

About the National Extension College

*"The main hope for the future
is education. Education can
enlarge the capacity to understand
the whirling mass of information.
Open learning runs with the grain
of modern technology."*

GCSEs
SAVES TIME
GSCes & A LEVELs
MEETS REAL NEED A LEVELs
ACCESSIBLE LEARNING
CLEAR & CONCISE
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
IMAGINATIVE GCSEs
INDEPENDENT LEARNING
COMPREHENSIVE
MEETS REAL NEED
INNOVATIVE & FLEXIBLE
SAVES TIME
GSCes & A LEVELs
CREATIVE COURSES A LEVELs
INDEPENDENT LEARNING
IMAGINATIVE
ACCESSIBLE
SAVES TIME
INFORMATIVE
INNOVATIVE & FLEXIBLE
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS GCSEs
SUPPORTIVE SAVES TIME
INDEPENDENT LEARNING
LEARNING CLEAR & CONCISE
MEETS REAL NEED A LEVELs
COUNSELLING
A LEVELs



Ros Morpeth
Chief Executive, National Extension College

*"The ability to learn
and to embrace
change is the currency
of the future. Learning
gives you confidence
in your abilities and
opens up a world of
possibilities."*

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Michael Young
Lord Young of Dartington

Michael Young believed in the power of open learning to widen participation. In the early 1960s he identified a generation of adults whose lives had been disrupted by the Second World War, who would want to come back to education but would need the educational provision to fit around their lives.

A social entrepreneur and Labour politician, he founded the National Extension College (NEC) along with Brian Jackson in 1963 and used his vision and energy to get many initiatives designed to help individuals and families off the ground. These included the Open University and International Extension College – both of which had particular links to NEC; the University of the Third Age; International Research Foundation for Open Learning (IRFOL); the Open School and the Open College of the Arts; the Consumers' Association (WHICH); and the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE).

With his charismatic leadership and forward-looking attitude, Michael Young was a visionary ahead of his time.

"I would add to the mantra of open learning, 'open as to people, places, methods and ideas' – open to experiment, especially anything that adds to its humanity."

Michael Young

Writing in the Times Higher Educational Supplement in 2001

Radio and television broadcasting was a key early relationship to developing NEC's courses. 'After School English' on BBC radio had more than 200,000 listeners and 2,000 people registered for NEC's accompanying correspondence course; and the 'Gateway' courses (page 9) which ran alongside programmes on BBC television in the late 1960s were massively successful. Maths and English courses were supported by two series of TV programmes produced by Anglia Television resulting in 3,000 enquiries in the first eight weeks from potential students. NEC continued to work closely with broadcasters and in 1981 launched a computer literacy programme with the BBC which became a Sunday Times Bestseller (see page 22).

SPOTLIGHT on
Broadcasting

About NEC

A pioneer of distance learning the National Extension College (NEC) exists to transform lives through education.

Founded in 1963 by Michael Young and Brian Jackson as a forerunner for the Open University, NEC is a long-standing independent educational charity and part of the Open School Trust.

Offering educational opportunities and second-chance learning to people for whom attending regular classes at school or college would not be possible, NEC today has a tried and tested model that supports the needs of 21st century learners.

For more than 50 years we have forged a reputation for the highest quality learning materials and innovation in distance learning, alongside a deep commitment to providing exceptional support to our learners at every stage of their learning experience.

We also work in partnership with other organisations, for example we are the trusted partner of schools, colleges, the armed forces, prison service, trainers, companies, and the public sector, to provide high-quality materials and learning programmes.

We are proud of our history and our values at NEC. More than fifty years of education – a lifeline to many students who need the flexibility that NEC provides.



Brian Jackson

Co-founder of the National Extension College, Brian Jackson nurtured NEC from his role as director of the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE).

In NEC's first ten years he used his skills as a writer, educator, publicist and fundraiser to support NEC, and the college was launched by an article in ACE's magazine *'Where?'* in the autumn of 1963.

He went on to help found the National Children's Centre and proposed a series of television programmes to the BBC which in turn led to the foundation of the National Childminding Association, now called the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY).

Why NEC?

NEC makes education flexible and available to everyone.

This means that whatever someone's age, background, culture or circumstance we are here to provide access to flexible courses and resources including GCSEs, A levels and professional qualifications to help them achieve their future goals.

