

Student Profiles

I was involved in a bad road road traffic accident and while I was recovering, the bus factory that I worked in as a store man closed down. I soon realised that due to my injuries I would no longer be able to do manual labour. I had left school with very few qualifications and was worried about my future employability. I then had a look through the NRC prospectus and read about the Access to University Diploma. It was just what I was looking for.

Initially I was nervous going back to study as a mature student as I had left school twenty years ago but after meeting my fellow students I found out that we all had a common goal which was we all wanted to change something in our lives we were not happy with.

I attended the course two mornings a week and found a lot support given to me by my tutors and fellow classmates. While on the course I was able to learn the skills that would help me when I got to university such as computer skills, research methods, report writing and brushing up on my lack of mathematical knowledge and I also gained an insight into Psychology and Sociology. I completed the course and with the grade I achieved was accepted on the Occupational Therapy Degree at University of Ulster, Jordanstown.

My other classmates have been accepted on other degrees such as Nursing, Social Work, Law and Archaeology as a result of completing this course. This diploma has given me the ability to change not just my future but that of my family also.

Jonny Hammond

I have thoroughly enjoyed doing this course and I found it of great value to enable me to go on to doing a degree at university.

I had not studied for many years and the tutors reassured me when I started the course to the extent that I was eventually able to do the work.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the tutors who taught me in the two years. All the tutors have been extremely helpful and dedicated to their work I have found them to be respectful and very fair when teaching mature students.

Laura McDowell



Access Diploma in Combined Studies (Access to University) Newtownabbey and Larne

Validated by the University of Ulster

For further information please contact:

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Who can do the Course?

Anyone aged nineteen years or over. No previous qualifications are necessary but evidence of ability and commitment must be established through an informal discussion and short written assessment with the Course Director – Brieghe Keaney, Tel: 028 9085 5000 or e-mail: brieghe.keaney@nrc.ac.uk.

What will I study?

Eight modules from the following must be studied. This can also be completed in one year – Accelerated Pathways.

Year 1:

- Communication Studies
- Curriculum Studies
- Introduction to Mathematics
- Accessing Mathematics

Year 2:

Four modules chosen from (subject to numbers):

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Caring Science
- Contemporary Literature
- History of Northern Ireland
- Personal Research Project (project is compulsory).

What career and progression opportunities are available?

The programme is recognized by the university as being equivalent to three 'A' Levels and enables successful students to progress to higher education courses in a wide range of subjects eg. Teaching, nursing, law and other undergraduate programmes. Alternatively, the programme may lead to employment and other opportunities.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is split equally between coursework and written examinations.

How long will I take to complete the course?

The two year programme takes thirty weeks per year and six hours per week. Limited places are available on the Accelerated Pathway over one year.

Where can I do the course?

The course is held at both, the Newtownabbey Campus and Larne Adult Education Centre, Monday – Thursday on either two mornings (9.30am – 12.30pm) or two evenings (6.30pm – 9.30pm) per week. Accelerated Pathways is held on four sessions a week in both mornings and evenings throughout the year.

How do I get on the course?

Complete the Application Form opposite and attend for interview and assessment.

Application Form

Newtownabbey and Larne

Please complete using BLOCK capitals.

Access Diploma in Combined Studies (Access to University)

Surname (Block Capitals):

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss):

Forename(s):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Signature of Applicant

Date: