



Case Study

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What were you doing before QMUC/what made you decide to do a degree?

I was working full time as an administrator for a design company and I realised my career was not going anywhere. I decided that I would like to work as a retail buyer and realised I would need a degree for this.

What's student life been like?

Student life has had its ups and downs for me. I have enjoyed the flexibility and the challenge of stretching my brain! On the downside I have a physical disability which has caused problems for me in the last year. However, the disability adviser has been fantastic and has organised additional help and funding for me to ensure my disability has minimal impact on my studies. My husband is now employed to help me get around the university, reach library books, carry bags for me and take notes in classes.

As a mature student and a mother of a 12 year old, I thought I would be the only older person in class (I was 29 when I started) but it wasn't like that at all. There is a real mix of students at QMUC, and I have made some really good friends of all ages.

I thought studying would be difficult with a child around, but it has worked out quite well. I study during the day when I am not in lectures and my

daughter is at school. When she comes home I finish off studying whilst she does her homework. I make it a rule that I don't work evenings or weekends. My daughter thinks its great that her mum is at uni and it has encouraged her to work harder at school. She wants to go to university just like her mum.

Any tips/advice for those considering University?

Don't be put off by thinking it is only for certain people. In my experience, anyone can do this if they set their minds to it. Occasionally I haven't made it to a late lecture because of childcare issues. If this has happened it hasn't been the end of the world. I've sent an email to let the lecturer know and they have been really helpful. During half term I have even taken my daughter into a class with me and she sat and read Harry Potter while I listened to the lecture!

Any other comments?

I have always treated studying the same way I would treat a job - work steadily from start to finish, attend lectures and read the books the tutors recommend. Respect the tutors, let them know if there are difficulties that prevent you attending your classes and they will respect you. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it, so you can enjoy the whole experience of being a student.