



Learner profile: Irina Apala

Irina has studied accounting, employability and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

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I have taken a number of courses including bookkeeping and an employability course.

Both courses have helped me reach my destination. After training as an economist in Latvia, I had over 15 years of bookkeeping experience but I was unable to work here without recognised qualifications. My first step was to learn English then I enrolled onto the accountancy course.

I was able to gain a qualification whilst I refreshed my memory and learnt the differences in book keeping practises in the UK.

Following my accountancy course,

I began to look for a job without any luck. I was informed about the employability course and decided to take it to see if I was doing something wrong. The course gave me the tools to build a strong CV and we covered a range of different scenarios.

Half way through the course I was able to get a job as a book-keeper, but decided to continue because it helped me change my approach.

I am currently taking courses for pronunciation to continue improving.

I have found people understand me better and it helps me to get more from my colleagues at work.

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