Brightest innovators and leading experts in lifelong learning

As an educational charity committed to learning for everyone at every stage in their lives, we campaign to keep access to lifelong learning open for all.

NEC has kept at the forefront of innovation in the education sector – developing new resources, partnerships and initiatives to widen opportunities to learn.

The highest quality resources

Our high-quality learning resources have been carefully designed to provide engaging content that develops interest in the subject.

- A levels and GCSEs in more than 20 subjects.
- Professional qualifications for teaching and learning, business and management, book-keeping, counselling, childcare and playwork.
- Art and creative writing.

The most successful approach to learning

We innovate to prepare students for a bright future in an ever-changing world.

Our resources provide a proven activity-based approach to learning developed over many years, to support learning needs and develop study skills that prepare students for higher education and employment.

The most dedicated staff and authors

At the core of NEC is a team of experienced professionals committed to working together to provide excellent service.

- Materials are designed and written by experienced authors who are qualified subject experts and have contributed their knowledge and academic expertise.
- Our excellent tutors also help with authoring and consultancy and bring first-hand experience of students' needs.
- Our staff are at the centre of what we do. They work to provide a first-class service and are always looking for ways to improve how NEC provides and delivers education.

The culture of NEC is one of friendliness, hard work, informality and respect. We are fortunate to work with staff, authors, tutors, directors and trustees of the very highest calibre.

SPOTLIGHT on
GCSE Astronomy

As a hobby or an interesting choice of career, astronomy develops valuable scientific, mathematical and engineering skills. Over centuries it has inspired great works of art and fiction, philosophy and politics. In 2018 NEC introduced this fascinating online course, enabling students to explore the universe and our position in it.



"The National Extension College is a unique institution which enables many adults to acquire the qualifications and skills they need to lead happy and productive lives."

Ruth Spellman – Chief Executive WEA

Student success

Julia



Julia left formal education at the age of 15 when her father was offered a job in Belgium and the family went to live there. Her parents turned to home education, and Julia took maths GCSE and A levels including French and classical civilisation with NEC. She then studied for a BA in classical and archaeological studies with French at the University of Kent and a Masters in ancient history at King's College London.

"It's down to NEC that I was able to go to university and study the subject I have loved since being a child. I'm sure my life would have taken a very different course without home education."

Elliot



Elliot studied GCSEs and IGCSEs including maths, plus A levels in politics, history and law with NEC. After studying law at Cambridge and then a law post graduate at Harvard, he now works for a large law practice in New York.

"NEC offers a wide range of subject options, has thorough and complete courses and a good support network. I enjoyed learning new things and knowing that I was working towards a goal, which for me was to attend university."

Najma



Having previously studied with the Open University, Najma was familiar with distance learning. Needing to fit her study around childcare, she studied maths and English GCSE with NEC in order to access a place on a PGCE course.

"The flexibility of the course was a definite highlight. From day one I was guided step-by-step and I could call my tutor for help when I didn't understand something. I felt I had the whole package studying with NEC."

Our learning design

NEC has always been at the leading edge of open and distance learning, and we believe that our model of carefully designed courses and resources provides students with the best chance of success. Materials are specially written and structured for independent study, with engaging content that develops a genuine interest in the subject.

Course development team

Our expert teams of course developers are made up of teachers and writers with knowledge of how to write materials that are excellent for independent learning. As well as the content of the specifications, they know the assessment requirements, understand the exams and the questions that will be asked, and how awarding bodies mark the answers. Many of our course development team are course tutors and have experience as examiners for the awarding bodies.

Meeting the specifications

Our course developers cover the specification fully, but in a way that aids learning. Knowledge, understanding and skills are built step-by-step giving students the opportunity to test and check their progress and see how what they learn links to the specification and assessment requirements.

Key features

Course approach:

- arranged in sections and topics
- provide short "chunks" of learning
- activities and self-checks with feedback
- clear learning objectives
- study and exam hints
- assignments for marking by tutors.

Support and preparation for exams:

- assessment guidance
- exam hints and tips
- exam-style questions
- exemplar answers
- revision section.

Launched in 1968, these three courses: 'Reading to Learn'; 'Man in Society'; and 'Square 2', prepared students to go on to study with the Open University and were an immediate success. Nearly four-and-half thousand students enrolled on these courses in the first year.

