

SUCCESS STORY

Siu-Ann Lai



Siu-Ann enrolled in RSA's construction skills courses after losing her job in 2022. She loved all aspects of construction, progressed quickly and now teaches painting and decorating to students of all levels at The Sheffield College with her skills and artistic flair.



AT A GLANCE

Challenges

- Looking for a new career path after redundancy
- Was nervous about being accepted as a female on a construction course



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From Graphic Designer to Construction Instructor...

Siu-Ann made the impressive career transition, from Senior Graphic Designer to Construction Tutor, after attending Rotherham Skills Academies introductory course, the multi-trade programme, and the new Skills Bootcamp in painting and decorating last year. This is the journey of a highly motivated individual who has always had a passion for hands-on work, whether it's DIY improvements or maintenance in her own home. Creating career opportunities that she never could have imagined.

CHALLENGES

After being made redundant in early 2022, Siu-Ann decided to explore new career paths by enrolling in RSA's construction skills courses, despite misconceptions about construction being an entirely dominated industry, and concerns of being the only woman in the classes and if she would fit in and be accepted.

SOLUTIONS

Siu-Ann took the leap, and was bowled over by the support and encouragement from the learners, tutors and staff at the Rotherham based academy.

After the two weeks, she was so enthusiastic about what she had learned that she quickly progressed to the multi-trade programme, and then eventually on to the new Skills Bootcamps in construction trade programmes.

Her interest and motivation in all aspects of construction, including painting and decorating, joinery, and bricklaying, were apparent to all.

SUCCESS STORY CONTINUED...

RESULTS

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When we spoke to Siu-Ann, she had high praise for the instructors and her classmates, saying, "The lads have been brilliant throughout my time here. I've been lucky to have them as classmates. The tutors have been great too. They explain every detail and element of the learning, even showing us clips so that we're able to grasp exactly what we need to do next. The only things I've struggled with really are all the acronyms they use... and 'drilling' [she laughs]."

Siu-Ann's keen eye for detail, artistic flair, and hands-on approach helped her excel in everything she learned. Her success in the courses led to a new opportunity at The Sheffield College, where she now teaches Painting and Decorating practicals and theory to Level 1 and Level 2 apprentice students. Her organisational skills and attention to detail have helped her prepare her students for the day ahead and provide them with the best learning experience possible.

INSPIRATION

We wish Siu-Ann continued success in her new role and beyond, and we are confident that her talent and dedication will inspire her students to follow in her footsteps. Siu-Ann's career change is a testament to the power of taking a leap of faith and pursuing a passion, even in the face of uncertainty.



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