Best UX design courses

Learn UX design with paid and free online courses from the likes of Stanford University and InVision – as well as offline courses from the likes of General Assembly.

It may seem obvious, but customers interact with services and brands online all the time, whether through apps, websites or AI assistants like Alexa. As such user experience (UX) design is crucial to digital design, and an increasingly sought after skill to have amongst designers, alongside coding and development.

Even if you don't want to be a web developer pro, the line between designer and developer is becoming increasingly blurred, something recognised by software giants like Adobe as they concentrate more and more on their UX products each year.

It's important therefore that as a designer you understand what's possible with UX design, what works well and what's best for the users who interact with your work on a daily basis. And keep in mind creative directors are looking for talent who can offer more than one skill in a digital-first society – so if you're a graphic designer, why not add UX design to your skillset?

Websites, design and technology may be getting increasingly complex in the back-end (yet increasingly minimalist on screen), but one thing remains simple – how the user feels is always key. As such, *Digital Arts* has rounded up the best paid and free UX design courses, including learning UX online and course available through universities like Stanford.

Soon you should be up-to-date on wireframes, user testing, storyboards and more – whether you want to forge a career in UX design or simply add it to your list of skills as part of a creative team in your current or next job.

UX design is all about improving the user experience through creating easy-to-use products that are a pleasure to use. This means finding out how exactly the user interacts with your product, whether they enjoy doing so, and then adjusting your design to suit them – instead of going with whatever your artist side thinks looks awesome.

Of course, user experience design is not one-size-fits-all – what works for one person might not work for the next. But learning about UX helps you tailor your design to your project's aims, and to encourage certain behaviours and experiences in your users.

For more on perfecting your UX practice, learn how to use UX design tools Sketch and Adobe XD, and free collaboration software Wake. There are also some interesting new players on the field like Tobii and Framer. For some thing to chew over, read our guidelines on how to design websites for people with disabilities in 2018.

Looking for your next design job? Follow Digital Art's jobs channel for the latest UX opportunities.

Paid online UX courses

School of UX Design caters for students, start-ups, developers and designers. UX and UI design tutorials are available both in London and online.

Courses are run by professional UX Designers with more than 10 years experience designing for Microsoft, British Gas, Universal Music Group and Heathrow Airport.

They include ***UX Design: How to do it Right***, ***How to start a career in UX Design*** and ***Designing Pixel-Perfect UI*** which run throughout November and December. If you can't attend the weekend classes in person, all courses are video recorded.

Tickets for the courses in London range from £29 (if you're a

student) to £89 (regular price). Video recording's online will cost you £39.

Recently acquired by LinkedIn, Lynda.com is an ever-popular website for learning skills across business, software, technology and the creative industries. Subscription packages cost £23.99/month with one free month included, and there's more than enough content to keep you occupied with 58 UX design courses and 2,380 videos.

Our favourites include ***UX Foundations: Content Strategy*** – which may have dull-looking slides, but it is concise, informative and will give you plenty of handy tips to separate your web content from the rest – as well as courses more suitable for beginners, such as ***UX Design Techniques: Overview*** and ***Interaction Design Fundamentals***.

Udemy is the pay-per-course site you've most probably heard of. It has over 40,000 courses – and doesn't let itself down when it comes to UX design with plenty of paid options (and some free ones too – such as ***Introduction to Web and eCommerce User eXperience Design)***.

David Travis' ***User Experience (UX): The Ultimate Guide to Usability and UX*** is a popular, well-reviewed introduction to UX design that includes hands-on experience, and is a good place for anyone to start.

As a behavioural psychologist, Susan Weinschenk has some useful tips on how to really grab someone's attention with her courses ***UX Design: Secrets of Conceptual Model Design***, which goes beyond the typical UX teachings of wireframes and prototypes, and ***User Research: Personas, Scenarios, Tasks Analyses***.

Udemy works with a pay-by-course format.

