

# adult success stories



## John Slavin

John has completed an Access course and is now working in London as a motoring journalist.



Enrolling as an access student at QE was, quite possibly, the best thing I ever did. Until I decided to enrol I had no direction in life and no idea what to do with myself. I dreamt of one day becoming a motoring journalist – it seemed like some impossible goal, but I thought so long as I was in journalism I might one day progress to it.

My plan was to study multimedia journalism at Teesside University after I completed the HEFC course.

I started at QE shortly after my father passed away, and my confidence was shot, but I felt at home almost immediately. After a few months I was balancing my study with part-time work and an addiction to Twitter – I followed all of the motoring journalists with envy.

As part of the coursework for English I had to write a formal report, so I contacted the Editor of a trade publication called Car Dealer Magazine and asked if he'd like the finished report, which was about the scrappage scheme and its affect on Darlington dealerships. He did, and was impressed enough to run a news story I wrote based on the report. It was my first published byline, and I was very proud of it.

As time wore on I ended up working on and off for a few motoring publications alongside my college work. I continued with my access course and passed all of the modules with merit or distinction, which landed me a place at Teesside University.

Luckily for me I was spotted early on by a motoring website, Honestjohn.co.uk, and hired before I completed my degree, and now I'm working full time in my dream career.

Without the QE HEFC course I'd never have developed my confidence enough to make a start on this career path. Luckily I was hired by a company before I finished my degree, but nonetheless the HEFC course is a fantastic way of opening paths into not just university, but to the job you've always wanted.

