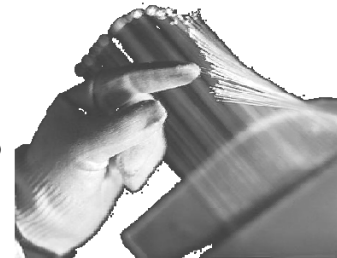


Materials for the Modern World



What do toilets, teacups and optic fibres have in common?



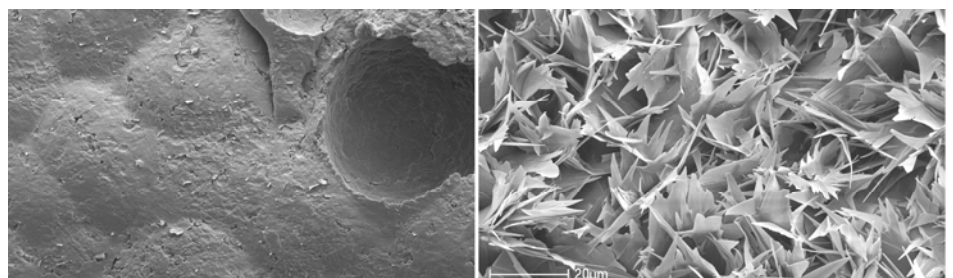
How can buddhist monks smash iron bars over their heads?



What can silly putty teach us about materials in the modern world?

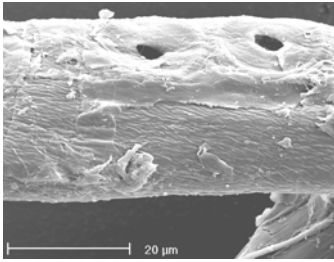
Every aspect of our daily lives is influenced in some way by the materials that surround us. This course will teach you more about those materials than you ever imagined there was to know!

Ceramics, metals, polymers and composites; each have their own properties which have influenced the development of modern societies. Take a moment to imagine a world without metal, for example, to see how central the science of materials is to everyday life.



Chocolate is a material too...the two pictures above show high magnification images of the surface of fresh chocolate (L) and chocolate that has that white surface "bloom" you see when you haven't stored it properly (R).

This course explores, at a non-specialist level, the basic principles governing the properties and behaviour of materials:



from microscopic structures...



...to processing routes...



...to why we don't fall through the floor.

The course is ideally suited to anyone who is interested in learning more about the physical world; artists, geographers, historians, philosophers, teachers, architects, linguists, scientists, mathematicians.....did I leave anyone out?

You DON'T need to be good at maths. You DON'T need to be good at chemistry. You just need an enquiring mind, we'll supply the rest.



...and despite reports to the contrary the course is not taught by mad scientists.