Treehouse is an online learning platform specifically tailored to technology, with subscriptions starting at around £20/US$26

per month. It offers a 128-minute interactive ***UX Basics*** course, which comprehensively introduces you to the need-to-know of UX, though does not cover any how-to on tools such as prototypes and wireframes. But it is well received and certainly worth checking out – unsurprisingly given it is by UX consultant Liz Hubert

At around £15/US$16.50/month per month, Envato TutsPlus is a cheaper option than Treehouse, though it does have a smaller selection of courses for it – around 1,000 across all its learning material.

As well as its series of courses on the **foundations of UX**, its high-quality ***Fundamentals of UX Design*** course has a slightly larger scope than Treehouse's *UX Basics* course, with more practical information such as how to use wireframes. It is spread over 16 two-hour lessons.

You can subscribe to the provider by signing up to an Envato Elements subscription, giving you the Envato range of CMS templates, fonts and graphics for the fee.

Pluralsight offers over 4500 courses – and plenty of them in UX design. For around £27/$35 per month, you can access courses on the fundamentals of UX such as ***Creating User Experiences: UX Design Principles***, which is a great entry point to UX for developers. Billy Hollis, an international speaker in UX design, runs the course and ensures it is interactive with exercises you can complete during each module.

As Pluralsight courses tend to lean towards more intermediate or advanced material, its UX courses are unlikely to be as suitable for complete beginners.

A learning and knowledge-sharing community for creators, Skillshare allows you to both teach and be taught. You can enrol in online classes, create projects to show off your work, discuss work with your classmates, and earn money from

flipping the roles and sharing your expertise as a teacher.

With Skillshare, as pretty much anyone can teach, the teachers and courses can be hit-and-miss. But, if you do your research (like we have), you can find the gems – check out the Skillshare UX Design courses.

Editor-in-Chief OF Smashing Magazine Vitaly Friedman's ***Smart Responsive UX Design Patterns: Clever Tips, Tricks and Techniques*** stands out – unsurprisingly given Smashing Magazine were partly responsible for *Smashing UX Design*, a book that gives a brilliant overview of UX. Vitaly's Skillshare course includes great tips on how to make you UX design skills top of the class.

Skillshare costs £7/around $10 a month on an annual sub, or more if you go monthly.

MOOCs (massively open online courses)

Coursera makes courses from top universities accessible to pretty much anyone. And it hosts a tonne of UX courses – a popular one being ***Learn how to design great user experiences,*** which is a bundle of part-time eight courses at £26 each or £187 together.

These courses are a brilliant overview a wide range of UX aspects, and include quizzes and assignments to keep you engaged, as well as great teachers. Bear in mind these have specific start dates, so check when they next start.

Unlike other courses, deadlines are fixed – so you can't do this at your own pace. Depending how much you have on, this could either motivating or overwhelming. These are resource-rich, tough courses that – if you complete – you will gain a lot from.

Another great online massive course is from DesignLab. Its ***Interaction Design*** jumps over a block most online courses stumble at: weekly mentor sessions to keep you on track and motivated, as well give you a chance to ask your bursting questions. Though this does up the price – to around £300/US$399 for 4 weeks -, it is a great alternative to offline classes, if there are none near you.

What's great about this course is that there is a steady increase in complexity, so your learning curve is steep, and an opportunity to apply those skills by developing a portfolio during the course. It sells itself to absolute beginners, but some prior knowledge of UX might be useful, as its content gets exponentially tougher.

Chelsea College of Arts' ***User Experience (UX) Design*** course makes the most of the face-to-face element by balancing theory with the practical skills of designing for web and mobile. In fact, over three days (£485), you will apply what you've learnt to create an app. Yes, that's an app in less than a week. Is there a better way to prove that you're improving your UX skills?

For a fee-per-course, you can access some of the world's smartest brands and minds to learn about a range of subjects, including behaviour. 42courses – an online education platform that, through almost any device, offers short courses that award a date and signed certificate at the end. It's first ever course is ***Behavioural Economics*** (£80) from world-leading behavioural communication expert Rory Sutherland, who will give you behaviour insights to improve UX. But there's also Thomas Cornwall's ***Service Design*** (£80) Keep an eye out for further courses as the site grows.

