

Claudia helps herself into nursing with the Adult Learning Grant

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Claudia Nsiawete is one of thousands of people across the country on the way to fulfilling their career dreams thanks to help from the Adult Learning Grant (ALG). Having always wanted to be a nurse, she completed a childcare course at Harrow's Stanmore College in the summer and is now studying nursing at university.

Born in Congo, Claudia, now 21, came to the UK with her mother and father when she was very young.

Claudia, who lives with her parents in Stanmore, said: "I left school at the end of my last term wanting to work with children, particularly as a nursery nurse. I was already involved with childcare through my family, looking after younger relatives, and working at local breakfast and after-school clubs."

Unfortunately, she lacked the qualifications required for nursery nursing. "I simply did not know what the next step should be," Claudia added, "and my circumstances meant I wasn't sure I could support myself in further education."

She was unaware of the ALG until she discovered a friend was taking a course at Stanmore with the help of the grant, which provides up to £30 a week for the recipient to spend as they choose.

She enrolled in a two-year CACHE course at Stanmore in September 2005 and completed it in June this year, obtaining a Diploma in Childcare and Education (the equivalent of two A-levels).

For Claudia, the ALG meant, “I did not have to rely so much on my parents. It gave me a degree of independence I would not have had otherwise, helping me pay for transport to college and for other necessities, like food, while I was studying.”

Armed with her CACHE qualification, Claudia won a place at Middlesex University, where she began studying for a Diploma in Nursing on the Enfield campus at the end of September. After a year she will progress to the two-year nursing degree part of the course, which will qualify her to work as a nurse.

“Everyone was really helpful and supportive, from my family to Stanmore College tutors and staff, who gave me everything I needed. I walked into the college with nothing except a will to succeed and the ALG, and came out two years later with a good qualification, which has set me on the road to realising my nursing ambitions.

“I would recommend the ALG to anyone with unfulfilled career goals who lacks the financial independence to pursue them through full-time study. It helped me do something for myself, instead of relying on family.”

To find out if you're eligible for an Adult Learning Grant contact your local college, call learndirect on 0800 100 900, or visit www.learndirect.co.uk – and, if you're already in college, it's still worth checking your eligibility, as ALG can be backdated to September.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

LSC

The Learning and Skills Council exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

ALG

Now available across the country, ALG helped 16,200 learners achieve Level 2 and 3 qualifications during its pilot programme, with 17,500 expected to be assisted in the first year of the national roll out.

11% of learners say they would not have participated in further education if not for ALG; and 19% say they would not have completed their course.

Media Enquiries

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