

Angus Leigh – Soils and Sustainability

My name is Angus Leigh, I'm from Moffat in Southern Scotland and I came to Edinburgh to do a Masters degree in Soils and Sustainability.

I decided to study Soils and Sustainability because I was looking to make a career change. I'd been running my own business for about thirty years and decided it was time to do something new.

My son had come to Edinburgh University to do Environmental Geosciences, and whilst we were looking at the options that he had to study, I was somewhat excited by the potential of doing something similar myself.

The Soils and Sustainability course, I felt, was ideal for me. Because I'm a mature student, I wanted to study something that was a little bit more specific and would give me some specialist **(01:00)** knowledge when I completed the course. The soils course was particularly good, we had three core modules that focussed on soil science in particular but we had the option of electives that would allow us to look at the environmental world a little bit wider. It was the best of both worlds, really. It gave me specific knowledge and an insight into the wider environmental world.

I have many happy memories of Edinburgh. It's meeting the younger people and finding out how enthusiastic and motivated they are in helping the environment and taking action for the future. As an older person, it's been very reassuring to see that motivation and to see people fired up about doing something for the future. That, I think, is probably the most endearing memory I will take away with me **(02:00)** from my time here.

When I first arrived, I was very much a new boy, as far as I was concerned. It was thirty years since I'd last been at university and things had changed quite considerably. Everything's done online – well, not everything, but an awful lot of work is done online – and that was quite a new experience. Fortunately, my tutors were very patient with me and gave me plenty of time to settle in and get used to the new way of studying. Once I got into the groove, they were always there if required but nobody was pushy or on top of you. You're given a lot of freedom to go your own way but if you needed support it was always there, you just had to ask.

I've had a great time in Edinburgh, thoroughly enjoyed it, I think one of the reasons I'm considering doing a PhD in the future is that I've had so much fun, I've really **(03:00)** got to know the people very well, everybody's been great fun, very kind, and I'm going away with a lot of good friends. It's been a wonderful experience.