

I am in full time employment and the fact that the Advanced Diploma was internet based was important for me as it meant that I didn't need to travel to Oxford but still got the benefits of Oxford tuition. It also meant that I could work at the times that suited me.

It enabled me to work on primary sources for the first time and to look at history quantitatively through the manipulation of data in spreadsheets and databases. The online modules were clear and well designed so that it meant a relative novice in database work like me could produce something credible in terms of results by the end of the course.

Throughout the course I was supported by the online tutor who is dedicated to your tutor group, and who marks all the assignments of the group. This enabled me to develop a good relationship and not be worried about asking stupid questions. In addition there is a Monday evening online chat session with the tutor group which also provides mutual support and a feeling of social interaction.

The Advanced Diploma helped to change a hobbyist interest in History like mine into a major focus. I have now re-arranged my working life so that I have been able to further my studies. I have enrolled in other Local History courses at the OUDCE, an excellent department that helps to champion the cause of Local History.

Peter Steere  
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I was attracted to the Advanced Diploma program whilst studying for a history degree with the Open University. I work full-time as a commercial property solicitor in Birmingham, and the study of history provides a welcome release from the intense, and sometimes demanding, nature of my job. Pursuing a full-time course was not an option for me, and so the part-time, online nature of the Diploma was a definite pull factor. Following the successful completion of the Advanced Diploma I would thoroughly recommend the course to anyone with an interest in English local history.

As well as advancing my knowledge of local history, a subject relatively new to me before I embarked on the course, I have found the analytical and I.T. skills obtained beneficial to my job. The Diploma offers an extremely high standard of teaching with students benefiting from frequent online tutor contact. Studying remotely can become quite an isolating experience, but the forums and regular chat sessions allow for interesting debate with fellow students, as well as providing an informal atmosphere to discuss any concerns. The subject-matter and assignments are challenging, but the support provided by the department is excellent, a factor which influenced me to apply for the University's MSc. in English Local History.