

adult success stories



Helen Lyons

Helen enrolled on Access initially to develop her career opportunities but decided instead to move to university to study English.



My decision to begin the Access course at 46 was influenced by my aim of a career change within the NHS where I work part time as a medical secretary. Originally I wished to move into public health and took Psychology and Sociology along with English which was one of my favourite subjects at school and made up the three subjects required. My intention was not to continue on to university at this stage.

As I am a single parent with two daughters and work part time I took the Access course over two years to ensure I would not struggle with time management. I had not been in formal education for many years however had completed work based qualifications (NVQ and ECDL) fairly recently.

I really enjoyed the mix of people on the course, some of whom I did not feel I would have interacted with otherwise. There was a wide range of ages and circumstances and I have kept in contact with a few people from Q.E. I also enjoyed being back in education and found the tutors approachable and helpful.

By the time I was into my second year of Access the NHS appeared to be making cut backs and I thought it unlikely I would be able to pursue my original idea of moving into public health, which led me to look at other options. After meeting with my English tutor I decided to apply for English Studies at Teesside university and after completing the Access course to the level required am due to start in September 2011. Throughout the two years of the Access course my confidence has definitely grown, as has my desire to learn and the Access course has been invaluable to me in progressing to university, but would also have been beneficial should I have gone along the career change route.

