



James Shaughnessy
British

CPC in Passenger Transport Operations



What attracted you to apply for Aspire funding?

Following the end of a fixed-term contract in youth work in 2013, I found it difficult to secure alternative employment thereafter. With experience initially in logistics, I made the transition into youth work in 2007, but continual funding cuts made it unsustainable to remain in youth work. Therefore, I decided that I wanted to pursue a career within the transport industry and, as such, I set out to seek funding opportunities to enable me to re-train and qualify. As a result of difficulties incurred in securing government funding, I contacted the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, who advised me of the Aspire charitable careers foundation. I subsequently applied for a grant and was accepted, which has since enabled me to undertake a Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) in Passenger Transport Operations.

What course did you apply for and why?

I chose to apply for the CPC in Passenger Transport Operations, despite possessing a background in logistics. The decision I made to apply for this particular course was based upon research I had previously undertaken in relation to the passenger transport sector. I identified a clear growth within the sector and, therefore, decided to pursue this particular qualification. In addition, I recently completed a Customer Service course and I am currently in the midst of completing a Team Leading course, both of which will reinforce previous experience in these crucial areas and, coupled with the CPC, will enable me to pursue a career within passenger transport industry.

What proved the biggest challenge during your studies?

The biggest challenge I faced related to learning a vast amount of legislation and statutory procedures in a relatively short period time. However, this approach proved a success in absorbing and retaining large amounts of information.

What's been the most rewarding aspect of the course?

The ability to engage in meaningful studying with the course trainer and other participants. In addition, support has been available from staff at Corby, together with access to learning materials located within the library on site and online.

Is there anything that surprised you about the course?

The fact that I remembered a great deal of the legislation, albeit revised and updated, that is relevant to the passenger transport sector, but is also transferable to the freight transport sector.

What new skills have you acquired as a result of the training?

The CPC course has enabled me to refresh pre-existing skills as well as update my knowledge of the legislation and practices involved in passenger transport operations, which are vital for a career in the sector.

How did you find the experience

The overall experience has been very positive from the outset and has inspired me to pursue suitable career opportunities within the transport industry upon completion of the course.

Is there anything else you would like to comment about your Aspire experience?

I have been extremely satisfied with the entire process, from the initial application stage through to being informed about being shortlisted for a grant followed by actually engaging in the CPC course.

What advice would you give anyone considering applying for Aspire funding?

I would advise any prospective applicants who may be looking to train or re-train to pursue a career within the logistics, freight transport, passenger transport or maritime sectors to consider applying for Aspire funding, particularly if you have been made redundant, you are moving between sectors or you are experiencing financial constraints.