

Student Insights Andrew Gilmour

Student Insight: Andrew Gilmour

Courses taken by Andrew

- * HND Business (Management) (Edexcel)
- * BA (Hons) Business & Management Top-up (University of Sunderland)

Q) Where do you live?

A) I live on the Suffolk/Norfolk border, an attractive rural area, that is a stone's throw from Thetford Forest, quite literally.

Q) Where do you work?

A) I work in a local Factory that constructs air conditioning products for Cinemas, Hospitals, Hotels, data centres and underground train cabling. I have worked there for almost 14 years. I am a work distributor/team leader and have to be physically fit, to carry out the work which also involves planning, prioritising, and motivating my team to meet work deadlines.

Q) Did you think you'd be studying for this qualification one day?

A) Well no, It was always an ambition to study a degree, but I thought my opportunity had gone as I am in my thirties, being that most people do their degree from age 18 or 19. However the opportunity came along to my delight, so I took it.

Q) Any adversity or issues along the way?

A) I left school with poor CSE grades and did several jobs but I have always wanted two things. Firstly to complete a degree; as I used to see my peers at school go on to University to complete their degrees and do jobs they love doing and receive well-paid salaries. After doing an A-level in Business studies as a mature student I went on to enrol on a HND in Business and Management through Rdi of which I discovered whilst browsing the internet. The HND was an enjoyable challenge for me as I am working full-time during the week. So being tired and sacrificing days out at the weekend are issues but in the long term it is worth it. I am now enrolled through Rdi on a BA HONS degree in Business Management from the University of Sunderland.

Secondly, I have always wanted to have a worthwhile career so completing the degree will enable me to become a professional manager. with the degree Time management is a must.

Q: How has this changed your job?

A) Well, just after completing my HND through Rdi I was promoted to work distributor/ team leader,from being just a factory operative. In the future my goal is to become a manager and perhaps a director. I hope to double my earnings and enjoy my role. well I am able to use some of my newly gained knowledge in the workplace.

Q: How has it affected your family / personal life?

A) There has been an impact on my family life. My patient and beautiful wife is very understanding about my studies. my personal life has been influenced by my studies as I have to balance studying with going out for a meal with my wife. In the future my wife and I hope to have an increased quality of lifestyle through my studying and gaining a well-paid job that I can enjoy doing.

Q: How has it changed you personally?

A) Well,I can say that I am definitely more optimistic and excited about my career prospects. I tend to think situations through a lot more and evaluate life in a more knowledgeable way.

Q: Finally, what will an MBA give you and where next?

A) This qualification will give me the knowledge and confidence to do a good job at whatever I do. Next academically, I would like to study for an MBA, it would challenge and stretch my abilities and help me develop to my full potential academically and would open doors in my career in the future.

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