Free online UX courses

InVision

InVision is a digital design platform as opposed to an educator, but they're smartly rolling out a brand new course that won't just push their product. Let your little grey cells be excited by their latest Design Systems classes, with pros like UX design leader Josh Clark teaching you how to master your design system. It's a great chance to hear the latest thinking in UX design, and the first video goes by the tantalising name of 'The heartache of design at scale'. Epic stuff.

MOOCs

Excitingly, the same human-computer interaction expert Scott Klemmer from Coursera's paid UX course (above) offers a free 9-week course through Stanford called – yes, you guessed it – ***Human-Computer Interaction***. It may not look quite as sleek as the paid course but, well, it is free. And it offers brilliant video lectures, though none of the assignments or quizzes, unlike the paid version (understandably so, we think).

Springboard offers a free, self-paced course called ***User Experience Design*** that gives a general overview of UX. It collects free content across the web and organises it into an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand walkthrough. There is over 131 hours of content, as well as projects to complete, recommended reading and videos.

Don't be scared off by the dull name; this free treasure trove of tips is from some of the most interesting (and qualified) people in design. Within the massive manual, there are plenty of guides aimed solely at the user – from 'User needs' to 'User satisfaction'. Whatever your UX experience, you'll have plenty of reading material here.

Blogs



Image: iStock

A year's worth of weekly lessons isn't a bad way to learn about UX – not particularly time-consuming, plenty of content and it can be delivered straight to your inbox. ***52 weeks of UX*** was created by Rocket Insights co-founder Joshua Porter and Habitat Founder and CEO Joshua Brewer – the founders certainly crammed the Tumblr blog with useful information.

As it is not strictly a course, it can probably be forgiven for a lack of interactivity, and celebrated for how easy it is to use, demanding no commitment other than reading an email a week. Oh, and you can appreciate how pretty and clean the site itself it – pretty important for a Tumblr claiming authority on UX design.

Although it is another not-strictly-a-course course, The Hipper Element crash lessons are also an easy, neat way to learn about UX design. Joel Marsh, who wrote ***UX for Beginners***,

takes his readers through a month’s worth of daily lessons in UX in this very popular blog.

YouTube

Senior digital designer at MediaMonks, Adrian Somoza, who formerly worked at agency R/GA, has a range of free video tutorials on digital design available on YouTube.

Posting one tutorial per week to his YouTube channel, Bont Co, Adrian covers topics such as designing user interfaces, typography – and, what you’re here for – animating in Sketch (UX design) as well as offering career advice such as how to set goals and how to land your first design job.

Each video won’t take too much of your time, ranging from three to nine minutes in length. Adrian’s friendly and relatable approach makes it feel like you’re having a conversation with him. Take a look at one of his videos.

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Offline UX courses

UX Academy is an 8-week, in-person course taught by four UX experts, including Mobile UX London, where you can learn about the fundamentals of UX and UCD. You get the benefits of a small class of only 12 people, and anyone from junior UX designers to visual designers can get involved. Learn everything from prototyping to wireframes and user testing.

The course price is £850, and the next course starts in April 30th 2019.



Image: Shuttershock

If you’re someone who prefers face-to-face learning where you can interact, chat to others and ask questions, there might be a great UX course not far from you. General Assembly offers courses across data, design, business and technology – to which UX design is an essential component, and served well by the education platform’s content.

User Experience Design Immersive is an 10-week course that might be more appropriate for those looking to forge a career in UX design – as it is very expensive, at £9,000 in London for example. But, for some, it’s worth the money: it builds your profile, allows you to learn from top UX practitioners such as Ashley Karr and get a UX job (or, at least, that’s the idea).

General Assembly has campuses across 4 continents – so there’s a high chance there’ll be a class near you.

https://www.digitalartsonline.co.uk/features/creative-business/learn-ux-design-17-best-paid-free-ux-design-courses-2018/