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UK



CILT Level 3 Certificate in Green Logistics

What attracted you to apply for Aspire funding?

Going through a really bad recession and only working part-time hours (on average 8 a week since 2012) I was looking for any opportunity possible of enabling me to secure more sustainable work. I saw an advertisement in the CILT Focus magazine referring to the charitable side of the CILT, applied for it and was fortunate enough to be awarded coursework.

What course did you apply for and why?

I applied for the Green Logistics course as it's at the formative stages of its life cycle in the logistics sector. Due to the UK not meeting its greenhouse gas targets, there will, hopefully, be a lot more opportunities for someone who has successfully completed industry recognised coursework based on the environment.

What proved the biggest challenge during your studies?

The biggest challenge is to remember what you are reading and taking it into an examination situation. When a question asks you for a specific, even the smallest, simplest sentence can be difficult to remember when you're against the clock. This is especially the case when you're learning something completely different from what you are used to.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of the course?

The most rewarding aspect of the course is that, irrespective of how little you do to cut out waste and emissions, you are contributing to the greater good of the environment and giving successive generations chances they might not have enjoyed if we didn't act now. Learning about the background and current ideas within the logistics environmental side of the business was very rewarding.

Is there anything that surprised you about the course?

Nothing really surprised me about the actual course itself, but what did surprise me when I was compiling an assessment for the final examination, was just how much of a pollution concern the shipping industry has been. Although it's getting better, the amount of sulphur being emitted was eye-opening.

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

I'm now more focussed on the nuts and bolts of routeing and managing the operation to ensure that the drivers not only get from A to B but how they do it. I am now collating emissions data on a quarterly basis and looking at ways of how to reduce it going forward. Initially, I was ideally looking to get back into full-time work, but I have since seen the benefits of working with two or three companies and introducing the environmental benefits to them and to learn from data each produces. Once I manage to get additional work I'll be comparing each company's emissions data against the average and looking at ways of reducing it on an on-going basis. Although different companies have different business models and a different ethos, the basics are still the same and by benchmarking each company against the average, you can adopt situations from one company and adapt it to the next.

How did you find the experience?

The experience has been very positive. Learning a subject I knew very little about, and putting what has been learnt, into practice will benefit myself (as well as the environment) and each company I work with.

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

The staff at CILT have been extremely helpful, including Liz Stribley and my mentor/tutor Nick Wright. Liz was a good help throughout the application process and her words have been gratefully received. Nick's knowledge has been taken on board and his advice, promptings and comments have been inspirational.

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

Aspire is there to help those who are finding getting back into employment tough financially. Irrespective of whether you're young or old, new to the industry or otherwise, it's never too late to learn new things especially with the turmoil of a recession and what it's doing to the logistics sector.