SPOTLIGHT on
'Gateway' courses



Peter Laslett

Along with Michael Young and Brian Jackson, Peter Laslett supported the idea of the National Extension College and he remained a trustee until 1990.

A close associate of Michael Young, he became a leading figure in the movement to widen access to education and established a worldwide reputation as an historian and innovative thinker. Peter was also involved in establishing the Open University and the University of the Third Age. Michael Young described him as, "...an academic of high-standing, intensely interested in the people who do not get to their universities".

Resources and licensing

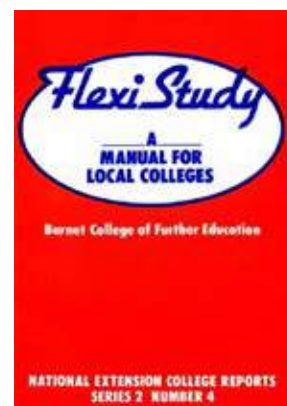
Licensed resources offer a flexible approach to supporting blended and online learning, face-to-face teaching, small group work, revision support and home study. It's up to you how you draw on our vast bank of resources.

We have a long track record of working in partnerships across the further education (FE) and skills sector. Licensing NEC resources can enable you to benefit from a proven activity-based approach to learning, developed over many years.

"With NEC the course follows the student, they can carry on studying wherever they are. Flexibility like that is hard to find."

Specialist school for students with Asperger's Syndrome

Launched in 1979 at its peak this annual subscription scheme involved more than 140 further education (FE) colleges who adopted NEC courses as part of their open and distance learning provision, enabling them to enrol learners unable to attend college on a regular basis.



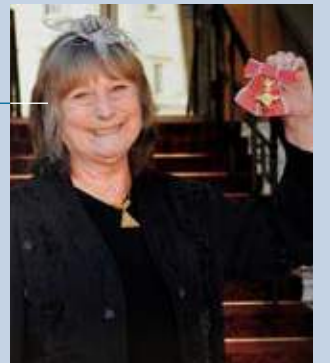
NEC leadership today

Dr Ros Morpeth – Chief Executive

A second-chance learner herself, who went to university as a mature student, Ros has had two spells as Chief Executive of the National Extension College.

She joined NEC in the late 1970s and after working in a variety of educational roles, she first took over as Chief Executive in 1987. After leaving in the early 2000s believing she had 'probably done everything' she could for NEC, Ros worked for international agencies like UNICEF and UNESCO to help developing countries use flexible learning to reach out to the most hard to reach. When, as part of the Learning and Skills Network (LSN), NEC went into administration in late 2011, Ros headed up a group of colleagues determined to save NEC.

Stepping back into the organisation as full-time Chief Executive on a voluntary basis, Ros has contributed her long experience of distance learning and ensured NEC continues its work as an educational charity meeting the needs of those who have missed out on education and need a second chance. Ros was awarded an OBE for services to further education in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours.



Trustees

NEC is guided by a board of trustees who work on a voluntary basis.

They are responsible for guiding NEC's overall direction and meet regularly to discuss how to support its work.

Richard Dorrance – Chair of Trustees

Richard spent decades in a variety of education roles including teaching and advising.

Before retiring he spent 19 years as Chief Executive and Company Secretary of CACHE. He brings to the Board his experience of running a charity and supporting students, many of whom have either not achieved in a school environment or who are adult returners to education.



We remain committed to our founder's vision to create: '...education without institution, learning while earning, courses which people of all ages can take in their own time, at their own pace.'

SPOTLIGHT on
FlexiStudy

We are proud to work with...

"For students who need a flexible route to those essential GCSE and A level qualifications, the National Extension College is a hidden treasure and a superb option."

Mary Curnock Cook
Former Chief Executive of UCAS

At a national level and beyond, we work collaboratively with other organisations to access the latest developments in the world of education and to campaign on issues affecting distance learners.

The Open University (OU)

NEC has a shared history with the OU, and we have a formal Memorandum of Understanding which provides a framework for our collaboration. Both organisations share an ethos and mission to widen participation through distance learning, particularly for part-time students.

unionlearn

Distance learning is ideal for people who want to continue working while they study. unionlearn works with unions to provide learning opportunities for its members. We work closely together to ensure its members are able to access NEC courses.

