

Pat, from Ireland

Pat is my name and im from the west coast of Ireland.

I left school in the 80s with no chance of going to university or college as the fees were too high, and the rate of unemployment was very high in Ireland at the time.

I emigrated to England and had a variety of jobs but never got back to studying. I moved back to Ireland in the 90s and I got back into education in my 30s where I did a diploma in multimedia, which I enjoyed immensely.

You could say it was the start of my academic life and since then I haven't looked back. As well as holding down jobs because I have a family to support, I have done a diploma in the Irish language and last year I completed a diploma in Community Inclusive Practice in Special Educational Needs which has helped me find a job working with a child with special needs which I really enjoy.

The diploma lasted two years and was conducted over a period of two years (at weekends and evenings) which was great as I had a young family.

I would like to continue studying and eventually maybe get a degree in the area of social care. It is hard work but I really enjoy a challenge, and it is a challenge to go back to studying while rearing a family.