

UBIQUITY UNIVERSITY



WHAT'S YOUR ROAD?

Frequently Asked Questions

How does getting a Ubiquity degree help me get a job?

In his book *The Global Achievement Gap* (2010), Tony Wagner, co-director of the Change Leadership Group, Harvard School of Education, identified the top four skills needed to get a good job as: critical thinking and problem solving; collaboration and leadership; agility and adaptability; and initiative and entrepreneurialism. These are precisely the qualities and skills you will develop at Ubiquity. Information is everywhere nowadays. You can skill-up pretty easily in any domain. Developing the qualities that Wagner lists however requires application and commitment.

In turbulent times, employers are looking for the self-mastery and creativity that will enable resilience and innovation in their organizations. The 2013 survey of 318 executives of non-profits and private organizations by the American Association of Colleges and Universities notes: “nearly all those surveyed (93 percent) say that ‘a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than an undergraduate major.’” Narrow technical skills have a shorter and shorter lifespan, and a lot of employers are ... aware of that. ... [Employers] want evidence [that] graduates have some aptitude in field-specific skills, but what’s more important to them is broad, cross-cutting capacity.”

Ubiquity is uniquely positioned to deliver this through our integration of study, self-mastery and hands-on missions, as well as the rigorous competency-based assessment and qualification system. We expect our graduates to stand out in the crowd.

Is a Ubiquity degree accredited?

Ubiquity University is accredited by the Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities (ASIC). ASIC is recognized by the British Government Home Office and is a member of the British Quality Foundation. ASIC is an affiliate of the European Network for Quality Assurance (ENQA) and is an institutional member of the European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN). Accreditation by ASIC conforms to the educational standards of Britain and the European Union. ASIC is also a member of the Council on Higher Education’s International Quality Group (CIQG) in the United States and is listed in their International Directory. ASIC accredits 320 colleges and universities in 32 countries.

Won't I miss the campus experience?

This was one of the big questions we pondered for a while, and were surprised to come across research that showed that the social element is by far the lowest motivation for choosing a university. However, we do believe that in-person interaction is important. Students will be encouraged to meet up with other Ubiquity students living nearby, for a number of possible purposes - social interaction with like-minded people, support in the Ubiquity experience, self-organized study groups to take courses together, and maybe we'll eventually have sports teams! Why not? Another opportunity for working together with Ubiquity students is on the creative collaboration missions. Many of the missions will be carried out in teams in real locations. In-person interaction will of course increase as more students discover Ubiquity. In fact, why not sign up with a group of friends in the first place?

What is a degree worth if I can find free online courses?

Good question! First, currently most of the online course providers don't provide academic credit for their courses. Secondly, you could just put together a bunch of free courses that you find online, but what you would miss that Ubiquity provides is 1. a rigorous assessment system that enables you to demonstrate competencies and get qualifications that you can add to your CV and show potential employers and partners (eg badges, certificates, degrees) 2. an international community of like-minded students committed to societal change and their own development, 3. a coherent program of learning held in an integral framework so you can see the whole as well as all the parts, 4. integrated self-development modules and real-world missions, 5. exposure to faculty with leading-edge thinking rather than the traditional old-school thinking that has simply moved from lecture-room to online video.

Another important point was made by David Brooks in the New York Times (4th April 2013 - The Practical University) where he contrasted technical knowledge with practical knowledge. Technical knowledge makes up much of what you can get for free online - simple instruction-based learning on how to do something. Practical knowledge, however, cannot be gained that way. Brooks: "Practical knowledge is not about what you do, but how you do it. It is the wisdom a great chef possesses that cannot be found in recipe books. Practical knowledge is not the sort of knowledge that can be taught and memorized; it can only be imparted and absorbed. It is not reducible to rules; it only exists in practice." Ubiquity is a great example of a Practical University - and we believe it is worth a small investment for the great return you will receive.

How do we interact with faculty?

IAs part of their contract with Ubiquity, faculty commit to responding to student contributions within a certain time-frame. That varies according to the nature of the contribution. For every task that you complete, we let you know by when you can expect a response from a faculty member. You can report any lapses through our feedback system and will get a rapid reply. We take our agreements with students very seriously and any reports of breaches in those agreements will be thoroughly looked into and acted on as appropriate.



How qualified are Ubiquity faculty?

For all of our degree programs, faculty have at least the equivalent to the program they are teaching and usually higher. As well as strong academic qualifications, we also place a lot of weight on real-life experience in the relevant fields, so that our faculty can help you ground the ideas in the world.

What are your training requirements for online learning?

All faculty go through an initial Ubiquity training program for online learning and then course-specific training by specialized faculty. Ongoing training is provided with significant platform upgrades and/or at least once per year.

How do you assess quality in faculty contributions?

All faculty contributions can be rated by students. Each faculty member undergoes an annual learning and development review. This includes a faculty peer-review process.

How do students interact with faculty?

All student activities in their course work - integration tasks, creative assignments, peer reviews - mission reports and self-mastery public journals will be reviewed by faculty with feedback provided. During courses there will be at least ten hours of interaction with core or senior faculty through conference calls or asynchronous online forums.

How do you deal with faculty Intellectual Property?

Faculty maintain ownership of their own ideas and Intellectual Property and do not transfer ownership to Ubiquity. Ubiquity has ownership of the form in which the ideas are presented, i.e. the course offered through the Ubiquity platform, but the ideas, concepts and original material remain property of the faculty themselves. The same is the case for the students.

What platforms is Ubiquity accessible on?

The Ubiquity platform is PC and Apple compliant. It is a responsive website that can be accessed on tablets and mobile phones with internet connections. This provides remote access to live streaming audio, live streaming video, recorded audio, recorded video, software-based readers, bulletin boards, simulations, online chat rooms, and visual software.

What is your disability access policy?

All written materials and transcripts are available in PDF format so that those with visual impairments can access them via a screen reader. All of our video material is subtitled so the deaf will be able to follow live as well as read transcripts.

How do you deal with multiple languages?

English is the primary language of the Ubiquity platform. In line with the latest research on language-learning, all Ubiquity visual material has Same Language Subtitling in English with karaoke-style tracking that has proven to greatly boost learning English as a foreign language. Students also provide details of their language abilities in their profiles, enabling matching for peer review processes and other student-to-student interaction. The platform infrastructure is also able to host material in multiple languages and courses will become available in other languages. Over time, our commitment is to have a multitude of languages. Our country partners are recruiting local faculty to teach in local languages. As a global university, we are committed to cultural and geographic diversity.