

Transcript – Podcast: Episode 5 – Computing and Digital Media (SCQF Level 6)

Hosts:

- Audrey Harlow, Curriculum Team Leader
- Grant Croudace, Computing with Digital Media lecturer

Guest speakers:

- Jamie Hendry, NC Computing with Digital Media (SCQF Level 6) student

[Intro music]

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[Audrey Harwell]

This podcast is for our Level 6 NC in Computing with Digital Media. My name is Audrey. I am the curriculum team leader for the course as well as the Level 5 course, and really enjoy working with the students. So what we're going to do today, I'm going to introduce Grant who is our technical lecturer on the course or our main technical lecturer on the course and then we're going to have a chat with Jamie, who is one of our current Level 6 course members. So, over to you Grant.

[Grant Croudace]

Hi my name is Grant. I teach a bit of web design, programming, hardware stuff, security stuff. Like Audrey says we do enjoy teaching the students, and we've got Jamie here, so Jamie, if I just ask you the first question, can you give us a bit of background about what you did before and why you decided to come to our course?

[Jamie Hendry]

No problem. I worked in engineering for probably 20 odd years to be fair and the last 8 years I was in engineering I was with an oil company in Dyce and for that 8 years, probably 6 out of the 8 they were making people redundant, and I just kind of thought you know I want to pursue something that that I've actually maybe wanted to do and I've never had the chance to do. Now I've got the opportunity you know so that's kind of what drove me to start up the up the course which has been which has been really good up until now, it's been perfect.

[Audrey Harwell]

Thank you very much Jamie. That was really nice background for where you've been and why you came onto the course sort of thing. Tell me, because you're obviously, excuse the expression, but a more mature learner, um what were your expectations on the course? You know because you obviously hadn't been in education for a while um going by your background, so what were your expectations about coming on to the course, you know were you frightened about anything, or not frightened, but wary of anything or?

[Jamie Hendry]

I think yeah I was certainly nervous about coming back into education because as you said there it's been it's been 23 years or something you know since I was I was last writing an

essay or any of these sort of things but um the whole process has been really has been really fairly straightforward you know and anything that you are worried about is easily cleaned up you know the lecturers are there to sort all your problems out you know and keep you on track but definitely daunting like, definitely daunting when you've been out of it for so long.

[Grant Croudace]

It is, because it was daunting what's - from having that experience - what's your learning experience been on the course and the support and the assessments that you've had can you talk a bit about those?

[Jamie Hendry]

Um the course has been absolutely brilliant if I'm honest. I think the course has had a wide range of topics covered within the year that we've been- or near the year that we've been doing it. There are bits that I found hard and difficult because I had never done any of these sort of things but the support is there for you, you know I've found all the lecturers very very very helpful. Aspects of it might have been harder if we hadn't been allowed in in that first semester, I think your class might have been a difficult one Grant, writing the code but thankfully we were in for that you know so we can call you over whenever we're needing your sort of thing you know and that helped massively but um it's just been brilliant it really has really has. Can't fault any of the lecturing team for support during all of it to be fair it's been good. Even probably being slightly new for you guys as well but having to be online and stuff it's been it's been delivered really, really well. I'm really pleased with it really pleased.

[Audrey Harwell]

Thank you, Jamie. That's really, really nice of you to say all of that. You're right it was new for us as well. We had the advantage of being in college in semester one with most of you, on different weeks we had different students in so that we got to know you all and then that I think made it easier for you and for us in semester two when we were online. I think- you touched there on the variety of skills that you've learned and I think that's probably worth mentioning, you know, that it is very wide variety within the course, you have authoring a website where you're making websites you're doing python programming, you're doing hardware, you're doing networking, you also have your word processing ,your advanced skills which are very transferable across the whole course and indeed whatever you go on to do in your career, and then you had the academic skills report which given your own topic you know you could choose something that was of interest to you and learn how to use all these advanced skills which was really, really nice, your project in semester 2 you obviously did all your group work which you were all working in individual groups. This was done online and I think that's something that some people kind of worry about the group work aspect and certainly how we would do online. We used breakout sessions so that you went in with your group and obviously I kind of popped in and out of your groups. Do you think what we did for the online learning, just in case we're in that situation again next year, do you think it worked?

[Jamie Hendry]

I did yeah, I thought it worked massively, I thought it was to be honest- I didn't find any faults with a with the online um learning at all, that's just my personal opinion. I mean even members of the group I was in with the projects it was only myself and Ronan that had kind of got to know each other in one of Grant's classes you know and through that you know me and Andrew are kind of in touch out with college and things now and it's been quite good you know. It's been good and it allows you to work from wherever as well you know because I've been spending a lot of time through Inverness and Elgin and it's given me the freedom to do that as well you know and I don't think it's caused any real issues, I mean I think, I mean Grants even been into the in the meetings as well hasn't he for that and kind of cast his eye over some programming questions that have needed looked at and I think that's been fine, it's been really good, really good.