The Prisoners' Education Trust (PET)

We work with PET to provide access to educational opportunities for prisoners, enhancing their chances of building a better life after release reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

Prisoner Learning Alliance (PLA)

NEC is pleased to be a member of the PLA. Membership of the PLA brings together organisations and individuals to inform prison education priorities, policies and practices, so that all prisoners can engage in high-quality and diverse learning opportunities to help them transform their lives.

International Examination Officers Association (IEOA)

We work in partnership with the IEOA, an independent charity whose role is to support and develop exams delivery throughout the UK, to provide support and guidance for external candidates for exams.

The WEA

Both the WEA and NEC were set up to address educational inequalities faced by ordinary working people. WEA is the largest voluntary sector provider of adult education in the UK. We work together to promote and campaign for widening access to lifelong learning.

UCAS

We have worked in partnership with UCAS, an independent charity that supports young people making choices after GCSE and those applying to university, to develop a series of study skills guides to help students make a successful transition to higher education.

European Association for Distance Learning (EADL)

Members of EADL, the European association of schools, institutions and individuals working in correspondence and distance education, must meet its quality standards and comply with its code of conduct. Europe-wide, EADL membership is regarded as a seal of quality.

Campaign for Learning

We are proud to be classified as a friend of the Campaign for Learning, a charity which champions the cause of lifelong learning to create a society where participation in learning is recognised as the key to improving life chances and fulfilling potential.

Mathematics Education Innovation (MEI)

We are pleased to be working with MEI, an independent national charity committed to improving maths education, to offer an online course for A level Further Maths.

The Big Issue

We are working with The Big Issue on a bursary scheme to give magazine vendors interested in studying the chance to enrol on an NEC course and boost their employability.

Association for Art History (AAH)

AAH exists to provide an inclusive and broad approach to the study of art history. NEC is delighted to be working in partnership with AAH to widen participation in the subject by developing an innovative online course for the new A level History of Art specification.

Awarding bodies

NEC has strong links with UK awarding bodies and works with them to maintain strict compliance with their quality and assessment guidelines.

- AQA
- NCFE Cache
- Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE)
- Chartered Management Institute (CMI)
- Oxford Cambridge and RSA (OCR)
- Pearson Edexcel
- Training Qualifications UK (TQUK)

For more than 15 years we have been working with schools and colleges to offer their students a wider subject choice, resolve timetable clashes and overcome staff shortages



"NEC's approach with 1:1 tuition for every student provided as part of the course, means we don't have to give a thought to timetabling, teaching time, marking pupils' work, or preparing them for exams."

Director of Studies at a specialist music school

SPOTLIGHT on
Schools and Colleges



Sir Alan Tuckett OBE

An adult education pioneer who has campaigned successfully over many years on the value of adult learning, Sir Alan Tuckett was an NEC trustee during the 1990s, and former Chief Executive of NIACE.

Internationally recognised as a leader in lifelong learning, he was involved in starting the British adult literacy campaign in the 1970s and launched Adult Learners' Week in 1992.

A past President of the International Council of Adult Education, he is an Honorary Fellow of UNESCO's Institute of Lifelong Learning, and Professor of Education at the University of Wolverhampton.

Awards

Open to all FE providers, the Times Educational Supplement (TES) awards showcase the very best in the further education sector.

FE Leader of the Year: Winner, 2014

NEC's Chief Executive Ros Morpeth was named TES FE Leader of the Year in 2014, chosen from the shortlist of six people nominated because of her "tenacity and inspirational leadership".

Further Education Marketing and Communications Campaign of the Year Award: Nominee, 2016

NEC was shortlisted for this award following a successful campaign for a public exam system that works for everyone, which brought about a change in the way that non-exam assessments (NEA) for A level and GCSE students are carried out (see page 15).

NEC as campaigner

We work hard to make access to education easier for all distance learning students, collaborating with other organisations to access the latest developments in the world of education and campaigning on issues affecting distance learners.

A public exam system that works for everyone

Our 2016 campaign for a public exam system that works for everyone was successful in bringing about a change in the way non-exam assessments (NEA) for A level and GCSE qualifications are carried out. As a result of the changes in procedure made by the exam boards, private candidates can now study mainstream subjects on an equal footing with pupils in schools and colleges.

