

adult success stories



Sylvia Clement

Having studied for Access courses, Sylvia, at 47 has completed a degree and is moving on to teacher training.



In 2007 while volunteering in a local primary school I decided to improve my qualifications for a career in education. I looked at the courses on offer in Darlington and found that the Access course was ideal for my situation.

So, at the ripe old age of 47, I took the plunge and applied. At first I was anxious about fitting in with younger students, but once I started I had no problem becoming part of a young group who supported each other throughout the course. During my time at the QE I studied English Language, Human Biology and Quantitative Methods enjoying all that the modules had to offer. That being said the work was challenging. However there was lots of support in college and the tutors were very approachable too.

Looking back, I am really pleased I applied as I successfully completed the course and took a place at the University of Teesside studying English. Although the idea of going to university was daunting, I attended a mature student open day which helped to allay my fears. When I actually started I found the lectures and seminars were brilliant and I learned so much during my three years at Teesside that the worry has all been worthwhile.

In 2010 after successfully juggling home life (I am a mother and carer) with academic study, I graduated. This goes to show that going into further education is doable whatever your situation. And it doesn't end there. Since graduating I have been offered an interview for teacher training and hope one day to study a Masters in Education, all of which was made possible by taking that initial plunge and applying for a place on the QE Access course!

