

Transcript for PLEXUS welcome video

Hello and welcome to PLEXUS.

PLEXUS is the Open University Students Association's support groups for L G B T students.

[What does PLEXUS mean?]

Plexus, in Latin, means a network, and we really liked that within the group. So we decided to use that and to get rid of all the usual LGBT banners. So PLEXUS is actually an anagram for us. It means Pride, Learning, Equality, no eXcuses, Unity and Safety. That means we are here for you, the O U student community.

[What does PLEXUS provide?]

Ok, first and foremost it provides a safe space for the L G B T students within the O U Students Association. It does this by providing a series of forums within the V L E (Virtual Learning Environment). It also provides a quarterly newsletter called SOLAR which you, as members, can contribute to. We also provide educational campaigns around certain dates within the calendar. So we have World AIDS Day, University Mental Health Day, International Women's Day, and many, many more. We will also be present as a series of Pride events: for example: National Student Pride, London Pride, Manchester Pride, and we are also going to be visiting the nations very, very soon.

[What about support for the O U community?]

PLEXUS supports the O U Student community in many ways, for example, the Chair of PLEXUS sits on the Inclusion Committee, which is one of the few committees chaired by students. We take your views and opinions to that committee to ensure that you don't feel excluded as an O U student. We also participate in the Pride events, which I've already mentioned, but at that point we are representing Student Voice. We'll say that becoming a student with the Open University is a good choice. We offer a safe space, not just for students, we also think about our staff members too. Working for the Open University is an employer of choice, you will have a safe space and continue to grow and develop as a member of the LGBT community.

[Can anyone join?]

Like all the other Open University Students Association's groups and societies, anyone can join. You do not have to be LGBT. Without our allies the LGBT community would not exist, so we definitely need you to join.

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