The campaign was supported by the Times Educational Supplement (TES), WEA, UCAS and the Open University, with the TES describing it as a "terrible blow averted for distance learners". Following the successful campaign, NEC was nominated for the TES Further Education Marketing and Communications Campaign of the Year Award (see page 14).

Removing barriers and reversing the decline in the number of students studying part-time

NEC is one of the voices campaigning to reverse the decline in the number of students studying part-time, collaborating with the Open University to remove barriers for adults who want to continue studying, and reverse the decline in the number of adults entering higher education.

Examinations for external candidates

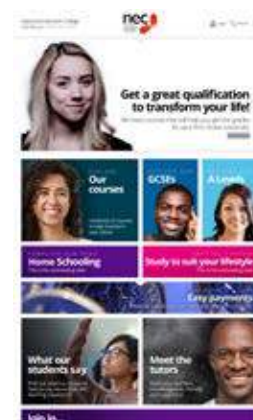
Back in 1992 NEC spearheaded a successful campaign to keep GCSE examinations for external candidates. As a result, independent adult learners continue to have access to these important qualifications.

Visit www.nec.ac.uk to find out more about our campaigning.

SPOTLIGHT on NEC's website

An important source of information for anyone wanting to open doors to their future through learning, NEC's website provides full details of our online courses, services and support. In 2019 we launched a new website to make information and course details easy to find and easy to understand by all students regardless of age and situation.

www.nec.ac.uk



An in-company development and training scheme with Coca-Cola & Schweppes in 1994 gave 100 school leavers the opportunity to work for the company's Frontline Marketing team at the same time as studying for a BSc in management as an external degree with London University. NEC worked with Coca-Cola & Schweppes and London University to develop the study guides and materials for the four-year programme; and to provide specialist distance tuition, personal study support and a range of residential schools for the external degree students.

SPOTLIGHT on Frontline degree programme

Our students: continuity and change

*"Why NEC?
The materials
are set out in a
way that makes
them easy to
understand."*

NEC physics and
biology student

From our earliest days, NEC has demonstrated an ability to adapt and evolve to meet the challenging requirements of diverse groups of students and education providers. For more than 50 years we have retained our founding commitment to make education more accessible to learners who require a second chance, and to widen access to education for all.

Doing things differently and innovative thinking have been required from day one. We have always stood for creating better futures by helping people of all ages, from diverse backgrounds and cultures, to access education through flexible distance learning courses.

Our first prospectus in 1963 was aimed at women returning to the workplace after having children, and people needing to gain academic or vocational qualifications. The introduction to our latest *Guide to Courses* still talks about such aspirations – gaining qualifications, starting or changing career, or learning for fun.

Course delivery

In our early days radio and television was key to developing NEC's courses which were supported by broadcast programmes on radio and TV. From the 1980s to 2000s course materials were provided in huge ringbinders. Today our courses are delivered via our online learning platform learn@nec – providing all the course materials our students need to study and giving them the flexibility to access them whenever and wherever they choose.

Our students

Since we were founded in 1963 NEC has helped over 750,000 people to improve their qualifications, move their career along to the next stage, get into university, fill gaps in their education, or simply to enjoy learning. From a student with no qualifications who went on to become a headteacher to a student in her 90s who studied for an A level while living in a care home, NEC has supported a wide range of students.

When our first students enrolled in 1963 TV broadcast for only seven-and-a-half hours a day and colour TV was still four years in the future. Now our students talk to each other at any time of day using online forums.

NEC Business Start-up
student

*"Why NEC?
Knowledgeable
staff, thorough
and interesting
materials, and
the right level of
challenge."*

There is a world of difference between being a student in the mid-20th century and the second decade of the 21st century, but the people that need the flexibility that NEC can offer has changed less over time.

Gender

| 1964 | 1990 | 2017/18 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 50.8% female 49.2% male | 63.3% female 33.7% male | 49.9% female 50.1% male |

Age

In the **1970s** and **1980s** the average NEC student was in their **mid-30s**.
In **1990** most students were aged between **25** and **44**.

Today around **44%** of NEC's students are aged **19 to 34** – rising to **60%** if **35 to 44** year olds are included.

The age range of active students in **2017/18** was **13 to 94**.

