

Lina

Lithuan born Lina Sarkute is a qualified nurse, has a degree in Economics and is a qualified teacher in her native country and now, thanks to the Functional Skills English qualifications gained at MAES, she is now set on her UK career path of becoming a Clinical Coder.

Lina joined embarked on her learning journey with MAES in 2020, just before the Global pandemic hit and Covid measures were introduced. She has now completed her English Functional Skills Level 2 and is currently studying GCSE English, GCSE Biology and Medical Terminology Level 2 at a nearby Further Education College.

Lina says that since gaining her English qualifications she has increased her self-confidence, begun to enjoy reading English literature more and that many doors to new opportunities have opened.

Lina talked to Charlotte Batra, English Tutor at MAES, about her chosen path to Clinical Coding. She explained: “I did work in a similar field in Lithuania and I really enjoy working in the medical field. Coding also gives me the chance to work with data which interests me too.”

Clinical coding is about reading and analysing patient records and translating them into alphanumeric codes accurately. It is a job that requires precision and a good deal knowledge about medical terms. Lina knew she had to gain English qualifications in order to gain a job in this field.

Explaining why she chose Manchester Adult Education Centre to gain her qualifications, Lina said: “There were two main reasons: location and timing of lessons. I was able to study at Greenheys, which was close to my house, two evenings a week. This suited me very well.

“I found the English Level 1 course extremely rewarding and beneficial, but it was short. I wanted to progress further, so I successfully applied to do the Level 2.”

Lina described her experience at MAES as great, though challenging at first. She said: “At the start of the course it was a big deal to write a 50-word-text, but after just 18 months I felt more confident. It seemed ridiculous that I was preparing to write 250 words for different purposes by the end of the course.

“What I liked most was the comprehensive and well-structured lessons. Reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, grammar and speaking and listening were covered in every session. I learned how to write and understand different types of texts, as well as how to deliver presentations and contribute to group discussions.

“Level 2 course put me on a higher level of understanding of texts, their purposes and what techniques are used to achieve these purposes. I also improved my spelling by learning useful techniques.”

Lina was also able to take advantage of the support offered by the careers team at MAES. She added: “ The careers team provided useful advice and with the help of my English course I was able to write powerful personal statements for job application. I can now communicate effectively verbally and in written text.”

Lina concluded: “As a place of learning, Greenheys contains everything that is necessary for learning; friendly, respectful and supportive teachers as well as modern equipment such as smart boards and chromebooks.

“Though the interior in most of the centre requires repair, it does not effect the education process. If there is a good teacher, you can learn even sitting on ruins!”

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