



Royal
Astronomical
Society

Professor Andrew Norton – RAS Higher Education Award

Professor Andrew Norton has had responsibility for designing, writing and delivering the Open University's (OU) Astronomy curriculum over the last 25 years, reaching tens of thousands of distance learning students. He has been instrumental in establishing Astronomy teaching into the OU for the first time, along with e-tuition and formative assessment across the curriculum. He also co-led a pilot that created the role of Pathway Tutors for OU Physics and Astronomy students.

In addition, he launched a partnership with Manchester University to offer an e-deliverable, worldwide, Joint Certificate in Introductory Astronomy. Professor Norton currently supports approximately 2000 Astronomy students each year, in full time and part time education, who are studying variations of Astronomy and Astrophysics related degree programmes.

Professor Norton has led the production and presentation of Astronomy modules across the undergraduate curriculum. Across the three stages he has written numerous textbooks and online modules, developed projects, residential schools, assessments and video tutorials that have attracted and engaged hundreds of students each year in wide ranging and stimulating aspects of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Professor Norton's expertise in the design and delivery of astronomy curriculum was recognised by external examiner appointments in three universities in addition to external assessor roles in two others.

It is for his extensive and exceptional contribution to the academic courses outlined above, that have supported countless students, that Professor Andrew Norton is awarded the RAS Higher Education Award.