Throughout our history, the students that have needed the flexibility that NEC offers have included:

- second-chance learners studying for essential qualifications such as English and maths
- parents wanting to return to work after raising children or other caring responsibilities
- people in employment wanting a change of career and needing to study part-time
- prisoners determined to make use of their time inside to improve their qualifications
- people with disabilities and carers, for whom accessing courses outside the home may be difficult
- people who work shifts or travel for work and can't attend regular courses.

From the early 2000s onward, we have seen rising numbers of young people being home educated, with NEC able to offer different options depending on the young learner's needs.

First published in 1955, and still used today, this handbook is for police drivers undertaking training but can also be used by any driver wanting to improve their driving skills or take their advanced driving test. Jointly produced by The Police Foundation and The Stationery Office, NEC was involved in the design and structure of the 1994 edition of this handbook, to make it more accessible to the general public.



SPOTLIGHT on
Roadcraft:
The Police Driver's
Handbook

Our history

Now in its sixth decade, NEC has had over 750,000 students and published more than 1,000 titles, evolving into a more influential and more permanent organisation than Michael Young could have envisaged in 1963.

1960s: Foundation

NEC delivered flexible part-time courses for second-chance learners through distance learning, using distinctive methods including broadcasting and correspondence, tailored to the needs of distance learning students.



NEC's first logo

1963

Launched by an article in *'Where?'*, a magazine published by the Advisory Centre for Education.

1964

Took over the University Correspondence College, a pioneer of distance learning, established in Cambridge in 1887.

1968

8,500 students enrolled on correspondence courses.

1969

'Gateway' courses with the BBC available as preparatory courses for the Open University.

1970s: A time of change

The early 1970s were years of highs and lows for NEC. Highs included *'Make it Count'* a basic numeracy programme with Yorkshire Television. Lows included postal strikes as NEC relied on the postal system for all of its work. A growing number of staff was needed to support increasing numbers of students, and in the second half of the decade the publishing of educational resources became increasingly important.

1973

NEC's 10th anniversary, 50,000 students have enrolled on 70 different courses.



1976

Publishing arm added and NEC begins producing and publishing its own educational resources.



1971

Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher awards NEC a grant enabling courses to continue to be offered in the wake of postage strikes.

1972

Started educating prisoners and working with trade unions.

1979

Launch of *'FlexiStudy'*, working with FE colleges using different models of NEC materials in their teaching.

1980s

Continued >>

1980s: Enhancing learners' employability

When unemployment reached three million in the early 1980s, NEC concentrated on publishing resources that would enhance individuals' employability rather than developing new programmes in traditional economic subjects.

1981

'30 Hour Basic' programming course to accompany BBC television broadcast makes The Sunday Times Bestseller list.



1983

NEC's 20th anniversary

1988

250,000th student enrolls on an NEC course.

1984

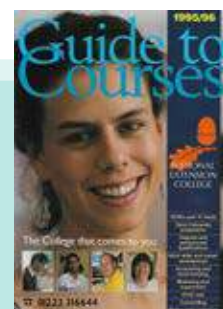
4,000 students on 22 courses for mature BT technicians.

1989

New GCSE courses created for the new National Curriculum, replacing O level qualifications.

1990s: Work-based learning

The 1990s saw a large increase in work-based learning projects. One of the most successful was a degree programme with Coca-Cola Enterprises that saw hundreds of their employees gain qualifications.



1992

Campaign to keep GCSE examinations for external candidates.

1993

NEC's 30th anniversary

1997

Development of courses to support work-based learning.

1994

Frontline Degree Programme with Coca-Cola & Schweppes.

1996

The driving theory test becomes compulsory. NEC introduces 'Driving for Life' to help learner drivers pass this test.



2000s: Learning begins to move online

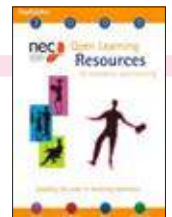
By the turn of the 21st century NEC was supporting more than 20,000 students a year on over 150 home-study courses, and providing a choice of 200-plus learning resources for colleges, trainers and employers.

2000

- 10,000 new students
- New online learning platform launched.
- All A level course materials updated to reflect new AS and A2 specifications.
- NEC moves to The Michael Young Centre a three-acre site in central Cambridge.

2001

Michael Young attends formal opening of The Michael Young Centre.



2003

NEC's 40th anniversary



2008

Charitable grant received to develop a 'Fun with Food' project aimed at encouraging healthy eating with low income families in East London.

