

Alumni profiles

Questionnaire

- Name: Daphna Skotnicki
 - Nationality: Israeli and British
 - Course studied at Southampton: Transnational Studies
 - Year of graduation: 2017
 - Current position (job role or title): ESOL lecturer at an FE College
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Questions about your experience with us

- **What did you enjoy (most) about the course?**
The subject matter, and the ability to discuss interesting topics with knowledgeable members of staff. The variety of subjects was also good and their delivery by different lecturers made the lectures even more interesting and engaging.
- **What is Southampton like as a place to study?**
The Avenue Campus has a very 'homely' feel to it. It's small and intimate and has a friendly atmosphere. I also liked the nationality mix of both students and staff and hearing different languages spoken in the canteen and around campus.
- **Tell us about your current job?**
I have been an ESOL lecturer for the past 15 years. I work part time at an FE College and my main aim is to help new-comers to the UK with their language acquisition (of all four language skills, namely reading, writing, speaking and listening). I also endeavour to help them with their acculturation journeys, through increased understanding and appreciation of different aspects of the British culture and of life in the UK.
- **How did your course help you in your current role?**
The course helped me develop a greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of the acculturation journey and of how fundamental for our identity and values, is our home culture. The reason why people often appreciate and perceive the same phenomenon in different ways, is now clearer to me. The course has therefore increased my empathy towards the Other, and through it I gained the confidence to intervene more efficiently, if and when miscommunications and misunderstandings occur between students from different nationalities.
- **What advice would you give to a mature student starting their degree at Southampton?**
*Having graduated from my first degree 25 years before embarking on my Masters Degree, I can tell anyone hesitating due to one's age or 'long break', to go for it!
The benefits are numerous:*
 - *Brain stimulation. (I can concentrate for longer periods of time, I've learned many new words and am now able to read and understand Academic English!);*
 - *IT skills / study skills (esp. I learned how to search and find papers / journals, etc.);*
 - *Self-confidence (I proved to myself I could produce work at the required level);*

- *Gained more general knowledge;*

It is crucial however to make sure one has enough time to study. I had not been prepared for the amount of reading required and midway through my first year I had to change from a one-year FT course to a 2 years P/T. Time management is therefore crucial. As well, without support (house work, child care etc.) things would have been far more difficult.