team roles](#)[6 Diversity](#)[Summary](#)[References](#)[Further reading](#)[View as single page](#)

## 1 What does 'flexibility' mean?

### Activity 7.1

 Spend approximately 30 minutes on this activity.

#### Task 1

First watch the video below:



# Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship

## Module timeline: May 2022 start



We offer one start date per year in May. The first start is May 2022\*.

	21/22												22/23												23/24											
	2022												2023												2024											
	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D				
<b>May 2022 start</b> Typical duration to gateway: 24 months (excluding the End-point assessment period)	Making strategy with systems thinking in practice (30 credits)						Managing change with systems thinking in practice (30 credits)						Co-designing interventions with systems thinking in practice (30 credits)												EPA Preparation and Completion											
	Evidencing Systems thinking in practice (30 credits)																																			

EPA = End-point Assessment (timing and duration are indicative only)

\* The start date is subject to EPAO registration.

# Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship

## Your support team

### Leadership and Management Skills

Supports you to integrate the learning into the workplace and supports the delivery of competency-based, work-based modules

**Practice Tutor**



**Apprentice**

**Academic Tutor**



Facilitates learning and provides personalised tuition, student support and learning feedback

**Apprenticeship Programme Delivery Manager**



**Student Support Team**



Supports employers to deliver their apprenticeship programmes and provides management data on apprentices progress throughout.

**English & Maths Support Team**



**Line Manager / Mentor**



# Entry requirements:

- Undergraduate Degree conferred by a UK University or equivalent
- OR relevant experience for postgraduate study
  - e.g. previous work making transformational change drawing on leadership capabilities
- Spoken and written English to enable study at PG level
  - IELTS minimum score 6
- 20% off-the-job training The OU allows for flexible achievement of this.





## Next steps

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### Contact your Business Development Manager/Account Manager

- Expressions of interest returned before 3rd March
  - Applicants attend an IAG session
  - Invited to apply online portal
  - Complete an online application, upload evidence of UG degree and functional skills
  - Applicants notified of outcome
  - Student Home portal opens 2 weeks prior to start
- Source: Education & Skills Funding Agency



Thank you for your time.  
**Any questions?**

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[www.open.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.open.ac.uk/apprenticeships)