2010s: More than 50 years of supporting learners

After falling into administration following a merger with the Learning and Skills Network in 2010, NEC is taken over by The Open School Trust a dormant Michael Young charity, with support from NIACE and the Open University.

Emerging strongly and in a form closer to Michael Young's original social enterprise model, NEC is able to react quickly to respond to students' needs. All courses are now online. A reformed curriculum required a complete revision of NEC's GCSE and A level courses.

2014

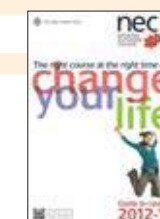
The Times Educational Supplement awards NEC's Chief Executive Ros Morpeth their FE Leader of the Year Award.

2015

- Ros Morpeth is awarded an OBE for services to further education.
- A deal with trade unions gives their six million UK members a discount on NEC courses.

2013

- NEC's 50th anniversary
- A new service provides more structured support to younger students.



2019

NEC remains the major independent not-for-profit provider of distance education.

The future »

The future

“NEC has kept at the forefront of innovation, developing new resources, partnerships and initiatives to widen opportunities to learn as an adult”

Ros Morpeth

Chief Executive, National Extension College in Adults Learning

From looking at how technology can enhance distance learning to exploring different pedagogical methods, innovation continues to drive NEC forward. We will:

- Continue to invest in course development, going back to first principles and thinking about learning design.
- Increase numbers of students by continuing to make learning available to everyone, enabling them to apply learning to their lives by enrolling on distance learning courses.
- Pilot new ways of learning, giving students access to the things they need.

Do what we do now but do it better

- Use technology as a tool to deliver courses in a flexible way and continue to provide excellent learning support.
- Continue to invest in the best curricula, technology and tutors and to share innovation and resources with the wider education sector.
- Ensure the relationship between tutor and student remains central to NEC’s teaching ethic.
- Continue to build a network of partner organisations with whom we can work, to offer learning opportunities widely to individuals and the workforce.



This 1981 Sunday Times Bestseller was a joint venture with the BBC and part of its computer literacy programme. It could be used as a freestanding text for home study, a correspondence course with tutor support, or by colleges as part of their computer literacy programme.

SPOTLIGHT on
30-Hour Basic

Miranda



Former NEC student Miranda left school knowing she wanted to go to university but unsure what subject she wanted to take.

She already had four A levels when she began studying for A levels in English literature and classical civilisation with NEC in order to secure a place to study classics at Cambridge University. Miranda swapped courses to study human, social and political science, before going to Edinburgh to study for an MSc in the evolution of language and cognition.

“I suppose what my educational journey has taught me is that life is not limiting in terms of what you can learn and how you can go about learning it. Further, the need to work does not inhibit study if you choose the right support networks. The NEC has, thus far, been the best institution to understand this.”

Social impact

A 2017/18 survey of our students and alumni showed that:

- 56% had gone on to higher education
- 37.5% had got into work, been promoted at work, or changed career
- 8% were supporting their children’s education
- 4.5% were enjoying an active retirement.

Our alumni told us of other outcomes of their study including:

“It prepared me to have children.”

“I gained the confidence to go and do voluntary work.”

“I feel more confident about my place in society.”

“I became ordained.”

“It led me to a better career and a better life.”

“I could help my children on the Autistic Spectrum to access education.”

“I went on to train to, and become, a teacher.”

“It kept me mentally active whilst I cared for my husband.”

Get in contact

If you would like to discuss how NEC can support your work:

Call: **0800 389 2839**
(0)1223 400200

Email: info@nec.ac.uk
www.nec.ac.uk



National Extension College



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NEC is the trading name of The Open School Trust, an independent registered charity.

It is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England.

Charity number: 328414
Company number: 02438525

"As technological change speeds up, most people are going to have to alter their jobs and their training during their lifetime. This they will only be able to do if the educational system keeps pace, and it will only do so if, besides other reforms, the needs of the home student are fully met."

Michael Young, Lord Young of Dartington

NEC founder, writing in 1963

"Both NEC and the OU were set up in the 60s to open doors to the many adults who had missed out on traditional education. We have continued to work together to promote widening participation, particularly for part-time students, those people the government call the 'left-behind'. The OU has a great deal of respect for the work of the National Extension College."

Prof. Mary Kellett

Vice Chancellor Open University



National Extension College

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