

Pauline, from Ireland

Pauline is my name. I am from the west coast of Ireland. I left school early about 15 years of age. I started work at 16 years of age as a shop assistant, at the age of 18 also done bar work. Got married at the age of 22 yrs, had a son and 2 daughters. Throughout this time, I kept up my 2 jobs as part-time work. As my children got older I felt it possible maybe to return to education, I had spent 6 months working with children with special needs at the age of 15 and had great interest in that line of work. In 2006, I heard about a special needs diploma due to start at Muintearas, got onto the course after a phone call. We spent 2 yrs doing a variety of modules, work experience, continuous assessments and exams. Without the help and patience of my husband and wonderful children this would not have been possible. Our group of ten great women who returned to education graduated in August 2008. Due to this diploma, I now work as an S.N.A with a child that has a mild form of Down Syndrome which I enjoy a lot. I found the last 2 yrs hard while trying to fit in family life and the children's busy schedules with my study. When asked if I would do it all again, the answer is YES!