

The prospect of becoming a driving instructor is an exciting new adventure, as you gain a rewarding skill and career for life. For me as a young 21 year old female the prospect was a whole basket of mixed emotions.

One of them being uncertainty about my ability to be an instructor. When driving around you always see other instructors of a mature age, it never crossed my mind as a career prospect as I thought I was too young.

Through my school, college and university days I studied sports development and coaching, having graduated at the age of 21 with a BA Hons in sports development and coaching. During my time at university I had a nasty knee injury resulting in surgery and hindering my career in sport. After my injury I decided that sport was no longer an option for me, as my injury would always hinder me.

During university I was working in a dead end job, where nothing was ever good enough, with unstable hours and fed up of working for other people.

So I was looking for a new career, during my last few months of university I was starting to think what I could do after I graduated.

This is when becoming an ADI was a prospect. I did a bit of research into the industry and sought advice from my mother who is also an ADI about whether I would be suitable for the industry.

Once I graduated in June 2013, I started studying for the ADI part 1 test having passed this in September 2013. In January 2014 I approached Lynne Barrie to help me become a driving instructor. I had a number of worries when I started training with Lynne; I lacked confidence and knowledge with being so young and little life experience.

Lynne reassured me I could complete part 3 and gave me the confidence I needed. Her expert knowledge in the industry was

second to none and I could not have achieved what I have done without her. I feel a massive part in helping me to become an ADI was down to my degree in sports coaching and development.

My degree and my career choice as an ADI may seem unmatched to some but studying coaching and development for 4 years helped me to understand different coaching styles and how to adapt my skills to each pupil as everybody learns new skills in different ways.

I passed my part 3 ADI test in January 2015 at the age of 22, so the whole process took me 16 months.

Having worked just 3 weeks as an approved driving instructor I absolutely love my new career. The job is so rewarding, seeing pupils progress week on week and to think that is down to your hard work in helping your pupils achieve their goals.

There are a number of reasons I chose to become an ADI; working for yourself, meaning you can pick your own working hours. The achievement of having setup my own successful business is very rewarding and I feel very proud of myself.

During training for my part 3 a number of worries were running through my mind; was I cut out to pass the last test? What were people's perspectives of seeing someone so young as a driving instructor? What would my pupils think of my age?

Now having passed, set up my business; *Succeed with Charlotte* and completed 3 weeks of work, I will never look back. I feel my age is an advantage as I feel I can relate and empathize with my pupils more, understand how young people learn and how to make them understand subjects easier.

I would strongly encourage any young person who fits the requirements to become an ADI as you will have an exciting career for life where each day will be different and you will be constantly learning new things just as I have.