

Access to HE Case Study

Who: Anna Morgan

What: Access to HE Diploma (Teaching & Humanities)

Where: MidKent College

When: 2012-13



Anna had been working as a supervisor for Sainsbury's for 10 years but felt she needed a more rewarding career and wanted to become a teacher. She volunteered at the school her children attended but it was being made redundant that gave her the push she needed. Armed with an advanced NVQ and 1 A Level, Anna applied to University of Greenwich for Teacher Training, but she was advised she would not get a place and they suggested she take an Access to HE Diploma – so Anna spoke to MidKent College.

When Anna began the course it had been a while since she had been in a classroom, she considered her options and chose English and history to help her achieve her aim of getting a place at Canterbury Christ Church University to study primary education. Anna found studying history easier than English but believes enjoying the course made it interesting and kept her focused.

She was an enthusiastic student and even though she had to make childcare arrangements, overall she found the experience to be rewarding and exciting. She made applications to study history, education studies and social sciences with primary education topping the list. As the year progressed she decided that she really wanted to undertake her degree and then take the PGCE so she opted for Social Sciences at University of Kent and took up her place there in 2013, having achieved 48 credits at distinction and 12 credits at merit with an additional 3 credit unit that had also been achieved at merit. Her husband and children are very proud and supportive.

On making applications, Anna says, *“Don't pigeon-hole yourself on your choices – do your research as to what you could do and look at a variety of ways to get your goals.”*

As Anna started her second year at university she admitted she has taken on the unofficial role of 'mum' to the group, this is along with her becoming an Academic Peer Mentor at University and helping out during Freshers week. With both the Access and now her degree course Anna believes you get out what you put in – she advises all new students to put in the effort to read and research and observes that time management is key.

When asked what Anna would say to someone considering embarking on an Access course, there was no hesitation, *“Do it definitely – once you have made the conscious decision to do it, that really helps, and enjoy it – it goes very quickly!”*

UPDATE FOR 2018!

We caught up with Anna in Autumn 2018 to see how things had changed since her Access course:

“Since completing my Access diploma, I was fortunate to gain a place studying Social Sciences at the University of Kent. The original plan was to pursue a career in teaching, but due to developing a love of psychology, on graduation, I was accepted onto a Masters in CCCU. I graduated in January (2018) and am now working for a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities.

If you had told me before my course I would be where I am now, I wouldn't have believed you. If it hadn't been for my Access course and specifically my history tutor, I would still be working in an unsatisfying career in retail. As the unofficial mum of the group at college and university, my job enables me to play to my skills, most of which I honed at college. If you are thinking of taking an Access course, do it. It's the best way for mature students to develop skills and change careers, all whilst being supported by the best tutors.”

Anna Morgan

