Distance travelled: supporting women returning to STEM careers

Conference Item

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Distance travelled: supporting women returning to STEM careers

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The design of the course
The Open University offers a range of postgraduate and post-experience courses in the field of science and technology. The courses are delivered through a combination of online learning, face-to-face workshops and one-to-one coaching. This approach allows students to balance their studies with work and family commitments.

The course is designed to support returning women in developing their skills and knowledge in STEM disciplines. It aims to help them understand the career opportunities available to them and to develop a plan for returning to the workplace.

The course content includes modules on STEM topics, such as biology, chemistry, physics and engineering. Students also receive support from the Open University’s Careers Advisory Service to help them identify and apply for suitable job opportunities.

We carried out 23 in-depth interviews with women who had previously returned to the STEM workforce. The interviews helped to identify the key challenges and opportunities that women face when returning to the workplace.

The results of the interviews were used to develop a new course that is offered as either a full-time or part-time course. The course is delivered online, with opportunities for face-to-face workshops and one-to-one coaching.

The course is designed to help women develop their skills and knowledge in STEM disciplines, and to support them in returning to the workplace.

After 10 years of career break to look after her two children, Rajni has now returned to a lab-based science career.

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