[Grant Croudace]

That's good. So coming in with your expectations and having now done the course, is your views on what you want to do changed or what are your thoughts for the future?

[Jamie Hendry]

My views haven't changed at all, in fact it's kind of cemented that I was doing the right thing you know so I'm going to progress now hopefully on to the next year and just keep applying every year until I'm satisfied that I've got to where I want to go and obviously that depends on how long I can be out of work for as well so but I certainly will be doing next year that's concrete as long as I get through this year and everything goes smoothly but that'll be guaranteed so no my plans haven't changed at all it's just cemented what I already thought.

[Audrey Harwell]

Thank you Jamie. Um I think that kind of leads me on to sort of highlighting something else from the Level 6 course um within the Level 6 course you have two routes to go on so if you're deciding to progress into further education you can go on to the HNC Web Design and Digital.

[Grant Croudace]

Digital Design and Web Development.

[Audrey Harwell]

Thank you Grant, or you can go into HNC Computing. If my memory serves me right Jamie you decided to go onto the computing route?

[Jamie Hendry]

Yes.

[Audrey Harwell]

So you're sort of- is that because you really enjoyed the programming aspects?

[Jamie Hendry]

The programming aspect I struggled with the most probably but it's the one thing that I want to become good at that's sort of one thing and I really enjoyed web development as well if I'm honest I enjoyed that aspect of it. I'm not interested really in like gaming and that

side of things, so for me I think the computing side of things was probably the way that I wanted to go with it and hopefully maybe open slightly more doors than it if I'd sort of restricted myself to one sort of- one kind of thing you know so that was kind of my reasoning behind it.

[Audrey Harwell]

Yeah I think that's sound reasoning, well done Jamie. Okay well has anybody got anything else that they would like to add?

[Grant Croudace]

Just want to say, it can be worth saying about that you can't be out of work for too long um I was in the same boat and I did mine because I obviously came back to college as a mature learner, you can get to a stage where you maybe want to go part-time, I did my degree part-time and worked full-time and that kind of takes the burden off a wee bit as well but there is other students who do the college full-time and work as well which can be tough but I mean you've got the work ethic there, you'll manage either way no bother.

[Jamie Hendry]

Aye I mean I struggle with not being busy all the time because when I was working I was doing sort of, sometimes it'd be like 68 hour weeks, you know, and I like to be busy but with what's happened with this pandemic there's just not the jobs at the minute really to- I mean I like all the time for maybe part-time work and I'm lucky that I can look in Inverness as well because I can always stay through here with my partner, but at the minute I still I kind of want to concentrate on studying as well. I want to go as far as I can with not having to worry about work and then when I need to then fair enough you know, but uh hopefully in the future I mean even if I could get past to the to like HND level or whatever even I could maybe get like a part-time job and then continue to degree level possibly you know I just, I'll have to see how everything plays out to be honest but at the minute I'm kind of taking each year as it comes and certainly next year's a definite that's for sure, hopefully I can go to the to the full.

[Audrey Harwell]

Yeah I think that's a good idea, I mean there are lots of job opportunities come up and local jobs that you know we always highlight them to you and certainly this year there's been some online events that you could go to if you wanted to so that will continue and obviously when we're in college we try to get employers to come in and talk to you because it's a little bit different from being online but that's been really nice we've had lots of engagement from local employers this year and hopefully we'll manage to take that forward into next year.

[Jamie Hendry]

That's it, well I always said to myself I'm not going to get a second chance at this, you know I'm at the age now where I want to I want to have the best goal at cracking something I've always fancied doing so that's what I'm doing, that's what I'm doing and hopefully we'll get to where I want to go.

[Audrey Harwell]

Thank you very much Jamie.

[Grant Croudace]

With our course there's no age barrier, we've had students who are 15 we've had students who are in their 60s I mean it's open to everyone, everyone can come and do it doesn't matter what age they are.

[Jamie Hendry]

Yep yes it's been a really good course. I've thoroughly enjoyed it, thoroughly enjoyed it. Even the times when I'm sitting there my head in my hands worried that I'm not going to get through!

[Audrey Harwell]

Okay guys I think that us done. Um I think that's been really insightful, you know we've talked about the course we've talked massively about your experience Jamie which sounds as if it's been really, really good and you know, we should be very grateful to you guys as students because you have adapted massively well, really proud of you and for the staff as well, so thank you.

[Jamie Hendry]

Run really well, run really, really well.

[Audrey Harwell]

Thank you very much guys. Okay so, thanks everyone for listening. If you would like to listen to more podcasts or explore the courses on offer here at Moray College UHI please visit www.moray.uhi.ac.uk. Thank you very much.

[Outro music]

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