

Success Story

Alan Anderson



My name is Alan Anderson, after 20 years working in construction I was made redundant due to covid.

When the sector re-opened after lockdowns I realised that I needed to upskill myself to be able to return to work. My sector certificates had expired and to renew them I needed to go online. The only thing I could do online was access Spotify to play music. I previously felt that I didn't need to learn ICT as I didn't need it in my life. How wrong was I. I realised that I would need IT skills to do almost anything, such as managing finances, making appointments etc.

My job coach referred me to MI ComputSolutions in August 2022. When I came to the centre I was apprehensive as I didn't know what I was putting myself up for. The staff at reception couldn't have been nicer, I told them that I needed to gain ICT skills and they explained that I would need to complete some assessments to see what level I was at and that I would also need to complete English & maths assessments. When I completed my assessments, I was given an appointment with an adviser who went through my results and discussed my prior experience and any previous qualifications. It was agreed that I would join a beginners ICT class as this would cover the basics that I needed to get me started. On completion of the beginners class I progressed onto level 1 and then to level 2. This meant that I could now use Microsoft Office applications. During my time on my courses I was able to open a bank account and log on using online banking. I was able to create my CV from scratch, I learned how to communicate using email and social media and learned how to access job search sites. My tutors Tuan and Laurent were really helpful and encouraging and put me forwards for a 2-week voluntary opportunity at MI.

I was given a data entry task uploading learners feedback to a web portal, the first few days I was quite slow as my typing skills are not that great but by the end I had got the hang of it and my typing speed had quickened.

I was referred to Roy [Ramkali](#) Lambeth Connecting Communities [Employment Co-ordinator](#) who helped me fine tune my CV and I was able to discuss my prior experience and my future goals, that I wanted to return to the construction industry. Roy put me in touch with Luciana Buzak at Lambeth Council who recommended me to Joe Brennan Training where I have joined an 18 month training scheme as assistant site manager. After 3 weeks I have been asked to stay on until the project ends in December. I have also started Level 4 NVQ in System Site management.

Thanks to the support I received from MI and Lambeth Council I am now back in work. I wouldn't have even been able to apply for the role if it wasn't for the skills that I learned at MI. A big thank you to all at MI especially Tuan & Laurent my tutors and every other member of the team who have supported me.

I would also like to thank my adviser at Kennington JCP for referring me to MI and JBT Denbre for giving me the opportunity to return to work in the construction sector.