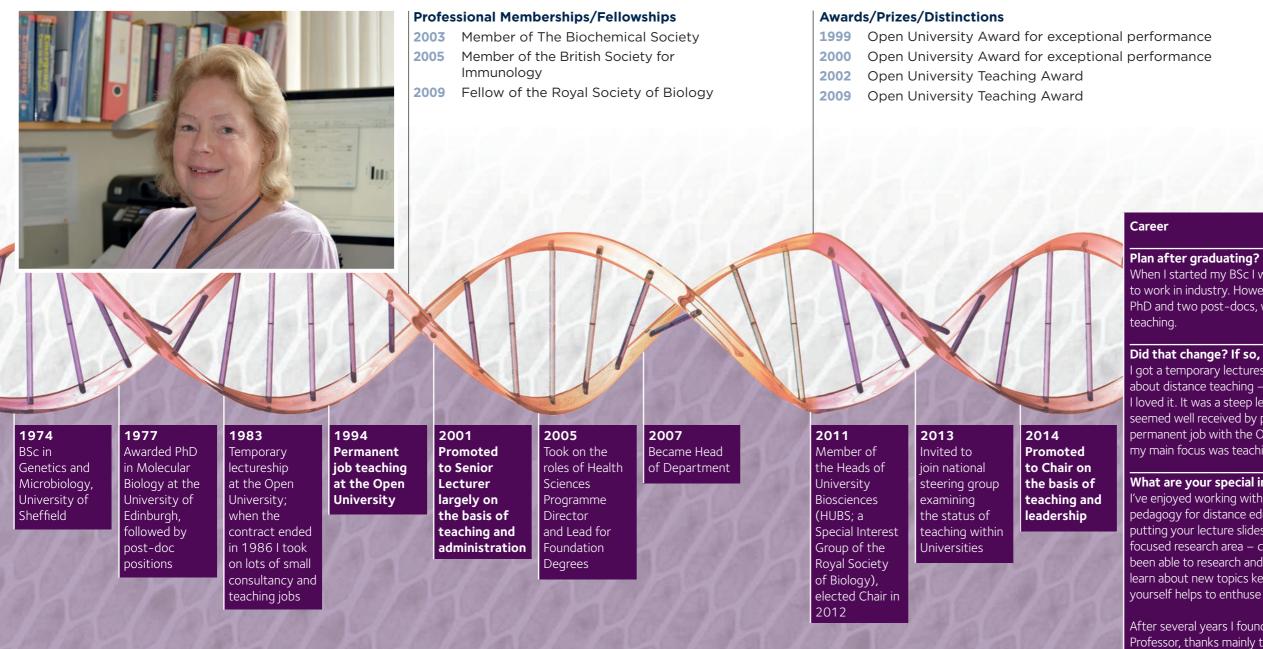
## Hilary MacQueen | Open University



When I started my BSc I wasn't thinking about academia – I wanted to work in industry. However, I became interested in research so did a PhD and two post-docs, where I got my first taste of undergraduate

## Did that change? If so, how?

I got a temporary lectureship at the Open University and found out about distance teaching – quite unlike anything I'd done before, but I loved it. It was a steep learning curve, but my teaching materials seemed well received by peers and students. I was thrilled when I got a permanent job with the OU as a lecturer. Although I did some research, my main focus was teaching.

## What are your special interests/achievements in education?

I've enjoyed working with fantastic colleagues to develop a robust pedagogy for distance education. There's definitely more to it than putting your lecture slides on a website! Having started with a very focused research area – cell division – it has been a delight to have been able to research and teach in many different areas. Having to learn about new topics keeps you on your toes, and keeping interested yourself helps to enthuse your students – vital for effective learning.

After several years I found myself as Head of Department and a Professor, thanks mainly to my teaching contributions – I've worked on more than 25 modules, and enjoyed (almost) every minute.